

November 2020 Board Summary

October 25, 2020

Your board had an active month, and, as of this writing, we have yet to complete our October schedule. By the time you read this we will have had an in-depth conversation with the Search Committee during which we will have shared our thoughts about the role we are creating for a new minister.

As of this writing, two important steps have already been completed. At our regular monthly meeting on October 14th, we approved a set of proposed revisions to our congregation's bylaws. These revisions will bring our bylaws into conformance with how we actually operate. They were adopted after months of study by the Policy Committee and deliberations over three cycles of board members. These changes will need to be approved by the Congregation and will be on the agenda for our next congregational meeting. Because the changes describe, rather than modify, how we operate, we decided not to call a special congregational meeting solely to address these changes.

The major focus of our work this month occurred during an 8 hour Zoom retreat, spread over a Friday evening and the following Saturday, October 16th and 17th. The sessions were designed and facilitated by Mark Bernstein, an "adjunct consultant" with the UUA and a professional trainer. With his able leadership, we learned more about each other and developed both a draft vision and a set of goals for the rest of our term as your 2020-21 Board. These are drafts at this point; the ink is barely dry on them, but they will serve to illustrate our current thinking about the direction in which we plan to lead the congregation.

October 2020 Draft Vision of UUCGT in 2025

We are a congregation growing in spirit, in numbers, and in greater influence in the Grand Traverse region. We have a beloved settled minister. We are a diverse congregation that includes a number of young families. Our programs for children and youth are thriving and our wonderful choir fills our sanctuary with beautiful music every Sunday. We are the spiritual home for our members and friends.

We know that the Grand Traverse area is a special place that needs and deserves special care, and our congregation is at the forefront of sustaining a diverse, vibrant and growing community. We serve as a beacon of hope for preserving the climate. Our Green Sanctuary inspires those who visit us and inspires environmental ministries at other area congregations.

Our membership is active and highly visible across the moral, social and environmental justice activities of the Grand Traverse region. We are a source of guidance and healing for the larger community. As two examples, Our OWL program and Anti-Racism classes draw people of the congregation and the community together. We partner with other UU congregations in offering cultural exchange programs for children and adults in order to foster greater understanding and acceptance and, in so doing, remove our own layers of privilege and white supremacy.

October 2020 Draft Vision of UUCGT Board Goals for 2020-21

1. Continue to support the search team in the hiring of a settled minister.
2. Initiate and oversee a stewardship campaign by:
 - a. Strengthening the pledge drive campaign;
 - b. Looking for funding to hire a UUA Stewardship consultant;
 - c. Forming and supporting a team to focus on broader issues related to stewardship.
3. Review and modify the current organizational structure with respect to committees, etc.
4. Initiate planning for eventual reopening of the congregation to in-person worship and activities.