

UUFCO June Board Report - Minister

By Rev. Antonia Won, June 6, 2016

We are closing a huge year in the life of this congregation. Twelve months ago, we had no Sunday volunteer groups, we weren't renting the building yet, we hadn't yet started to use all the children's classrooms, and there were a lot of things we didn't know, including one another. Since then, we've been working on a new mission statement together; we re-instituted adult religious exploration programs, increased staffing, and started creating new ways of working together through the Sunday Volunteer groups, the newly launched Program Council and Leadership Development Committee. And that's not accounting for the Board and its committees that have done an enormous amount of work. Attendance on Sundays has surpassed expectations and membership is now over 200. There is so much to be grateful for and to celebrate. This year was about practical concerns of meeting basic, physical needs, just as when you move house you must spend time getting boxes unpacked, setting up new utilities accounts, and getting the children settled into new schools and making new friends.

Now, our task and the purpose of our shared ministry shifts to really metabolizing the changes we've started, and we are learning much from our mistakes and missteps as we move forward. We are more aware of what it means to be a larger congregation now; and that rather than being less intimately connected and more anonymous in the crowd, we are more connected than before. We are a congregation, not a crowd. There is a big difference and a great strength in this, and it requires that we base our myriad relations in respect, in loving-kindness, and in a commitment to honesty.

This year ahead, the work we do together as Board and minister will be very different and very important as we learn how to function in meaningful, creative and healing ways that will set the pattern for UUFCO's future. We will deepen our awareness of ourselves as this larger community, how we share the work of ministry as UUs in Central Oregon, and of how we must communicate with and be accountable to one another in our ultimate work of creating more love and justice in the world. And I for one am looking forward to it.

This past month saw a number of firsts. The Program Council met and had a highly productive meeting. The Council

- Endorsed a request that the PNW UU Young Adults hold their fall con at UUFCO
- Endorsed an activities grid as a working framework for groups and events to be connected into the congregational structure

- Reviewed a relational covenant form to allow non-members into forms of leadership in programs. This will be taken to the respective committees and revisited at the Program Council in the fall
- Discussed fall scheduling and agreed that 3rd Sundays will be dedicated to Soul Matters groups, to avoid conflict with other programs

The Leadership Development Committee has met twice and promises to be a dynamic and productive group. It is holding a reception for the recent cohort of new members.

We also held the congregation's first memorial for Joanne Willson.

In other areas, the Healthy Congregations Team continues in its development; the Communications Team is addressing concerns around filming and photographing of children; and I have made connections with some of the leaders of the social justice collective. I'm working with several of the latter to support a next step to finding an organizational structure by which they can oversee the collective's activities, fulfill its responsibilities, as well as be tied into congregational leadership systems. In the next few weeks, I will be conducting staff assessments, and finalizing fall plans i.e. Nourishment Nights, ministry themes, and worship planning.

I have been working weekly with Rev. Cat Cox and working to fulfill my commitments per the agreement with the Board. I am pleased that the leadership will be working with Rev. Cat in September/October and believe this is critical work for the future of the congregation.

I extend my thanks to all who have been Board members this past year, and a warm welcome to all who are new. Happy summer to you!

Reverently yours,

Rev. K. Antonia Won