

First Congregational UCC – 2017 Core Ministries Report

We are thrilled to welcome new Core Ministry Facilitators for 2017. Although the year is just getting started, the Core Ministry Facilitators have already met with Michael and Elizabeth for a half-day planning retreat. They are currently working on getting to know the various ministry teams under their core area of emphasis. Each facilitator will be introducing themselves to the congregation during Sunday worship on a different week in the month of January (Stephanie on 1/15; Alison on 1/22; Grant on 1/29).



Stephanie Mullen, Peacemaking Core Ministry Facilitator

peacemaking@uccportland.org – (208) 704-4174

Stephanie studies Social Science at Portland State University, has Yoga and Social Justice training from the Daya Foundation, and is a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Portland. She is passionate about justice work, and feels that this work is rooted in her spirituality.



Rev. Alison Killeen, Hospitality Core Ministry Facilitator

hospitality@uccportland.org - (651) 485-9849

Alison is a community organizer and UCC minister who loves big ideas, strategic planning, and building community. While not working at a local anti-hunger nonprofit, Alison spends time with her partner, Brian, and engages herself in the perennial struggle of trying to bake the perfect loaf of sourdough bread. Alison is thrilled to be serving FCC as this year's Hospitality Core Facilitator!



Grant Helbley, Community Core Ministry Facilitator

community@uccportland.org - (541) 600-2382

Grant Helbley is a qualified mental health professional and a member-in-discernment in the United Church of Christ. They been a member at First Congregational for over a year. You will usually see them on Sunday with their partner Tobi and two children Journey and Mercy. Prior to finding First Congregational, Grant co-pastored a bilingual church in Kazakhstan and started a campus ministry at Ohio State University. Grant loves the emphasis on diversity, spiritual growth, and interdependence that they found at First and they are looking forward to nurturing these elements over the next year while serving as your Community Core Facilitator.

Senior Minister's Report to the Board: December, 2017

Internal

- Pastoral calls/visits: 70+ since last Meeting
- Annual Meeting Prep and Actual
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Services
- Sunday Worship ongoing, Monday meditation groups ongoing.
- Supervision of all staff and core functions.
- Selection of new Core Facilitators, and New Core Facilitator Retreat
- Budget Taskforce Meetings
- Gathering of a new “welcoming team” to brainstorm hospitality and church growth
- Wayfarer meetings internal, “Awakening Leadership” group external...
- Development of a taskforce on physical sanctuary here at the church.
- Ongoing attempts at outreach with homeless population on our front steps.
- Rita and Brennan's Wedding
- Christmas Council Potluck, and various other congregational holiday gatherings...

External

- Participated in the “JustEcon” think-tank with Auburn Seminary/Media in NYC.
- Ongoing development of the “Beloved Community Coalition,” with partners from around the city and state.
- Prep for our “Silent Prayer in the Public Square” Event on Sunday 1/22
- Attended sanctuary events with IMIRJ (Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice)
- Asked to speak at the Albina Ministerial Alliance MLK Service on 1/15
- Asked to be a strategic consultant and Board Member of the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland
- Outreach to the Cambodian Community in preparation for the February-March ArtReach Exhibition and Programming
- Ongoing "No One Dies Alone" work...
- Various fundraising work for “Teach Me to Fish,” a job development program for African-Americans in North Portland.

Assistant Minister's Report - January 2017

Internal

- Preached once a month & helped plan/lead worship for Advent & new Luke series
- Pastoral care: ~40 calls and in-person visits
- Advent circle ("Gathering in the Dark") on Wednesday nights in December
- Experimental Music (& Epiphany Stars!) on New Year's Day
- Led Family Ministries team meeting
- Holiday events for children and youth (cookie baking, advent spiral, tamale making, posada play, piñata party)
- Led youth group gathering in mid-December
- Planning for youth summer service trip & 1:1s with other UCC youth leaders
- Promoted kids & youth events (web, email, bulletin board, in-person invites)
- Taught Godly Play once a month
- Created Godly Play Spring schedule & recruited new teachers
- Produced "Parent Pages" each week & tidied classroom; replenished activity bags
- Began planning for youth group "lounge" in Kiva
- Youth group collective planning meeting
- Launched rotating family gatherings (hosted by different families each month)
- Worship team meeting; coordinating greens/poinsettias/advent wreath
- Congregational Meeting prep/participation; wrote annual reports
- Photo Directory project (wrapping up this month)
- Proofread bulletin & weekly email newsletter
- Half-day retreat with new Core Ministry Facilitators in January

External

- Attended World AIDS Day Lunch in support of HIV Day Center
- SURJ Interfaith Action Group Meetings & promotion of interfaith events
- Hosted and oversaw child care for 2 SURJ mass meetings (~650 total attendees)
- Represented church at Central Pacific Conference "Gresham Dreamers" group – note new winter warming shelter is scheduled to open at old Zion UCC location soon
- "Awakening Leadership" (Wayfarer) Meetings
- Central Pacific Conference Racial Justice Network; planning for CPC annual meeting
- "Las Aguilas" Central Pacific Conference Group for Latinx ministry & advocacy

