

Note: I was on vacation two weeks of reporting period, study leave for one week.

Worship: Upon my return from vacation, I selected hymns for the month and posted them to the music committee google calendar, researched, wrote, and delivered "Listening" sermon. This is the first of a series of three story and meditation-based services on the August theme, "Slowing Down." It seemed well received; Debbie Czarnopys-White asked if she could present it at the Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship, and I was happy to say yes. I instituted a new pre-service practice of meeting in my office with the facilitator for a few minutes of quiet centering. It allowed me to enter the service more calmly and I think made a positive difference in setting a tone of openness and spaciousness.

Counseling and Pastoral Care: Fortunately, there were no pastoral emergencies during my time away; I received an email updates from Pastoral Friends when I returned. Made a pastoral phone call to bereaved CUF member.

Practical Arts/Administration:

- Attended the BOT July dinner; along with BOT president, gave update/overview of Vinyard Indian Settlement dispute.
- Met with Office Assistant to follow up from my vacation absence. She reported on her updating on-line and hard copy materials with new members of leadership.
- Met with RE Coordinator twice, established weekly meeting schedule. Discussed her first conversation with the DRE Consultant (my meeting with the DRE consultant will be later this month, after she's back from vacation) and her goals for her first month in the position. Replaced the former DRE's info on the CUF website with the REC's.
- Led Sunday Services meeting (chairperson unavailable) to review summer services, and plan for the fall.
- Met with Committee on Shared Ministry on goals for the upcoming church year. Welcomed Jess Jobe as new member, the other new member, Rob Gallegly, was not able to attend. Subsequent conversation with Rob confirmed that his travel schedule is too inconsistent for him to fulfill his commitment to CoSM, so he stepped down. I have started the search process and hope to have a candidate for the BOT's approval before next month's meeting.
- Met in person or on the phone with BOT chair weekly or more frequently (except during vacation) to go over CUF happenings. Helped to secure a facilitator for the upcoming BOT retreat.
- Dealt with our ongoing phone-alarm problems (callers to our main line hearing "fax tone" and unable to leave message) ; called alarm company, phone company, phone

repairman; devised a temporary “work around”; waiting for alarm repair to permanently fix the problem later this month. Office Assistant and B&G members have given a considerable amount of time to this problem over the last month.

Organizational Ministry:

- Discussed need for greeter training with long-time CUF member, referred her to Membership Committee to share ideas.
- Led Sunday Service with new member and first-time facilitator. She is the fourth CUF member who has joined within the last year who has now joined the facilitator “roster” in recent months.

Personal Growth: Out of state vacation with family provided distance and space for reflection on my ministry goals and practice.

Professional Growth:

- Applied for, and received \$500 UUA continuing ed grant for the “Leading with Creative Courage” family-systems workshop in early November.
- Study leave was less productive than hoped, as I spent more time on the REC hire, VIS discussions and tying up loose ends before vacation than I did studying.

Teaching: N/A.

Denominational Activities: Received confirmed date for Scott Aaseng’s visit to CUF (Dec. 10-11. Scott is the director of UU Advocacy Network of Illinois, and will lead a workshop and preach the sermon that Sunday.

Prophetic Outreach:

- The UUA has joined the newly launched We Say Enough! Inter-religious Organizing Initiative Campaign, and I attended the first weekly webinar “virtual mass meeting for faith and community organizers. The call has renewed my interest in encouraging CUF’s involvement in standing for, and working for, racial justice in Carbondale.
- Attended monthly Racial Justice Coalition meeting, and two of the weekly Race Unity “Continuing Conversations.”
- Accepted invitation to serve on the board of I Can Read in Carbondale.

Goal:

- ~~Have a relaxing vacation and come back to CUF with renewed energy for the church year ahead.~~ (achieved ☺)