

March 12, 2017

Dear Members and Friends

What will the future look like for Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church?

I ask that question because we as a congregation must decide what we want our future to look like. A handful of people cannot and should not determine our future, it must be through the commitment and courage of the entire congregation that we determine our future.

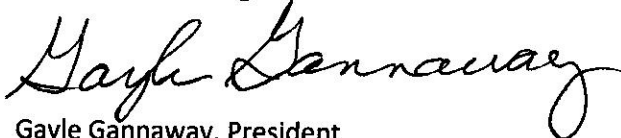
I don't remember the date I became a member but it was a good while back. This congregation, this church building, our message, our purpose and our vision have grown and changed in a way I never expected. We are stronger. We are more courageous. We are more committed. We have a Mission. We have a Vision. We have spiritual leadership through our minister as well as our talented lay ministry. When I enter into this building I can feel the energy, the restless need to do more, to be more and it stirs in me a feeling of hope, of purpose.

What would I like to see for the future of GMUUC? Some of you might remember the crystal balls we handed out at the leadership workshop held last July. I just happen to have my mine and I invite you to join me on a quick trip into our future.

Our full-time settled minister is a highly valued part of the interfaith community where we as Unitarian Universalists join in partnership with all other faiths to spread a message of love and tolerance. GMUUC is the leader in our community in the fight against hate, violence and inequality. We come together on Sundays in a bright, open space where many, many people join hands and hearts to hear an inspiring message of hope and purpose. After a wonderful service we move to our large, comfortable dining hall where we share a meal and conversation with others. And since our pledges cover all operating expenses, GMUUC hosts regular fundraisers to benefit local groups across all the counties we serve who are in need of our help. We as a faith community know that there is no limit to what we can do together - we dream big – we stretch out of our comfort zone – we are courageous – we are committed.

I look out and I see generosity and compassion in every face, I feel love in every hug. I know that we as Unitarian Universalists are exactly what the world needs. Our future can be whatever we want it to be. It will take great courage, it will mean a strong commitment, it will be built upon our belief in ourselves and in the future we want for our children and our children's children.

Let's Dream BIG together!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle Gannaway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gayle Gannaway, President