

Minister's Report to the UUTC Board

Focusing on Goals and Objectives

August 2023

Areas of Focus

Pulpit & Worship

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

Since my last Board meeting I have helped lead two Sunday services at UUTC (with a break with three guest speakers). No Soul Matters theme in the summer, so we've had diverse topics from me and the others.

Community Building:

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

I led two of the Thursday Men's Group (in-person) sessions. We have lower Summer attendance.

I attend the Chamber of Commerce and Rainbow Alliance. I note that I was present for some planning for what was to have been a Drag Show in Brevard, which was postponed after an arrest of a suspect who threatened shooting. The Rainbow Alliance monthly meeting is often led by UUTC folks.

I joined the Social Action Team meetings at The Haven as they promote UUTC involvement in the community garden. We had announcements on Sunday, August 20 for short-term involvements by congregants in Social Action.

I note that I was among several UUTC folks who attended the reception for the new school superintendent at the Mary C. Jenkins center. I also checked in with the director and reminded him we are just down the street and might be of use.

Social Justice

Challenge the congregation to address social justice issues directly.

As above, I have met with the Social Action team regularly. These meetings include the topic to help in engaging the congregation more widely.

My August 20 sermon encouraged a move to adopt the 8th Principle (anti-racism)

Target Goals

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

I have included Christian, Buddhist, and Ethical Humanism texts and wisdom in the services, in the two services I led when not on vacation.

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. Social Action Team is still talking about doing a broad survey with the congregation (I thought it would be done by now, but it is still in the works).

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

I preached on this topic on April 16. It will recur in my services through the year, though the direct comparison was not a part of my August preaching.

SPECIAL CEREMONIES:

Planning a September 23rd service for Tim McGann.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

I was interviewed by a leader at Sharing House as part of their community survey of “How are we doing, how are we seen.”

Our “New UU Class” in August has brought in nine new members! We had discontinued classes during the pandemic, and this was a live “test run” of a new format. Many kudos to Susan Slocum and RK Young, with tech assistance by Kathryn Burleigh and video by Kevin Lausch. We’ll have a new member recognition in September and invite them to the Renjilian home for socializing later in that day.

I have joined an ecumenical group of religious leaders for weekly conversation. This kind of connection strengthens our UUTC connection among partners we already have (such as times we’ve worked with Bethel A Baptist Church, and St. Philips Episcopal), and builds new friendships with others.

In preparation for our CPR and AED training on August 27, I am looking at what churches do about folks who want their “DNR” to be honored even outside medical facilities. Here is one sample: *“CPR and an AED unit will be used in an emergency, unless there is a clearly identifiable Do Not Resuscitate preference on the person who appears to be in need of the emergency aid.” The preference should be made known in the form of an easily identifiable bracelet or necklace. [Or clearly tattooed on an area of the chest where the AED pads might be applied].*

Leadership Development: Each year I encourage Board members to read chapter 5 “The Role of the Board” from *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* by Dan Hotchkiss. One copy has been returned from last year, I will bring to the meeting.