

Credentialed Observer's Report:

Aisha Hauser

April 9-13, 2018

First, I want to express deep gratitude for being invited into this space. I had no idea what to expect and I found myself inspired in ways I that surprised me.

The RECC is the most well-organized committee I have ever seen. This is not hyperbole on my part. I appreciated being included on the emails as soon as I agreed to be the observer. As a person completely unfamiliar with the inner workings of the committee it was easy to integrate into what is happening when the in-person meetings began. I appreciate the invitation both to attend the meeting and the warm welcome and inclusion of my perspectives throughout.

Rev. Randy Becker consistently provided clear and direct leadership. This helped keep everyone on task and we stayed on schedule. This is especially important as the RECC had many candidates to interview and everyone was met according to their appointments. The treatment of the candidates was inspirational in and of itself. The RECC held each candidate with care in their hearts, both before and after the interview. The gravity of each interview was held by all with the deepest respect. I was impressed with mindfulness of the ritual around each interview. Holding each candidate in your hearts kept our faith front and center.

The only feedback that is not glowing I would give is that I suggest having less questions. I don't think it is necessary to have any more than ten questions total. It would be helpful to let the candidates know they are to keep their answers brief, or if you choose to have less questions, have follow up questions if more in depth answers are sought.

I appreciated the space to discuss and grapple with the larger challenges in our denomination. When appropriate, the RECC took time to talk through issues that arose during the week of the meeting. One such issue involved power and authority dynamics between a religious educator and minister. The RECC expressed that this issue has been illuminated as a challenge for many years. The RECC discussed steps to help advocate for a resolution to an issue that has been plaguing our faith for many, many years.

Each committee member offered opinions honestly, respectfully and directly.

This models the gift of religious educators and religious education - we welcome, teach, include and hold each other in love while we meet people where we are. I very much enjoyed this week and I appreciated each and every one of you. The RECC will miss Rev. Christina Leone Tracy and I trust the Team moving forward will continue to have among its ranks extraordinary leaders.

Finally, Pat Kahn is EXTRAORDINARY, I wonder if she is one reason that there is a spike in new candidates. I appreciate Pat's care and advocacy for the success of each religious educator. She holds each person and even if someone was not granted a credential, she offered follow up discussions to help the person discern next steps. As a faith community forming our religious leadership, I am hopeful to witness this process. It is challenging, yet inspirational and affirming of who we are as Unitarian Universalists.