

# Minister's Report to the UUTC Board

## Focusing on Goals and Objectives

### July 2023

#### **Areas of Focus**

##### Pulpit & Worship

**Provide a meaningful worship experience for a wide variety of congregants.**

Since the Board meeting I have led/co-led three Sunday services at UUTC, plus there were two with guest speakers. Themes included social justice issues from the UUA General Assembly (with all delegates), history and the religious roots of US Independence (for the 4th of July weekend), and a life values sermon drawing from country music. I thank Kevin and all for leading the 100th Anniversary Flower Communion while I was away to General Assembly, truly a service for all ages.

##### Community Building:

**Facilitate and expand the connections which already exist between the UUTC congregants and the larger community.**

I led a couple of the Thursday Men's Group (in-person) sessions.

I met with the Rainbow Alliance, which UUTC members help sponsor (Eleanor was the host this month).

I've worked with the Social Action Team to have better preparation for our members to speak on our special monthly collections.

I led the College Walk UU discussion circle at the end of June and again in July.

Not involving others from UUTC, but strengthening our connection through my own attendance: I attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting in July, and also accepted the invitation to attend an ecumenical clergy group that meets weekly (Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal attendees so far).

##### Social Justice

**Challenge the congregation to address social justice issues directly.**

I have met with the Social Action team and consulted in-between meetings. The group is setting up a table to invite larger participation in the team.

I joined other UUTC folks at the NAACP Moral Monday at the Courthouse on July 3, and spoke on inclusiveness (I was asked specifically to bring the spirit of my Independence Weekend history sermon to a short message in which I also noted the intersection of violence against LGBTQ people of color).

## **Target Goals**

Pulpit & Worship: **Draw from other religious traditions in worship services at least twice a month.**

This summer's selection has been a little different from the goal (at least as stated literally): based on the themes of the Sundays I did not turn to traditional resources, but instead went to inspired words from history and of course the country music lyrics that lifted up appropriate life lessons.

Community Building: **The minister will reach out to a variety of congregants to learn about the connections they have already built in the larger community.**

Continuing this process. As I reported last time, the next step was to have been the Social Action Team doing a broad survey with the congregation. First they have requested the chance to sign up more members to the team, which I understand is happening while I am away. This process may include learning those individuals' involvement.

Social Justice: **Explore the difference between social justice and social service in sermons and activities.**

I preached on this topic on April 16. My Independence Day sermon on July 2 also touched on the ways religious structures in America undergirded the revolution, and the ways our ideas of protection of people (justice) shifted.

### **SPECIAL CEREMONIES or RECOGNITIONS:**

I've coordinated with Leslie Keir of LHHH when deaths occur, as the LHHH wished to start a new observance of member deaths (or closely connected) with a rose at the next Sunday service.

Note that Tim McGann's memorial service is being planned for Saturday, September 23.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:**

With the firebombing of the Plano, Texas UU church last week, and the postponement of the Drag Show in Brevard this coming weekend due to a threatened shooting, it is important that we consider safety. Last month RK and I sent out this link about how to be prepared for right-wing disruptions to worship or church events:

<https://sidewithlove.org/ourstories/2023/6/1/recording-preparing-for-pride-a-webinar-for-religious-professionals>

While the beginning of my mini-break from the pulpit has been "on-call study leave" and I've attended regular meetings and made pastoral visits, I'm now shifting to actual vacation time through the first weekend of August. I'll change my outgoing voicemail message and email auto response accordingly.