

## **Annual Report of the Committee on Ministry for 2017 – 2018**

The members of the Committee on Ministry (COM) in 2017 -2018 were:

Chris Innes serving as chair; Rick Walter as secretary, Joan Sheard, Jane Watts, Anne Hughes, Solveig Gustafson, Jim Linsell, and Mary Grover. Rabbi Bahle attended COM meetings whenever possible and the COM meets at least monthly, usually at UUCGT.

The major accomplishment of the COM during this year was to organize the two-day Installation ceremony and celebration of Rabbi Chava Bahle's ministry on December, 2-3, 2017. The installation ceremony was led by Rabbi Dr. Raachel Jurovics, President of the Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal, She was assisted by Rev. Dr. Robin Carden, Pastor of the Suttons Bay Congregational Church, and Rev. Collen Squires, Minister, All Souls Community Church of Grand Rapids. They were joined by nine other local clergy who offered their blessings and support of Rabbi Bahle's ministry. The UUCGT Vocal Ensemble, under the direction of John Bailey, the UUCGT Music Director, and members of TC Sings!, an inclusive choir community directed by Heather Kingham, performed.

The event was followed by a reception. Catering services were provided by Sarah Montgomery-Richards. Funding for the event was provided by the UUCGT board and with the generous support of a number of local businesses, including: Ciccone Vineyard & Winery, of Suttons Bay; Fischer Design Florals of Traverse City; Leelanau Wine Cellars of Omena; Brulotte's Cakery & Sweets of Traverse City; and Third Coast Bakery of Suttons Bay. Also providing financial support and/or in-kind contributions were: Solveig and Mark Gustafson, Abbie and Chris Innes, Mary and Jim Linsell, Nancy and Gary McRay, Izzy Semrau, Joan Sheard and Myrna Yeakle. The following members of the UUCGT congregation volunteered: Loraine Anderson, Karl Bahle, John Bailey, Charles Brackett, Laura Ciccone, Mark and Solveig Gustafson, John

Hoffmann, Margie Hunter, Anne Hughes, Abbie and Chris Innes, Lauren Keinath, Jim Linsell, Mike McDonald, Sheri and Kirk Novak, Max Old Bear, Mary Povolito, Izzy Semrau, Susan Sherman and Dan Paulson, Ellie Smith, Rick Walter, Jane and Price Watts. The celebration continued the next day at Sunday services followed by refreshments.

In February, 2018, the COM also adopted a revised policy statement for the committee. In developing the new policy statement, the COM members reviewed the Unitarian Universalism Principles, the UUCGT bylaws, and our Covenant. The statement reads:

“The purpose of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is to support the Senior Spiritual Leader of the Congregation in her/his ministry to the Congregation and the larger community. The COM plays no role in the governance, policy, or operations of the UUCGT. The COM’s primary responsibility is to advise and assist the Senior Spiritual Leader in guiding the congregation in our individual and collective spiritual and ethical development and practices.”

In the coming year, the committee plans to continue using an ongoing Dialogue to assist us in articulating and expanding a vision of the individual and collective ministries for the Congregation and by the Congregation to the community. The COM views our primary role as providing advice and support to Rabbi Bahle as she seeks to provide for the spiritual needs of the Congregation as a whole, to individual members and friends, and to our community and the world beyond.

The COM invites anyone in the Congregation interested in our work to please contact any of the members.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Innes on behalf of the Committee on Ministry.