

Special Retirement Issue:

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CHANGE IS COMING

Rev. Larry has been hinting about retirement for some time, but as a congregation, we didn't want to acknowledge it. If we just ignored it, it would go away. Well, the time has come for us to accept his right to move to the coast with Daniel and their beautiful dogs. They have bought a lovely home with a view, flowers and a green-house – a perfect place to relax, putter and just 'be'.

I want to tell you my experience of Rev. Larry. When my friend, Laura, died, I happened to mention I would miss our daily phone calls. Without hesitation, he said "I will call you" and he did, for weeks. What busy man commits to a ritual like that? Larry King did.



**By June Gumz,
newsletter editor**



When a group of congregants formed a writing group, Rev. Larry offered to drive me to the meeting place. It was on a houseboat on the Columbia River which was a scary location for an octogenarian to drive at night. Maybe he had an ulterior motive to upgrade my musings for the newsletter but he was too much of a gentleman to say so.

I am certain that everyone who attends PCSL has stories like these. We love his honesty, genuine caring for others, his humor and his ability to make SOM real. We are going to miss him and I believe he will miss us.

We will attract another fine minister, but he/she will have a hard act to follow.

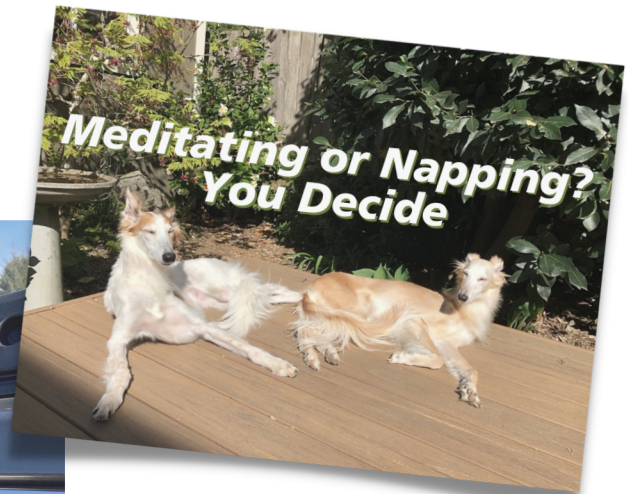
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10 THINGS MY DOGS TAUGHT ME ABOUT MINISTRY

In no discernable order

*"I have confidence in
the future and
enthusiastic
expectation of good
things to come."
~Ernest Holmes*



·Napping and Meditation are not so very different and both are equally good.

·If the choice is wagging or biting, do the right thing for the long run.

·Forgetting unpleasantness is an underappreciated virtue.

·There are times that require us to be very serious - but they won't last long.

·If someone doesn't mind a turn at driving the car, it allows everyone else to have their heads out the window enjoying the view.

·Don't mind the hair on all the furniture. It's worth it.

·Sometimes you just have to chase a squirrel even though you've never caught one before.

·You can be compassionate without ever saying a word.

·Love is stronger than anything else.

Much Love and Many Blessings,
Rev. Larry



THE PERFECT SUNDAY TALK

Upon hearing of my retirement, a friend asked me a thought provoking question: If you were going to do a final sermon - a sermon that would provide the best advice, or the most important message - what would it be about?

"Ah, a challenge," I thought.

But after thinking about this for a few weeks, I have to admit: I'm stumped. Here are the top three contenders:

"How We Got Here." A Sunday talk giving the most concise, yet complete understanding of the basic Science of Mind principle that our thoughts and beliefs create our reality.

"Kindness is King." A sermon speaking to something that would change the world for the better completely: being kind to ourselves and others.

"What Ministry Has Taught Me." A sermon summarizing what I've learned about myself and about the world as a result of my years in ministry.



After I made my list (there were others, too, including crazy ones like Everything I Learned About Ministry I Learned From My Dogs), I was confronted with reality. I've already written and delivered the first of the three Sunday messages. How We Got Here was delivered on May 10, 2015 and Kindness is King was delivered on October 24, 2021. They're not bad sermons and you can still listen to them in our podcast archives: <https://www.cslportland.org/podcasts/>

The Number 3 choice is impossible, of course. How could I summarize 15 years of ministry in a 25 minute talk? Well, I do know how I would start it. With a joke, of course:

On his last day at the old church, the retiring minister was asked a question by the new minister who was set to take his place. "What was the most frustrating part of your ministry?"

Without hesitation the old fellow answered, "The people, of course. Always wanting something different, yet never wanting changes. Always in need. Always ready with an opinion when it's not needed and silent when help is desired. Definitely: it's the people that make ministry hard."

The young pastor, just out of ministerial school, was a bit taken aback. Poor old guy, he thought, and then asked another question. "What kept you going? What sustained you these many years?"

Without hesitation came the answer, "The people, of course!"

WHAT COMES NEXT

Okay, so Rev. Larry is retiring. What comes next - after his party, of course.

Centers for Spiritual Living have a well-used process for preparing for, attracting and hiring a new minister. Here's the short description, but for the whole scoop, please join the Board of Directors for our next Town Hall Meeting on December 4th at 12:30pm. Rev. Julie Lobato from Home Office will be online to explain the process in detail and answer all your questions.

Succession Planning Overview

Celebration. *First off, we celebrate the outgoing minister. In our case, we've planned a lovely retirement party for Rev. Larry, December 10th 1:00-4:00pm. Join us for live music and a vegetarian potluck in his honor. His last official service is Christmas Eve at 7:00pm (in person and on Facebook Live).*

Interim Minister. CSL Home Office recommends having an interim minister to guide the selection process. This minister is not eligible to be the new minister, but will provide stability and expertise during the transition period. Interim ministers are generally employed for several months.

