

### **Highlights from the Last Month:**

- #MeToo service – lightly attended but was highly visible
- Welcoming 8 new members to UUCGT
- 6 week dialogue course completed with average attendance of 20 members/friends

### **Major Considerations/Activities/Goals**

#### **Integrating Function of Committees**

As you know from last month, I am hopeful that I can work with the Program Council to look at how every committee can do its work AND ensure that every committee is a place of LEARNING, SERVICE and CARING. I am hoping that with concerted effort over the next year, committees not only grow in these areas, but become a great place for our new members to plug in.

There were several suggestions from participants in the Dialogue in Community program about how to build relationships throughout UUCGT. These are no-cost ways to strike up conversation. Committees were one locus for this effort.

#### **Membership**

I wish to acknowledge the exceptional work of our membership team in helping folks become part of the community. The Fellowship Friends program has been a great way ensure members engage with UUCGT with the warm companionship of longer-time members.

#### **Sunday Services**

Many thanks to a great committee lead by Amanda Mangiardi and Hal Gurion. We are seeking additional members for the SSC.

The State Theatre has authorized to make baskets available in the lobby for collecting funds. (We cannot pass baskets.)

John Bailey and the Vocal Ensemble have formed a committee and are planning a second service for Christmas Eve, after the community service at the State Theater. That service will take place at UUCGT sometime after 9 PM. We are waiting to finalize a time with the State. I will be in attendance at both services and will preach both. Baskets for offering will be passed at this service.

Sunday attendance has been robust. I wish to express thanks to Mark Gustafson for a particularly wonderful service November 5. Feedback on services is carefully reviewed by SSC chairs, myself and the Committee.

#### **Social Witness Intersectionality**

I am delighted to have met with Lynette Rhodes, Kim Sibilsky and Barb Connolly as co-leads of our emerging Social Witness program. It is our hope that Emmy Lou Cholak will continue her work in Social Justice Action. As I said last month, the central question for Social Witness is how can UUCGT nurture, support and lift up these leaders in what they are (already) doing?

This work will likely include:

- 1) Helping with education around major issues
- 2) Nurturing our members through UUCGT programs that help them develop their own habits and beliefs

- 3) Planning action (in partnership with Emmy Lou)
- 4) Learning how to use social media
- 5) Planning and providing retreats for leaders to recharge and reflect

The co-leads, Kim and Barb, will be working on a committee form for the manual. I am hopeful we can meet with Lynette and Emmy Lou in November to keep things moving forward.

### **Denominational Affairs**

The congregation received a lovely thank you from the UUA on behalf of the UUA and UUSC for our donations for hurricane relief, including Puerto Rico. All together we raised \$600,000. UUCGT should be proud of its efforts to help.

I am delighted that colleagues from the UUMA will be here with us for our celebration of ministry weekend December 2 and 3. It would be my hope that all board members who are in town and able will attend. This is a great chance to show the wider community the many great things about UUCGT.

### **Upcoming Time Off**

Please be aware that I will away December 6 – 12. I will be attending a professional development conference January 7 – 12, and UUMA Excellence in Ministry January 21 – 26.

### **Requests for Board Action**

- 1) I request that you vote to approve long time member Mary Grover to my Committee on Ministry, and thank Joan Sheard for her years of devoted service.
- 2) Please save the date, **Saturday evening, December 2** for my installation. There is an important role in the liturgy for the board. Also there will be cake.
- 3) Please keep on your radar reading the book *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice* by Erik Walker Wikstrom (Skinner House, Boston). While I know it has been suggested that we talk about the book in one fell swoop, I would ask that we please consider devoting just a few moments in our monthly meeting to be in conversation together about our thinking on leadership. The ongoing conversation is not only about covering content, but about building ways of being together. Perhaps we could plan 10 minutes at the January or February meeting?
- 4) If you have not already please get me your congregational self-assessment on our anti-racism work.
- 5) Please consider sending a welcome email note to our new members. I think it would be good for us to model some simple ways of inviting people into their experience of membership more deeply. (I will send these email addresses to you via email.)