

January 2021 Executive Report Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Our Mission: Grow ethically and spiritually, serve justly, and love radically.

Our Ends Statements 2016 – 2021 (Note: these need to be redone in the next church year)

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.**
- 7. Ask for and receive loving presence from one another, especially in times of joy, sorrow and transition.**
- 8. Respectfully connect across differences for understanding.**
- 9. Intentionally invite and engage others to grow in community with us.**
- 10. Generously share our time, talent and treasure.**
- 11. Maintain a facility and grounds appropriate for our needs and aligned with our values.**
- 12. Build authentic partnerships, responding to needs our partners articulate.**
- 13. Show up with passion and enthusiasm to grow our values in the world.**
- 14. Share our talent and resources to support groups with whom we share values.**
- 15. Provide leadership and space for civil discourse.**
- 16. Welcome and accept transformation that comes through authentic relationships within and beyond our church.**

Lifespan Learning (Devon McClurken)

- The Sangha continues to meet, with between 13 and 19 people attending. 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. 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,14
- The Wednesday night classes continue. They are Sing and Play the UU Way, ChUUrch Craft and Talking Flight. 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,16
- YRUU is doing social nights once a month and the Youth Council meets once a month. In February they will plan for their youth led service which is scheduled in March. 1,2,3,4,5,6, 9, 10, 15,16
- Rev. Amy concluded the Koran study group on Friday nights in January. She will be beginning a class on the book Small Gods, by Terry Pratchett, in March. 1,2,9,15
- Humanism and Sage continue meeting online. 1,2,9,15
- Soul Matters groups are meeting, and one Wellspring Group is meeting. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,15,16

- Widening the Circle, the group to discuss the report on Institutional Change ended on January 1, 2021. In March there will be a meeting to discuss what we plan to do with this information. 1,2,3,6,8,15,16
- The RE Council met in January to talk about next year's focus and will meet again in February 1,2,3,4,5,6, 8,9,10
- 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. 1,2,3,4,5,6

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)

Caring Ministry

Meals provided for 2 families. 2,3,6,7

Card Ministry

Cards were sent to Jean Evans and the Rozeboom/Morrow family. 2,3,6,7

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care had 35 contacts. 2,3,6,7

Grief Ministry

Sally Boeckholt continues to lead the informal Grief Circle group on Mondays by Zoom.

1,2,3,6,7

Membership Committee

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Membership Committee did not meet in January. The next meeting will be February 20 at 3:00 PM. (FYI)

Membership

Bob and Carol Henderson have moved out of state. However, they are continuing membership in First Unitarian for the time being. 9

Call Ministry Team

The Call Ministry Team has been dissolved. While finding time to make the calls was challenging for some members, enthusiasm for the project and morale among the team members were both extremely low. Team members reported lots of frustration with the lack of responses to their calls and they felt the calls weren't welcome. A survey was done in October 2020 to ask members and friends if they wished to continue receiving calls and/or emails. Of the 91 responses that were received, only 16 people asked to be contacted. I've encouraged team members to continue calling members with whom they've built a relationship and to check in on those on their lists who specifically requested to receive contact. 3,7,10

Let's Do LUUnch and Afternoon Tea with Membership

These received very little participation and have been cancelled. Very people attended the lunch sessions. Attendance at the Afternoon Tea sessions was as follows:

October: 1
November: 7
December: 1
January: 0

Lyra will continue to search for other opportunities for members and friends to connect. (FYI)

Facility/Grounds (Diane Ford/Doug Aupperle)

- No problems or issues reported at this time. 11

Social Justice/Outreach (Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- Morgan Dredge will be sharing about the asylum project at the SJMLT even on Feb. 13th. 1,2,3,6,9,10,12,13,14
- The church continues to support Briana 1,2,3,6,9,10,12,13,14

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

- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) met in January 1,2,3,6,13,15
- The SJMLT created a 7 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. The video was shown during a service in January. The video can be seen here <https://youtu.be/4jCGImKlcG4> 1,2,3,6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16
- In February the SJMLT will be hosting a 90 minute ZOOM event to encourage people to join in social justice work and to allow groups to share what they are doing and invite others to join them. The event will be held on Feb. 13th at 1pm 1,6,12,13,15

(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 1,2,3,6, 10, 12, 14

(Judy Haver- Faith in Action)

The Faith in Action team surveyed the membership using a Google tool created by Katherine Vance. The survey link was published in the Intercom, website and promoted in two of the Sunday services.

In general, the survey showed satisfaction with Faith in Action and an interest in this team continuing its work. No negative comments were given in the open feedback option.

There were 49 survey respondents. FIA is pleased with this number, it represents:

- about 1/2 of the attendees (100) on Sunday, equal to the 49 pledging households who give to the "2nd basket" each month, and 20% of the active pledging membership (257 distinct pledges).

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 1 Should we keep the same level of involvement. Some suggestions for volunteering when face to face restrictions are lifted.

Yes (39)

No Opinion (8)

Blank (2)

Question 2 Should we continue with two community partners for the next church year?

Two Partners (42)

No Preference (5)

Blank (2)

Question 3 Should we continue to publish information at the same rate?

