

Developmental Minister

Report to the Board

October 31, 2019

Observations

- Moving ahead on vision in a quick way should position the congregation well for coming decisions.
- Lots of my activity continues to be related to presence in the community. The People's Issues Forum on October 10, which I co-moderated with Jess Kerr, brought together seven different groups in town to hold City Commission candidates accountable to issues raised by the citizens of Manhattan. We had a goal for 175 in attendance and had 191, including a number of UUFM members. MAPJ led and championed this effort, consistent with its shifting towards local community organizing as core to its work. UUFM members continue to be key leaders and participants in MAPJ. Please note that MAPJ is sponsoring monthly community organizing training sessions of about 2 hours each. These are really excellent and have such wider applicability than issues campaigns alone.
- Judy Nickelson has agreed to chair Social Action Committee, which has many different facets, so coordination will be a help.
- I continue to be involved with Little Apple Pride. This year, I'm training younger people on the parade logistics. Madilena Mendiola and Laura Lott are also active with the group. Madilena is coordinating volunteers, so please refer anyone to her that might be interested in any aspect of Pride celebrations (including Drag Story Hour, Drag Bingo, social events, fundraisers, and the big Pride celebrations in April and June).
- The book discussion series on "Just Mercy," led by Judy Nickelson culminated with a panel of guests (including our own John Exdell) talking about various aspects of justice in Riley County. We had about 15 participants from within and outside the congregation, including Josh Kyle from the Riley County Police Department. The Racial Justice Team will evaluate the event this Sunday, November 3.
- We also had a good collection of products for the Emergency Shelter and Crisis Center. Our activity in the community is strong across so many areas.
- I attended the Prairie Star District ministers' meeting and facilitated a session on guidelines' revisions, as I serve on the continental Guidelines Committee. The UUMA wants to move from a model of punishment for transgressions to a more restorative approach, especially for complaints between colleagues. This cultural shift is accompanied by attention to concerns of women, gender non-conforming people, and people of color who are ministers. The changes in our society are also going on within our association.
- Rates of visitors and attendance at Sunday morning services continue to be somewhat lowered.

Plans

- As we approach the holidays, plans continue for the Christmas Eve service and a pulpit exchange.

- Marisa Larson and Cathy Hedge and I are planning a book signing on Saturday, November 23rd. I appreciate the outpouring of support for this from everyone here. I have been working on this book for many years, and it's good to have it out!
- Looking ahead to January, I have a couple of things to initiate. It's past time again to meet with the pastoral care team, so I'll schedule to meet with them. This is all the people who are working one way or another on the caring function in our congregation. Also, some have suggested some classes that address the substance of my book, which I will also schedule.
- I will take vacation (and holiday) leave from November 27 to December 4.

Summary of October Ministerial Activities:

Social action and community presence

- Attended
 - Little Apple Pride meeting
 - Listening to Local Voices planning meeting
 - Ecumenical book group
- Participated in panel on Religions and Sexuality for a KSU class
- MAPJ
 - Led Board meeting and Coalition for Equal Justice meeting
 - Moderated People's Issues Forum
 - Attended Community Organizing Training
 - Supervising an intern for MAPJ/Coalition for Equal Justice
 - Co-led Huddle

Ministerial leadership

- Worship
 - Preached 4 times
 - Led November conveners' meeting
 - Led Conveners' Training session
 - Conducted memorial (celebration of life) for Cecilia Evans Clement (not a member, but her adult children are now attending)
- Led other programs
 - Staff meeting
 - Chalice Circle
 - Meadowlark UU gathering
 - Co-led Tai Chi
- Attended
 - "Just Mercy" book discussion (2)
 - Special Congregational meeting
 - Small Church webinar

Growth

- 2 visitor contact

- Attended Newcomers' Brunch
- Led New Member Ceremony during service
- Social media presence

Other

- Attended UU Ministers Association district meeting, including leading a session on guidelines changes

Respectfully submitted,
Jonalu Johnstone