Minister’s Report  Rev. Sarah C. Richards  February 2018

Reporting period  1/9/18 – 2/5/18

January’s theme of intention was a particularly rich one for CUF as we get started on Vision & Mission development, Stewardship campaign, Outreach and other initiatives.

Worship: Most of the members of the LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Committee were involved in the planning and presentation of the “Welcoming All Genders” service, which is always great and takes extra time for coordination. We are grateful to Chip Loghry, of the Rainbow Café who took part in preparation and presentation, as well. The service was another part of the renewal of our Welcoming Congregation status – I look forward to future similar collaborative efforts. The following Sunday, inspired by the Women’s March to the Polls—it was wonderful to see so many CUF folks there! —I preached about balancing the inward and outward aspects of individual spiritual growth (“Inward!”). This last Sunday (2/4), inspired in a different way by the All Congregation Meeting 1/28, I focused my sermon, “Team Spirit” on the congregation coming together as a team. I put together the description and service slides, and attended the lay-led service 1/28.

Set hymns (communicated with Music Coordinators accompanists), selected readings, crafted Order of Service and Service scripts for all services that I led, and all service slides.

Counseling and Pastoral Care: Made pastoral visits, calls, and emails. Met with Pastoral Friends to review pastoral updates and activities – attendance was low, so we didn’t have a CE portion, but we have plans in place for the next two months.

Practical Arts/Administration:

• Wrote and posted monthly Minister's Report.
• Met with BOT President weekly, attended monthly BOT Officers meeting.
• Met or talked with RE Coordinator weekly to discuss current RE program concerns and to review progress toward professional development goals.
• Talked with Choir director as needed.
• Met with Office Administrator weekly. Edited the weekly Bulletins.
• Since there are a larger number of CUF and community events scheduled for Saturday (e.g., Pathway to Renewal, Vision & Mission workshops, Congregational retreat, etc), I am officially making Saturday a “work day.” I’m going to try to adhere to the Letter of Call agreements around time off, so I will add office hours Tuesdays, Thursday will (still) be my study day, and Friday will be my day off. I will post this change in the bulletin, order of service insert, and make sure the changes get made on the CUF web page as well.
• Attended the All Congregation Meeting, presented the two proposed CSAIs for GA.
• Wrote Minister’s Column for February CUF Links.
Organizational Ministry:

- Met with Stewardship Committee twice in this period, as event-scheduling and planning strategy has ramped up.
- Facilitated February Facilitator Covenant Group – missing two group members, but still had a rich sharing and discussion.
- Attended the Congregational Conversation about the “In this Congregation, we believe...” banner. After lively discussion about various aspects of the proposed banner, participants came to agreement on a series of custom-designed banners with the CUF logo based on the 7 principles. Also proposed was a Working Group that would take up the design, funding, and production of the banners. This was the proposal taken to the All Congregation Meeting, and I was very disappointed that folks who were not part of the Congregational Conversation responded negatively to the planned banners. I hope that the Working Group will be able to meet the overall goal of making CUF’s existence and identity visible within months, rather than years.

- Led Membership Committee meeting brainstorming about New Member classes and Newcomer Orientation sessions – there were many good ideas floated, and a few committee members are developing an online document with embedded videos that could be used for the latter. Connie Payne, RE Coordinator also attended, and suggested having a New Member Potluck for RE Parents – we need to set a date soon.

Personal Growth: exercise, Choral Union.

Professional Growth: met with Spiritual Director, Family Systems Coach, mentor, minister peer group, Bi-State UU Ministers. Attended the UUMA CENTER Institute for Excellence in Ministry 1/22-26 outside Tampa, FL. Highlights included Rev. Traci Blackmon’s seminar, “Prophetic Protest in the Public Square” and singing in the choir under the direction of Dr. Glenn Thomas Rideout. Details are in my February CUF Links column.

Teaching: [Building Your Own Theology course starts next week, with eight participants signed up so far.]

Denominational Activities: Bi-State UU Ministers monthly meeting via internet, participated in memorial service at UU Fellowship of Ames, IA.

Prophetic Outreach:
- Delivered offering “ask” at the MLK Community Celebration.
- Attended the NAACP MLK Day breakfast and program.
• Led moment of silence to assembled marchers, then led chants and walked with CUF folks behind our banner at the Women's March to the Polls.
• Attended Race Unity-sponsored screening and discussion of “Sisters of Selma” film.
• Attended two special I Can Read! Board meetings during this period, dealing with personnel issues.
• Attended “The Courage to Show Up: A Conversation with Brene Brown and Deray McKesson” livestream at Church of the Good Shepherd.
• Attended Racial Justice Coalition meeting.
• Participated in (part of) SIIRP’s demonstration in support of DACA recipients.

\[\text{\textsuperscript{1}}\ 2.8.1. \text{The Minister will maintain regular and posted daytime or evening office hours at least three days per week, with other times available by appointment.}\]

\[\text{\textsuperscript{2}}\ 2.8.2. \text{The Minister will maintain one day per week free of all Congregation responsibilities and one additional day devoted to study and writing wherein the Minister shall be available only for emergencies.}\]