

## Senior Minister's report to the USS Board and Program Council ~ January 43, 2019

### Meetings and Activities Since Last Month's Meeting

Met with Board President, Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Team, Program Council plus chair, Family Ministry Team plus chair, Refugee Support, Committee on Ministry, Adult Enrichment, Fundraising Strategy, two Stewardship Committee meetings plus chair.

I meet weekly with Krystal and with Keith and check in with Elaine and Michele every day I'm on site, as Lucy has. Miranda and I meet weekly. I've met with Ina Jun once. Usually Lucy or I meet with new members to orient them to the church and give them paperwork, including pledge and member forms. I've brought in four members in recent weeks and met with a few other new folks interested in getting more involved. Michele will prepare the certification of membership and other data and we'll confer before sending it by the end of January.

Student minister Sangye Hawke and I have weekly conversations about aspects of ministry and the life of this congregation. She'll be more visible on Sundays and some committee meetings, and she is supporting the Safety Policy Task Force. She's available for pastoral conversations and eager to have them. She is getting field education credit with us in specific areas. Sangye is not an intern, as internships are full-time appointments and are compensated.

Pastoral care by me has included home visits, office visits and phone calls. I also visit with Family Promise guests and our hosting volunteers; it's here at USS this week. On Feb. 10 Lucy is coming out of her secure, undisclosed location to lead the service for Dick Tarble, a major figure in this and many other UU congregations and a founder of the UU Community Church of Sacramento. On Feb. 3, I lead the service for former member Marc Tool (97). On Jan. 26, I lead the service for Bob Heilman, a Quaker and CSUS professor emeritus (90); his family is renting USS for this event.

Inspired by the "Prayers" column in the weekly news insert at St. John's Lutheran Church, I added a "Sending Love" column to the Blue Sheet. In addition to a number of deaths, several folks are healing from injuries or in long term care.

### Generosity and Vitality

We received at least 50 donations for a *staff holiday gift*, ranging from \$10 to \$540, with an average donation of \$75. Thank you for your generosity. Gifts were allocated based on the size of a given position. Lucy and I delivered the money with personal notes to every staff person.

The "Growing Love" auction team is going strong, still seeking service auction items and meals, vacation homes, and gift cards for the raffle. Sat., Feb. 16. Dinner by Tiki and friends!

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary--Many thanks to Tina Stidman and Glory Wicklund for leading the Anniversary Gifts appeal and writing so many thank-you notes. We have come just \$900 shy of the goal of \$200,000! Many folks generously gave two or three times toward the project. Thanks to Sandra Navarro for chairing the Anniversary Task Force, and to her and Jon Peterson for obtaining recognition of our anniversary from Congress and the California Assembly. Our task force had a concluding lunch. We still have commemorative 150<sup>th</sup> window decorations (\$10).

The pledge drive theme is Grounded in Love—Growing Our Mission. The kickoff sermon is March 3, and tables will be staffed every Sunday in March. I will be contacting some donors for advance pledges, and the Committee will ask the Board and Program Council members to pledge at their February meeting. Bobbie and I are projecting a pledge goal of \$580,000.

Soup Sunday is delicious and prosperous. Thanks to BoT and PC for being part of it and to Bobbie and her team for organizing it so well.

### Adult Enrichment, Child/Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

About 15 kids, ages 5-13, attended the Family Ministry sports party I hosted at the local YMCA. In addition to parents/grandparents, we had three other adult volunteers helping. We have reserved space at UUSS for July 8-12 for *Chalice Camp* and seek to recruit a camp director and promoting registration to families. Chalice Camp is the cover story in the current [\*UU World\*](#) magazine. I'm on a team of UU professionals planning a camp for 3-4 days for teens from UU churches in the valley, foothills and Reno areas, probably the last week of June.

Guest speakers: Jan. 20: Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie from Brevard, NC; Feb. 10: A.J. van Tine, a lifelong UU and current intern minister in Boulder, CO. *Both are in their mid-20s.*

The Feb. 2 all-church Strategic Planning session is not just important step in our development, is also a source of religious education and enrichment for all of us in UUSS.

### Community and Denomination and Professional Development

I saw "Special Request" at Theater One. With our Jan. 20 guest speaker I attended worship and had a free meal at the Sikh Gurdwara in West Sacramento the night before her sermon here.

At a mixer of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce I met the president of the Arden Arcade Chamber of Commerce, a young adult very interested in the issues that engage us at UUSS.

I attended the interfaith Environmental Justice meeting of Sacramento Area Congregations Together, hosted here at UUSS, so I gave the many guests a welcome. Very exciting work!

I attended a faith leaders' training on responding to community emergencies and crises, led by ACT. In particular we considered the need for clergy support after the DA announces any charges to the officer(s) who killed Stephon Clark, an unarmed man of color, last March.

I attended an online meeting with the Grass Valley minister and Director of RE from Reno to plan a summer camp in the Tahoe area for youth entering grades 7-12 who are connected to congregations from Davis to Reno to Chico. It may happen over 3 or 4 nights in late June.

Next Wednesday I'll attend the monthly breakfast meeting of UU ministers from our area. Monthly I attend an online meeting with PCD ministers or staff who lead Religious Education.

On Monday mornings (Jan. 28-April 29) I will teach a course on church administration at Starr King School for the Ministry, in Berkeley. I meet an hour each month online with a senior UU colleague who is a coach for me. I also have a monthly session with a local spiritual director.