

## Rabbi Report to Board, August 2016

### Some Highlights from the Last Month:

- Monthly Spiritual Book Club going strong
- Relunched Area Ministers' Association!!
- Started School at CTU
- Hosted a Leelanau UU Gathering
- Hosted Bowen Training @ UUCGT with Anthony Wilgus
- Great Interaction with UUMA Good Officer

### Update on Major Activities/Goals

**Sunday Services** – As I said last month, I am delighted with the template we have created for the year ahead. It honors the best of our sources and will be a highly effective way to meet the worship needs of our members as well as attracting a larger community.

**Congregational Care** – I continue to provide care to individuals who are ill, hospitalized or otherwise in need. This month has been particularly full. Please hold our congregants who are ill or hospitalized in your thoughts.

**Denominational Affairs** – I am delighted to be in conversation with UUMA as I find my way around.

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.

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 and will work with Emmy Lou and SJA to create a community event, perhaps on 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>

**Local Clergy Connect** – I am pleased to let you know that I, along with a UCC and Methodist minister, have relaunched a local ministerial association. We however are not a re-creation of the GT Ministers' Association. We are focused on being healers, peace makers and justice keepers. This group has a progressive social agenda and a strong interest in collaboration and LEADING in the community on social justice and human rights issues. At this point it is a closed group, as we are still forming. We have 12 folk from across the spectrum. Several of us have signed up for an online course (on demand) with Krista Tippett on how to have conversations. If you are interested, please see <https://www.udemy.com/krista-tippett-on-the-art-of-conversation/> I would love it if any board members wanted to take the course at our pace and get together to discuss it.

**Committee on Ministry** – The CoM continues to evolve in its clarification and articulation of mission. I simply want to express gratitude here 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 opinion, to the level of Safe Congregation, but need a right relations process.

**A Congregation of Learners:** This is a new launch in conjunction with my doctoral studies. Our monthly spiritual book group, 9 AMs (beginning in the Fall), and certain key committees will be asked to jointly read bite-sized sections of books that build upon the healthy congregation/right relations and community outreach model we have already begun. CoM and the Board are perusing *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times*.

The monthly book group read *The Sacred Art of Loving Kindness: Preparing to Practice* by Rami Shapiro last month. This month: Tuesday, August 23, 12 to 1 PM: *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life - Life-Changing Tools for Healthy Relationships*, by Marshall Rosenberg will be our topic.

September: *The Places that Scare You: A Guide to Fearlessness in Difficult Times* by Pema Chodron

No meeting in October.

November: *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives* by Wayne Muller.

December: *The Art of Forgiveness, Loving Kindness and Peace* by Jack Kornfield

### Sunday 9 AM Programs

9/25 is the Kick off for the 9 AM programs. I will be hosting a bagel breakfast (for a modest donation to the UU) to lay out the year and set direction.

10/2 Holy Living: What is Covenantal Living at UUCGT?

10/9 Mindfulness (the first word of our covenant) in the Six Sources

Further dates TBD based on Program Council Calendar

### **Questions/Action Requests for the Board**

Do my activities reflect our current organizational priorities?

Are my reports getting you what you want and need from your SSL?