

April 2022 Executive Report

Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

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

Ministry (Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw)

This report is potentially incomplete. On May 6th Rev. Shaw's ex-husband was found unresponsive in his Milwaukee apartment, and they had to go to Milwaukee on the 6th, and then to make the decision to remove him from life support on May 10th.

Lifespan Learning (Devon McClurken)

5-6 OWL concluded in April with 9 youth total. At Home in Our Church concluded in March before Spring Break and now ToolBox of Faith is being offered. K-2 OWL started April with 4 youth total. COA is planning their faith statement service for May. 7-8 OWL will conclude in May as well. YRUU had their Youth Led Service in March and now are working on a joint session with COA youth and volunteered for the Planned Parenthood Book Sale. Children's Chapel is now part of the service and youth are part of the Chalice Lighting.

CUUPS, Heart Sangha, Humanism are continuing to meet. Soul Matters will end in June. Rev Amy has a class on Widening the Circle report that has continued to meet online and concluded in April. Tai Chi was brought in two days a week and will continue with volunteers from the group. There is also work to extend it to an evening session for those working during the day.

The Adult RE Council has meet several times to talk about Sage forums and other classes for Adults to Seniors. A survey was sent out and we received over 150 response from the congregation including Members and Friends. Many of the responses were about starting up the many affinity groups again and that information was passed on to the membership committee and direct asks of people if they are starting them up again. Circle Groups or Chalice groups have been also considered be a Small Group Ministry that could be started up again in the fall and spring of next year.

Social Media and Executive Support Specialist (Hannah Notch)

- Helped with set up of Unity Circle after Tai Chi
- Met with Harvey Harrison to learn how to use OWL for his Forum
- Communicated with groups about Griffin and Kitchen closings as needed
- Helped DFA set up her things and get settled
- Deposits- communicated with Charlie and Alice to make sure everything is correct
- Contacted a potential buyer for the Kitchen Stove for Ann
- Created an easy way for members to get nametags as well as ordered promptly

- Communicated with Membership about contacts and gathering lists as needed
- Proofreading intercom and updating as needed
- Worked with Family Promise on background checks
- Edited Good Friday service video for those who wanted it
- Updated First Advantage account to include all staff members- contacted with Alice
- Fixed audio problems for unity circle without disruption
- **Communications Coordinator (Emily Petty)**
- Facilitated hybrid meetings via Zoom for the Board
- Checked and set up equipment before each meeting
- Monitored connection and chat during each meeting
- Independently learned the Auditorium sound system and coordinated Sound and Zoom for the Good Friday service
- Coordinated schedule to align with Board meetings to send informational updates in a timely manner
- Proposed Intercom schedule change (from 7 a.m. to noon) to the Communications Committee at the request of the Board
- received approval from Communications Committee
- communicated the change to the congregation
- Coordinated with the Kitchen Project (KP) Committee to place weekly publications, edited separately, on the custom website pages and in the Intercom
- Fixed audio issue in Griffin Hall – now able to play Zoom and Computer audio through the room’s sound system
- Set up seating and technology for the Budget Roundtable meeting April 29
- Facilitated hybrid Budget Roundtable meeting
- Optimized equipment and prepared before the meeting started
- Briefed other Staff on equipment functionality
- Monitored internet connection
- Communicated questions received via Zoom chat to the group at large
- Created a list with congregant input and lead a group on the Day of Service (May 1) in cleaning up the church
- Produced promotional materials for upcoming events (Day of Service, Church Life Revival, Coffeehouse, etc.)
- Communicated changes as needed to the congregation via social media, the Intercom, and the Church website
- Coordinated and mailed Stewardship information
- Retrieved past information for reminder mailing
- Solved urgent problems on the website outside of office hours (9 p.m. and later) and communicated the solutions to the appropriate people

Membership and Community

Membership Committee (Ellen Taylor/Marilyn Lantz)

A UU & You class was held on April 24th. Ellen Taylor and Marilyn Lantz have joined Membership along with Dylan Cue. There are currently 30-36 people in the membership pipeline

Caring Ministry (Jude Cigrand)

Jude Cigrand attended the Pastoral Care meeting, and made several friendly check in visits

Card Ministry (Jill Moser)

No Joys and Concerns this month

Pastoral Care (Ann Mowery)

Pastoral Care had 14 contacts in March. Rev. Amy had 3 total contacts.

Childcare (Hannah Notch)

Minimal activity this month. Childcare is offered on Sunday mornings and by request.

Stewardship (Liz Bredesen)

The Stewardship Team is wrapping up the first year of Year-Round Stewardship.

The May and June groups are scheduled. The June group will be at the Stine Barn and all BoT are invited to attend. It will be the largest group of the year.

The team is working on outlining and streamlining processes for the monthly events. We believe we have a good system and schedule and will work with staff to ensure they have adequate time to complete their work.

We have recruited Mike Merritt to take over as Stewardship Chair for next year. Mike has excellent experience and skills that will greatly benefit the Stewardship Team.

We continue to field questions about year-round stewardship and plan to more aggressively and consistently promote and explain the stewardship process.

Facility/Grounds (Doug Aupperle)

No events.

Communication Group (Barb Royal, Deidre Fudge, Liz Bredesen, Louise Alcorn)

No report received. The group continues to meet

Social Justice/Outreach

Asylum Seekers (Morgan Dredge)

The Immigration Justice team is helping to set up another apartment for a refugee family arriving in April. Morgan Dredge is seeking someone to assume leadership of the Asylum Seekers group by June

SJMLT (Katie Allen, Sally Boeckholt, Ron Heideman, Doug Aupperle- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team)

The next meetings are Thursday, April 7 at 7:30pm and April 28th at 7:30pm

FEDS (Bruce Martin)

FEDS continues to serve monthly in person at the shelter.

Faith in Action (Steve Gilson)

Faith in Action is working on getting nominees for church grants for the September 2022 to August 2023 year. We will be scheduling a Zoom meeting soon to discuss the nominees.

Green Sanctuary (Ron Heideman)

Church Life Revival: Raccoon River Park - May 22, 2022 11:30 to 2:00 pm.

- GS will share a table with Pachamama Alliance-Iowa.
- Katie will visit Raccoon River Park in advance to help form our plans.
- We will use a Carbon Footprint Worksheet (separate document) and a Green Sanctuary Overview which Ron will write and the team will edit. Tow will work with office staff to have this document available with a QR code. Tow will also print ten paper copies for people who can't use a QR code.
- Tow will lead a kids' workshop on Litter Pickup (safety, types of litter). Then families will be encouraged to pick up litter. Katie will supply plastic bags, boxes, and plastic gloves.
- Linda will lead an activity of actions individuals can take to positively impact the environment. Ron will provide flip chart paper. Each family/individual will print ideas on the paper. We will share these ideas with the congregation.
- Linda will make a sign identifying the GS table and provide a sign up sheet for adults interested in joining our team.

Covenant: We'll discuss this next month. Members were assigned portions to draft:

- Don Purpose
- Ron Leadership
- Jenea Membership
- Linda Dissolution
- Katie Authority, Duties, Responsibilities, and Regular Activities

Statement of Conscience:

We approved the following statement. We will share it with other groups for feedback.

Statement of Conscience

In 2006, the Unitarian Universalist Association developed a Statement of Conscience addressing the threat of global warming/climate change. Portions of this document are quoted below.

“Earth is our home. We are part of this world and its destiny is our own. Life on this planet will be gravely affected unless we embrace new practices, ethics, and values to guide our lives on a warming planet. As Unitarian Universalists, how can our faith inform our actions to remedy and mitigate global warming/climate change? We declare by this Statement of Conscience that we will not acquiesce to the ongoing degradation and destruction of life that human actions are leaving to our children and grandchildren. We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses. As a people of faith, we commit to a renewed reverence for life and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

Congregational Actions:

- Treat environmentally responsible practices as a spiritual discipline;
- Educate ourselves, our children, and future generations on sustainable ways to live interdependently;
- Practice environmentally responsible consumption and encourage voluntary simplicity among members.”

