

Minister's Board Report - November 2017

Updates

In end, there were 13 Histories and Hopes meetings. This process was incredibly valuable for me in hearing the stories from our past and hearing where we might go in the future. Without a doubt, the most desired direction across every group was to do more social justice in the community.

I have been meeting with Ginny Sponsler about how we have approached caring at UUFCO. Another meeting today with her and Chela will hopefully yield a structure. Part of this will be establishing a Pastoral Care Team in the near future and separating out the service oriented care (casseroles and rides) from the companioning care (pastoral care).

Social Justice Sunday was a success with the Linus Pauling room at standing capacity after the service. A follow up meeting with the Social Justice Steering Committee is set for this Friday. I am excited for this conversation around next steps.

I am continuing to reach out to local clergy to begin establishing relationships.

From October 30- November 1, I was at the Fall Ministerial Professional Days in Federal Way, Washington. It was a great chance to meet my new colleagues in the region. Indeed, our churches are served by incredible ministers, and it is always a learning opportunity to gather with them. The program was Sustaining Our Call. It was created by the UU Ministers Association. The conversation around personal call was a welcome reflection during this time of transition in my life.

Jameson O'Neal has begun work (3 hours a week) managing our external communications.

After the tragic shooting in Texas at a church during worship, we are appropriately reconsidering our safety procedures for Sunday morning. Don Hartsough, our head of Safety and Security, has already begun thinking about it and will be meeting with staff and others in the near future.

I have been in touch with Rev. Heather Rion Starr regarding our installation service. She expressed an interest to come, and I hoped to make it work out. It looks like March 10 will work for everyone.

Doug Mercer is meeting with Ayla and me to talk about the possibility of a children's choir in some form.

A Sunday morning Host Training is scheduled for Dec. 3 for current and future hosts.

Given the pain and strife in our world, we will be having a Service of Holding, Healing, and Hope on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7pm in the sanctuary. It will be an informal service intended to give space to the frustration and anxiety that current events may cause.

Judy Hurlburt is reorganizing how our Sunday volunteers are structured. She has been in consultation with Chela and me and will be rolling it during the month of November.

Brief Discussion

After being here for three months, getting to know the staff, leaders, and congregation, and consulting with Dan Hotchkiss, I am excited to begin working with the board to clarify our structure and organization.

Our mini-Start-Up on November 4 was well attended after church. Rev. Sarah Schurr was very impressed with our congregation. I am curious to hear a bit of response about the day from the board.