

Developmental Minister
Report to the Board
July 7, 2019

Observations

- The news I am hearing from the Stewardship folks is positive, though I haven't heard hard numbers or any kind of final report. Many people have increased their pledges very generously.
- A number of events this month reminded me how strong UUFM is, in very different ways:
 - Chris Banner's memorial service had so many people involved, making it a demonstration of how much our members care for one another. A number of people went above and beyond including Doug Walter, Michael Oldfather, and Dixie Moreau. The reception, squeezing in and rearranging chairs, providing parking and transportation. All went smoothly and it was to everyone's credit. The family appreciated it.
 - Our people show up at many different social justice events. This was particularly noticeable at the Wear Orange event against gun violence. We also had members attend (and fund others to attend) the KIFA dinner, the community health care forum, Juneteenth, and the Little Apple Pride celebration of Stonewall. We are engaged in our community.
 - The OWL training of trainers that we hosted was a great success and resulted in us having several more people prepared to teach elementary level OWL. Sandy deserves recognition for her realization that we had the potential to pull this off, for organizing everything, and for being available through the whole weekend, making sure it came off seamlessly, and it did. I'm sure she will give a more complete report.
- General Assembly tackled issues of diversity, identity, and mission through programming and conversation this year. Controversy did arise, though the support for continuing attention to the goal of creating a truly anti-racist, multi-cultural association remains strong. I shared the letter I signed onto that raised concerns about a book criticizing recent trends in UUism. But in case you missed it, you can see the letter here: https://www.muusja.org/reprint-an-open-letter-from-white-uu-ministers/?fbclid=IwAR29PIICGfLtIRAJcp_oLEgI4B_OKGTKjgivk3CdyLTGh8Gzyg5QOrk_N-o
- The Sunday Services Committee has committed to having lyrics projected during the service. Rob has established a google doc where we plan to collect the printed lyrics so that we can reuse them. This allows people to choose between using the projected lyrics or singing from a hymnal. Because of concerns about the care of hymnals, particularly as chairs are moved, we are shifting to a system of having people pick up hymnals if they choose to and return them following the service. I understand that we will have a cart donated to hold them. Joys and Concerns slips are going into the chairs where the hymnals used to dwell.
- One of the upshots of the OWL training was that Sandy has brought forward concerns about the cleanliness of our building. There is much more to do. We have only four hours a week of cleaning that we currently pay for, which means there is a lot that doesn't get done. At

minimum, we need a deep clean and the floors stripped and waxed. We need to determine to what extent that will need to be paid labor, and to what extent we can use volunteers.

- Since we moved our attention to the financial planning, we do not seem to have done much further around the building downtown. It would be good to have some plans to keep it in people's minds this summer, and to be sure that all our questions have been fully answered.
- I continue to work with Community Solutions to Affordable Housing, one of several groups working on housing solutions in Manhattan currently. This group held study circles (which some of our folks participated in) and came up with three solutions to work towards: mandatory rental inspections, a housing trust, and community revitalization. I am particularly engaged with the group working on the housing trust, a way to make some housing more affordable for purchase by holding the land the houses are on in trust. Lawrence has a housing trust, as do other places.

Plans

- I will be completing staff evaluations during July.
- Summer is a good time to check on where we are with membership, following up from the stewardship campaign and noticing who is moving away. We inevitably lose some members this time of year. At this point, I think it is only a handful.
- Last year, I attended the Global Leadership School sponsored by the First United Methodist Church. I have not pushed attendance by our folks, because it is so biased towards Christianity. However, I will attend again this year, and have been asked to be part of a panel that is presenting about community organizing. I will be on the panel with Brandon Irwin, who is active with MAPJ as well as the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition, and with Ben Deaver, who is pastor of Tall Grass Church, an evangelical start-up here in Manhattan. Making connections across divisions in unexpected ways.
- As I said in last month's report, summer will be a time of planning for the themes for the coming year, evaluating staff, reviewing personnel policies, contemplating programming for the coming year, and taking a deep breath.
- I will be on vacation July 22- August 4, and am taking most of the week of July 15 as study leave to focus on planning.

Summary of June Ministerial Activities:

Social action and community presence

- MAPJ
 - Led Board meeting
 - Co-led huddle
 - Community Solutions to Affordable Housing
- Also attended:
 - Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) Annual Dinner
 - Wear Orange
 - Health Care Forum
 - Little Apple Pride Stonewall Celebration

Ministerial leadership

- Worship

- Preached 4 times here
- Led Christopher Banner's memorial service
- Led July conveners' meeting
- Led other programs
 - Chalice Circle
 - Chalice Circle Facilitators
 - Staff meeting
 - Meadowlark program
 - Racial Justice Team
 - Co-led Tai Chi

Growth

- 3 visitor contacts
- Social media presence

Other

- UU ministers' cluster
- General Assembly

Respectfully submitted,
Jonalu Johnstone