

## In the Interim

*Rev. Fred Muir, UUPCC Interim Executive Director*

Over the last several months I have had the opportunity to be included in conversations with UUPCC members and friends. One of the lasting feelings from each of my Zoom exchanges is *gratitude*; gratitude for the joy, commitment, and promise I hear you express. In spite of the pandemic and all the hardships we have experienced this last year—in our families, among our friends, in our congregations, as well as with our international partners—there is a spirit of enthusiasm and excitement for partnering. This joy is so important for us! Joy lets us rise above the challenges and hardships that might (and do) bring us down. I have heard about the joy you find in your international relationships with adults, youth, and children. This is so wonderful!



(*in·tər·əm*: the time between two particular periods or events.)

The joy I'm describing is assembled with a variety of tools found in the container called commitment. Some of these instruments are older than others, but they all help to construct, maintain, and sustain your partnering. What I've learned is that you are more than willing to share your tools and how you have used them. Indeed, we are all in this together; the pandemic has reminded us of this bold truth. The joy from your commitment reminds me of the banner on the UUPCC website that reads: "The most radical things we can do is introduce people to one another." One definition of *radical* is returning to roots, going back to the basics. It feels like building relationships is fundamental—it's radical—to the well-being of all, certainly to our partnerships.

As the UUPCC and the ICUU (International Council of Unitarians/Universalists) continue shaping a path that bridges to a new international organization, your joy and commitment are heard as assurance in the growing global faith we love and hold close. As difficult as the pandemic has been, I've sensed a growing promise of what it is we'll do on the other side, that it will be new, far-reaching, and remarkable! What we are building will not only sustain what we love most about partnering, but bring even greater depth of meaning to our relationships.

We will emerge from the pandemic brighter, bolder, and better than a year ago, with new friendships and possibilities. I look forward to getting there with you.

Take care and stay safe,  
Fred

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