

December 2020 Executive Report
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Our Mission: Grow ethically and spiritually (G), serve justly (S), and love radically (L)

Our Ends Statements 2016 – 2021

We:

- 1. Grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and ethically.**
- 2. Explore and experience what it means to be human.**
- 3. Cultivate compassion toward ourselves and others.**
- 4. Foster personal connections to life, nature and/or the divine.**
- 5. Seek, embrace, and share experiences of wonder.**
- 6. Develop our Unitarian Universalist identities.**

Lifespan Learning (Devon McClurken)

- The Sangha continues to meet, with between 13 and 19 people attending. (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- Children's Chapel continues Sundays from 9:15AM to 9:45AM with a core group showing up each week. We have an object lesson and story done by Rev. Amy and songs performed by Nancy Bratt. There is a mediation and activity and then a take home. (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- COA facilitators are still looking at doing a new approach to it in the Spring but there hasn't been much development yet (FYI ONLY)
- The Wednesday night classes continue. They are Sing and Play the UU Way, ChUUrch Craft and Talking Flight ChUUrch Craft is scheduled to conclude after Spring Break but Chelsea Hayes has ideas for a class we would call Art Craft, which would be doing physical art projects that then the youth could replicate in Minecraft. (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- YRUU is doing social nights once a month and the Youth Council meets once a month. (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- There was a gingerbread competition held in December with 5 youth participating. (G) 1
- Rev. Amy has the Koran study group on Friday nights with 13 people attending. (G) 1
- Humanism and Sage continue meeting online. (G) 1
- Soul Matters groups are meeting, and one Wellspring Group is meeting. (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- Three small social online Chalice Groups continued from the summer, to give people a chance to connect during this time of COVID. (G) 1
- Widening the Circle, the group to discuss the report on Institutional Change continues with an average of 25 people attending, and will end by January 1, 2021 (G) 1
- The RE Council will meet again in January to talk about next year's focus (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6
- ChUUrch Craft is scheduled to conclude after Spring Break but Chelsea Hayes has ideas for a class called Art Craft, which would be doing physical art projects that then the youth could replicate in Minecraft. (GSL) 1,2,3,4,5,6

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)

- Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt by Zoom. (GLS) 1,2,3,4
- **The Membership Committee** met on December 12, 2020 (S) 6
- **Caring Ministry** provided meals for 2 families, with a total of 3 people included. Snow removal was provided for 1 person. (SL) 1,2,3
- **Caring Circle Card Ministry** sent cards to the Keller family, Florence Frette, and Jane Flagler and Charlie Johnson. Christmas and New Year's cards were sent to Numerous cards were sent to lots of our church friends. (SL) 1,2,3
- **Pastoral Care Team** had 46 contacts in December. (GSL) 1, 2, 3
- **Call/Email Ministry:** Membership staff reached out to most of the members of the Call Ministry team. Several had not started to make calls or sending emails. Those who were making calls had nothing to report. They have all expressed extreme frustration at not receiving responses. Due to the number of calls that we get from unknown numbers, many people just don't answer calls from numbers they don't have in their contacts or recognize. Some people like getting calls, but just don't answer if they have nothing to report; others are just too busy to pick up or return calls that aren't of the utmost importance. I've stressed to the team that they should not expect to receive responses and it is perfectly fine if they don't get them. I have let them know the importance of just leaving a friendly voice mail/email for folks. However, people are finding this demoralizing. Several have expressed an interest in continuing to call the people they have heard from, but would prefer not to keep calling those who haven't responded. I've sent an email to the team to have them send me the names of the people they have not heard from. As they get those lists to me, I'll try reaching out to those people myself. By next month, I'll have a better idea of how many people we haven't been able to reach. (GLS) 1,2,3,4,6
- **Afternoon Tea with Membership:** These are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month. We've had three, in October, November, and December. Only one person attended in October and December; we had 5 people attend in November. (S) 2,4

Childcare (Julie Morocho)

- On hiatus until July due to Corona virus

Facility/Grounds (Diane Ford/Doug Aupperle)

- Snow was plowed to keep lots clear during snowfall. Company has now been told to plow once per snowfall, after the storm is over.

