

Senior Minister's report to the USS Board of Trustees meeting of July 26, 2018

Meetings and Activities Since the June Board Meeting

Welcome to our new Trustees and welcome back to those of you returning for another year! During your June meeting I was at General Assembly; see my GA report in the Unigram. I've met with the Board President and VP, the Program Council (plus agenda-planning with Marian Ashe and member Patty Budding), Committee on Ministry, 150th Anniversary Task Force, Anniversary Gifts Co-chair Tina Stidman, the new Family Ministry Team, Rev. Lucy and RE Coordinator Miranda Massa.

Just before leaving in June I began soliciting larger advance gifts for our \$5,000 commitment to support the UUA's campaign for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU); the general appeal will happen later. The UUA asks us to complete the contribution by June 30, 2019.

150th Anniversary

Tina Stidman and I met about raising the remaining \$62,000 in Anniversary Gifts. Since the 150th Anniversary BBQ has been postponed, this gives more time to raise funds. We'll send a letter in August and make pulpit announcements inviting everyone to make an initial gift or an additional one toward completion of the goal and celebrating our history and our continuing vitality. Please grab an updated brochure. UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray preaches Sept. 30; history professor Nathan Hallam will speak after church on Oct. 7. Note the rotating history bulletin board outside the Fahs restrooms, created by new member Tracy Jones; the current month's display is about our music programs here.

Adult Enrichment, Child/Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

I led a discussion of my thesis chapter on social class dynamics in USS, Unitarian history and American denominations in general. Ten folks attended, including a few new ones. I've recruited UU seminarian (and mother of two young adults) Sangye Hawke to co-lead Spiritual Parenting, an 8-session class.

Our teaching teams and schedules for September to May, our pool of prospective adult volunteers is getting larger, even as a couple are moving to other volunteer areas or attending to family needs. The new Family Ministry team has met three times, most recently with me, when we began scheduling one family-friendly event per month, including (on 12/7/2018) the first holiday party since 2013! Also, there is a new Parents and Youth Group, which meets for food and fellowship (pool party, mini golf, BBQ). On Friday, Sept. 28, any folks interested in family ministry will meet with the Rev. Sarah Gibb-Millsbaugh, a UUA staff member specializing in family ministry. The next day, Sept. 29, USS is the host for the Region-wide Religious Education conference, Pot of Gold. We welcome volunteer help.

Community and Denomination

At GA I met and conversed with UUA staffers as well as leaders of the UU Ministers Association and UU Partner Church Council. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pacific Central District; the chair has not called a meeting yet, but the term started July 1. I continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Superior California and its finance committee and am on the Advisory Board of the Sacramento YMCA and will chair its facility committee. The donation appeal continues to support the participation of low-income kids and families in summer camp, swim lessons, and Y membership.

Travel

From July 30 to Aug. 4 I will be in Bridgewater, VA, staying at the inn or B & B run by the mother of member Kimberly Ayres. I won this in the USS auction in 2016. I'll be back for church on Aug. 5.