Communications information appreciated (49)

Question 4 Should we continue to support FIA the same way, there may be opportunities for evolution of this work

Faith in Action work stays the same (34)

Evolve into something else (9)

End (2)

Blank (4)

6,8,15

There were 6 individuals who shared their contact information as possible Faith in Action team members. Faith in Action will meet with a total of 7 possible new team members on February 15th. 1,4,9

David Witke, Barb Royal and Deidre Fudge (the member "Champions") continue to be stellar in promoting the activities of our Community Partners throughout this year. 3,9,12,13

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and Central Iowa Immigrant Support Coalition each received \$626 in January (December donations.) Membership giving remains excellent. 10,12

(Barb Klubal- AMOS)

An All- AMOS Retreat was held on January 23, 2021 via Zoom and was attended by 50 AMOS members representing 21 member institutions. Seven members of First Unitarian were among them. 1,12,13,14

Mental Health Research Team Activities

Polk County Children's Crisis Mental Health Organizing Campaign training took place on 1/21/21 via Zoom. Fifty-four AMOS members attended, including six members of First Unitarian Church 1,2,12,13,

The Children's Mental Health Team has developed Civic Academies (Zoom presentations) to be presented within AMOS institutions and in the wider community in order to spread awareness of the dire need for funding for a mobile crisis team and an observation unit for children and youth in Polk County. The February 10th All-AMOS Zoom meeting was devoted primarily to the issue of mental health and the dire need for funding. 2,3,12,13

Linda Krypel, Co-Chair of the Children's Crisis Services Implementation Team, will do a PowerPoint presentation on the history of AMOS' involvement in the children's mental health issue at the March meeting of the PCHS Collaborative. 14

The Polk County Children's Mental Health Action Strategy Team will meet again on March 11. 12

Affordable Housing Research Team Activities

The AMOS Affordable Housing Research Team has re-grouped after a break due to Covid-19. The team is following housing-related legislation at the State level and has set up meetings with two Iowa Senators and a county government official. Five members of First Unitarian are part of this team. Last year a Des Moines City Councilman invited AMOS members to apply for a vacancy on the City of Des Moines Housing Services Board, and members of two AMOS institutions were appointed to fill two vacancies. 3,12,13,14

AMOS Let's Talk/Des Moines Schools Programs

Described below are the public schools programs in which AMOS is involved. They have been suspended owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Team meetings have largely been suspended, as well, although those who are working on the Second Chance Program are exploring ways to work virtually with youth until face-to-face meetings can resume.

Mediation - Trained mediators work with students with interpersonal conflict issues, in middle school student at Amos Hiatt & Harding Middle Schools.

Dialogue Circles - Trained Circle Keepers facilitate circles with students or teachers on request. Primarily middle schools, but occasionally elementary schools.

Saturday School - Program to provide an alternative to suspension, primarily for middle school students at Amos Hiatt middle school.

Training of teachers to facilitate dialogue circles when requested to help DM school district implement restorative practices.

Partnering with DM Police Department Second Chance Program which is a diversion program intended to keep teen offenders from being referred to Juvenile Court for lower-level offenses. Students have been referred by School Resource Officers and some by patrol officers. One of the objectives is to reduce disproportionality of Black youth in the legal system.

AMOS Equal Justice research team focused on disproportionality of DM school discipline of Black students and worked with DM District school staff. 2,3,10,12,13,14,15,16

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise and FFFF/PPP 2020-2021)

FFFF

FFFFF had no activity this month

Family Promise

25 volunteers supported 3 families of 4 with meals and overnight hosting at Westminster Presbyterian for a total of 128 hours 3,8,10,12,13,14,16

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

- There was no Write Here, Write Now activity in January.

(Ron Heideman- Pachamama Alliance)

Pachamama Alliance Iowa will be meeting for a workshop by ZOOM on Feb. 25th, 2021 at 1:30pm Central. 6,12,13

(Terry Lowman and Linda Lemons- IUUWAN)

IUUWAN will be meeting with Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw in February to discuss:

- the current vision and purpose of IUUWAN
- how Widening the Circle of Concern impacts us and our social justice work
- how can UU ministers, UU congregations and IUUWAN best collaborate together
- what would be an example of a good covenant between all of us
- IUUWAN by-laws and congregational financial support 1,12

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

- Website will be ready for first viewing and feedback by Board, staff, Leadership Team, and SJMLT and others in late February, early March
- Met with staff team to determine staff website interaction and editing needs
- The final slate of intended social media platforms for the next 18 months will be Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Buzzsprout (podcast hosting). Our weekly sermon podcast, called First U Think, will be available in late January here <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1609618>, and people will be able to subscribe through most popular podcast locations including Apple podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Overcast, and others.
- When the Office Administrator position is filled, which will probably be in January of 2022, that position will be responsible for posting on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter on a scheduled daily or weekly basis 6,9,10

Updates

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

1/3/21 Resolutions, Intentions and Silver Linings of the Year of COVID (Kent Newman)	94
1/10/21 Octavia Butler: Hear the Prophet Speak (Amy)	100
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	167 views
1/17/21 Lift Every Voice (Amy)	95
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	91 views
1/24/21 Yom HaShoah (Amy)	111
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	177 view
1/31/21 Life is a Journey to be Experienced, Not a Problem to be Solved (Patty Notch)	103
Ends 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,16	

Newest Facebook Commercial

The newest UCDSM Facebook commercial was released on Facebook on January 17, 2021. It can be seen here <https://www.facebook.com/AmyPetrieShaw/videos/10225302996901540>

Ends 9

Membership Numbers Summary:

- Number of new members in January- 0
- Deceased –
- Moved – 0
- Withdrew membership – 0
- Number of registered adult visitors – still working on how to track correctly through ZOOM
-

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

Operations

- It has not yet been scheduled, but we will be having the stove cleaned and serviced in the coming weeks.