



April 1, 2021

Dear OCSL Community,

As we release our beloved Rev. Jeff Anderson, our village is awash in sadness and love. It has been beautiful to be a part of the community coming together to support each other. Releasing our loved one is a process that will take time and the Board of Trustees, Ecclesiastical Leadership Team (ELT), and the Practitioners are here for you throughout this period of grieving, transition, and transformation.

Grief has many faces - sadness being just one of them. There can be anger, shock, disbelief, numbness, resentment, and uncertainty. We encourage you to be gentle with yourself as uncomfortable emotions come up. While we can't take away your pain, we hope we can help you feel a little less uncertain about the future of our community by sharing what the OCSL leadership has planned going forward.

First, we want to have a respectful passage of time to absorb the loss of Rev. Jeff before we begin the search process for a new senior minister. While we are not rigidly defining this period of time, we imagine it could be two or three months.

Second, the ELT was set up to temporarily fill in for Rev. Jeff for six months while he was on a leave of absence. That was intended to be January through June. The ELT is a strong team, and we feel that the continuity of keeping the ELT in place would serve the community during this challenging time. The Board and ELT are working closely and collaboratively for OCSL's highest good. As we get closer to the end of June, the OCSL leadership will revisit the situation to see if we should continue with this arrangement or consider bringing in an interim minister as we continue the search for a new senior minister. Bringing on a new senior minister generally takes three to six months.

While our community is grieving our beloved Rev. Jeff, we understand that this may bring up feelings of uncertainty. Let us be mindful of our thoughts and know that principle is not bound by precedent. Let us hold others and ourselves gently as we continue to practice our teachings during this challenging time. Rev. Jeff left us in good financial and spiritual standing so that we can call in the right and perfect minister at the right and perfect time.

To further support us in this transitional period, the Board and ELT are arranging for a CSL minister to come in to support us through the grieving process and guide us in avoiding missteps as we move the community forward during this tender time. This supportive role is on a consulting part-time basis and is not considered a leadership role.



We are a very special community that is rooted in Oakland. Our community runs as deep as the roots of the Oak tree. Let us remember our roots as we work together to heal and grow. Roots of love, acceptance, creativity, diversity, and resilience. All those qualities are what make up the Village Rev Jeff referred to in his last words to us. Let us support each other as we expand into Spirit's highest and greatest vision for OCSL.

Peace and Blessings,

The OCSL Board of Trustees and Ecclesiastical Leadership Team