May 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)
- Half-way through March the Coronavirus pandemic hit forcing the church to close the doors.
- Sundays there is 1 UU Faith Formation class on Zoom at 9:30 am before the service. Parents able to log in with the youth to do lesson with the DFF around the month’s theme. We have had an average of 2-3 families log in. We will continue this through the Summer. (SG)
- Wednesday night programming ended on May 20th
- UU Kids is a Spirit Play on YouTube that parents are able to do with their youth on their own time. (SG)
- COA had their service May 17th and gave their faith statements (SG)
- 7th Grade OWL is not able to continue lessons and it is uncertain when we will be able to finish this class. Only a few of the youth continued to check in with the facilitators. There was a webinar in May for facilitators about restarting the Owl Program but unfortunately not much information was available. (SG)
- Children’s Choir is meeting on Zoom and getting an average of 2-3 families attending. That ended as well for the summer. (SG)
- YRUU has been meeting every other week and the high school seniors were recognized on May 31st then YRUU had a virtual pizza party to end the year. (SG)
- A UU RE Facebook group I am in is in the planning stages of a UU Summer Camp online but more information is still yet to come. (S)
- CUUPS is holding a weekly chat on Monday nights (SG)
- There was a survey sent out to get input on the best way to engage people and responses were few but there are a few ideas that I will be exploring for the summer
- Rev. Amy started a Bible Study group on Friday nights which still has had 13 to 17 people attending each week. (SG)
- Humanism and Sage have been meeting online in addition to all but 1 Circle Group. (SG)
- There was a survey sent out to get input on the best way to engage people and responses were few but there are a few ideas that Devon will be exploring. (SG)

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)
- Gained 2 new members (S)
- Calling Group members are routinely making phone calls to stay in touch with membership. Several members have been replaced and new Calling Group members are being recruited (S)
• Following up with individuals who have not responded to other calls (S)
• Served as coordination touch point for Caring Committee and Pastoral Ministry (SL)
• Created new contact sheets and began process of gathering data about all children in the congregation, and important medical/allergy/end of life information for all congregants

Childcare (Julie Morocho)
• On hiatus due to Corona virus

(Barb Glass- Pastoral Care)
• Pastoral Care continued with Zoom meetings this month. (G)
• Continue to assist with the phone trees by making routine calls to the people they are supporting (SL)
• Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt by Zoom. (GLS)
• 17 contacts by group members, 6 phone contacts by Rev. Amy (G,S,L)

Caring Committee
• No requests in April

Facility/Grounds
• Spring clean-up of grounds by vendor done in April (S)

Social Justice/Outreach
(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)
• The immigration justice team has been meeting via zoom to work on coordinating the move for Briana. She is all set to move in July 1.
• The immigration justice team is currently having an Apartment-set up drive to furnish Briana’s apartment.
• Briana has been taking English classes with Sue Huber.

(Katie Allen- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT))
• Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) did not meet in May

(Judy Haver- Faith in Action)
• Monday evening Zoom meetings continued in May to prepare for the community partnership vote at the annual meeting and honoring the outgoing FIA committee members. (GLS)
• Updates to the communications coordinator position for membership awareness were completed by Jack Hackett. (GS)
• Katherine Vance worked with the annual meeting planning committee to solidify the execution of approval voting for selection of community partners. (GS)
• Given our “people power” levels & the desire to keep our time to 10 minutes or less at the annual meeting FIA decided not to promote the candidates at the meeting. This was changed a week before the annual meeting due to pressure from the moderator; so time was spent prepping the applicants’ info for presentation at the annual meeting. (GS)

• *We prepared our follow up agenda and meeting times with the two groups selected by the church: Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa (PPGI) & the Central Iowa Immigrant Community Support Fund (this is a collaboration of American Friends Service Committee Iowa, Al Éxito, and Proteus.) Zoom meetings with “partners” & “champions” are now scheduled for June 15th (PPGI) and June 29th (Central Iowa Immigrant Community Support Fund.) (GLS)

• Al Exito is taking the lead on our partnership with the Central Iowa Immigrant Community Support Fund coalition (Al Exito, AFCS and Proteus). The coalition and Planned Parenthood will be our yearlong partners starting in September as part of our Faith in Action 2.0 program. (GLS)

• Judy and Gene participated in the local drive by graduation celebration for 14 DM based Al Exito youth. They took a balloon and a card from "Friends and supporters at First Unitarian". About half had been in our building over the last couple of years. They were touched by the family pride and joy of achieving HS graduation. What is routine in many families is major accomplishment for many in the Latinx community.

