September 2019 Executive Report
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Lifespan Learning

- Devon McClurken agreed to serve as interim DRE (40 hours/week) for a contract period of 6 months, with an option to renew until the end of the church year.

- Children and adult programming for 2019-20 started in September. There are 5 youth classes offered on Wednesday nights and 4 youth classes offered on Sundays. There are 22 Adult programs offered starting in September and October.

- The Our Whole Lives classes begin this month, with the 7th grade class having 12 participants and the 5/6 grade class having its cap of 9 participants. There was a waitlist, but it was agreed to let the one person on the waitlist in.

- 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 12 youth participating this year.

- There has been a concerted effort to involve parents and other congregational members in faith formation. Signups were created, and 42 shifts were needed to be filled in order to maintain our 2-adult ratio with youth. Of those 42 slots, 19 have been filled.

- A Halloween party is planned for October that will be intergenerational and the high school group YRUU will be putting together a haunted house portion. YRUU is also planning their CON which will take place in December.

Pastoral Care

- Members of the Pastoral Care team are planning a formal grief group, to be created and led by Debra Rodgers for 8 weeks, and an informal grief circle group to be led by Sally Boeckholt.

Membership and Community

- Lyra Halsten was hired as Membership Coordinator, and also agreed to serve as a contract DRE Assistant for 6 months with an option to renew until the end of the church year.

- Shelly Kaldenberg and Ellen Taylor arranged a new member reception on September 27th. The reception was well attended.

- Visitors who have made the decision to make First Unitarian their spiritual home and those who are interested in membership have been invited to a new "UU and You" class on October 27th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm in Channing Hall. This concentrated class
created in September by Rev. Shaw and Lyra Halsten will provide them with the history of our UU religion and UCDSM. They will hear from representatives of committees and ministries while enjoying a light lunch. Membership can be formalized during this class.

- The path to membership is under construction, with the intent of making it simpler and clearer.

Facility/Grounds

- The Grounds Council is planning a Work Day for October 19.

- The groundskeeper position will be phased out after this season and we will return to the work being done by volunteers next spring. As with the use of paid teachers in RE we are reducing our use of low-hour staff outside of the nursery wherever possible as an inefficient use of church resources.

- Chris Jorgensen organized a team that brought the old conference table out of storage and set it up in what had been Tracy Beck’s office.

- Al Powers, Chris Jorgensen, and DFA Charles Lewis met on Friday, October 11 to further discuss long-term options regarding the chair lift. The core issue is that our chair lift is no longer in production and long term maintenance will become an issue.

Social Justice/Outreach

- The Immigration Justice and Sanctuary team (Gene McCracken, Morgan Dredge): The Immigration Justice and Sanctuary team met with Morgan Dredge and discussed combining our two work groups.

- Members of the team continue to support the Des Moines cluster of the Iowa Sanctuary Movement, especially the finance committee.

- With the shower installed and plans to get the washer and dryer also installed, the team is discussing uses of the leftover shower money. A forum will be held October 27th at 11:00 a.m. by a Drake law professor regarding a possible use of these funds to support legal experience with immigration cases.

- The Iowa Sanctuary Movement had a booth at the Latino Heritage Festival on September 28-29. The weather damped festivities and attendance Saturday evening and Sunday :-(.

- Welcoming Congregations (Birch Spick, Doug Aupperle, Franco Berardi): Team has not met in September. On 9/15/2019 the Transgender Action Group hosted a Gender 101 training facilitated by Aidan Zingler. The training covered topics such as history, pronoun
usage, and resources to consult. We had 14 people in the room, some good discussion, and follow-up resources posted on the TAG and church's Facebook groups.

- Since then we have been planning the next training, expected to be held in December/January, and preparing for both a third training in the spring as well as the 2nd Trans Lives Fest in March.

- **AMOS (Bob Glass and Sally Boeckholt):** September was a busy month for First UU and AMOS.

- The first week of the month we gathered at our church with the other congregations in the Des Moines Cluster to work on the actions centered in our city.

- On 9/23, the Children's Mental Health Team (co-chaired by Linda Krypel) held a strategy session for all AMOS Institutions, rolling out a postcard campaign to urge state legislators to fund the mandate they passed last year to provide children's mental health services. Crystal Loving—a new friend on the way to being a member—is chairing our First UU campaign and is keeping us on track to get 300 cards signed and out to legislators in November.

- The Housing Team met to continue working on it's upcoming Housing Summit. Barb Klubal has been organizing the meetings with the SEVENTEEN candidates for City Council and Mayor, and several UUs have been setting up and attending those meetings. Two members of our church attended the Iowa Finance Authority's housing conference in Cedar Rapids, to expand the Housing Team's knowledge about the landscape of affordable housing as we work on building a strategy to increase affordable housing in Central Iowa.

- In addition, we've been represented on the AMOS Transition Team, which is guiding AMOS as we prepare to bring in a new lead organizer.

- Busy month - with more to come!

- **Family Promise (Elaine Imlau):** The week of September 15-22 we hosted three families including 4 adults, 1 teenager, 3 elementary youth and 4 toddlers. 46 volunteers spent approximately 500 hours providing transportation, meals, entertainment and assistance to the families. Reviews from families were positive. We never did solve the mystery of the missing enchilada casserole.

- Our next activities include the Comfort Food Cook-off fundraiser of Family Promise of Greater Des Moines, Sunday, November 10 from 5-7pm and our next hosting dates are December 15-22.
• *Faith in Action (Kate Allen)*: Brian Campbell brought Matt Russell, Executive Director of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, to speak at the service on Sept 15

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

**Updates**

**Membership Numbers Summary:**
- Number of new members in September-
- Deceased - 1
- Moved –
- Withdrew membership -
- Number of registered adult visitors –

**Operations.** Important information about current operations—
- Rev. Shaw formally took the pulpit with Water Communion on September 8th, 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)