

Rabbi Report to UUCGT Board April, 2018

Highlights of the Last Month

- Increased engagement in pastoral care
- Some wonderful Sunday services!
- Prospective member meeting with Membership Team

Areas of Focus

Congregational Care

Pat Light and Joanie Jackson are doing such a fine job leading our team. In the last month I have increased engagement with direct pastoral care, doing home visits making regular calls to members. The CCT continues to work on defining our charge and determining the healthy limits of what we can provide.

Sunday Services

I feel there is a renewed energy and experience of our Sunday services. I have been engaging more regularly with service coordinators and Hal Gurian and Amanda Mangiardi are doing a fine job leading us. We regularly review the feedback on specific services and make changes where they are warranted.

I want to especially lift up the lunch we held after the St. Patrick's Day service and thank Sarah Montgomery-Richards and the Program Council. We had about 80 stay for lunch! I look forward to adding this kind of interactive meal time more often in the future.

Christmas Eve

Friends there is some tension around this issue. It has come to my attention from more than one person that there is a desire among some congregants to return to "the way we used to do it," a quiet candlelight service at the UU. The Christmas Eve at the State program has become a large signature program for UUCGT in the broader community. Hal has arranged a meeting with some of the folks who want to return to how UUCGT did Christmas Eve in the last so we can listen to their ideas and hear their points of view. In the process of communicating about that, other people weighed in heavily against returning to the older model, or even against offering two services. I think we need to hear more voices, so I will be arranging some open forums in the next month to solicit input. I will report back to the board with a recommendation as soon as we have had a chance to hear from more members.

Safe Congregation Response Team

The SCRT worked with LDC under Joe Cook's steady leadership to complete its task of reviewing all candidates for elected positions. I want to thank Sheri Novak for her work in getting background checks completed so efficiently.

Denomination Affairs

The UUMA Heartland Region cancelled its annual retreat, to my sorrow. This is such important learning time with colleagues. I look forward to ministry days in June, prior to the GA.

Speaking of GA, it would be wonderful if we had a congregant who wished to attend as our delegate. I will be attending the ministry days the first day of GA. If we do not a delegate who can attend the whole GA, my suggestion is that we task Susan with obtaining our credentials and I will attend as an off-site delegate. This will at least allow our voice to be heard as part of most of the voting. I am unable to determine what the votes entail this year.

Community/Social Witness

There is a great deal going on in this area. Sarah and I organized a vigil in concert with the national call for #Enough for sensible gun reform. We had excellent turnout on a very cold day. I the honor of having been asked to co-chair the Leelanau County Opioid Crisis Prevention Task Force (a one year commitment) with Michael Carmean, Superintendent of the Suttons Bay Schools. I continue to engage with TC area clergy in our monthly Clergy and Pie group. We have an upcoming training with Reynold-Jankoff Funeral Home.

Indivisible GT and TC are currenting working on a coordinated effort to address issues raised by the Sinclair Broadcasting "must runs" and immanent purchase that will give the right-leaning broadcaster access to over 70% of homes in the country. I am working with them on this campaign.

Personal Health

I am enjoying a period of good health in terms of respiratory issues, but as you know I have had two falls on the premises, one of which caused significant enough injury that I will be seeing a surgeon this month to consult on repair to my right shoulder. This will necessitate some healing time and some incapacitation in terms of typing (of which I do a lot). I have purchased a voice to text software but have not had time to set it up; this will allow me to voice dictate emails, Beacon, flash and orders of service. The pain from this injury is significant and requires medication on which I am not comfortable driving. I thank Staff Resources for allowing me some flexibility of working from home on high pain days. Of course I will keep you posted.