Minister’s Report  Rev. Sarah C. Richards  April 2018
Reporting period 3/6/18 – 4/5/18

With my new work schedule in its second month, I feel my level of stress has decreased. Having an entire day off has allowed me to do the same amount of work, but feel better about it.

Worship: Researched, wrote and delivered sermons/created services “Positive Upset” and “Emerging From Our Tombs.” Worked with Vision/Mission team to develop “CUF Road Trip” service and wrote concluding homily for it. Because it was an intergenerational service, I worked to make my reflection speak to youth, so it was disappointing that most of them left the service before my remarks. This was an important lesson – next time, I’ll work with RE ahead of time to inform and invite youth participation for the whole intergen service. I was pleased with the TFAA portions in the two subsequent services, especially the “4 Seeds” skit in which five of our middle school youth performed. Several people told me that my Easter message, “Emerging From Our Tombs” sparked emotional responses, and that it provoked introspection and discussion in the days following.

Set hymns (communicated with Music Coordinators accompanists), selected readings, crafted Orders of Service drafts, Service scripts, and slides for all services that I led. I also prepared the Order of Service draft and slides for two lay-led services.

Rites of passage: met with family members to plan internment ceremony, wrote ceremony.

Counseling and Pastoral Care: Made pastoral visits, calls, emails and notes. Met with Pastoral Friends to review pastoral updates and activities in abbreviated session to accommodate schedules.

Practical Arts/Administration:

- Wrote and posted monthly Minister’s Report.
- Met with BOT President weekly.
- Attended monthly BOT Officer’s meeting, BOT meeting.
- Checked in/met with RE Coordinator and/or RE Coordinator Assistant weekly.
- Talked with Choir director as needed.
- Met with Office Administrator weekly. Edited the weekly Bulletins.
- Met with BOT V.P. and staff member on personnel issue.
- Recruited final CUF member to share their Build Our Common Good stewardship reflections, suggested an organizing structure to their reflections.
- Met with Communications Committee, discussed CUF publications, outreach.
- Met with Committee on Shared Ministry, discussed upcoming MFC evaluation process, how to set ministerial priorities in line with new vision/mission statements.
- Met with Sunday Services Committee to plan May and summer lay-led services.
- Wrote Minister’s Column, and Recommended Reading piece for April CUF Links.
Organizational Ministry:

- Facilitated April Facilitator Covenant Group – still struggling to have all eight facilitators in attendance; nevertheless, a meaningful gathering.
- Attended the Visibility Working Group presentation after the April 1 service.
- Met with Membership Committee: Parent New Member class will be April 29 after the service. So far, the new committee-based greeter roster is going well.
- Led meeting about social justice as part of UU identity. Wide-ranging conversation included discussion of heightening CUF participation at public SJ events, and further educating the congregation about the proposed 8th principle.
- Attended Stewardship Murder Mystery evening – it was a lot of fun, several CUF members displaying previously unknown theatrical talent.
- Co-wrote Stewardship brochure letter with BOT president.
- Participated in Mission workshop led by Miriam Link-Mullison.
- Met 1:1 with Mary Campbell to make my FY19 pledge.
- Responded to email inquiry about CUF from person who had found CUF’s website after online search of LGBTQ-friendly congregations.

Personal Growth: exercise, Choral Union, practicing mandolin.

Professional Growth: met with Spiritual Director, Family Systems Coach, mentor, minister peer group, Bi-State UU Ministers. Maintained Friday as Sabbath Day

Teaching: Prepped and led the second three Building Your Own Theology sessions. Although one participant withdrew from the class due to illness/over commitment, the remaining seven have maintained their engagement as our discussions and connections have deepened.

Denominational Activities: Bi-State UU Ministers monthly meeting via internet.

Prophetic Outreach:

- With another member of the Ralph Anderson Interfaith Dialogue committee, met with SIIRP to plan April 15 “Welcoming the Stranger” event.
- Walked and led chants in the “March for Our Lives” against gun violence. Despite inclement weather, the crowd was sizable, and included a good number of CUF folks.
- Attended Fair Tax Town Hall, sponsored by the Responsible Budget Coalition (UUANI is a RBC member).