

## May 2022 Executive Report

Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw (via Alice J Stewart)

### **Ministry**

#### **Lifespan Learning**

ToolBox of Faith, K-2 OWL, COA, OWL 7-8, and YRUU concluded in May. COA had their service where they presented their faith statements. Graduating High School Seniors were recognized and all those that were a part of programming were recognized and thanked for their contributions. Next year programming will be at the discretion of the new part-time DFF. There is no summer programming planned.

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 and that had a organizing meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

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 responses 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.

### **Membership and Community**

#### **Membership Committee (Ellen Taylor/Marilyn Lantz)**

#### **Caring Ministry (Jude Cigrand)**

#### **Card Ministry (Jill Moser)**

During the month of May there were 5 requests sent for cards and calls.

#### **Pastoral Care (Ann Mowery)**

We had 19 contacts in May.

#### **Childcare (Hannah Notch)**

Completed for the year unless requested.

#### **Stewardship (Liz Bredesen)**

The Stewardship Team will be holding the June group event at the Stine Barn on June 11th. We have invited anyone from prior months who has not yet pledged. Response to date has been low and we will make personal outreach this week to encourage attendance.

Mike Merritt has attended one team meeting. Mike will take over as Stewardship Chair beginning July 1, 2022.

The team is evaluating the results of year-round stewardship. The early months were successful in garnering attendance and pledges. The winter months have been challenging.

The Stewardship team will meet (date to be determined) to review the past year and discuss options and goals for 2022-2023.

We want to work more closely with Membership to ensure new members are educated on the full meaning of stewardship. We would like to review membership requirements/benefits to ensure it's clear what is expected of members.

### **Facility/Grounds (Doug Aupperle)**

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

## **Social Justice/Outreach**

### **Asylum Seekers (Morgan Dredge)**

Nothing new to report for the Immigration Justice Group. I have asked for another person to lead the group but so far, no volunteers.

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

### **FEDS (Bruce Martin)**

FEDS purchased, prepared and served food for approx. evening meals at the Shelter of Central Iowa on May 16.

### **Faith in Action (Steve Gilson)**

Faith in Action received four nominees for the congregation to vote on for donations in the next year. The nominees and their champions are: Hawthorn Hill - Sally Boeckholt, Just Voices - Harvey Harrison, Al Exito - Gene McCracken, and AMOS Let's Talk - Ellen Taylor. The annual meeting was 6.5.22. Faith in Action will meet later in June to discuss our next steps.

### **Green Sanctuary (Ron Heideman)**

### **Family Promise and FFFFF/PPP (Elaine Imlau)**

#### **Family Promise**

Started updating background checks and recruiting volunteers for June hosting week.

#### **PPP/FFFFF**

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

### **AMOS (Barb Klubal)**

## **AMOS Delegate Assembly & Polk County Attorney Candidate Action**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 80 AMOS leaders gathered at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Ankeny and secured commitments from Polk County Attorney candidates [Kimberly Graham for Polk County Attorney](#), [Laura Roan for Polk County Attorney](#), and Allan Richards on AMOS' priorities. These priorities included:

- Implementing restorative justice practices
- Working to keep youth out of Meyer Hall detention center
- Ensuring a plan for a qualified interpreter is established prior to court appearance
- Working to provide interpretation for ancillary classes like OWI
- Meeting with AMOS within 6 weeks of election to work on these issues

AMOS Delegates also ratified the 2022-23 budget which includes reaching the milestone of \$100,000 in institutional dues and hiring a second full-time organizer!

They also worked on relationship building at the first completely in-person action in over 2 years, and heard action reports on the May 25<sup>th</sup> Nursing Workforce Summit (more below) and the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion position in the Ankeny Public Schools.

## **AMOS Nursing Workforce Summit**

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, AMOS held a virtual action with Polk County Supervisors to build momentum and political support for its proposal to use \$1.3 million in ARPA funds to increase Polk County's nursing workforce through training, wrap-around support, and barrier mitigation. The action included:

- Keynote speakers Sr. Pearl Ceasar and Roman Ortiz, creators of nationally recognized nursing workforce programs in San Antonio and El Paso, TX
- Stories from community and healthcare leaders about local need and opportunity
- AMOS' economic well-being strategy to skill-up Polk County residents for living wage jobs in the healthcare sector
- Ask for commitments from Polk County Supervisors to leverage Polk County ARPA funding to invest in AMOS' nursing workforce strategy

## **Affordable Housing Research Team**

At recent meetings with Habitat for Humanity and HOME, Inc. both organizations pledged to partner with AMOS to support the concept of forming a community land trust in Polk County. The AMOS Team also secured a pledge of \$14,000 from the DES Moines City manager to hire a national consultant, Grounded Solutions, to come to Des Moines for a two-day training on community land trusts. City and County leaders, non-profit affordable housing organizations, members of AMOS institutions and other stakeholders will be invited.

The team also met with the Director of the Drake University Law Clinic who pledged to partner with AMOS and find ways to involve the Drake Law School students.

## **Let's Talk/Des Moines Public Schools**

No news to report.

## **Mental Health**

Starting in July, Mental health counselors will respond to some of Des Moines' 911 calls instead of law enforcement officers. The new approach aims to better allocate police resources, reduce arrests and improve access to mental health programs for people in need. The team helps divert some people from jail or from unnecessary hospital stays and is being expanded to include Broadlawns mental health clinicians who may respond to 911 calls as an alternative to police.

The Crisis Advocacy Response Effort (CARE) could help resolve some cases with as little as a phone conversation and follow-up to keep situations from escalating.

Axios on linkedin

Axios on email

## **AMOS Get Out the Vote Walk**

In an effort to increase voter turnout at the June 7<sup>th</sup> primary election, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, AMOS leaders met Bethel AME Church in Des Moines and door knocked to talk with neighbors about the election. They shared what was learned about the candidates for Polk County Attorney at the May 15<sup>th</sup> AMOS action with the candidates and talked with neighbors about juvenile justice, restorative justice and language access in our justice system.

## **Transgender Action Group (Gianfranco Berardi, Doug Aupperle)**

### **Leadership Group (Katie Allen)**

#### **Service Attendance:**

##### May

05/08/22: 76 in person, 26 Zoom

05/15/22: 100 in person, 21 Zoom

05/22/22: 82 in person, 24 Zoom

05/29/22: 57 in person, 18 Zoom

