

**MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE
UUTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 27, 2015**

There are a lot of exciting things happening, or in the works. A number of these are listed below:

Program:

To me, perhaps the best “metric” of positive change is that there were about **12 people** in attendance **at the New Member** Class held October 17. (Membership Team did an AWESOME job welcoming new members, organizing and presenting the program.) **Three** of those in attendance have “**signed the book**” and several more are seriously considering what that means. Two of the new members are young adults. Several new friends and members expressed interest in attending a course in articulating one’s own theology. I believe we will offer this course early in the New Year.

I am also in conversation with two sets of parents about **holding two different child dedication services** for an infant and two toddlers within the next few months. (At this point, we may just wait until after the holidays.) **Three other families also expressed interest** in a child dedication service for their children. This is VERY exciting and suggests that efforts to attract and maintain young adults at UUTC is beginning to take hold.

Eighteen children and youth attended Parents’ Day Out and between this event and a successful bake sale, the **CRE program has now raised all of the funds required to attend Youth Cons** (Conventions) at The Mountain in November. Yay team!

Alice Hardy has agreed to serve with me as “co-director” of our Intergeneration Christmas Pageant. We will have one presentation on the Sunday before Christmas, and a second presentation, preceded by dinner, on the Wednesday before Christmas. **We’re hoping Board Members will become cast members in “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.”** (That’s the name of the play.)

The morning meditation program is slowly growing. We were up to four in attendance on Tuesday morning, and I believe as the word spreads we may have a few more join us. In addition, the members are beginning to self-organize to make the group their own. I have encouraged this in all of the programs I initiate, so that they have a stronger likelihood of enduring after my departure.

I presented one segment of the “**End of Life Conversations**” (**EOLC**) program regarding memorial services and related concerns. The title of the session was “It’s My Funeral and I’ll Serve Ice Cream If I Want To. I received a written note of appreciation from one member who found it to be a helpful impetus for doing something s/he put off far too long. I also attended an on-line training program for the “Conversation Project” being spearheaded by LHHH. Betty Kendrick will be facilitating the final session of the EOLC) program and I will be in attendance. **We anticipate**

that the Conversation Project program may be put on several more times at UUTC; first to members and friends, and then opening it up to the wider community. The program focuses on helping families discuss and write down their final wishes in advance – in order to reduce stress for as many people as possible during such a difficult time.)

Game Night was a blast, my husband Mark thinks he may have found a new calling as a Farkel Player. We plan to continue offering this event on Friday nights so that members and friends have an opportunity to play together (while childcare is offered on-site.)

Loving Hearts, Helping Hands, hosted a luncheon which was delicious and well-attended. I even managed to play a few tunes with Ed Hauschild on Clarinet.

We have developed a new spreadsheet to coordinate all the different aspects of Sunday Morning Services. (Sample attached.) This document is already making it easier for RK to develop the Order of Service, and should enhance the quality of worship services.

Outreach

I continue the tradition of monthly chapel at College Walk, and was invited to lead the Sunday vespers service on 10/25/2015. I preached the good news of Unitarian Universalism and invited those in attendance to join us if they felt inclined to do so.

Also, when walking around town, etc. I hand out my card and invite people to come to services. This past Sunday, two high school students attended, and one of them expressed interest in singing at one of our services. More on that to come.

Admin

The search to hire an adult to staff the nursery is under way.

Please see below regarding cost accounting for actual program costs to be calculated for budgeting purposes.

I have been in conversation with Peg Hall and Rev. Kathy McGowan, the UUA consultant for UUTC, regarding a retreat for articulating Mission, Vision and Values. We are also in contact with Bill Clontz, the UUA Consultant for Stewardship, to help us develop a mentality of generosity and abundance – and to tie the funding of UUTC to its emerging mission and vision, as well as support of well-loved programs.

Other things are underway as well. But, right now I am turning my attention to pastoral care and counseling, which is significant and quite enjoyable.

In summary, this is a great congregation with many strengths, gifts, and graces. I am grateful for the support of the officers and members at large for the many courageous steps you have taken to prepare for the Search Process. The congregation is blessed to have you serving in this capacity.

Actions requested of the Board: Developing a plan to address change management, especially as it relates to payment of pledges.

OK from Board for Administration to begin tracking ACTUAL COST of program support, so that these can be built into future budgeting from a program perspective. (People pay to support programs, not line items, according to Clif Christopher, author of *Not Your Parents' Collection Plate*.)

Respectfully submitted,

Paula

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Interim Minister