December 2019 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)
- There has been a concerted effort to involve parents and other congregational members in faith formation, after the sign ups provide to be difficult, a schedule was made of parent’s that are on site to rotate through the classes. This goes until the end of programming for Wednesday classes, but Sunday classes still have a lot of spaces open. (GS)

- YRUU planned their CON which took place December 6-8. Youth from congregations in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan and Indiana attended totaling 25 youth and sponsors. Feedback was very positive, and the youth want to do a 2nd CON before the end of the year. (GSL)

- Youth will also be working on their Service Project which will be collecting toiletries to be handed out in a Point in Time Survey on homelessness in Newton. (S)

- Youth participated in a traditional nativity pageant for the first Christmas Eve service. There was a Holiday Party December 14 put on by church members. (G)

- 5-6 OWL concluded and K-1 OWL will not be offered this year due to lack of available facilitators. Plymouth UCC is starting their K-1 OWL class January 12th and may be able to accommodate a few of our members. We are working with them to set that up. There is a member that is interested in being trained to facilitate and information was sent out to that member. (GSL)

- Many new adult classes will be added for the Winter Spring term. (GS)

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)
- There are more than 20 hours a week needed for this role weekly (ACTION ITEM)
- Helped to create the December holiday party and encouraged new members to attend Two new non-binary couples did attend. (L)
- Assisted in creating and promoting the holiday pageant among old and new members (L)
Pastoral Care

- Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the 8 week formal grief group, created and led by Debra Rodgers, and an informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt (GLS)

Facility/Grounds

- A pump bearing assembly for the geothermal unit had to be replaced at a cost of $2,500. While not proven, it is almost certainly related to the loss of anti-freeze earlier this year. The old part was left, and Al Powers is investigating the option of having the old part rebuilt to that we have a spare against future need.

Social Justice/Outreach

(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- Our immigration justice group continues to work with Dottie Matthews on potential sponsorship opportunities. Bruce and Barb Martin have filed the paperwork to assist a potential seeker from Uganda with the help of Roberta Falke as an external contact (S)

- The giving tree supported 5 families and supplies for Lutheran Services. (S)

- The Christmas Eve Service Public witness event was supported by a group of people from multiple areas of the church (GLS)

- The SJMLT and the Immigration group collaborated on the Christmas Eve service, outdoor display and fundraising for the Asylum Seekers Fund. (GLS)

- $10,000 left over from the Asylum shower project were donated to Drake Legal Clinic's Refugee Legal Services Program to provide pro-bono legal services for people seeking refugee or asylum status as well as training law students. (S)

(Gene McCracken and Katie Allen- Faith in Action)

In November and December with LSI’s Career Pathways, First Unitarian provided

- Food, drinks and training to six healthcare training participants (LS)
- Food and drinks to ten alumni and new participants (LS)
- Degree evaluation application services to 7 clients (S)
- Central library space (S)

(Barb Glass- Pastoral Care)

- Had a total of 11 contacts during the month of November, excluding Amy's contacts. Amy had an additional 9 contacts, including one emergency contact with a traveling UU which involved hospital visits, a death, and grief counseling over the Christmas holiday. (SL)
(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)

- Our members once again actively participated in the UUSJ's "Write Here, Write Now!" letter-writing campaign. (S)
- We wrote 19 letters to Representative Cindy Axne on the topic of the need for extending tax credits and incentives for clean energy. (S)
- Members of the UUSJ Advocacy Team met with one of Rep. Axne's staffers when the letters were delivered to her office in Washington, DC. (S)

(Bruce Martin- FEDS)

- No activity this month

(Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing)

- First Unitarian has agreed to provide the service on Jan. 5, 2020 at the Polk County Jail (S)

(Aidan Zingler, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group)

- Sign-ups are beginning for the Trans Lives Festival on Saturday, March 28 (L)
- The group is currently processing the November Transgender Day of Remembrance event and attempting to coordinate a post event wrap-up meeting (GSL)
- Winter trans education/training with Father Zebulon Treloar is in the planning stages (G)

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise)

- The week before Christmas 55 volunteers put in 205 hours to host two families for the week. (SL)
- Hours were much lower than past hosting weeks due to parents’ late-night work hours and alternate accommodations. Two nights no volunteers were needed.
- Families made good use of the shower and laundry facilities. This access is very much appreciated by the families. (LS)
- A concern about the key lock box in the parking lot where the Family Promise van key is stored while not in use was raised by volunteer drivers. Drivers are having difficulties with the key-pad and the box is just barely big enough to wedge the one key inside sans key chain. **A larger lock box would be much appreciated.** (ACTION ITEM)

Updates

Membership Numbers Summary:

- Number of new members in December- 0
- Deceased - 0
- Moved – 2
- Withdrew membership - 0
- Number of registered adult visitors – 6
**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)