

August 2020 Executive Report
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Our mission at UCDSM is to:
Grow ethically and spiritually (G)
Serve justly (S)
Love radically (L)

Lifespan Learning (Devon McClurken)

- During the Summer there is one UU Faith Formation class on Zoom at 9:30 am before the service. Parents are able to log in with the youth to do lesson with the DFF around the month's theme. (GSL)
- We have had an average of 2-4 families log in. This will continue through the summer until the new church year programming starts (GSL)
- RE Council met to discuss programming for the Fall. (GSL)
 - There will be our normal Wednesday night programming that includes new classes and will not include OWL as that cannot be done in an online setting.
 - There will be ChUUrch craft which combines Building Bridges and Minecraft.
 - There will be an online Sex Ed group called Taking Flight
 - A new Children's Music and Drama group will meet
 - Saturdays will have Sing and Play the UU Way story hour for PK-3.
 - COA will meet online.
 - Sundays will transition to Children's Chapel where the youth learn to put a service together beginning in September.

- CUUPS is holding a weekly chat on Monday nights and starting a new 4 week course called Paganism 101. (GSL)
- Rev. Amy's Friday night Bible group continues with strong attendance. (GSL)
- Humanism and Sage have been meeting online (GSL)
- All but one Circle Group are meeting, in an online format. Circle Groups are set to end in June but one group will continue to meet as a small group. They have been provided with resources to continue that. (GSL)
- Soul Matters groups are being formed and Small Social groups are forming to give people a chance to connect during this time of COVID. (GSL)
- There will be more Sage programming and two Wellspring offerings beginning in September. (GSL)
- A group to discuss the report on Institutional Change, led by Rev. Amy, is set to meet for 12 weeks beginning in October. (GSL)

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)

- Caring Ministry: A meal was provided for one family. Three cards were sent to members. (LS)
- Pastoral Care: 22 contacts with members.
 - Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt by Zoom. (GLS)
- Membership: Began planning for new member welcome in September. 16 new members have joined over the last quarter

Childcare (Julie Morocho)

- On hiatus due to Corona virus

Facility/Grounds (Diane Ford/Doug Aupperle)

- Due to the wind storm large trees fell on the property and were removed by Wright Trees at a cost of approximately \$10,000
- The arbor/play structure in the playground was damaged by a tree
- Chelsea Hayes has received a REACH Grant to revitalize the children's playground
- We continue to require volunteers for weeding and grounds clean-up

Social Justice/Outreach

(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- The Immigration Justice Group received the faith in action grant for \$1500.
- Confirmation was received that the government has received Briana's request for asylum. (GLS)

(Katie Allen- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT))

- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) met on August 6(GS)
- The group will assist with the small discussion groups for the Widening the Circle Book study Group (Commission on Institutional Change Final Report) beginning in October (GS)

(Judy Haver- Faith in Action)

- The Faith in Action (FIA) team met with Rev. Amy Shaw on 8/9 via Zoom and discussed how to collaborate with the Religious Services committee for the upcoming year. (GLS)
- The FIA team met on 8/10 via Zoom and planned our next steps. We organized: (GLS)
 - a one time meeting with each of the Partners & their champions in August
 - kick off events (Trivia Nights for each Community Partner organization via Zoom) in September
 - a FIA "spotlight" at Sunday services each Sunday in September by each FIA team member.

- A shared "Messaging" Tracking calendar was created as reference to keep track of: content presented @ Sunday Services, content published the weekly Intercom, Content Brainstorming / ideas / content archives. FIA team, Rev. Amy Shaw, UU Community Partner "Champions" and Partner contacts were all given access with editing abilities. (S)
- FIA met with the Central Iowa Immigrant Committee Fund (CIIC) champions, UU members Gene McCracken & Dave Witke, along with Dawn Oropeza, lead CIIC Fund contact, on 8/24 via Zoom. They discussed opportunities to promote their organization explore volunteer opportunities through the next church year. (GLS)
- FIA met with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland champions, UU members Barb Royal & Deidre Fudge, along with Dustin Ross, Executive Director of Finance for Iowa Planned Parenthood on 8/25 via Zoom. They discussed opportunities to promote their organization & explore volunteer opportunities throughout the next church year. (GLS)
- The FIA team met 8/31 via Zoom. They discussed the outcome of their meetings with Community Partners, finalized September team member spots at Sunday services, dates for "kickoff" Jeopardy & Trivia nights via Zoom on 9/18 & 9/25 @ 7pm with the membership, created a response to the Foster Care promotional request, approved UU member, Gene McCracken, to remain on the FIA group email & agreed to promote the watch party for "Immigration Nation." (GLS)

(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)

- Not active in August. Yearly program vacation

(Bruce Martin- FEDS)

- FEDS was not active this month

(Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing and Pachamama Alliance)

- On hold due to Coronavirus

(Gianfranco Berardi, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group)

- TAG did not meet in June

(Birch Spick- Welcoming Congregation)

- Welcoming Congregation did not meet in June

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise and FFFF/PPP 2020)

- FFFF had no activity this month
- Family Promise—27 volunteers provided meals and overnight hosts for 3 families at the Westminster site
- Families will be housed at Westminster through 2020

Barb Royal, Deidra Fudge, Liz Bredeesen- Communication Group

- The new communication group has continued to meet to develop branding, marketing strategies, and social media platform strategies.(S)
- The website vendor is Big Imprint, here in Des Moines, and the group has met with them several times to brainstorm and develop ideas (SG)
- The committee continue meeting weekly with Rev. Amy and monthly with Kerrie Lee (S)

Updates

Service Attendance (# of households/screens, NOT number of people):

8/2/2020 Everything I Need to Know I Learned on Imgur (Amy)	81
8/9/2020 Liminality (Katheryn Sutton)	80
8/16/2020 Roads Taken, Roads Ahead (Amy/Dagny Fidler)	83
8/23/2020 Light for the Way (Amy)	81
8/30/2020 If You Ever Feel Uncomfortable (Karen Lauer)	79

Membership Numbers Summary:

- Number of new members in August-
- Deceased -
- Moved –
- Withdrew membership –

Month	# of New Members	Deceased	Moved	Withdrew Membership
August				
July	5			2
June				
May	4			
April	4			
March	3			1

Operations

- Seasonal maintenance was performed on our HVAC systems. The two furnaces that heat the south end of the basement were found to both have broken heat exchangers. Given that they are 33 years old, repairs are not feasible. Options for their replacement are being examined.
- DFA Charles Lewis and Al Powers are examining options to improve the safety of our ventilation system.
- DFA Charles Lewis is in the process of getting quotes for permanent repairs to the roof in the wake of the derecho. The initial investigation showed the damage to be relatively minor and he is not looking at filing a claim against our building insurance at this time.