The Green Sanctuary Team of First Unitarian of Des Moines recognizes the UUA Statement of Conscience and proposes that the church follow sustainable practices by using washable, reusable tableware for serving and consuming food on site and at events sponsored by the church. We understand there may be rare instances when washable, reusable tableware cannot be used. In those cases, we recommend the use of compostable products that congregants will compost in local bins.

Other possible actions

- a. Educational topics/flyers: electric cars, how to be ecological in church and homes. Devon McClurken adult class. Reba Eagles Forums.
- c. Solar: church solar and/or an educational presentation on home solar installation
- d. Kitchen Committee to monitor composting, garbage, recycling.
- e. host a showing and discussion of Cowspiracy (Netflix).

Announcements:

Pachamama Alliance-Iowa’s “Share, Community, Action” Regeneration event on Tuesday, May 10, 7:00-8:30 pm at First Unitarian

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 pm

Family Promise and FFFF/PPP (Elaine Imlau)

Family Promise

- No activity this month

PPP/FFFF Kickoff

25 volunteers helped conduct FFFFF #22 and serve 110 guests for the PPP dinner. 11 harmonicas were passed out to kids by our musician, Frank Strong and only one under age 5 in childcare room.

Raised \$9700 in events for the first night of the sale. Sale continues online through Friday, May 13.

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

No activity reported

AMOS (Barb Klubal)

All-AMOS Meeting

Leaders from AMOS institutions met on April 21. The agenda included planning for the May 15th Delegate Assembly; discussion of the proposed AMOS 2022-23 budget; discussions of the action with the candidates for Polk County Attorney and AMOS' restorative justice and language access priorities and the Get Out the Vote Proposal.

Let's Talk/Des Moines Public Schools

No news.

Mental Health

Since early March Bill Brauch has represented AMOS on Polk County's Task Force formed to recommend ways in which the County should expend its ARPA funds to improve mental health services. AMOS submitted a proposal to the Board in March recommending it devote \$1.9 million to recruit and retain 40 mental health therapists with funds for student loan forgiveness and scholarships in return for agreement to provide services in the county for a given number of years. Bill reports that workforce retention and recruitment appears to be the top priority of the majority of Task Force members and the AMOS proposal has a lot of support. The Task Force has met weekly since March 11 and is scheduled to continuing meeting through early July, though it's work could conclude earlier.

Affordable Housing Research Team:

This team has been focusing on the creation of a community land trust (CLT) in Polk County. CLT's facilitate permanently affordable housing by creating owner-occupied housing that holds the land under the homes in a trust. When a CLT home is sold, the home price is based on the value of the structure (excluding the land under the structure) and on area income rather than on housing market forces. The team has continued to meet with multiple, local non-profit organizations and developers who may wish to partner with AMOS in the creation of a CLT. The

group is also consulting with Grounded Solutions, a non-profit with 30 years of experience with CLT's.

Transgender Action Group (Gianfranco Berardi, Doug Aupperle)

Discussion continues following the TransLives Fest. Will be exploring possible Pride activities

Leadership Group (Katie Allen)

Leadership is organizing a Church Life Revival

When: Sunday, May 22nd - 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Raccoon River Park, Cornflower Shelters A & B

What: Potluck, fun, share and connect! Plan on creating a table/display about your team, and be prepared to sign folks up to be part of it, and/or to share what you are all about!

There was a meeting/workshop for all leaders on April 2nd, to work on ideas for how to draw people in, generate excitement, and plan together

Service Attendance:

April

4/3 Reparations, Harvey Harrison	77 +33 on Zoom
4/10 Be Naked, Rev. Amy	95 + 31 on Zoom
4/17 Something Got Up, Rev. Amy	90+39 on Zoom
4/27 You Can't Always Get What You Want	85+31 on Zoom

Podcast Status

The First U Think podcast has had 510 downloads in the last 90 days, and 196 in the last 30 days. There have been 1,851 total downloads.

First U Think can be found anywhere you download podcasts, or here on our UCDSM Buzzsprout page <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1609618>

UCDSM Store Sales \$1,535 since this FUMAF total for all time \$3,648