• About half of the grads will be going on to post-secondary opportunities, many with scholarships. Twenty additional youth graduated from Al Exito locations that go from Ottumwa north to Clarion and Hampton.

(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)

• In May, 2020 five members of First Unitarian Church wrote to our U.S. Senators to urge passage of S.2754, a bipartisan bill to address the climate crisis by reducing harmful greenhouse gases -- hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) -- by 85% over 15 years. Pound-for-pound, HFCs are more potent drivers of warming than carbon dioxide! Both Senator Ernst and Senator Grassley are co-sponsors of this bill! (GSL)

• Last week Barb Klubal learned in a Zoom meeting with members of the UUSJ and other UU’s from around the country that Senator Ernst has instructed her staff to have at least one of her staff meet with the members of the UUSJ Advocacy Team when the Team delivers our letters. (Letters are temporarily being emailed until it is safe for in-person visits.) (GSL)

• Letter writing by our members is considerably reduced since the closing of our church building. Donna Wallace and Barb Klubal are continuing to notify our members of each month’s letter-writing topic through the Intercom, Facebook and our 100+ email list. (GSL)
(Bruce Martin- FEDS)
• In May FEDS provided (i.e., prepared, purchased & delivered) but did not serve food for about 200 persons at the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter (SL)

(Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing and Pachamama Alliance)
• On hold due to Coronavirus

(Gianfranco Berardi, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group)
• TAG did not meet in May

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise and FFFF/PPP 2020)
• Two videos to promote the Post Pandemic Party were created, shot, and shown during Sunday services on Zoom (S)
• Food Fair Fundraiser volunteers held numerous phone calls, emails and Zooms to finalize the PPP 2020. Announcements with details for Event and ticket purchases are out on Facebook and the website. (S)
• We were lucky to have hosted Family Promise just shortly before the lockdown due to the virus. Families are currently housed only at Westminster Presbyterian where the main office is located, and host churches drop off meals and provide volunteers to stay overnight at the church. UCDSM hosted Family Promise from May 24-31 at Westminster Presbyterian

(Barb Royal, Deidra Fudge, Liz Bredesen- Communication Group)
• The new communication group has continued to meet to develop branding, marketing strategies, and social media platform strategies (S)
• They have found a vendor to create the new web site (SG)
• They are meeting weekly with Rev. Amy and monthly with Kerrie Lee (S)
• The new website is fully funded and paid for with 2019-20 monies.
Updates

Membership Numbers Summary:
- Number of new members in May - 2
- Number of inactive members reactivating their membership in May - 2
- Deceased -
- Moved –
- Withdrew membership -
- Number of registered adult visitors –

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<th>Month</th>
<th># of New Members</th>
<th>Deceased</th>
<th>Moved</th>
<th>Withdrew Membership</th>
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Operations.
- The Grounds Council continues its work with Capital Landscaping to get caught back up with outstanding outdoor upkeep issues. Ongoing, the plan is to use Capital a couple times a year for the largest tasks and try to do most of the ongoing maintenance with volunteers.
- Electronic Sound Company, the vendor selected to do the audio upgrades in the auditorium, is still waiting on backordered equipment. Fortunately, we are not in a hurry.
- Work on getting the East and West entrances electrified as a first step towards getting automatic door openers installed has stalled. We expect to get the process restarted in July. Money donated for ADA upgrades has been set aside, so funding of all anticipated projects other than upgrading/replacing the chair lift is ready to go.
- As the Board will forming a committee to investigate and plan for an eventual re-opening of the building for at least small group usage, here is a link of some collected resources forwarded by our insurance company, Grinnell Mutual: