

Rabbi Chava Bahle Report to Board of Trustees January, 2016

Important Moments of the Last Month:

- Important moments in our community's cycle of life: birth, marriage, serious illnesses, three member deaths, bereavement support, emergency pastoral care. **Stop to think about this please**, what it means to be a deeply engaged spiritual leader and in 30 days to touch on nearly every part of the life cycle.
- Christmas Eve community success! Sorry more board members were not available to experience this important community moment.
- Sunday services continue to be well attended, including 9 AM program on Nonviolent Communication and UU Principles. Feedback is positive.
- (Personal) Finished my first semester at CTU. Good success. Thanks to those of you who have shown interest.

Major Leadership Activities

Sunday Services

I want to acknowledge the great work of our co-chairs Hal Gurian and Amanda Mangiardi. Under their leadership, along with the growing team they have assembled, we are welcoming new members and having successful (well attended, good energy, positive feedback) services. We are working together to make the ministry of service coordination more organized, creative and engaged.

I have held lengthy discussions, both with the co-chairs and full group, about my role in supporting the coordinators in rabbi-lead and lay-lead services. Each coordinator has a different style and needs in this engagement. The working relationships on this team are now smooth and positive, even joyous.

Christmas Eve was very successful – great attendance, solid program, and we held to one hour! We raised \$800 at the door. See below for an idea from Hal Gurian.

Congregational Care

With great thanks to co-chairs Joanie Jackson and Pat Light, Congregational Care is doing a stellar job of being present for our members in need. My personal experience of the last month has been overwhelming, as mentioned above, with three deaths and other life cycle moments, including major illness, family support and bereavement support.

Social Justice

I am delighted that new member Paula Jo Kemler has agreed to take on the co-chairpersonship of the Social Justice committee. Many thanks to the board for clarifying the charge of this committee. Paula Jo and her husband Jamie come to us from First Church (UU) Boston <http://www.firstchurchboston.org/> - the big mamoo. Very exciting to have someone with her rich skills and background of success in leadership and organizing.

Please see the note below on my active participation in MUUSJN – the Michigan UU Social Justice Network of which I have been a member since I began work with the congregation.

Safe Congregation Response Team

Co-chairs Ann Marie Love and Nick Erber are doing a fine job. We have several issues before us. It will be important to get a Right Relations Team in place in 2017.

External Communication/Public Witness

As you know we need a designated member to monitor and adjudicate, with my input per policy, our external communications, including Flash, Beacon, and other media contact.

In the last 28 days, my efforts have reached just over 5000 people via Facebook direct engagement, which includes event announcements, promotion of our services and messages consist with our external communication and UU values-promotion. Total cost of this reach \$18.00. Many people have mentioned to me they attended their first Sunday services with us because of this set of tools.

I have two major national speeches coming up – the American Medical Directors’ Association (Society for Post-Acute Long Term Care) conference keynote in Phoenix and a conference of the School Sisters of St. Francis Spirituality Conference in July.

Denominational Activities

I look forward to attending the Regional Assembly in April and hope at least one Board member will attend as well. Read more here:

https://www.midamericauua.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=89&Itemid=665 I plan to submit a workshop proposal. The conference theme is “To Multifaith – a Verb.”

I am taking a short online course promoted by MUUSJN on healing toxic whiteness. Other MUUSJN members are also participating. Information is here:

<https://compassionateactivism.leadpages.co/htw-program-jan-2017/>

Along with several other UUMA members, I am now the proud owner a Zoom Pro account – very excited for the possibilities this offer for creating long distance learning and easier meeting opportunities during inclement weather or long distance. Zoom is a face-to-face skype-like technology that allows multiple people (up to 50) to simultaneously see and hear other online. This was an opportunity offered by the UUMA and I am delighted to own the account. Learn more here: <https://zoom.us/>

I continue to be actively engaged with colleagues through our private UUMA Facebook group. There, we connect, and ask for and offer support for a range of things, from creative program ideas to parsing the life of ministry/rabbinate.

Lifespan Experience

Sarah Montgomery-Richards did exemplary work in preparing for her personal leave time, so by all accounts things have run smoothly in her absence. Prior to the board meeting I have a meeting with two members who want to organize a program for a transition-to-teens life cycle. There is strong precedent for this in UU circles and I am excited to explore the expansion of our programming.

Professional Development

In addition to the MUUSJN seminar, as you know I am attending, as a leader, the national conference of OHALAH: Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal. Our keynote speaker is the founder of the first ever queer rabbinical seminary. I am honored to have been chosen to leader a workshop on clergy resilience at the conference, as well as my copious secretarial duties and a 5 minutes' stand-up comedy offering at our cabaret.

Classes at CTU resume in February, when I will take three courses: an advance methods seminar which includes qualitative research ethics, a course in hope and global cinema and history of religions and comparative theology.

Requests for Board Action

- 1) Create a plan for development of a Right Relations Team
- 2) A suggestion from Hal Gurian – as a thank you to the State Theater that we donate part of our Christmas Eve proceeds to their boiler fund http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/state-theatre-raising-funds-to-replace-aging-system/article_817015a4-719d-5ed4-b931-ccc3e1478f.html
- 3) Continue discussion of a designated member to monitor and adjudicate, with my input per policy, our external communications policy, including Flash, Beacon, and other media contact.