

*Reporting period 3/7 – 4/11/2017*

**Worship:** Developed Sunday Service components and wrote and delivered three sermons, “A People So Bold,” “Something Ventured”, and “The Urge to Fix.” The first two sermons aimed to give UU theological grounding to social justice work; the third continued the theme in addressing the UUA president’s sudden resignation and the call for a Teach-in on white supremacy in UU institutions and culture. I also developed and narrated a Time for All Ages skit and co-presented a TFAA reflection. I provided order of service templates and powerpoint slides for the 3/12 and 4/9 services which I didn’t lead.

**Counseling and Pastoral Care:** Made pastoral care phone calls, emails, office visits, hospital visit. Attended monthly meeting with Pastoral Friends, reviewed updates, debriefed about the Time with Pastoral Friends monthly gatherings—so far, they have been unsuccessful at attracting people. There was insufficient time for Continuing Ed, but we scheduled the next three CE sessions. Daily phone calls/meetings with family of Ken Starbuck, CUF member who died after brief hospitalization. Alerted Pastoral Friends of his illness, passing, and heightened need for pastoral care throughout CUF. Met with family and others involved to plan Celebration of Life Service.

**Practical Arts/Administration:**

- Met in person or on the phone with BOT chair weekly or more to go over CUF happenings; met with Exec Committee to discuss the Fin Com’s proposed FY18 budget, various options for BOT budget proposals.
- Met with Office Assistant weekly to review tasks and short and long-term goals.
- Met or talked with RE Coordinator weekly to discuss current RE program concerns and to review progress toward professional development goals.
- Monthly phone conversation with RE Consultant Lynn Hunt about planning final workshops, RE Coordinator professional development and recommendations for next year.
- Had biweekly phone calls with Choir Director.
- Attended BOT meeting.
- Attended monthly CoSM meeting.
- Communicated with monthly music coordinators, set hymns and posted them on google calendar, communicated with accompanists.
- Attended Membership meeting, reviewed New Member class and highlighted opportunities at the Congregational Retreat.
- With Stewardship Committee member, drafted e-blast to membership about campaign progress.

- Attended Sunday Service Committee meeting; in addition to planning upcoming Services, we discussed the concerns raised by members (see item in next section) and agreed to develop a survey to get broader feedback about Sunday Services. Kim Asner-Self and I will draft the survey, and aim to distribute it in early-mid May. We will review the data and make whatever changes indicated for the new church year starting in September.
- Attended UUMA webinar Colleague Info Sharing Group on Administration & Resistance: Building Use Policies
- Had phone meeting with Christina Krost, Outreach staff of Faith In Place (faith-based environmental advocacy group of which CUF is an affiliated member) about resources they can provide, and advocacy actions they coordinate.
- Following my goal from Family Systems to work on one-to-one relationships, I've had 4 more get-togethers with BOT members. These have been so valuable for me in developing rapport, and learning more about my colleagues in leadership at CUF. I look forward to talking with the last BOT member I haven't yet met with one:one.

### **Organizational Ministry:**

- Attended Congregational Retreat – we counted 36 adults, 9 youth/children, and 2 infants participating. This was an unexpectedly good turnout, because the weather was cold and overcast. The main goal of participants having fun seemed to have been accomplished—the games were such a hit that there wasn't time for the volunteer and member recognition activities I planned, but I think this was accomplished somewhat in the “Member Bingo” game. The consensus of CoSM's informal debrief was that it was a success, noting things to keep or alter for next year. My idea for future improvement is to have games/activities for children, and make sure that newer members and guests feel included in the games, too.
- Held monthly meeting with Covenant Group facilitator. The group has continued to meet with good attendance and reported positive experience, and they have planned to volunteer together for the Yard Sale as their service project. Unfortunately, one of their members is leaving the area next month. I've encouraged the remaining group to write a CUF Links column, and maybe plan a Summer Sunday Service to share their experience and attract others to Covenant Groups in the Fall.
- Met with four CUF members together to hear their concerns with the Sunday Service: length of service, the frequency and length of Time for All Ages, and singing rounds. They reported that they were not aware that the Sunday Services Committee had lengthened services by 15 minutes last year (except for summer services). They suggested different options to reduce the service time back to one

hour. I suggested that the Sunday Services make a survey to gather feedback from across the congregation.

- Met with individual member giving feedback in response to my March CUF Links invitation. Discussion led to brainstorming for the following Sunday Service. I think both “feedback sessions” were helpful to me, and I hope that people continue to come to me with their ideas and concerns.
- Attended three Racial Justice Group book discussions; two on *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabelle Wilkerson and one on *It's the Little Things: Everyday Interactions That Anger, Annoy, and Divide the Races*, by Lena Williams.
- Facilitated first Renewing Welcoming Congregation Assessment Team meeting; we've got a good group of newer and long-time members on the team, we made progress on RWC assessment questions, and set our next meeting.
- Wrote newsletter column for April CUF Links.
- Two people came to the third “Theme Salon,” and we had a good discussion. I may make a Facebook Event page for this month's salon in order to get RSVPs as well as publicize it.
- Led Intro to UU/CUF session, with two newcomers and one Membership Committee member attending. Had an after-Sunday Service introduction session with another newcomer.

**Personal Growth:** exercise, meditation, singing with Choral Union. Over the last two months, I've had two “break” weekends with both Saturday and Sunday away from the Fellowship. In addition to giving me “alone time” and much needed time with my husband, these breaks (which are supposed to be the norm) have refreshed my energy and given me perspectives I can't get when I'm in the thick of things at CUF.

**Professional Growth:** Monthly telephone conversations with Family Systems coach, UUMA mentor, ministry peer group, and Spiritual Director.

- In addition to the Building Use webinar described above, I also attended the UUMA webinar, “Creating a Culture of Right Relationship” with Rev. Cathleen Cox. The webinar encouraged the active use of covenants at all levels of interaction within congregations.
- Attended LGBTQ ally training sponsored by Equality Illinois, organized by the Rainbow Cafe, and hosted at CUF.
- Visited the Justice Mobile Museum “Radical Forgiveness” interactive exhibit at SIUC; integrated it into my next sermon.

**Teaching:** N/A

**Denominational Activities:** Attended webinars described above, watched video presentation on #UUWhiteSupremacyTeachIn. Met with UUANI board member to answer survey about my views of UUANI current and future activities.

**Prophetic Outreach:**

- Participated in two faith-based community organizing call with interfaith colleagues from Carbondale, Carterville, and Marion. The “Come and See” event will be Sunday, May 7, 2:30 – 5:30 at the United Methodist Church in Carterville. Clergy and lay leaders are invited to attend.
- Attended parts of two SI Immigrants Rights Project meetings, which is focused on drafting, collecting signatures, and advocating for policies protecting rights of immigrants first at city, and then county levels.
- Attended International Coffee on SIU campus.
- Traveled with other members of the Carbondale Area Interfaith Refugee Support group to the International Institute in St. Louis. We delivered donations and toured the comprehensive refugee resettlement and support program.
- Attended three of No Days of Compassion events: Screening of “The Sultan and the Saint” movie and discussion; Preventing Targeted Violence presentation; and “Upstanders: Are You One?” Ralph Anderson Interfaith Dialogue. This program was sponsored by the Carbondale Interfaith Council and was dedicated to the memory of Ken Starbuck the day after his death (I wrote the dedication statement).