

Worship: I led the first Flower Communion and last “News from Heart Land” Services in this reporting period, but the three Sunday Services between have been lay led, and I only contributed hymn selection and some planning advice for them—the Sunday Services Committee has the lay-led summer services in good shape. I felt the Flower Communion Service went very well, especially having the UFO play the music and hymns, and even though it was a “special” intergen service, we kept it to one hour. “News from Heart Land” was a particularly challenging sermon to write and service to lead, as it followed days of race-based violence in our country, and a divisive controversy within the Fellowship. Perhaps due to the emotions of the day, the Sorrows and Joys portion of the Service went even longer than usual; even with no reading, a 15 minute sermon and only one hymn sung (the other was cut for time), the service was about 75 minutes long. The Sunday Services chair and I talked about the need for the committee to explore options to make service length consistent.

Counseling and Pastoral Care: Made pastoral phone calls, emails. Led monthly meeting of Pastoral Friends; in response to annual evaluation suggestions, we made preliminary plans to present a collaborative Sunday Service in October (monthly theme: Healing) and recommitted to keeping logs of Pastoral conversations/interactions.

Practical Arts/Administration:

- Met with Office Assistant to discuss short- and long-term tasks and goals, prepared for my absence for GA/study leave/vacation time. Brought back information from GA about the Association for UU Administrators (AUUA) and have made arrangements for our OA to join, in order to benefit from the online information sharing and professional network.
- Conducted DRE Exit Interview with in-coming and out-going RE Committee Chairs and then joined RE Committee members for the farewell dinner.
- Met twice with RE Hiring Team (in-coming and out-going Committee Chairs) to review applications for the RE Coordinator position. Adapted existent CUF employment documents for this new position, met with Hiring Team and successful candidate to go over letter of employment.
- Conducted phone interviews with two candidates for the DRE consultant position, updated Hiring Team of findings. Conferred with MidAmerica Regional Consultant on the hiring process, made the decision and called the unsuccessful candidate to explain our choice. Currently in the process of creating a consulting contract.
- Communicated these hiring activities to the new Personnel chair, sent documents and explained need for organizing personnel documents on the office computer.

- Met in person or on the phone with BOT chair weekly (except when at GA) to go over CUF happenings.
- Attended the BOT meeting.
- Met with Sunday Services Committee, focused on Summer Service schedule. As mentioned above, things are in good order, the Committee is close to completing plans for a substitute lay-led service for a cancellation by a guest speaker.
- Wrote August service descriptions, compiled Summer Service descriptions into one document to be available as a “take-home” flyer at CUF.
- Worked with BOT president to stay in right relationship with all parties to a dispute over CUF support of the Vinyard Indian Settlement (VIS). Over the course of ten days, I devoted a good deal of time and attention to the matter. In addition to reading the various emails about the issue, I had 6 phone conversations and two in person meetings with BOT president, a phone call with BOT VP, a conversation with one of the Social Action members, a one-on-one meeting and a phone conversation with a CUF member, a meeting with the BOT president and another CUF member, two phone calls with VIS Board Members. With the approval of the BOT Officers, the BOT President and I issued an email to all parties putting off further discussion about and CUF support for the VIS until the state legislature takes a vote on state recognition in the fall (probably November). Although this decision has created needed space and hopefully perspective, it seems that the issue will not be resolved even then, so I plan to work with the BOT to ensure that divisions within CUF are minimized throughout the process of resolution, whatever it may be.

Organizational Ministry:

- Met with New Member class team to check in on progress on our planned overhaul—moving away from following The New UU curriculum in 4 sessions to a more interactive, discussion-based 3 sessions. Planning has gone well, I really look forward to seeing how this experiment works.
- Attended the final The New Jim Crow session of the Racial Justice Group, contributed to the discussion on options for next steps for the group.
- Met with CUF UUANI representatives about how CUF can best benefit from a visit from Scott Aaseng, UUANI Director. We planned a listening campaign to prepare for his visit, and I sent a summary email to Scott. Conducted first listening campaign interview with CUF member.

Personal Growth: Monthly: Spiritual Director, Daily: exercise and/or meditation. Participation in the Singers of the Living Tradition choir during UUMA Ministry Days and in the Service of the Living Tradition.

Professional Growth:

- Monthly mentor call; Peer Discernment Circle video conference; Family Systems Coaching, BUUMS meeting.
- Finished, shared, and submitted MFC Self Evaluation. This second annual experience has found the CoSM, BOT and I in agreement on having periodic feedback sessions scheduled throughout the year, not only at the end.
- Attended UUMA Ministry Days 6/20-22. Highlights included the keynote speech by John Dorhauer, President of UCC about postmodern religious transformation, and the Collegial Conversation which followed it—these discussions were about how the future of ministry, worship and “church” as a whole are undergoing wholesale transformation, and how we need to understand the dynamics of the transformation in order to remain relevant. The Berry Street Lecture was similarly earth-shaking in content, but centered on how past clergy sexual misconduct and institutional cover-up in our UU movement has to be faced and addressed openly.

Teaching: N/A.

Denominational Activities: Attended UUA General Assembly in Columbus, OH 6/22-26. Highlights include attendance at plenary worship services, business sessions and the following workshops:

- “The Joy of the Journey” The Road to Multiculturalism” involving five congregations who have engaged with multiculturalism in very different ways;
- “Witnessing Race: State Action Network Advocacy and Organizing” with representatives from Ohio, Minnesota, and New Jersey describing collaborative strategies and coalition building for racial justice.
- “Spiritual Practice for White Discomfort” led by the Youth and Young Adult Caucus—I went to all of those informative and helpful workshops as a member of Allies for Racial Equity, a UU organization I intend to introduce at CUF.
- “Success in Small Churches: Hope in Unitarian Universalism’s Heartland,” which had very important points for CUF’s work in developing its new mission. I look forward to sharing some of these at the fall BOT retreat.
- UU Interfaith Activist Networking Event, where I learned about the “Our Muslim Neighbor” initiative of Religions for Peace USA which seems very applicable to our community, and of the upcoming Ken Burns documentary, “Defying the Nazis” tracing the origins of the UUSC in WWII Europe. I have given one of the half dozen Defying the Nazis Congregational Action Guide to the head of Video Circle, in hopes that CUF folks will be interested in getting involved. This is a low-cost way to raise the profile of CUF and UUism, and perhaps draw people interested in membership.

Prophetic Outreach: Attended Peace Mural Dedication at the Carbondale Peace Labyrinth. Attended monthly Racial Justice Coalition meeting. Participated in two weekly Race Unity “continuing conversations,” encouraged the organizers to open the 7/12 meeting to discuss the killings by police in Baton Rouge and St. Paul, and the killings of police in Dallas.

Goal:

- Have a relaxing vacation and come back to CUF with renewed energy for the church year ahead.

Goal Follow up:

- Identify bulletin board volunteer to add to/refresh activities (7 mos.) At this point, we’ll probably just update the current one when I return in August.