January 2020 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)  
- After an ask from the pulpit, there has been several people from the congregation that came forward to be more involved in Faith Formation and many of the holes that we had, have been filled. There are also plans to put together an Inservice to train those that do not have as much experience working with the youth on how to be effective and encourage participation. Curriculum development is also a plan for creating new lessons for programming. (S)  

- YRUU are wanting to do a 2nd CON before the end of the year. 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. The youth are also attending CONs of other congregations in our region. (GSL)  

- 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. (ACTION ITEM- GET MORE PEOPLE TRAINED, ALREADY IN PROGRESS BUT NOT YET COMPLETE)  

- Many new adult classes will be added for the Winter Spring term including a Trance and Meditation class, a Webinar on the history of UU and a Pagan and Liturgy Ritual class. (GS)  

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)  
- Need for more hours brought up last month by Membership has also been supported by Stewardship’s Health of the Congregation meetings. Issue addressed with Rev. Amy and Charles Lewis. More hours included in potential budget for 2020-2021 year (ACTION ITEM COMPLETED)  

- Heavily supported pastoral care this month through personal support of two people with time-consuming needs. (L S)
• Worked to reestablish thriving Hospitality Teams and to find new Hospitality Group Leadership (S)

• Created new potential Hospitality/Usher/Greeter structure and scheduled meetings with minister and Hospitality leadership to adjust and finalize concept (S)

• Recruited multiple new Hospitality team members (S)

Childcare (Julie Morocho)
• Provided childcare for 39 children (S)

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. Informal group is not scheduled to end when the 8 week group does. (GLS)

(Barb Glass- Pastoral Care)
• Had a total of 11 contacts during the month of January, excluding Amy's contacts. Amy had an additional 7 individual contacts, including one person who required multiple hours, and a set of linked contacts all resulting from a specific incident at the church. (SL)

Caring Committee
• Provided multiple meals for one person (SL)
• Provided rides for 4 people (SL)

Facility/Grounds
• Charles Lewis arranged for the large trees in the front and side yard to be trimmed, and the canopies raised 14 feet due to the large amounts of dead branches. The work is scheduled for February (S)

Social Justice/Outreach
(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)
• The Immigration Support team helped host RAICES and provided lunch for those that attended the forum on immigration (SL)

(Katie Allen- Faith in Action and other)
• SJM Leadership Team had a Thank You dinner on 1/31/2020 for those who helped with Christmas Eve. There was about a dozen and a half folks that joined in the celebration and brainstorming session. (GSL)
• Karen Lauer and Katie Allen hosted the webinar Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves on January 28th. This was the first in the series. About 30 people attended. The audience was made up of both UU’s and member of the Iowa Sanctuary movement who stayed after their meeting. (G)

• Linda Lemons, Barb Klubal and Katie Allen hosted the “UU the Vote” webinar on 1/12. Eight folks joined them and they explored and learned about how we can engage in the election and democratic process. (G)

• Faith in Action is partnering Home Forward in January and February. The regular meeting on 1/29/2020 focused on next steps and what FIA will look like/be. There was interest in moving forward, as the current three-member team will be stepping down after August 2020. (GS)

(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)
• On hiatus in January

(Bruce Martin- FEDS)
• FEDS served Jan. 28 dinner at the homeless shelter. About 200 meals were served and 13 volunteers were involved. (SL)

(Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing)
• First Unitarian provided the service on Jan. 5, 2020 at the Polk County Jail (S)

(Aidan Zingler, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group)
• Sign-ups continue for the Trans Lives Festival on Saturday, March 28 (L)
• Winter trans education/training with Father Zebulon Treloar is scheduled for Feb. 25 (G)
• TAG will be reading at the Des Moines Library on Saturday, June 13, 2020

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise)
• The key lock box in the parking lot where the Family Promise van key is stored was changed out for a larger one. (ACTION ITEM COMPLETED)

Updates
Membership Numbers Summary:
• Number of new members in January- 2
• Deceased -
• Moved –
• Withdrew membership - 13
• Number of registered adult visitors –
Operations.

- A proposal on upgrades to the sound system in the auditorium was expected in January; is now expected in February.
- One of the geothermal system pumps had to be replaced. While not provable, Al Powers is convinced, and DFA Charles Lewis agrees, that this is almost certainly related to accidental draining of anti-freeze from the system this past fall. We’re monitoring the other pump against the possibility of it needing to be replaced as well. In the meantime, on the advice of Golden Rule, we’re investigating the possibility of getting the old pump rebuilt as a potential replacement for the second pump to save money.

Perpetual Calendar Items
January – Budget Roundtables
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)