Social Justice/Outreach

(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- Money continues to come in from donation letters mailed to congregation in November. (SL) 1,2,3,6
- Morgan Dredge took Briana to the Santa's Rocking Lights at Living History Farms on Christmas Eve. (SL) 1,2,3,4,5
- Briana made tamales and Sue Huber helped her drop them off to people's houses (SL) 1,2,3,4,5

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

- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) met in December (GS) 1,2,3,6
- Group members continue to attend the Widening the Circle Book study Group (Commission on Institutional Change Final Report) (GS) 1,2,3,6
- The SJMLT is planning to create a 4 minute video to celebrate the SJ activities engaged in during 2020, even in the midst of the Pandemic and to invite others to engage in this work including POTUS. To be shown during a service in January and broadcasted wide thereafter. We will invite other congregations to do this as well. (GS) 1,2,3,6
- ARC- no activity

(Bruce Martin- FEDS)

- FEDS provided dinner for over 200 at the homeless shelter through cash donation, which they will continue to do monthly. This helps to minimize contact with COVID surging (GSL) 1,2,3,6

(Judy Haver- Faith in Action)

- The Faith in Action Team met once in December to discuss their mid-year review in advance of planning for the next church year (S,L) 3
- Membership giving has been sustained a greater than expected levels during online only Sunday Services. (SL) 1,2,3,4,6
- Team members have been grateful for the UU member champions consistent efforts in providing Community Partner information for Sunday Services and Church Communications (website, Facebook & Intercom). (SL)4
- Lack of face to face opportunities has diminished the mission to have a deeper, more integrated interaction with the membership. (S)4
- A short 3-4 question survey of the membership is being created to evaluate satisfaction with Faith in Action help determine the shape (and possibility the existence) of Faith in Action in the year to come. FIA will use a Google Form format and leave the survey up for about 3-4 weeks starting early January. Results of this survey will be shared with the Social Justice Leadership team before plans and work for the 2021-22 church year commences in February. (S) 2,3
- Faith in Action team member recruitment by the current team members continues to be challenging. Methods used have been: a personal ask, requesting referrals from the Membership Coordinator and other Affinity and Activity group leaders. Team member

loss will impact the future of this team's work: Adele Villamez (fading now, relocating to Omaha), Katherine Vance & Judy Neumeyer at the end of the Partnership cycle (August 2021) (GS) 1,2,3,4,6

(Bill Brauch/Donna Wallace- Write Here, Write Now)

- There was no Write Here, Write Now report turned in for December.
- Donna Wallace and Bill Brauch are now heading the Write Here, Write Now! Program at UCDSM

(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 November

(Birch Spick- Welcoming Congregation)

- Welcoming Congregation did not meet in November

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

- FFFF had no activity this month
- Families will be housed at Westminster through 2020

Barb Royal, Deidre Fudge, Liz Bredesen, Cheryl Long- Communication Group

- Website is almost ready! (GSL) 1,2,4,5
- Once it gets back to us, we will be showing it to staff and committees to get initial feedback before it goes live. (GSL) 1,2,4,5
- We are still looking for a volunteer to manage a new Instagram account for the church - hoping to start in February. Rev. Amy has it set up, but we need someone to handle regular posts; some which the Communication Group will feed them, and some they come up with on their own. (GSL) 1,2,4,5
- Social Media policy almost complete and ready for the Board to view- will be ready by January meeting (GSL) 1,2,4,5
- We continue to work on creating a final slate of digital platforms for the church to use to establish a cohesive digital presence without much overlap (GSL) 1,2,4,5
- We are working with staff to determine web page interaction/editing needs, if any, for each staff member. The goal is to have the fewest possible people with the ability to make changes to the new website, without overloading Kerrie, causing bottlenecks in information, or creating excess duplication of work (GSL) 1,2,4,5

Updates

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

12/06/2020 Little Miracles and the Lights of Hannukah (Amy)	114
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	187 views
12/13/2020 Circle Game (Amy)	123
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	259views
12/20/2020 Where Shall We Have Lunch Today (Amy)	101
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	291 views
12/24/2020 5pm Haul Out the Holly (Amy)	35
7pm Unto You (Amy)	42
11pm Service 2.0 (11pm Service on Facebook)	200 views
12/27/2020 New Year's Hearsay: 2020 Reflections of Hope (Louise Alcorn)	94

Membership Numbers Summary:

- Deceased – 2 members, Jim Graeber and Nicole Keller, 1 Extended Visitor: Jesse Johnston

Month	# of New Members	Deceased	Moved	Withdrew Membership
December		2		
November				6
October				
September				1
August				
July	5			2

Operations:

- Installation of audio upgrades in the Auditorium will begin Monday, January 18. When we are ready to begin resuming activities in the building, the install company will send someone over to run training on the new sound board.
- There has been a problem with voice mails not getting forwarded to staff emails. This will be fixed on Monday, as well.
- As noted in the Comments on the December Financials, the SBC approved our application for the forgiveness of our PPP loan and granted full forgiveness. We are not eligible for the second round of PPP loans, as noted in the comments.