Community Core Ministry Facilitator Report for Church Council January 19, 2017

I accepted the role of Community Core Facilitator this year because I feel that nurturing community is foundational to having an emotionally healthy church that is able to grow together and as a result be effective together in our mission to the wider world. On December 29 I spent 4 hours with Peace Core Ministry Facilitator Stephanie Mullen, Hospitality Core Ministry Facilitator Alison Killeen, and Reverends Michael Ellick and Elizabeth Durant. The purpose of our meeting was to get to know each other better, become oriented to what the role of Core Ministry Facilitator involves, and talk about hopes and expectations for the upcoming year. During that time we agreed together that sanctuary is one of the themes that will inform the way we work individually and together. We also set a time for our next meeting together which will be on January 17th. I left that meeting convinced that each of the core ministries is necessary to the others and grateful for the amazing team I have the privilege to work with. Over the next month I hope to connect with the leadership of each of the community ministries to learn more about what they do, how they operate, and what kind of support if any they feel would be beneficial. I will be starting by attending the upcoming Called To Care meeting on January 24. One of my goals for this upcoming year is to increase member awareness and involvement in member led groups, including equipping members to start their own groups. Another goal is to support the planning and execution of community-wide growth and education opportunities for congregational members. My efforts will be guided by the conviction that community arises out of shared stories, shared experiences, and shared resources. On Sunday January 29th I will be sharing this vision with the congregation when I preach on the Beatitudes. The role of Core Facilitator is a new endeavor for me and your support is very appreciated.

In Sincere Gratitude,

-Grant

First Congregational UCC

| | <u>12/31/2015</u> | <u>1/31/2016</u> | <u>2/29/2016</u> | <u>3/31/2016</u> | <u>4/30/2016</u> | <u>5/31/2016</u> | <u>6/30/2016</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Current Assets | 130,929 | 102,933 | 88,125 | 101,631 | 85,852 | 137,021 | 35,248 |
| Investments | 1,131,808 | 1,099,887 | 1,102,285 | 1,130,598 | 1,126,798 | 1,128,117 | 1,171,918 |
| TOTAL | 1,262,737 | 1,202,820 | 1,190,410 | 1,232,229 | 1,212,650 | 1,265,138 | 1,207,166 |
| Current Liabilities | 30,106 | 3,812 | 8,017 | 30,579 | 15,116 | 19,350 | 18,022 |
| Net Liquidity | 1,232,631 | 1,199,008 | 1,182,393 | 1,201,650 | 1,197,534 | 1,245,788 | 1,189,145 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | <u>7/31/2016</u> | <u>8/31/2016</u> | <u>9/30/2016</u> | <u>10/31/2016</u> | <u>11/30/2016</u> | <u>12/31/2016</u> | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Current Assets | 164,391 | 160,121 | 115,688 | 93,511 | 88,801 | 56,432 | |
| Investments | 1,204,003 | 1,209,230 | 1,238,768 | 1,218,615 | 1,205,998 | 1,209,773 | |
| TOTAL | 1,368,394 | 1,369,351 | 1,354,456 | 1,312,126 | 1,294,799 | 1,266,205 | |
| Current Liabilities | 348 | 24,943 | 18,068 | 22,159 | 7,172 | 20,200 | |
| Net Liquidity | 1,368,046 | 1,344,409 | 1,336,387 | 1,289,967 | 1,287,627 | 1,246,004 | |

CAMBODIAN RESILIENCY

February and March 2017

RECEPTION for the EXHIBITION

SATURDAY, February 18 at 4:00pm

Blessing by the Monks

from Wat Dhammarangsi located in West Linn, Oregon

Venerable Michael Tang

Venerable Nhang Noeung

Venerable Savy Soeun

Bopha Angkor Dance Group

Chan-Phirath Farley, Brittney Him

Norita Snoiuk, Siphil Nhoung, Raksa Nhoung

Sinon Him, Cambodian Classical Dance Instructor in Oregon

Recognition

Cambodian-American Community Organization

Golden Leaf Education Foundation

Wat Dhammarangsi

by Reverend Michael Ellick, Minister of First Congregational

Poetry Reading by Willa Schneberg,

author of *Storytelling in Cambodia*

Introduction to the Art Exhibition

by Dr. Sheldon Hurst, Curator

Viewing of the Exhibition in Gallery

Refreshments will be Available

Catered by . . .

Church Chapel Pews Discussion

Background:

The Chapel space is being used more frequently now more than ever. At the request of the users (gathering groups) the pews (see images below) in the Chapel space are continuously moved out in order to place chairs or provide an open space. There are 8 or 10 Chapel Pews that have been placed in various locations throughout the church: side of Fellowship Hall, sides of Sanctuary etc. These locations are affectively being used as storage locations for the pews. There is no space big enough in the Church to house all the Chapel Pews when they are moved from the Chapel space. The Chapel Pews have been a part of the church for about 60 years. The use of the Chapel space is evolving. Cara has been looking at how frequently the Chapel Pews are requested by Chapel space users and she has noticed that the pews are not asked for frequently. The Chapel Pews are in good/great condition. We will need to discuss and determine what to do with the Chapel Pews.



Discussion Points:

- What should we do with these Pews?
- Do we want to store these Pews?
- Where should we store these Pews?
- Should we look into storage of the Pews in a free space in an off Church site location?
- Do we want to sell these Pews to the Congregation?
- Do we want to give these Pews to congregation members?
- Do we want to auction off these Pews?
- Do we want to keep the Pews in the Chapel?
- Do we want to keep some Pews in the Classroom and have our kids color them to fit the Classroom space?

More Information:

Pictures on how the Chapel space is used right now. Chapel space is also used for small art exhibitions.

