

AJ Blackwood, M.Div.

UU Fellowship of Kern County ~ Sepulveda UU Society

5 September 2017

Dear Beloved UU Family,

Welcome to Celebrating the Living Tradition!!!

I am looking forward to this year and being of service to the congregations of the **UU Fellowship of Kern County**, Bakersfield and the **Sepulveda UU Society**, North Hills.

Our ministerial theme for the 2017-2018 year is *“Celebrating the Living Tradition.”* We will be exploring what it is to be a part of a faith movement that is not only rooted in its people and community but also is alive ~ breathing, growing, changing, and stretching.

Some of you may be asking: “Why is this letter written jointly to both congregations?” The short answer is that over this coming year, we are going to be engaging in an exciting time of growth and we are starting by opening conversations and exploring a covenantal relationship between our two congregations.

The idea behind this potential joint venture is to examine how we can grow both congregations in spirit, love, and compassion, as well as, community engagement. We will be considering how we can share resources, talents, and best practices. We will be addressing areas where we need to stretch and grow, viewing it from different perspectives. Together, you and our leadership will be asked to share, meet, and engage each other with open hearts and arms.

We are embarking on this process this month by exploring the concept of “Welcome.” We are kicking off the year with our first shared activity with a **“Welcome and Hospitality In-Service”** at UUKern on Saturday, September 23, from 10 AM – 3 PM. **All are Welcome!**

To all of you, whom I have met, I am so very grateful for your love, welcome, and generosity of heart during this time of transition. To those of you, I still have to meet, I would love to offer a time to do so. If you would like to schedule an appointment, here are some options:

You can schedule online at ajblackwood.setmore.com.

By Phone/Text: Monday to Thursday from 10am - 9pm and Saturday from 10am - 2pm @ 747-224-7887 (SepulvedaUU) and 661-745-8851 (UUKern).

By Appointment: Tuesday and Thursday from 10am - 9pm at SepulvedaUU and Wednesday from 10am -9pm at UUKern.

By Email: AJBlackwood@SepulvedaUU.org and AJBlackwood@UUKern.org

We are off to a great start!

I am here to serve and I look forward to our shared time together.

In Service,



Pastor AJ

facebook and twitter: @ajblackwood