August 2019 Executive Report
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Lifespan Learning

- Children and adult programming for 2019-20 has been advertised and people have started registering for classes.
- The Our Whole Lives classes begin this month, with the 7th grade class having 9 participants and the 5/6 grade class having its cap of 8 participants. There is currently one on the wait list for that grade level.
- Anne Stamper and Chelsea Hayes will be attending OWL training in Chicagoland, Illinois the weekend of September 13-15.
- Six Circle Groups and one Wellspring group will be offered this year. There is a hope to add more Circle Groups as the year progresses.
- The Coming of Age class held its kick off dinner and introduction with 10 youth participating this year.

Pastoral Care

- Members of the Caring Ministry Team offered support through rides and meals to 3 members in August.
- The Caring Card Ministry, part of the Caring Ministry Team sent cards to 4 members and friends in July, as well as 4 people in August. They may have received more than one card from their church family, including a number of cards signed by congregants, as well as cards sent by individuals on the Card Ministry Team.

Membership and Community

- Laura Berardi facilitated a Newcomer Circle small group in July and August, with 5 active participants.
- Friends and visitors in our database who did not have a mailing address on file were contacted and invited to do so, so that we could send them a preview of Rev. Amy’s first (official) time in the pulpit. Postcards were sent to those who responded and others – nearly 100 total – focused primarily on those who may have drifted during the recent interim time.

Facility/Grounds

- Al Powers and Chris Jorgensen, along with DFA Charles Lewis, are exploring options regarding our chair lift in terms of long-term maintenance issues. They are still doing research but hope to have something to bring to the Board next month.
- The Accessibility Team invited a professional in to do an assessment of the sound system in the building. Information learned from that assessment will be incorporated into a more comprehensive list of recommendations the team is preparing.
Social Justice/Outreach

- **Asylum Seekers Support Group (Morgan Dredge):** Dottie Matthews is out of the country until 9/20. Bruce and Barb Martin will reach out to her soon after she returns to express their readiness to move forward and be matched with asylum seekers. The housing committee is currently working on options for backup housing, as well as long term housing options. Some supporters are also taking Spanish classes in preparation of the seekers arrival, in case the asylum seekers are native Spanish speakers.

- **Welcoming Congregations (Birch Spick, Doug Aupperle, Franco Berardi):** Quiet this last month, and really over the summer since Erin and Birch led the Pride Service in early June. Birch Spick will schedule a meeting this quarter with Doug Aupperle, Franco Berardi, Devon & Jean McClurken, Katie Allen, Rev. Shaw and others to determine this year’s scheduled events.

- **FEDS (Bruce Martin):** Aug. 5, seven volunteers served approx. 200 meals (partly prepared by additional volunteers) to homeless residents at the Central Shelter of Iowa

- **AMOS (Bob Glass and Sally Boeckholt):**
  - Bob Glass is working with an Equal Justice team on school to prison pipeline, emphasis on DM schools.
  - Harvey Harrison has an AMOS project working to stop racial profiling by DM police.
  - All AMOS projects involve members of other churches or non-profits as well as members of First U.
  - AMOS is continuing its work in two major area in DSM: Children's Mental Health Crisis Services and Housing.
  - Under the mental health banner, the team charged with implementing children's crisis services (co-chaired by Linda) has continued to meet as a team, and also AMOS folks met with Polk County Supervisors Brownell and Connolly and with staff of Polk County Health Services. We are working on a strategy to pressure the state legislature to fund the mandate that passed last session to fund these critical services. Toward this strategy we are holding an all-AMOS strategy meeting on Sept. 23.
  - Under housing, the Housing Team has been working in the areas of rental housing conditions, neighborhood revitalization, and affordable housing. We are planning a Housing Summit & Accountability Session for 10/20/19 with candidates for DSM City Council and Mayor.
  - Bob, Ellen Taylor & Harvey Harrison are working on two aspects of AMOS Let’s Talk:
    - working with the DM Police Dept on a program offering young offenders the opportunity to stay out of Juvenile Court and avoid having a record
    - working with the DM school system, helping the system implement restorative justice practices and working directly with children.
• Both the mental health and housing teams have members from our church involved, as well as working with the wider AMOS collective on the team which has been convened to keep things moving forward as we await the arrival of a new lead organizer.

- **Family Promise (Elaine Imlau):** Elaine Imlau and Stef Stenberg have been taking inventory, restocking and organizing the Family Promise supply cabinet. About 45 individuals have signed up for our hosting week September 15-22. Hosting dates for the next year are as follows: December 15-22, March 3-8, May 24-31, August 23-30

- **Faith in Action (Kate Allen):** For the faith in action partnership we had about a dozen people volunteer with our partner urban bicycle mission.

- **ARC (Kate Allen):** Arc had their book club. 4 people attended.

**Updates**

**Membership Numbers Summary:**
- Number of new members in July & August - 1
- Deceased - 2
- Moved – 3
- Withdrew membership - 4
- Number of registered adult visitors – 19

**Operations.** Important information about current operations—
- We found out that the anti-freeze had been accidentally drained out of the geothermal loop. It has been replenished and Al Powers has instituted some measures to ensure it does not repeat. It cost us $4,200 to replenish the anti-freeze. For now that’s been charged against Building Repairs. Depending on how the year plays out we may end up shifting that to the Capital Reserve Maintenance Fund.

- Membership Coordinator Laura Berardi and Director of Faith Formation Tracy Beck have tendered their resignations. Lyra Halsten has been hired to replace Laura Berardi. Devon McClurken has accepted a short-term full-time contract to serve as Interim DRE while we organize a nationwide search for a replacement for Tracy. During the length of the contract, Lyra will be working extra hours assisting Devon with RE tasks.

- Hannah Notch was hired as a child care provider. Julie Morocho, Child Care Coordinator, led a training session for Hannah and all of the child care providers to review safety, first aid, programming, and other staff concerns on August 31.

- Rev. Amy Shaw notified Rev. Erin Gingrich on Aug. 16 that the Associate Minister position at First Unitarian was being eliminated for financial reasons. Due to the
stipulations of the Associate Minister contract, First Unitarian is obligated to pay 100% salary and benefits for a 90-Day Notice (August 17, 2019-Nov. 16, 2019) and 6-month severance (Nov. 17, 2019- May 17, 2020).

- Rev. Amy Shaw held a Q&A session for the congregation re: the Associate minister position on Aug. 26, 2019.


**Perpetual Calendar Items**

January – Budget Roundtable
February
March – Draft Budget presented to Board, Monitoring Report II.A (Quarterly), II.C
April - Final Budget presented to Board for Approval, Monitoring Report II.B (Annual)
May
June – Monitoring Report II.A (Annual)
July
August
September – Monitoring Report II.A (Quarterly)
October
November
December – Monitoring Report II.A (Quarterly - Initial)