

Developmental Minister  
Report to the Board  
August 7, 2019

**Observations**

- The new program year does seem to be moving towards a start, with several visitors last week. We can expect to see more over the coming month.
- Staff evaluations have been completed. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group invested in the good of the fellowship. Revised job descriptions have been posted on the Board Google drive: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1e7IntBcnDN3vNyMLwCeNa147dgPQWEzY> I encourage you to review them to stay abreast of our expectations for the different positions.
- Quite a few UU's came to the locally organized Lights for Liberty event expressing concern over the treatment of immigrants, along with 150 or so of our neighbors and friends. We were part of 818 gatherings around the country. Though the immediate impact of such events may be unclear, it's helpful to see actions like the closure of the Homestead facility in Florida, which housed thousands of immigrant children separated from their parents. Locally, KMAN provided good media coverage.
- I do want to let you know that one of our members has raised a concern about the level of pastoral care I provide (or don't). I remind the Board that my primary focus is around the goals of Developmental Ministry. I do make myself available when care is requested, and from time to time as I see a need. I also try to make sure that we have lay leaders reaching out. I have not been reporting pastoral care interventions to the Board, as a rule, because it has not been an expressed priority and because it's often extended informally, and so can be hard to quantify. Please let me know if you think there ought to be changes, either in how care is provided or how it is reported.

**Plans**

- Hailey Dixon, reporter for *The Manhattan Mercury*, has invited me to be featured in "Our Neighbors" newspaper feature. Perhaps this can help make up for us missing the "Back to School" edition of the paper this year.
- I'm working with MAPJ and several other groups around town to put together a City Commission candidates' forum that will be different from the traditional structure. Using people's stories and issues identified by the groups, we'll be asking candidates for particular commitments. The People's Issue Forum will be in early October. Bringing together various progressive organizations around town creates an interesting interaction.
- Planning for the program year continues. We will be doing only a few Services for All Ages this year. Though they have been well-received by adults without children, parents and children have not been that interested in attending.
- In the next few weeks, we will be setting dates for Path to Membership, membership recognitions, and Conveners Training.

- Finally, I want to let the Board know, two years out from the expiration of our current contract, that I do not plan to seek either renewal of contract or a call, as I have decided to retire from ministry at the end of our contract. This allows plenty of time for the congregation to determine its next steps. According to UUA Transitions Director Keith Kron, UUFM is eligible to seek interim or developmental ministry, or to enter the search process. Christine Purcell ([cpurcell@uua.org](mailto:cpurcell@uua.org)), the Transitions Program Manager, will be able to help the congregation with the process.

### **Summary of July Ministerial Activities:**

#### Social action and community presence

- Spoke at Lights for Liberty vigil, addressing immigration
- MAPJ
  - Led Board meeting
  - People's Issues Forum planning (2)
- Attended Little Apple Pride re-organizing meeting

#### Ministerial leadership

- Worship
  - Preached 2 times
  - Led August conveners' meeting
- Completed 4 staff evaluations
- Attended Board meeting
- Led other programs
  - Staff meeting
  - Racial Justice Team
  - Co-led Tai Chi

#### Growth

- 2 visitor contacts
- Social media presence

#### Other

- 2 weeks vacation and a week study leave

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonalu Johnstone