

Worship: Researched, wrote and delivered the last two sermons in the "Slowing Down" August series, "Curiosity" and "Practice"; drafted Orders of Service, developed service scripts and collaborated with facilitators in the presentation of those services. The response to the meditative series was positive, I'd like to do it again next summer. I wrote descriptions for September services, and selected the hymns for the month. I've enlisted the help of Sunday Services Committee members for our Ingathering Sunday Service, discussed the special choir and music role with the Choir Director, and spoken to our two 60+ year members about their participation in the service.

Counseling and Pastoral Care: Made pastoral care phone calls, emails, and one meeting; have been more consistently logging these contacts. Met with Pastoral Friends; in addition to the usual pastoral care discussion, we made preliminary plans for the 10/16 Sunday Service.

Practical Arts/Administration:

- Attended the August BOT meeting.
- Met with Office Assistant weekly to review tasks and short and long-term goals.
- Interviewed (with Music Committee co-chair and member) and then hired new Choir Director, Stephen Lance Powless (he goes by Lance). OA was a big help, compiling all necessary paperwork so the process was efficient and quick. Relayed info about the hire to Communications folks for updating of the website.
- Met or talked with Choir Director to go over scheduling for the church year, as well as upcoming service planning. He has shown eagerness to learn about UUism, and UU music, and I think we'll collaborate well together.
- Met or talked with RE Coordinator weekly, established and followed meeting agenda to ensure thorough discussion of professional development as well as short term program goals. Connie will serve as facilitator at Ingathering Sunday, which will serve to introduce her to the wider congregation. I'm delighted to see how dedicated and enthusiastic Connie is about learning the DRE role and fulfilling RE Coordinator tasks at a high level.

Overall, I think CUF has a great staff who are motivated, professional, and enjoy their jobs. CUF (and I are very fortunate!) I plan to have an all-staff lunch in the coming weeks.

- Had first monthly phone meeting with DRE Consultant Lynn Hunt. We discussed goals for the RE Coordinator training, and the upcoming RE Workshops September 24-25. The first workshop will be for a core group of RE folks concerned with the roles and responsibilities involved with children and youth program. The Sunday afternoon workshop will be congregation-wide, vision and mission development for

religious education for all ages. We also set the dates for the second set of workshops: **January 28-29** (Mark your calendars!)

- Prepared Sunday Service calendar for the 16-17 church year, met with Sunday Services Committee to go over it, and plan for upcoming services. We have a strong Committee this year, with a good balance of longer-term and newer members.
- Met in person or on the phone with BOT chair weekly or more to go over CUF happenings and prepare for the upcoming BOT retreat. Met with the retreat facilitator and BOT chair to revise outline and materials.
- Office Assistant and B&G members (particularly Al Babbitt, Jerry Molumby and Bob Swenson) continued the efforts to resolve our phone/alarm problem this month.

Organizational Ministry:

- Met with Committee on Shared Ministry chair about planned Congregational Meeting on finance and subsequent listening circles on Building a Culture of Generosity and Commitment. Set goals for participation overall at 90% of members within driving distance. This is a very exciting process for the congregation
- Attended the Pathways to Renewal webinar “viewing party” at CUF; three others viewed part of all of it. The Membership Committee is likely to adapt this program for membership retention this year.
- Sent out announcement of covenant group formation, have received enough responses to make a one good-sized group. We have the people, now we need to generate interest in co-facilitating, and figure out a meeting date. Since the confirmed co-facilitator is out of town until mid-September, planning is stalled until her return.
- Met with Communications Committee for a very productive meeting: discussions of survey results led to decisions about the Newsletter (special edition to come out soon reviewing the results), Bulletin, and Website. I wrote up and distributed notes from the meeting. Wrote newsletter column for September.
- Met again with Membership Class team (Darl Young and Therese Thien) to complete planning for the redesigned class. They’re ready to go as soon as there are enough people interested in the course.
- Interviewed CUF member as part of social justice listening campaign in preparation for UUANI Director Rev. Scott Aaseng’s visit in December.
- Discussed future young age (pre K-3rd) Our Whole Lives (OWL) opportunities with UCC colleague, Rev. Kim Magwire. (Kim is certified as a trainer of teachers for those ages.)

Personal Growth: exercise, meditation, singing with Choral Union, and have begun practicing mandolin more regularly.

Professional Growth: Peer Discernment group discussion was particularly helpful this month. Also benefitted from monthly telephone conversations with Family Systems coach, Spiritual Director, Mentor

- Started reading Chris Crass' book, *Towards the "Other America": Anti-racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter.*
- Started reading Margaret Marcuson's book, *Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance.*

Teaching: N/A.

Denominational Activities: Committed to participating in the National Moral Monday Day of Action in Springfield, IL Sept. 12. The event is co-organized by UUANI.

Prophetic Outreach:

- Attended two more of the We Say Enough videoconferences, listened to the Standing on the Side of Love "Fortify" podcast
- Attended monthly Racial Justice Coalition meeting, and two of the weekly Race Unity "Continuing Conversations."
- Met with Brian Johnson, new head of Equality Illinois, discussed GBLTQ issues in our region, and CUF's history and current commitment to GBLTQ rights. He added me to EI's clergy response group