

Focus on the Unitarian Universalist Calapayan Congregation
by the Rev. Ann Schranz
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How do we interpret contemporary events of another culture, in this case, events of the village of Calapayan in the Philippines? This account comes to us from the Rev. Nihal Attanayake, who visited us in Montclair last year. “The Calapayan Congregation members are dedicated to the task before them to work hand in hand for strengthening the partnership but sadly the minister has drifted away.” [Rev. Ann shared additional information regarding the Calapayan congregation and its minister.]

All ministry is shared ministry: Ministry is shared by clergy and congregants alike. Sometimes the minister does the “heavy lifting,” and at other times, the “heavy lifting” is done by the lay leaders of the congregation. Last spring and summer, it felt to me as though I might be the person doing some “heavy lifting” in this congregation.

More recently, others did the “heavy lifting.” The minister in the village of Calapayan no doubt did some “heavy lifting” in the past. Today, the congregants must do the heavy lifting. The alienation of the minister in Calapayan should not dissuade us from supporting the congregation. In fact, the congregation in Calapayan needs us more than ever!

Switching the focus back to this congregation, I would like to thank everyone who has stepped forward to do some heavy lifting lately. My elderly friend Fred has taken a turn for the worse over the past week. Instead of coming to live with me, it appears that he will either go to a long-term acute care hospital or will go into a long-term care facility and receive hospice care. I thank Rev. Ellen Livingston, in particular, for graciously accepting my invitation to lead the service next Sunday so that I can focus on Fred’s situation.

May we thank and appreciate all those who take a turn doing what needs to be done. May we take our turn. May we support Unitarian Universalism in the United States, in the Philippines, and wherever the free and responsible search for truth and meaning benefits from our encouragement. May it be so!

