

October 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)

- Children's Chapel has started, with 5 families so far. 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. Between 4 and 9 children meet weekly (GSL)
- The Youth have formed a Youth Council (GSL)
- The new Wednesday night classes have started. They are Sing and Play the UU Way (4-9 children), ChUUrch Craft, and Talking Flight (5 children). (GSL)
- Coming of Age will not be starting at this time, but the facilitators are looking at doing a new approach to it in the Spring. A survey was sent out to the parents through email and by mail. (GSL)
- YRUU is doing social nights once a month. This was decided by the newly formed Youth Council. They had their first Movie Night on the 25th and will have a game night November 15th. The youth decide monthly on the dates for upcoming events. (GSL)
- CUUPS is holding a weekly chat on Monday nights and starting a new 4 week course called Paganism 101 in November. (GSL)
- Rev. Amy is holding a Koran study group on Friday nights with 13 attendees.
- Humanism and Sage have been meeting online. (GSL)
- Soul Matters groups are meeting and one Wellspring Group is meeting.
- Chalice Groups, small social groups, are forming to give people a chance to connect during this time of COVID. (GSL)
- Widening the Circle, the group to discuss the report on Institutional Change started October with an average of 25 people attending. (GSL)
- A class on End of Life preferences and Truth Post-Truth book study is starting in October. (GSL)
- The RE Council will meet in November to discuss any changes for the Spring to programming. (GSL)
- The Sangha continues to meet, with between 13 and 19 people attending. (GSL)

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)
- Caring Ministry provided meals for two families and transportation for one. Two cards were mailed.
- Pastoral Care had 26 contacts.

- A Membership Committee has been formed. Dave Proudfit, Laura Dammarell and LeeAnn and Sherman Back have agreed to serve as long-term members. New members Cheryl Long and Joanne Johnson, Reba Eagles, and Meghan Westphal will also participate. Because of her previous experience both as Membership Coordinator and trying to form a Membership Committee, Laura Berardi has agreed to serve in a consultant role to the group. Working with Lyra, the group has established what their roles and boundaries will be; Laura's involvement will also depend on her family and job responsibilities.
- Membership Committee's first meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2020 at 11:00 AM.
- Holiday Giving: An e-mail was received from Family Promise to ask if we would be able to adopt some of the families in the program for the holidays. Membership sent a response to case manager LaToya Scott to let her know we would adopt 10 families. Lyra also reached out to Amy Knudsen to see if she has a contact person for CFI to see if they have any needs.
- Check-in Calls/Emails: Letters were mailed to members and friends of the church to talk about the check-in calls and emails. As the number of callers has decreased, it's important to determine who would appreciate being contacted. An online Google Forms survey was created for people to respond, or responses can be e-mailed to Lyra or left on voicemail.
- Chalice Groups: We currently have three social online Chalice Groups meeting on a regular basis. Another online survey has been created to try to gauge the level of interest in the groups; it will be rolled out later this month.
- "Let's Do LUUnch!", a 12-1pm social lunch meeting M-F on Zoom (LS) was rolled out but received very little interest

Childcare (Julie Morocho)

- On hiatus until July due to Corona virus

Facility/Grounds (Diane Ford/Doug Aupperle)

- Work day was cancelled due to COVID 19; unsafe to have volunteers gather and no available bathroom
- Leaf control remains the only ongoing issue, but Diane Ford reviewed the grounds and felt that we did not need to schedule Capitol Landscaping to come and remove leaves at this point
- Volunteers will still need to sweep the roof and clean the gutters

Social Justice/Outreach

(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- Briana continues to do well and continues dental treatment. (GLS)
- With the persistence of Mike Lauer, we were able to get the ankle monitor removed from Briana

- Elaine has been helping schedule and take her to her dental and medical appointments.
- Fundraising has been successful and our congregation is covering the \$1500 goal each month.

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

- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) will meet in November (GS)
- Members of the group are attending Widening the Circle of Concern class to assist as needed

(Judy Haver- Faith in Action)

- Faith in Action team is in maintenance mode. Our team did not meet in October & continued needed communication through our shared FIA email.
- Adele Villemez coordinated the updates for the weekly Intercom to provide the membership with fresh content about the community partner's activities. This supports our strategy to maintain membership engagement and sustained levels of donations.
- The community partners each did a spotlight at the Sunday service: Beth Mensing from Planned Parenthood on October 4th & Dawn Matinex from Al Exito on October 11th.
- FIA published the September church donation amount (\$631.64) to each of the community partners in the weekly Intercom with some positive feedback. FIA will continue this practice.
- The shared calendar on Google Drive Messaging Calendar has proven to be very helpful to the FIA team for tracking past, current and future needs for content from the Community Partners in the Intercom & Sunday Services.
- FIA attempted to support advertising a watch party of "Immigration Nation" hosted by El Exito to our membership. Their dates for the event changed a number of times & FIA received the final information 5 days before the event. We had only a handful of UU participants.
- The team was made aware of the need to keep the church website updated during the transition to a new format. We have made many changes over the past 7 months and will continue to do so.

