

Senior Minister's report to the USS Board and Program Council ~ March 28, 2019

Here Comes Lucy! (Back on campus April 9; looking forward!)

Meetings and Activities Since Last Month's Meeting

I have conferred with Board President, Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Team, Interfaith Earth Justice chair, Refugee Support Team (April 27 event), Safety Policies Task Force and chair, Program Council's co-chairs, Family Ministry Team member, Pastoral Visitors Team coordinators; Stewardship Ctte plus its chair, Auction co-chair. I attended the March Alliance program; Keith Atwater presented. *Staff etc.:* I meet weekly with Krystal and Miranda and Sangye Hawke, biweekly with Keith, and I check in with Elaine and Michele every day.

Pastoral care by me has included home visits, office visits and phone calls. Rev. Martha Hodges and Christine Lewis have been coordinating our Pastoral Visitors volunteers, who see folks who can't get to church. Patricia Moore-Howard, 93, passed away March 25, member since 1980. Mary Schneider's husband died; Diane Murphy's son, 57, died. Longtime member Billie Menz is on hospice care.

Generosity and Vitality

150th Anniversary--We have come about \$1,000 shy of the goal of \$200,000!

Grounded in Love—Growing Our Mission. Tables have been staffed every Sunday in March; I've helped with suggesting testimonial givers and offered editorial feedback and have been inspired by the testimonies. Thanks to current and some former BoT members for increases!

Grant Application—Interfaith Earth Justice has applied for a \$1,000 matching grant from the UU Funding Program's Fund for UU Social Responsibility to support Sac ACT's environmental justice project in Arden Arcade. Christine Bailey wrote the application; I submitted two answers and wrote a letter in support of the project, which Pres. Margaret and I signed. If approved at the panel's June meeting, Christine's team would, with FRSC permission, raise the match.

PCD Youth Ministry

I've been on calls with RE professionals and with a consultant hired by the Region to facilitate a series of conversations about youth ministry dynamics in our Pacific Central District. The UUA Regional Youth Ministry Director provides oversight and support of our Middle School UU Gatherings (MUUGs), Coming of Age retreats and PCD Youth Retreats; all are denominational programs and supported by our dues to the UUA. The famous YRUUP Conferences, or "Cons," however, are provided by an organization separate from the denominational structure: Northern California UU Camps and Conferences. [YRUUP](#) is not a program of the Region or the PCD, one of 5 districts served by Region staff. Many of our Sacramento teens have attended and loved Cons of YRUUP, and adults like Allison Claire and Dirk Tuell have been advisors. A series of stakeholder conversations will be facilitated to see if differences between the UUA rules and YRUUP rules can be reconciled. I will participate in a small one and the final big one on May 4.

General Assembly in Spokane June 19-23 and District (PCD) Annual Meeting May 11 2:00 pm

I support the Board's intention to reimburse UUSS members for the 2019 GA registration fee if they serve as one of our 9 delegates and request that support; I believe the idea is to use the Heritage Fund. We can receive \$500 toward that purpose from the PCD Budget (\$500 per congregation if requested from Regional staff.

I would like to ask those delegates and some of YOU to serve as delegates for a brief online Annual Meeting of the PCD at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 11. Brief Agenda: approve a budget, approve minutes from 2018, elect new PCD Board members to fill openings, discuss future of PCD as an entity. Background: I am on the PCD Board and there's very little reason for the PCD to exist, as there is no staff, only a Chalice Lighters program led by a volunteer and staffed by UUA Regional staff. It's been impossible to get all PCD Board members to even attend online meetings. Those 3 of us who do show up for Board meetings have set the May 11 meeting as required by the PCD Bylaws to approve the budget (proposed by Regional Lead, since Regional staff support PCD congregations). We need a quorum to have this required meeting. Other UUSS members, especially Trustees, would be welcome to attend online.

Adult Enrichment, Child/Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

LaTour Soul, a family band that plays funk and soul; will give a concert after church March 31, sponsored by Family Ministry. Easter Egg Hunt and a lunch are next. I will be the director of our July 8-12 kids' day camp, *Chalice Camp*; see [UU World](#) magazine. I'm co-planning a late June camp for teens from UU churches in the valley and foothills, co-led by Rev. Kevin Tarsa (Grass Valley), DRE Kristin Famula (Reno) and me. The RE/Family Ministry Welcome Table and Connections Table traded locations March 17; RE/Family Table is now by the Greeters' Table. UU Ann Kronser will lead a 6-week mindfulness class for Adult Enrichment Monday nights; she and spouse Chris moved here from 1st Unitarian of Madison, WI; he helps with Family Promise.

Presence and Action in the Larger Community and Denomination

On Saturday, May 11, at our Fremont congregation Susan Bartlett Foote, MPH, will speak about her book about mental institution reform in the 1946-54 in Minnesota, led in large part by her late father-in-law, Arthur Foote II. In the early 1940s Foote served UUSS ½ time and the Stockton church ½ time before going to St. Paul, MN. Former UUSS Archivist Shirley Hines provide files for Ms. Foote's research. Read [about her book in the UU World](#).

I was asked to be nominated to serve on the board of the [UU Church of the Larger Fellowship](#) and I recommended other ministers who might be more suited to that role and have the time. On Monday mornings (from Feb. 4-May 6) I teach a course on church administration at Starr King School for the Ministry. 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.

I'm on the advisory council of the Sacramento YMCA and the board of the regional YMCA, and our Annual Support Campaign is now taking place. I am [halfway toward my fundraising goal!](#)