

Report to the UUTC Board
Rev. Bob Renjilian
July 2022

PERSONAL:

- Christy and I continue to enjoy her presence here in NC. We've been able to experience concerts at the Brevard Music Center, etc. I also went to PA with her for a week while she had in-person office work to do... my task was continued sorting and recycling old church files and having things ready for emptying the house.

IN THE WIDER MOVEMENT:

- I finished my online attendance at UUA General Assembly in the days following our last UUTC Board meeting. One of the workshops was about navigating the "next normal" in churches, and I was commended for what I shared about UUTC's process of reopening, our choir testing, contact tracing, etc. It is good to know we're on the leading edge.
- I continue to serve on the UUA Board Committee on Religious Education Credentialing.
- In sad news we just learned that Rev. Mark Ward, recently retired minister in Asheville, had died unexpectedly this month. Mark welcomed me "virtually" back when I was candidating here at UUTC in May 2020, and had been a part of our regional UU clergy circle. I plan to attend the online version of his memorial service on July 29.

REFLECTION ON "NEXT NORMAL"

Our Sunday morning combined services are working well. A few more people have let me know the 10:00 single service messes with their Sunday morning schedules, but in general we're still getting majority positive feedback. It helps to have the Nursery workers get the coffee ready.

One of the meditation groups that started recently has outgrown the yellow house. That's a good sign of meeting needs of people in the community, and overall confidence of folks to become active in group activities.

Our supply of COVID-19 tests for Choir is settling around \$6.40/person, which is better than when we started, but not quite the best price we'd received.

I approve of the Circle Dinners organizers asking people to COVID-test on the day of their dinner attendance. I've heard the tests may not be accurate about having the variant, but should still be a good measure of whether the person is contagious. I received a comment from a congregant concerned about dinners during the summer

wave of increased COVID cases, and I expect there may be others, but I also assume there are plenty of others willing and eager to sign up.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION:

Wonderful Wednesday drew about two dozen people for July 13, "The Joy of Sox". I'd heard from a member who was sorry to miss it, but they were staying away from church crowds before an upcoming trip. The people present seemed to enjoy the video, and the question and answer period afterwards. Popcorn was provided, and we sang "Sweet Caroline" as a warmup to fit with the baseball theme.

I continue to lead a monthly discussion with UUs at College Walk. I also led the community-wide Vespers service there on the afternoon of July 24, with John Austin as worship associate.

I met with the ARE team at the July Meeting night. Plans are in the works for the August Wonderful Wednesday, and we were pleased to learn that Earle Rabb has started the plans to bring back the Spiritual Explorer's group, with Ernie Mills and Carter Heyward as co-leaders!

PASTORAL CARE:

I've been in touch with folks by phone, and have been offering home or office visits. I met with Carol Roberson's family to plan her father's (Morris Lee Roberson) memorial service (held July 11 at UUTC). I've also met with Christine Schmidt to plan David Warinner's memorial service in August. I've reached out by phone to a few folks LHHH mentioned to me, or that I hadn't heard from recently. The LHHH volunteers covered the toll-free pastoral care line while I was away the first week of July.

WORSHIP:

I have attended a few of the summer services. I find it nourishing, and my presence also helps remind people that I am around and available (just not often in the pulpit). I completed the asynchronous Pulpit Supply with the minister in Clemson, SC, by preaching there in July (she had filled in for me back in the spring). I also led worship here at UUTC on July 24.

I have been in conversation with Vanessa Cowie about being careful that I have enough Sundays to preach through the year.

OTHER MEETINGS:

Team meeting night included Adult Religious Exploration (as mentioned above), Social Action Team, and Facilities Team. All three were well attended. I spent the bulk of my time with the first two, and dropped in with Facilities Team at the very end. All our teams are being asked to think about things they might need.

We skipped one weekly staff meeting due to Kevin being on vacation and RK out sick, but otherwise we've met online or individually in person.

I've kept in contact with LHHH.

I have met with Alice Wellborn prior to this Board meeting.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

I attended the Transylvania Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

I participated in the Hendersonville "Pride Ride" on June 30

COMING UP:

- I look forward to the Friday morning Board mini-Retreat at Happy Hollow, July 29.
- I will be officiating at a non-member wedding on July 30, 2022 (location hosted by UUTC members Josh and Mallory Carter).
- I will be working remotely from PA, August 14-20, back in time for preaching at UUTC on Sunday, August 21 (and the UUTC picnic at Conestee right after).