

Rabbi Report to Board, October 2016

Some Highlights from the Last Month:

- Little Spiritual Book Club is attracting non-members and some members we haven't seen
- New Member welcome scheduling done for the year
- 9 AMs robustly attended
- Regular engagement with UUMA

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. We are now working to adjust how we approach this so that the congregation's feedback is incorporated.

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.

I am active in our Facebook group for UUMA members. I continue to review the proposed UUMA guidelines for online communication.

I have created a program around the UU Common Reads program. The Rev. Dr. William Barber's Moral Mondays movement is growing nationwide. Learn more about its history and future in *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, just selected as the 2016-2017 UUA Common Read. Watch for the date and details.

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

A reminder: A big UU headline is the Ken Burns film on the Sharps, UU rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust. I have received the DVD which will be shown here 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 – Did you know we have had over 600 people attend Sunday services in the last month? These are solid numbers.

Local Clergy Connect – We continue to meet monthly. This month we meet at Unity Church. I will plan a month when we can host.

Committee on Ministry – The CoM continues to evolve in its clarification and articulation of mission. We began work, under the guidance of chair Chris Innes, with a dialogic process that I believe will benefit that team and the congregation as a whole.

Safe Congregation Response Team

Our work is to ensure that everyone in the congregation is safe emotionally, spiritually and physically. Our next meeting is next week. We have a number of items on our agenda, including thinking through how LDC and SCRT can work well together to create a smooth and efficient process for ensure candidates are ready for service at UUCGT.

Operations/Operations Team

The operations team is working together well. We have drafted our committee description; that will be ready for sharing next week. I have begun taking minutes.

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!

A Congregation of Learners: 9 AMs are going swimmingly. Would love to see some more board members there so you can experience the interaction and learning and show support for this program.

The monthly book group continues. See Beacon for details.

Weekly meditation on Thursdays at 9 AM in the sanctuary continues: small but mighty.

Program Council is scheduled to meet this Sunday.

School Update

As you have seen, the learning I am doing has had a direct impact on the content and process of my teachings on Sundays. I am delighted.