

Rev. Robin's Bird's-Eye View  
August 2019

### Jumping Aboard a Moving Train

During one of those endless rainy July days, I spent an afternoon engaged in one of my all-time favorite activities -- book store browsing! Glowing from a rack near the check-out counter, the shiny lifejacket yellow cover caught my eye, and the title intrigued me further -- "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook (the indispensable, indestructible guide for surviving life's sudden twists and turns").

As I scanned the 40-odd chapter headings, I couldn't help giggling at the potential Interim Ministerial applications of some of the advice, such as: "How to escape from quicksand;" "How to perform a fast 180-degree turn with your car;" "How to deal with a stampede;" "How to make fire without matches;" and "How to survive if your parachute fails to open." (Who are they kidding?)

Despite the unlikelihood of most of the derring-do in this little scripture of survivalism, one scenario does aptly parallel my entry into a new congregation as the incoming Interim minister-- "How to maneuver on top of a moving train and get inside" (lie flat, shimmy from side to side with the rhythm of the train, find a ladder and climb down).

For me, each congregation is a moving train and it isn't about to grind to a full stop while I step aboard. And why should it? The train is chugging down the tracks at a nice clip, its boxcars and coaches transporting caring and warm passengers, containers of energy, engaging music and RE programs, Social Justice initiatives, camping weekends, auctions and fairs. A dedicated laity and a talented staff tend the tracks, stoke the engines, and punch the tickets. Even with life's inevitable "twists and turns," I foresee lots of "best-case scenarios" for us here at Beacon UU Congregation. That said, I'm still practicing that side-to-side shimmying maneuver... it's a whole lot trickier than it looks!

Looking forward to getting to know you all better through church work and personal encounters. Be in touch and we'll sit down for a chat and a cup of coffee or tea.