(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)

- In September 2020, the UUSJ received 7 letters from First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. This number does not include letters submitted via new online platforms. It is unclear when those additional numbers will be available. The topic in September was immigrants' access to aid in the next COVID relief bill and strengthening oversight of DHS. We wrote to our Senators.
- In October, we again wrote to our Senators, this time on the topic of the need for increased funding for the EPA's environmental justice program in order to address the unjust burden of climate change and pollution on frontline communities.
- The UUSJ has not yet reported the number of letters from our congregation for October.

- On Tuesday, October 20, members Bill Brauch, Donna Wallace and Barb Klubal participated, along with members of other UU churches in Iowa, in a Zoom meeting arranged by the UUSJ. In attendance were two of Senator Grassley's staff. Both of these staff members focus on issues related to energy, the environment and agriculture. The concerns expressed by Iowa UU's included increased flooding resulting from climate change, high cancer rates, water quality and the need for increases in clean energy. We asked for an increase in funding for the EPA's Environmental Justice Program.
- There will be no Write Here, Write Now in November.
- Beginning in December, please contact Donna Wallace or Bill Brauch for information about Write Here, Write Now!

(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 October

(Birch Spick- Welcoming Congregation)

- Welcoming Congregation did not meet in October

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

- FFFF had no activity this month
- Thirty individuals have signed up to support the FPGD fall fundraiser November 8 and our hosting week November 8-14.
- Families will be housed at Westminster through 2020

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

- The group continues to meet with web designer Big Imprint (SG)
- The committee continue meeting weekly with Rev. Amy and about monthly with Kerrie Lee (S)
- With research help from Gene McCracken, the CG is working on creating a social media policy to present to the Board for consideration

Updates

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

10/4/202 The Blessing of the Animals (Amy)	91
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	386 views
10/11/20 Come Out, Come Out (Amy)	90
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	312 views
10/18/2020 Werewolves, and Vampires, and Zombies, oh My! (Amy)	93
Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) 2pm Facebook	309 views
10/25/2020 The Big Reveal (Birch Spick)	86

UCDSM's newest commercial on Facebook was released on October 17th, 2020 and can be viewed in the UCDSM private group, or here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmyPetrieShaw/videos/10224532091989399>

Membership Numbers Summary:

Month	# of New Members	Deceased	Moved	Withdrew Membership
October				
September				1
August				
July	5			2
June				
May	4			

Operations

- We are moving forward with Golden Rule to replace 4 old furnaces (one of which has long been out of use, the two that failed annual maintenance this fall, and another of the same vintage) with two new high capacity, high efficiency units. This along with some duct work to finish the plans originally mapped out during the remodel over 10 years ago will cost less than \$10,000. The Capital Reserve Maintenance Fund will be used to cover this expense.
- We currently anticipate that the planned upgraded to the audio equipment in the Auditorium will be completed the first half of December.
- We anticipate closing on the mortgage refinance by the end of November.
- The Forgiveness Application for the PPP Loan secured this spring has been submitted. The application process showed us eligible for 100% forgiveness. If that holds during the review of our lender and the SBA, then the final ~\$3,600 in unallocated loan money will be applied to appropriate expenses in this fiscal year and that obligation will be cleared.
- Last month, the Board accepted an obligation to the Endowment from the funds received from the Wake Now Our Vision program of \$29,250. The Director of Finance & Administration was charged with providing a proposal on how to address that obligation for the Board's consideration at the November meeting. It is the DFA's recommendation that the obligation be met immediately with unallocated Bequest Funds. It will then be the responsibility of the Endowment Committee to decide how much, if any, of the money will be retained for use in covering future REACH grants and how much, if any, will be forwarded on to the UUCEF to be added to the invested portion of the Endowment. Further, the DFA recommends that the remaining \$4,986.05 of unallocated bequest funds be transferred to the Capital Reserve Maintenance Fund to help cover the cost of the HVAC work about to commence.