

Senior Minister's report to the UUSS Board and Program Council ~ December 20, 2018

Rev. Lucy's Sabbatical

I'm very excited for Lucy's time away and glad the church is making it possible. At this turning point I'm struck by the many improvements her ministry has brought to UUSS in the past 5 ½ years. Thanks to the momentum of her work and all she's done to put things in good shape before leaving—including a great staff—I think the next three months will go very well. Thinking this will keep me from freaking out! We will wish her well at the Dec. 30 service.

Meetings and Activities Since Last Month's Meeting

*I've conferred or met with the Board President, Strategic Planning Team, Program Council (no December meeting, only November), Fundraising Strategy Committee, Stewardship Committee Chair Bobbie Keill and the first Stewardship Committee meeting of this year! I participated in an excellent Religious Services Committee retreat, led by Lucy and Jess Reynolds. *I attended the Alliance program and talked a bit about my trip for the border protest.

*Staff and ministers hosted a Holiday Open House in the welcome hall yesterday afternoon with about 20 folks attending, fewer than half of last year's turnout. *I invited our staff members to a holiday lunch Tuesday; nine of us were able to attend. *I'm grateful to Krystal's great hire of Gerald Worley as our evening custodian, who also works on Sunday. *As of Wednesday, we have received 38 donations for a *staff holiday gift*, ranging from \$10 to \$540 with an average donation of \$75. Thank you for quietly spreading the word, and for your generosity. *Pastoral care by me has included home visits, office visits and phone calls. I'm planning a memorial service for former member Marc Tool, a CSUS economics professor who has died at age 97.

* UU ministry student Sangye Hawke will be attending some Religious Services, Board, Stewardship, and Strategic Planning meetings. She's also going to support Roger Olson's task force on congregational safety policies. Under my supervision, she intends to learn about worship and administration in a larger congregation and to gain some field education credit at Starr King School. She'll be around our campus a couple times a week for meetings, and UUSS folks will be invited to visit with her for pastoral conversations.

150th Anniversary

Legislative recognition: Jon Peterson recently obtained a statement honoring the history of UUSS by U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, read into the Congressional Record, as well as a framed resolution by the State Assembly honoring our 150th anniversary, signed by Assembly Member Cooley and Sen. Pan. (We already had a City Council proclamation, which hangs in the Library/Bookstore.) We will present the federal and state resolutions in the service this Sunday.

Donations--Anniversary Gifts for campus improvements: We have raised more than \$194,000 toward the goal of \$20,000! I am confident that both new and repeat contributors will bring us to a successful conclusion. We still have commemorative 150th ornaments to sell, too (\$10).

Adult Enrichment, Child/Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

*The Family Ministry holiday party was a fun success, with 75 folks and the best Santa Claus ever. Next event is a sports party I am hosting at the local YMCA. *I met with the Family Ministry team in late November and Miranda met with them last Sunday, when Alecia Sanchez led a discussion of the new sexually safer congregation policy.

*Planning earlier than we did last year, we have reserved space at USS for the week of July 8-12 for *Chalice Camp* and will be recruiting a camp director and promoting registration to families. Chalice Camp is the cover story in the current [UU World](#) magazine.

*Soon I will have a phone meeting with RE staff and clergy from Reno, Grass Valley, and Auburn UU congregations to plan a Youth Camp for a week in the summer near Lake Tahoe. The Reno RE Director is spearheading this work.

*I look forward to the Jan. 20 sermon and forum by the Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie, a lifelong UU and a lifelong Sikh.

*I want to note that 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 USS.

Community and Denomination and Professional Development

*I went to San Diego for an interfaith witness for humane and fair treatment of migrants, organized by the American Friends Service Committee. My observations are posted at www.uuss.org/immigrantjustice and copies are in the Welcome Hall. One of the 31 religious people arrested for civil disobedience is the newly-appointed executive director of the UU Justice Ministry of California. *In Yuba City, Rev. Lucy and I attended the monthly breakfast meeting of UUMA colleagues from our area cluster. The Chico UU Fellowship appreciates the support from us, from other PCD churches and from the UUA Disaster Relief Funds as its church members continue to recover from the Camp Fire and help their local community.

*I meet for an hour each month online with an experienced senior UU colleague who is a consultant or coach for me. I also have a monthly session with an interfaith director of spiritual formation at the nearby Bread of Life Center.