

Developmental Minister
Report to the Board
September 3, 2019

Observations

- I very much look forward to the Next Steps Weekend. I hope it will catalyze the congregation so that our way ahead becomes more clear.
- Attendance was not up as much as generally expected for August. The Sunday Services Committee intends to monitor attendance and develop a plan for two services that can be implemented once we reach our peak attendance levels. In the meantime, we need to be prepared for a large crowd on September 29 for Musicale. We also need to again encourage people to move into their row (or to a closer row!). We are asking greeters to be more proactive in assisting people.
- I had a great response from the *Manhattan Mercury* article on me, from both inside and outside the congregation.
- Some thoughts about our social justice efforts. Our Racial Justice Team is very engaged. We consistently have 8-12 people at monthly meetings. You'll notice that we are launching a book discussion, led by Judy Nickelson, on Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. Several members turned up for the recent showing of the retrospective on Brown v. Board of Education at the MAC. This issue is live, and this group is active. Plus, members and friends of our congregation consistently show up for other social justice events in the community. We are particularly strong with Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice, whose membership and Board show a considerable UU presence. Judy Nickelson has agreed to be a contact person for social justice, monitoring the mail. Given all this, I don't know whether we need to have a Social Justice Committee. I'd be interested in people's ideas about this.
- My hope is that the congregation will begin moving forward on making decisions about ministerial search.

Plans

- In addition to the work of the Racial Justice Team, I am meeting with a handful of community leaders to plan more community-wide Racial Reconciliation conversations, beginning in the spring of 2020.
- I continue to work with a number of groups on the People's Issue Forum for candidates for the City Commission, planned for October 10, at 7 PM, at the Staley Leadership School Town Hall. Bringing together various progressive organizations around town creates an interesting interaction.
- Again, this year I will lead an adult religious education session monthly. I'll be approaching history and theology through a social justice lens. Classes will be on Sundays at 9:30. The first one, "Religious Freedom on the Margins of Empire," will be September 15. I'm trying to schedule around choir and other activities.

- Path to Membership will be September 15 following the service. Conveners' Training will be October 6, following the service.

Summary of August Ministerial Activities:

Social action and community presence

- Attended on-line meeting of Kansas Interfaith Action Clergy group
- Inter-belief MHK planning session
- Series of meetings for Smart Justice advocacy
- Racial Reconciliation planning
- MAPJ
 - Led Board meeting
 - People's Issues Forum planning (3)
 - Huddle
 - Represented MAPJ on panel at Global Leadership Forum

Ministerial leadership

- Worship
 - Preached 2 times
 - Led September conveners' meeting
- Attended Board meeting and Sunday Services Committee
- Attended Women's Coffee
- Led other programs
 - Staff meeting
 - Racial Justice Team
 - Meadowlark UU gathering
 - Co-led Tai Chi

Growth

- 7 visitor contacts
- Social media presence
- Interview with Manhattan Mercury

Other

- Completed vacation, most of which was in July

Respectfully submitted,
Jonalu Johnstone