

**On June 5th, our church took a moment in service to honor 20 years of service of Jonathan Silk. Leland Jones also completed 20 years of service this past year, but due to family obligations asked that we celebrate him in the fall, which we will! Here are the words that Vanessa shared, that she and Scott Miller wrote about Jonathan's 20 years at UUSF:**

Twenty years ago in January of 2002, two staff started here at UUSF who are still with us today. One of those, Leland Jones, is on vacation this week and will be celebrated next Sunday. The other, here with us today, like almost all Sundays, is none other than Jonathan Silk.

Jonathan started out as a trainee here. Jonathan was a musician who had recently moved with some friends, also musicians, to the west coast. He joined the UUSF staff part-time, mostly helping with the sound when he was needed. He was hired under the tutelage of Mike Thomas. Mike was a fixture in this church – a man who did everything communications and AV related and more – does that sound familiar?

Mike taught Jonathan a lot of what he knew and soon put Jonathan in charge of communications, our newsletter, the Flame. Then one Christmas Day and in a surprise to everyone, Mike unexpectedly passed away. Jonathan suddenly inherited all the things that Mike had managed, but with a steep learning curve.

Jonathan came with experience in the arts...his father was a musician too. Consequently there were a lot of things related to AV that Jonathan already knew how to do and other parts he was eagerly inclined to teach himself.

In these last twenty years, but in the last few especially, we have put that inclination and his native intelligence, diligence, problem solving and creative abilities to the test constantly.

As the Director of Communications, Jonathan does everything from set up and take down of the AV equipment for our services and special events, pre-and post service audio and visual production, creates our podcasts and livestream, and edits and publishes to the web videos of our livestream. He is in charge of AV support for our spaces outside this room (the sanctuary) and also continues to produce our weekly Flame, the monthly newsletter Flame Plus, and other as-needed online communications.

In addition to all of the tasks I just mentioned, Jonathan also maintains our website, which just this last summer and fall was completely overhauled.

In the three years prior to pandemic Jonathan oversaw the follow projects:

- He managed the replacement of our high-maintenance chancel illumination with the installation of LED theater lighting and lighting controls.
- He managed the installation of our new Sanctuary sound system.
- He managed the upgrade of the TSK AV system, including a permanently-installed movie screen and long-range projector.
- He managed the installation of UUSF's Sonic internet and new voice-over-IP (VOIP) office telephones, including staff training and configuration.
- He managed the installation of UUSF's campus-wide wifi network with vendor SF Wifi.
- He managed the construction of UUSF's portable AV cart.

- And by the grace of the universe and a Hinckley Grant... He managed the acquisition, installation, and configuration of UUSF live streaming equipment, including ongoing upgrades to expand live streaming capabilities.

Jonathan is truly an "essential worker" who had our community well-prepared for the changes necessitated by COVID.

Jonathan arrived 20 years-and-a-bit ago. He arrived as a musician newly arrived from the east coast, part-time trainee, single. Two decades later he is happily married to an amazing woman. He is still a musician – one who regularly plays drums for us in service.... often with an iPad to control the sound at his side! But he has also become an **indispensable** part of our community in this time; a cherished member of our staff; and vital to our ability to serve our mission.

Today we want to recognize and thank Jonathan Silk. Jonathan, thank you for your two decades of exemplary service to this church and all that greater work and ministry to the community and the world that your service makes possible. Thank you, for walking into these doors and sharing all your gifts and all your humanity. We are lucky to have you among us.

On behalf of the board of trustees we also want to give you a gift. You say you don't need anymore things – the truly evolved soul that you are – so we offer this gift toward a stay in a hotel that you and Latifa have enjoyed in the past. Enjoy and blessings and thank you!