

EXECUTIVE PROGRAM REPORT

Reports from committee and program leaders, and staff

Pastoral Care – Ann Mowery, Chair

In addition to having a presence at each Sunday service in September, the Pastoral Care Team had 47 contacts during the month. Pastoral Care sent cards, had conversations with congregants, made telephone calls, and visited and texted support to congregants. Members of the Team include Laura Berardi, Susan Jellinger, Gene McCracken, Ellen Taylor and Ann Mowery, Chair. Laura Berardi is preparing to launch a new grief group. We will be seeking new committee members when we have a recruitment, screening and training processes pulled together.

AMOS – Barb Klubal

AMOS Delegate Assembly – September 11

64 AMOS leaders gathered to build relational power and plan for a fall of institutional organizing 2,000 conversations through 1 on 1's, house meetings and neighborhood walks. AMOS' 40 institutions committed to raise \$40,000 to support AMOS. (This is in addition to institutional dues.) [Invest in AMOS here!](#) Click here for the [We're Building Something Grand handout](#)

Affordable Housing Research Team

In September, the team met with the Polk County Supervisors and 3 Des Moines City Council members to educate them about how community land trusts provide **permanently affordable housing** and wealth building for lower-income people and to invite them to attend the 2-day training on CLT's to be presented by CLT experts Grounded Solutions Network on November 16 and 17. All members of First Unitarian Church are invited to attend some or all of the Grounded Solutions sessions. For more information contact Cheryl Long at amosevents@ucdsm.org. The team also met with Ellie Burns of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines regarding a possible strategic collaboration grant to fund planning/assessment among the partners interested in starting a CLT in Polk County.

Mental Health

Bill Brauch has been invited to represent AMOS at an Oct. 20 meeting Polk County staff is hosting of local mental health service providers to discuss how the County might best spend the \$1.8 million in ARPA money the County has designated to efforts to grow the number of mental health therapists in Polk County.

Let's Talk/Des Moines Public Schools

Let's Talk is working with Courtney Dufford, AMOS' Lead Organizer, to begin the process of becoming a 501 c3 organization.

Other AMOS Efforts in September:

40 Ankeny AMOS leaders met with [Ankeny Community School District](#) Superintendent, Dr. Pruitt, to discuss supporting diverse learners, mental health, and staff support. Faith leaders gathered at the Diocese of Des Moines for the AMOS Clergy Caucus to deepen interfaith relationships and discuss next steps in AMOS' 2000 conversations campaign.

Upcoming AMOS Meetings:

All-AMOS: Thursday, 10/13 at 5:30pm on Zoom, 11/3 at 5:30 pm on Zoom, 12/8 at 5:30 pm on Zoom

Upcoming AMOS–IAF Training Opportunities

The Industrial Areas Foundation (AMOS' "parent" organization) has scheduled two important upcoming 5-day training opportunities. 5-day trainings are an opportunity to reflect on yourself as a public person, get a deeper

sense of AMOS' approach to social change, and build relationships with talented people engaged in similar work from throughout the United States. Contact Courtney Dufford (crdufford@gmail.com) if you're interested in learning more.

- November 14-18 in Phoenix, AZ
- January 17-21 in Berkeley, CA

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Klubal

FEDS - BRUCE MARTIN

FEDS report for Sept.- Oct. 12: approx. 200 meals served at Central Iowa Homeless Shelter--8 volunteers

FAITH FORMATION – Birch Spick, DFF and Coordinator of Cong. Life

Faith Formation

- Programming for youth & children has begun as of 09/18. This includes Coming of Age and YRUU (our high-school group), as well as a new program for children in kindergarten through 5th Grade. This new program uses lesson plans based on the programs Soul Matters publishes for the PreK-1st and 2nd-5th grade groups.
- Programming for adults has begun, including 3 Soul Matters Small Groups; a group using the Soul Matters program for writers; 3 groups studying Parker Palmer's *A Hidden Wholeness*; a two-part song-writing seminar; and a class on Inuit art. The Adult Programming Committee has resumed Sunday forums and is currently building the schedule for Spring forums. Groups for spiritual & ethical growth continue to meet: the Buddhist Sangha meets by Zoom on Monday nights; the Humanist book-group meets monthly on the first Sunday; and the Pagan group held a 5-part class on Monday nights in September & October. Additionally, the Young Adults group has reorganized and will meet monthly on the first Wednesday.
- Looking ahead, YRUU and the Congregational Life Committee's Ministry of Fun have planned a Halloween party on 10/28. The Youth Faith Formation Committee has planned a Fall Party for children & families on 11/13. The Pagan group will host a monthly Tarot Study Group on the 2nd Thursday of each month, starting 10/13.

Congregational Life

- I (Faith Formation & Congregational Life Coordinator) have led & co-led 4 trainings for church leaders on navigating Realm, especially as it pertains to building the directory and taking attendance.
- I have reviewed & updated the procedurals for Sunday greeters & ushers and will continue doing this for the other duties of Hospitality teams.
- The Congregational Life Committee's Ministry of Fun organized a picnic in September at Pete Crivaro Park and will co-host a Halloween party in October.
- Looking ahead, I will meet with the Hospitality team-leads as a group every two months beginning on 10/22. I will lead a two-part class for new members on 10/29 & 11/05, and we will hold a ceremony for new members during the service on 11/06.

September Administration Accomplishments – Alice Stewart, DFA

- Train the Trainer Implementation of Realm: Emily, Alice, and Birch trained all leaders of church committees who were interested in learning about Realm. Emily created Calendly schedules and was instrumental in getting the project started. Before the end of the year, I would like to invite all congregants to Realm.

- Administrative & Program staff had their first Professional Development cross-training session. Birch and Alice learned how to run tech for Sunday services from Emily and Hannah.
- Administrative & Program staff did great work at two memorials a week apart.
- The office migrated to a new background check system. The new system integrates with Realm so that we can see which profile has a background check and includes national and sex-offender records.
- Alice migrated payroll to a new system, saving the church almost half the cost of payroll processing. She also chased down payments the copier company “lost” and received a refund check. She updated the pledge system so that we are now reporting and pledging to one, annual pledge campaign.
- Alice and Emily analyzed the cost/benefit of the postage machine. We may consider removing it in 2023.
- The fire extinguishers were examined, and some were replaced. We switched HVAC maintenance contracts to a more responsive and thorough provider.
- Birch organized and conducted the service that began the Faith Formation year. They also created a cheat-sheet of social service resources for staff in the office.
- We created a new childcare position with Katie Lint who is now our Childcare Lead under Hannah who remains our Childcare Coordinator.
- We greeted “Owl-ivia” into the office - a delightfully generous donation from Harvey Harrison.
- Hannah, as Building Use Coordinator, worked with Birch to organize rooms for fall programming. Hannah has been instrumental in finding places for our increased building use and it’s delightful to have the church so full.
- Hannah designed a new format for social media Sunday posts that are easier to read.
- Emily and Hannah worked with Rev. Safford on how to present zoom meetings remotely.
- Alice found new soap for the bathrooms - all natural and biodegradable!