

**Minister's Report** Rev. Sarah C. Richards **August 2017**

*Reporting period 7/11/17 – 8/8/17 (On study leave and vacation 7/11-31)*

**Worship:** Led the second “experiment in spaciousness” service assisted by Facilitator Jan Eisenhard. This time we didn’t use the slide projector, so we were able to move the chairs into a circle. In this service, there was an element of congregational participation: I invited folks to share their “generous questions.” Otherwise, it had a similar flow and feel as the first experiment, with more music, meditation, and silence. The feedback from congregants afterward was also similar to the first run—overall very positive with one person expressing dislike. I plan to develop and lead a few more of this type of more spacious/less structured service during the program year. I also wrote August Service descriptions, selected hymns, and contributed to planning the 8/13 service to feature guest speaker Lynn Hunt, RE Consultant.

Rite of passage: I wrote and delivered Memorial and Graveside Services for CUF member Floyd Cunningham, in Marion, IL. It was good to see several CUF members made the trip and braved the extreme heat of the day to pay their respects to the family.

**Counseling and Pastoral Care:** Met with Pastoral Friends for a year-end lunch/social gathering, there was no formal meeting this month, but we did share pastoral information via email. I had several phone conversations with the spouse of CUF member hospice-patient, before and after his death.

**Practical Arts/Administration:**

- Met with Exec Committee to set BOT meeting agenda.
- Met or talked with RE Coordinator weekly to discuss current RE program concerns and to review progress toward professional development goals. Met with RE Coordinator and RE Consultant, Lynn Hunt, to plan August 13 RE-themed Sunday Service.

**Organizational Ministry:**

Met with newcomer couple interested in becoming members; gave them Prospective Member packet to review.

**Personal Growth:** exercise, meditation, vacation. Family vacation in Duluth, MN was relaxing, fun, and a welcome break from Southern Illinois’ heat and humidity.

**Professional Growth:** book discussion with colleague on the first 3 chapters of Krista Tippett’s *Becoming Wise*.

**Teaching:** N/A

**Denominational Activities:** N/A

**Prophetic Outreach:**

- Attended Jackson County Board sub-committee meeting, in which the Safe Communities resolution presented by Southern Illinois Immigrant Rights' Project was discussed.
- Attended I Can Read! Board meeting and tour of proposed new program space.
- Attended monthly Racial Justice Coalition meeting, brought back petition to preserve the SIUC Africana Studies Program to CUF for signatures.