



Assistant Minister's Report to the Congregation July 2018

Summer is upon us. I have one more week before I am gone for three weeks for vacation and study leave. I leave August 6 to visit friends in Washington D.C. and attend the first retreat of the clergy development program, Beyond the Call. This is an 18-month program with 3 retreats and monthly zoom meetings. The theme is Grounding and Growing our Prophetic Ministries. I hope to bring back lots of good energy for our social justice work. On August 12th I fly back to the West Coast to lead the third year of SpiritRest, a 5-day silent retreat by and for UUs. Three people from UUSS are attending. You should consider it for next year!

Membership

Judy Lane has been working with Krystal and me to create a hard copy directory to be available for a small contribution (\$2). Judy is reaching out to people who do not have a picture, and I am checking with pledging friends to make sure they are comfortable having their information in the directory. We have people who pledge but don't join, so they don't get asked the same questions as people who join. Hoping to have a beautiful new directory available by September.

Attendance at our monthly newcomer orientation varies quite a bit. This past Sunday we had 13 people participate – in July! It seems that the norms of church attendance are shifting a bit. I lead the orientation two times a year, and a wonderful team handles it the remainder of the time.

Small Group Ministries

I plan to launch the sign-ups for the Spiritual Deepening circles in late August. Planning for 6 circles this year and I am 2/3 of the way in recruiting the 12 facilitators needed. These groups are a wonderful way for newcomers and new members to get involved. If you haven't been in one, you should consider joining this year. They run twice a month, October through May.

Social Justice

Our anti-racism book discussion is going strong – 20 people at each session so far. Karen Gunderson and Bob Buckley are co-facilitating with me and will be leading the sessions while I am away.

Several people have approached me with interest in working on the election this fall. I met with Tere Florez, acting director of Sac Area Congregations Together to discuss how UUSS can get involved in the effort to register people and encourage people to vote. The California PICO (the mother ship of our local Sac ACT) is hosting a training August 17&18 and I am looking for three

more people who want to attend. We can invite 5 people; Mary Howard and I are attending. The plan would be for those trained to help lead the involvement here at UUSS. There is an article in the August Unigram. If you are interested in attending let me know.

Worship

The Religious Services committee is undergoing a personnel shift with four people leaving the team as of July. We are recruiting new members with an August 1 deadline for applying. Two excellent candidates have applied, and we are looking for others. Jim Eastman is stepping down as the chair of the committee and Jess Reynolds is stepping up. Keith comes back (he serves us 11 months a year) on August 12, and Ina returns on August 26. It will be nice to have them back.

Administration

The Administrative and Property Management Committee is active and engaged. Krystal and I have worked out the details for our contract with the event planner Maire Cicogni. She seems eager to get started. The board and other committees should note that since we now have someone marketing our space for weddings and corporate events, we need to make sure to calendar important events before she beats us to it!

Tim Anderson has stepped back from his role as head sound guru. He recommended a consultant who can trouble shoot for us. I have been in contact with him and will have more information next week. We had been receiving services from Tim for free (he is a pledging friends of the congregation) but now we will have to pay for the services.

Yours in service,

Rev Lucy