

# Minister's Report to the UUTC Board

## Focusing on Goals and Objectives

April 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 three Sunday services at UUTC (including Easter), and there was one with a guest speaker, and the Women's Service (which I had helped film). On Easter Sunday I also led the optional Communion Service in the large classroom. Themes included Social Justice, vulnerability, and the Jewish, pagan and Christian holiday themes.

Community Building

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

I participate regularly in the Tuesday "Fellowship in the Hall" brown bag lunches at UUTC. This has moved back outside again. We welcomed a family of tourists on Tuesday.

I led the College Walk UU discussion circle on April 27.

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

I myself attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting in April, and talked with another UUTC congregant attending. I also approached a leader from a non-profit we support with our special monthly collection.

Social Justice

**Challenge the congregation to address social justice issues directly.**

My "Social Service vs Social Justice" service encouraged people to speak aloud during part of the service about their commitments for social action, and I was approached by congregants afterwards saying how they were involved or might become more involved after having been inspired.

### **Target Goals**

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

I have included Christian, pagan and Jewish references in the Easter Service. I used the Good Samaritan story in another service and mentioned the Sikh new year observance of Vaisakhi as well.

**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. Relevant and timely note: We have folks who are very involved with AAUW this season, and I was informed by one congregant that Brevard has the largest chapter involvement.

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

I preached on this topic on April 16. It has spurred a conversation to occur with some of our Social Action folks.

In shorthand, our Social Action needs to have both, though we tend to focus on social service in our volunteerism and our financial support. For instance, helping the hungry and the homeless, and fewer projects to change laws or patterns of society. An example in the service was better treatment of animals: we could buy better cat food or help at an animal rescue shelter (both are social service). Social Justice work might include our support of laws that improve/protect natural habitats. I pointed out that the justice work to prevent cruelty to animals resulted in using that law (ASPCA, 1874) to prosecute a child abuse case (our respect for animals is intertwined with our respect for each other).

### **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:**

Does this seem a lighter report? Yes. For instance I was unable to attend the NAACP religious leaders' group. I've been fitting my usual duties around denominational and professional obligations this past month, and it has been a difficult juggling act. I was in Chicago the first days of the month for UUA work, then back for Easter weekend, then gone again on the road (to The Mountain) for the UU Minister's Association regional conference. This week I'm doing more meetings for the UUA, but on Zoom from the church office so that I can coordinate with staff and fit in pastoral or other meetings.

I have worked to provide attention to salary and taxation issues, coordinating with the Compensation Team and UUA Compensation and Staffing Practices Manager, crunching numbers, retrieving documents, etc. I heed our former UUTC Treasurer's advice for advocating more bookkeeper hours and appreciate the strain of our volunteers to shed some light into the subject and set things right.