

Rev. Roger's Report to the USS Board and Program Council ~ May 23, 2019

Activities and Absences

I attended Camp Norge and Keith Atwater, Jed Shapiro and I led the Sunday worship outdoors. I attended the UUA General Assembly and UU Ministers Association meeting last week in Spokane. *See my GA report, attached.* I will be on vacation July 15-24 and then on a Unitarian Heritage tour near Krakow, Poland, July 25-Aug. 1, and then will visit Prague Aug. 1 through 6.

Pastoral Care and Pastoral Visitors

Pastoral care by me recently has included home and care-home visits, office visits, phone calls, email exchanges—as well as signing birthday cards for every member or child of a member, which all of the staff sign. **Rev. Martha Hodges** and **Christine Lewis** have been coordinating our Pastoral Visitors to folks who can't get to church. Martha will step down (with many grateful hearts expressing appreciation for her creative leadership and notable pastoral gifts the past few years. I'm still seeking a volunteer who can work with me to announce meetings and keep a list of which volunteers visit which church members (most of them unable to come to church).

Generosity and Vitality

Appreciation Event—Sunday, June 30, RE Coordinator Miranda Massa and I will host an RE Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at 9:30 before church in the Fahs Classroom; Board members are welcome to stop in and give your personal thanks to some of our many teachers.

BLUU Challenge Grant—The UUA asked for congregations to set a goal of raising \$10 per member for a matching grant to support Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. Last June the Board accepted my recommendation to set our goal at \$5,000. To date we have raised \$8,312! The range of our 57 gifts was \$5 to \$1,000. The most frequent amount was \$50; the median gift was \$93. (Some donations were given as cash, not tied to individual donors.) I'm grateful that all current and newly elected Trustees and most Program Council members have given. Thanks!

Adult Enrichment, Child/Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

Adults: Thanks to **Tracy Jones**, Alliance Programs will continue in June, July and August (no summer hiatus) for the first time in many years. Several Adult Enrichment workshops have been well run and well attended, especially by Molly Stuart and Chaplain Greg Ingram's bereavement support group I'll hold summer conversations based on articles from *UU World* magazine.

Child/Youth: ArtWorks is our pop-up summer RE program, and Miranda is arranging for training for OWL and Spirit Play teachers for next year. Coming of Age Coordinator **Janet Lopes** is moving ahead boldly in planning for a late summer launch of this special after-church program for adolescents (and USS mentors recruited to support them). Janet holds a second COA Info Session June 30 after church. Meanwhile, to install the new playground equipment and a soft area around and under it, Janet's husband **John McMillan** has been digging in hard earth in high temperatures with the help of **Jeff Voeller** and other volunteers.

Accompanist Role Update

Ina Jun's farewell recital on June 2 was lovely; donations to support her move and her trip home to Korea totaled more than \$3,000. We honored her during the June 2 service, with words by our Music Director and by Ina herself. ~ Lucy, Keith and I posted advertisements, reviewed applications and narrowed them down to five pianists to interview. On the team with us were Mary Howard and Jim Eastman. We've ranked the finalists and will pursue references.

[My Report from GA \(a longer version of this will appear in the July Unigram\)](#)

Eight UUSS members and I were voting delegates to General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association in June in Spokane: Celia Buckley, Cathy Hackett, Anita Lundin (with daughter), Marion Randall, Dirk Tuell, Joseph Turner, Sarah Turner, and Glory Wicklund. They represented UUSS's Board, Nominating, Endowment, Strategic Planning, and Administrative & Property Management committees as well as our Religious Education program. In total 1,400 delegates met for the business of our UUA. Another 1,300 went along for the music, worship, public witness, learning, and exhibit-hall networking opportunities. With business sessions led by the UUA's Board of Trustees, the GA concluded a three-year study/action process, approving an official Statement of Conscience on [The Corruption of our Democracy](#).

Other business included UUA bylaws amendments; most were approved overwhelmingly but not without some time-consuming procedural objections by some delegates. New UUA Trustees and committee members were elected and installed. A longtime leader and the author of *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and other books, Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed received the Distinguished Service Award for the Cause of Unitarian Universalism. About 1,000 UUs joined with Smart Justice Spokane at a noon [rally against mass incarceration](#) and money bail, with yellow [Side with Love](#) tee-shirts and posters demanding "Schools Not Cells."

The yearly Service of the Living Tradition celebrates religious professionals; the honor roll of ministers who died in the past year included [Rev. Eileen Karpeles](#), once our interim minister and later a member at UUSS. Among the ministers recognized as new to ministerial fellowship with the UUA was our former intern D. Scott Cooper. In that night's sermon, [Rev. Lindi Ramsden](#), addressed ministry amid the climate crisis. Now at Starr King School, Lindi was director of the UU Legislative Ministry of California. Some of us had glimpses of or hugs with folks we used to know in Sacramento: [Rev. Lyn Cox](#) (UUSS) and [Rev. Melora Lynngood](#) (UU Community Church) and [Rev. Dan King](#) (an intern at UUCC). I spent several hours meeting with fellow members of the board of the Pacific Central District and with boards from other districts in the UUA's Pacific Central District. I attended annual meetings of the UU Partner Council and UU Ministers Association. There are 1,040 congregations in the UUA. Ours was named a UUA Honor Society; we pay our dues fully every year for the UUA's work in supporting congregational vitality, equipping and supporting professional and lay leaders, and bringing our values and our voice to the social issues of these times. Our always inspiring and always quotable UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, told us: "The UUA is the embodiment of the covenant that our congregations make to one another." Amen!

Yours in service, Rev. Dr. Roger Jones, June 27, 2019