



1818 Felt Street
Santa Cruz, California 95062
(831) 462-9383
www.CSLsantacruz.com

July 16, 2021

Dear CSL Congregants:

Our beloved minister, Rev. Alice Reid has been offered a wonderful opportunity. The Center for Spiritual Living Capistrano Valley has offered her the position of Senior Minister of their larger center located in Southern California. After much prayerful consideration, she has decided to accept the position. It is with much regret that we report her upcoming departure. We will dearly miss her. It is with great love that we wish her continued success at her next ministerial position. Rev. Alice will continue to lead CSL Santa Cruz through the end of August.

We are deeply grateful for the dedicated leadership Rev. Alice provided our community over these past four years, especially the remarkable way she guided us through the COVID crisis and helped our Center maintain a balanced budget.

Along with saying goodbye, we as a small, loving community need to rally and begin the transition steps to hire a new Senior Minister and Spiritual Director. We are very grateful at this time because we believe that we have a perfect opportunity to move forward with an already established, active CSL Minister, Rev. Elisha Christopher.

This transition comes at a time when we are re-establishing ourselves as a community after our closure due to the COVID pandemic. As Rev. Alice outlined in her May pledge letter, our annual income is now 30% lower than in pre-COVID times. To meet this income shortfall, we reduced our expenses including furloughing our pianist, John David, and accepting the resignation of our music director Elizabeth Crow. In the short-term, we were fortunate to receive two government-issued grants (PPP and EIDL) to help support us and allow us to invest in our current recording and broadcast equipment. However, those grants are not renewable, so we are borrowing from our very small savings reserve to cover the monthly shortfall to pay our bills.

The Board has considered multiple options for moving forward in the context of these current financial realities. Since Rev. Elisha has been growing and collaborating as Assistant Minister with Rev. Alice, the board unanimously agreed to recommend Rev. Elisha for the position of Spiritual Director and Senior Minister of CSL Santa Cruz. We are very pleased that Rev. Elisha is very interested in pursuing this opportunity and has outlined many wonderful new ways that our collaboration with Synthesis Fellowship can lead us into the next chapter for our Center.

We are all very excited about these possibilities, but before we proceed further and offer a formal "Letter of Call" to Rev. Elisha, we invite your feedback in the following ways:

- 1) We have planned a **community meeting after service on August 1st** where we will listen to your ideas about this transition and discuss the needs of our community. It will also be an opportunity for the Board to outline the hiring options we considered and provide more details about our financial position.



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- 2) You can contact us directly by sending an email to: **Maggie Dreyer, Board Secretary:**
mtdreyer2@gmail.com

Your Board of Trustees is making every effort to be transparent and inclusive during this transition. Please know that your opinions matter to us. That's why we invite your questions, thoughts, and prayers. We know that wonderful new possibilities will emerge out of the challenge of this moment.

In Gratitude,

CSL Board of Trustees

Debbie Bratby, President
Maggie Dreyer, Secretary
Cheryl Schmitt, Member

Becky Adams, Vice President
Mohini Peters, Treasurer

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Nancy Loshkajian, Assistant Treasurer

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