

Some Highlights from the Last Month:

- Launched a local Tiny Houses for People Experiencing Homelessness Community Task Force (For one model of this, please see http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/tiny-houses-homeless-detroit_us_57d1e926e4b03d2d4599b476)
- Was asked to lead worship at HUUMA [Heartland UU Ministers Association] meeting – alas unable to attend due to UUCGT schedule
- Launching Social Witness Programming
- Accepted the invitation to be the AAUW [American Association of University Women] Innovative Leadership Conference Keynote Speaker (here in TC)

Update on Major Activities/Goals

Congregational Care – In addition to hospital visits, phone calls and writing personal notes, it has been a joy to launch my initiative to have members of the CCT be more visible. To this end, I gifted the congregation with a stole for CCT members to wear on Sundays and have worked with the team on how to conduct the joys and concerns section of the service. In consultation with Sunday Services, I gathered feedback and offered further direction at our last CCT meeting. Please continue to hold our members in your heart – their families too.

Denominational Affairs

On my calendar: **Regional Assembly** will be at the Oak Brook Marriott in Oak Brook Illinois (Chicago area) on April 28-30, 2017. **General Assembly** 2017 will take place June 21-25, New Orleans, LA. I plan to attend if professional development funds allow.

I have had extensive contact with my Good Officer as I continue my journey in building connection to the UUMA. I am active in our online vehicle (a private Facebook group for UUMA members) as well. Unfortunately the regional meeting for the western part of the state is now moving to metro Detroit. I doubt I will often be able to attend in person.

I am currently reviewing the proposed UUMA guidelines for online communication.

I will be consulting with the Committee on Ministry to determine if I should attend the **Excellence in Ministry Days** in January, 2018. I would welcome the board's input. I am leaning toward yes.

Please note our Congregational Life Consultant Rev. Lisa Presley will be on Sabbatical until January 1. We welcome our new Congregational Life Consultant Rev. Sharon Dittmar.

Social Witness

Saturday, September 24, 6:30 we will show a film and follow with a discussion. Please see Beacon for details. This was a program created by Rabbis for Human Rights – of which I am proud member.

A reminder: A big UU headline is the Ken Burns film on the Sharps, UU rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust. THIS WILL BE TELEVISED ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 ON PBS. I have also ordered the DVD which will be shown November 9, the anniversary of Kristallnacht. There

is a great study guide from the UUA. I also signed us up as a #WeDefy congregation. Read more here: <http://www.uua.org/action/defying-nazis-sharp-story>

Sunday Services – We will be seeking a new co-chair for Sunday Services Committee. We wish Nancy Cotcamp well and thank her for her work as she steps down.

Local Clergy Connect – Our next local clergy association meeting will take place on Wednesday September 21 at Bethlehem Lutheran. I am pleased about having taken the lead to get this going!

Committee on Ministry – The CoM continues to evolve in its clarification and articulation of mission. Again I express my gratitude for those who serve on this committee. It is an oasis and a mirror! As things evolve, Right Relations, which is currently a CoM function, and its placement and process need clarification. Incidents have occurred which do not rise, in my opinion, to the level of Safe Congregation, but need a right relations process.

Safe Congregation Response Team

The SCRT is juggling a few items right now, including clarifying and communicating its role in “vetting” those who are nominated for board and LDC positions. Above all our work is to ensure that everyone in the congregation is safe emotionally, spiritually and physically.

Operations/Operations Team

The operations team is working together well. We are dealing with a number of issues, including building use, the new non-key entry system and scheduling.

Viz. my schedule: N.B.: I am in the office Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and by appointment on Friday and Sunday. Appointments must be scheduled in advance with Susan, as I have several standing meetings each week and many unexpected ones!

Just to give the board a taste from one day:

9 – 9:30 Meditation in Sanctuary + conversation with participants afterward

9:50 to 11 AM: emails, return phone calls, 2nd draft of board report, Flash reflection

11:00 – 12 Meeting with prospective member

12:- 12:30 Phone calls, emails, staff interaction

12:30 to 1:30 Weekly meeting with DLE

1:30 PM unscheduled meeting with board member

Stopped in to say hello to Quilters group and Memorial Garden Committee to say thank you

2:30 PM Rehearsal with John Bailey for upcoming Sunday service, phone calls

3:00 PM Meeting with UUMA Good Officer

3:30 PM Rehearsal continued (several phone calls during occurred and a meeting with the Rabbi from Beth Shalom who will be using our building to help with sound system and building use issues) and conversation with music director

4 PM Reviewed outline of this Sunday's service and looked ahead at next three weeks

4:30 PM returned calls

A Congregation of Learners: 9 AMs begin on September 25 – but at 8:30 with bagel and coffee brunch kick off. A change/addition: once every few weeks, I will offer a 9 AM teaching on what I am learning for my doctorate so the congregation is clear on how this benefits us.

The monthly book group continues. See Beacon for details.

Program Council is scheduled to meet this Sunday.

School Update

Holy wow my mind is being blown by concepts of critical thinking and “ideological detoxification.” I have never read so much in my life. This is an awesome experience!

Questions/Action Requests for the Board

Does the board feel my participation in Excellence in Ministry Days is worthwhile?