Co-Creation Process. CSL Uses a well-established process involving all members of the community to define the desired qualities of the new minister. These qualities and other factors are used to set the intentions for harnessing the Law of Attraction to intentionally fill the vacancy. A team is formed to develop materials to use when advertising the opening and Home Office arranges for candidates to be pre-qualified and ready to make presentations at PCSL.

Candidate Weekends. Each candidate is invited for a weekend to give a Sunday talk, meet with the Board of Directors, and deliver a workshop.

Making the Choice. The Board of Directors uses community input to make an offer to the best qualified candidate. Salaries and benefits are negotiated and a start date is established.

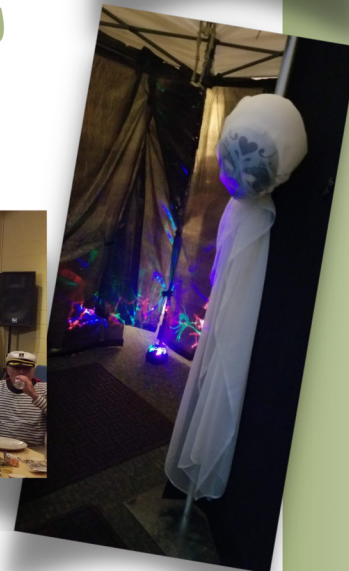
Rev. Julie Lobato (at Home Office) and the interim minister make sure that the process is smooth and that everyone's questions can be answered along the way. The objective is not just to "fill a position," but rather to draw the perfect minister for the particulars needs and growth of the Portland Center for Spiritual Living.



**"Today I uncover the
perfection within
me."**

~Ernest Holmes

HALLOWEEN SNAPS



BOARD REPORT



**By Nadine Moller,
Board President**

There is a season for everything, a time to plant and a time to sow. It is true for nature, it is true for each individual and it is true for our PCSL community. At the end of this year, 2022, our beloved Senior Minister, Reverend Larry King will retire from Ministry and move into a new adventure of life. The Board of Directors fully support his decision with sadness but also with great joy, knowing that this is the right decision for him at the right time for the right reasons.

The Board has been consulting with Reverend Julie Lobato, from the CSL home office, to help guide the PCSL community through the process of finding a new minister with transparency and integrity. The BOD is currently in the process of interviewing candidates for an "Interim Minister" who will take on Ministerial duties part time, including holding vision sessions with the community, Sunday service, marriages, funerals and supporting the Practitioners. We will have "guest speakers" for those Sundays the Interim Minister is not on platform. This gives the community a wonderful opportunity to hear various styles of communicating Spiritual Principles. The position of Interim Minister is temporary until a new Senior minister is found.

PCSL is a community Spiritual Center, and it is the Community that must decide along with the BOD and with the guidance of the head office, on who our next minister will be. This process can take anywhere from 4 months to 12 months.

We are holding a TOWN HALL MEETING specifically to address succession planning on SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th at 12:30 PM. It will be a hybrid meeting, that is via zoom and live. Rev. Julie Lobato, from CSL Home office, will be the guest speaker. She will explain the process, answer questions from the community, the BOD and the Practitioners. The BOD is deeply grateful to have the guidance, experience and expertise of Rev. Julie as we transition with ease and Grace into PCSL's next expression of Love.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday December 10th from 1 to 4 pm in the church as we give Rev. Larry an awesome Retirement party! All details are on our website, cslportland.org.


**Love and many Blessings,
Nadine Moller, RScP, Board Chair**


***We rent our space!
Planning a meeting,
event or special
occasion?***


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Hutchison for rental
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 ***Make a donation online: cslportland.org/donate/***

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 ***Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/portlandcsl***

 ***Interact with Rev. Larry's Blog: cslportland.org/blog***

 ***Listen to a Podcast: cslportland.org/podcasts/***



HOLIDAY EVENTS



Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, December 4th, 12:30pm (In-Person/Zoom)

Featuring Rev. Julie Lobato from CSL Home Office

We'll discuss the transition to our new minister with succession planning expert and also vote to extend leadership stability during the interim period. Bring your questions to the meeting online or in person, upstairs at the Center. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 875 8872 2256 - Passcode: 400977)

Rev. Larry's Retirement Party

Saturday, December 10th, 1:00pm PT

Bring your favorite vegetarian dish to this special potluck featuring music from LaRhonda Steele and the "Friends" Band. Please RSVP to the [invitation](#) so we'll know you're coming! Rev. Larry requests no personal gifts, but would be honored by donations to the PCSL Youth Church or General Fund.



Christmas Eve: Deck the Halls!

Saturday, December 24th, 7:00pm (In-Person/Facebook Live)

Our Christmas Eve service is presented in person and on Facebook Live so that everyone may "Deck the Halls" for the holiday season. Let's finish out 2022 with good music, uplifting readings and a candle lighting ceremony to warm your heart and appeal to your senses. Happy Holidays from the Center for Spiritual Living! Message by Rev. Larry and live music by Mark and LaRhonda Steele. This will be Rev. Larry's last service before his retirement.

The Golden Bowl Service

Sunday, January 1st, 11:00am (In-Person/Facebook Live)

Go beyond the typical "New Year's Resolution" and learn to create lasting changes in your life. Participate in our "Golden Bowl" service and have your desires for newness clarified and witnessed by our Licensed Practitioners. This service will be presented in person and on Facebook Live.



[Find out more or register at cslportland.org](https://www.cslportland.org)

The "Word" Gift Cards \$3.50 ea

Order a "Word Card" to contemplate for the coming year. The cards are pre-wrapped and were created knowing that Divine Wisdom will guide the right word and quote to the right person. Word cards are fun Holiday and New Year's gifts for family and friends. They also make great stocking stuffers.

Order online at: [cslportland.org/theWord/](https://www.cslportland.org/theWord/)

