

Rabbi Report to the Board of Trustees, May 2016

Significant Moments from the Last Month:

- Attended UU Regional Minister meetings and Regional Assembly
- Work with LDC and Staff Resources
- Application to Doctor of Ministry is in motion
- Apology to Finance Committee
- Recusal from Safe Congregation Response Team review of candidates
- Staff Evaluations

How Has My View of the Future Changed?

- 1) It is vital that we move away from being reliant primarily on annual stewardship to fund the activities of the congregation. (Judy has been saying this for many months.) I wish we could fully understand the reasoning behind the reductions. There is not a single, uniform concern or complaint that I can discern. People certainly have spoken by withholding pledges, but, without explanation, it is impossible to explore whether we can understand root concerns and rebuild responsible relationships. ***As such I am setting a personal goal of welcoming 37 new families to nullify the effect of this mysterious behavior.***
- 2) As a corollary of the above, it is my goal to **explore other funding sources** for the congregation in the year ahead: grants, paid programming and other creative stewardship opportunities.
- 3) As I look ahead and begin to consider how we will reduce the workload of my position by approximately 20%, I will seek the assistance of the Board and the Committee on Ministry to **help set priorities on these core deliverables**:
 - a. Sunday Services – how many per month going forward lead by me?
 - b. Pastoral/Spiritual Care – limiting hours of one on one care and perhaps creating a monthly group opportunity? (Spiritual Care open office hours?)
 - c. Life Cycles – namings, weddings, end of life planning
 - d. Small Group Ministries – book group, weekly meditation, 9 AM Sundays
 - e. Program Council – seek volunteer convener?
 - f. Community Programming – Area Council on Religious Diversity, rebirthing the GT Ministers' Association, Christmas Eve, Social Witness, public speaking, Safe Harbor
 - g. Membership – rabbi role going forward?
 - h. Denomination activities – ministry days, Western Cluster meeting, GA, RA, webinars, volunteerism

- i. Communications – Beacon, Flash, reports, email
 - j. Committee Work – Sunday services, Pastoral Care, etc.
 - k. Operations/Staff/Staff Resources
 - l. Self care/rabbi-ing
- 4) I am excited about **beginning my doctor of ministry program this Fall**. Since we have never held an installation for my position, perhaps we can consider doing something for the congregation this Fall as a blessing on my beginning the program? The program is formally called an Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union, part of a consortium of schools of which McCormick is a part.

Board Action Item Requests

I am unsure if this needs to be done formally, but I would request that the board make **motion to name Linda Fletcher as our congregational delegate to the GA**. I am unable to be a delegate as an associate UUMA member and because I am not a member of UUCGT.

Assign a board liaison to the Committee on Ministry (if they are agreeable) to plan an installation or recognition this Fall for my two year anniversary with the congregation. Possible community fundraiser? Also if you are interested, my program information can be found here: <http://www.ctu.edu/DMin>

Consider from a board perspective priorities for my time for the coming year.

Closing Thought

We don't need to ask, "How do I feel?" We need to ask, "What can I do?" ...

Having high hopes is actually a down-to-earth, common sense approach to making good things happen and facing challenges head on.

Paul Boynton, *Begin with Yes* (p. 14).