

Minister's Report to the UUTC Board

Focusing on Goals and Objectives

March 2023

Areas of Focus

Pulpit & Worship

Provide a meaningful worship experience for a wide variety of congregants.

Since my last Board Report I have led just two Sunday services at UUTC, with two guest speakers filling in when I was doing last trips to Pennsylvania. I spoke to the Soul Matters monthly theme of "Vulnerability". Different people have come forward each week to mention something of what they got out of these services, which is one way I can gauge how a variety of congregants are finding services meaningful. I also note the high energy and large attendance.

Community Building:

Facilitate and expand the connections which already exist between the UUTC congregants and the larger community.

Christy and I hosted the new Members and the Membership Team at our home On Sunday afternoon, March 19.

I participate regularly in the Tuesday "Fellowship in the Hall" brown bag lunches at UUTC.

I led the College Walk UU discussion circle on March 22.

I led several of the Thursday Men's Group (in-person) sessions.

I have adjusted the way Candles of Joys and Sorrows are recorded (I do it, not the ushers), which goes a little smoother and gets into the Member-to-Member e-mail more reliably.

Social Justice

Challenge the congregation to address social justice issues directly.

We have a handful of members who have been reading the UUA Common Read book "Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism" by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin.

Among some of our Teams I have spoken of my concern about a voting rights bill (NC House Bill 6 "Uniformed Heroes Voting Act"). In particular I am concerned that attention is being paid to what people wear.

Target Goals

Pulpit & Worship: **Draw from other religious traditions in worship services at least twice a month.**

I have included Christian, humanist and Jewish references in the services I led. I also included Brené Brown among the readings, and some variety of hymns which were more earth-centered in their spirit.

Community Building: **The minister will reach out to a variety of congregants to learn about the connections they have already built in the larger community.**

Continuing this process.

I passed along to Kevin Lausch a sign up link for “Harm and Healing: The Mental Health of AAPI and LGBTQ Children” which seemed relevant to him and those working with the at-risk youth/family group hosted here at UUTC in partnership with TC Strong.

Social Justice: **Explore the difference between social justice and social action in sermons and activities.**

This sermon is scheduled for April 16. The Soul Matters theme turns to “Resistance” for April.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

Christy and I sold our home in Pennsylvania. I’d been up there for the final times this past month as we emptied the last of our belongings and signed closing documents. The trips to Pennsylvania continue for Christy due to her job, but we’re glad to be based here.

Continuing Education: attended UUA webinar “The Body Politic: Faithful UUs Showing up for Trans Justice” and also a UU Ministers Association zoom meeting on continuing education goals and accountability. I hold myself accountable to the continued growth and improvement of my ministry.

Away for professional duties: I will be in Chicago the first days of April to serve with the UUA Board Committee that deals with Religious Educator Credentialing (RECC). Members of the LHHH will cover the pastoral care toll-free number, and I will also return messages during breaks. Also, following Easter Sunday I will travel to The Mountain for the spring conference of the UU Ministers’ Chapter (I note that phone service is unreliable there, but I can respond to emails during breaks).