

Minister's Report to the UUTC Board

Focusing on Goals and Objectives

December 2022-January 2023

Areas of Focus

Pulpit & Worship

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

Since my last Board Report on Dec. 1, I have led five Sunday services and three special holiday services. The services had readings and quotes from a variety of genders, races, and faith traditions, and spoke to various subjects such as "Grief at the Holidays", Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year's, and social justice.

Community Building:

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

I collaborated with John Austin and Kevin Lausch to host the UUTC Carol Sing and Bonfire on Dec. 10.

I hosted the Sandy Hook 10th Anniversary commemoration ceremony (interfaith) at UUTC on December 12.

I participate regularly in the Tuesday "Fellowship in the Hall" brown bag lunches at UUTC.

I attended the community observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Brevard College on the evening of January 16, sitting in the same section as one of our CRE families, and greeting other UUTC folks as well.

I participated in the Braver Angels meeting in Asheville on January 21, with a Brevard contingent including two UUTC congregants.

I was asked by the Mayor to lead the Invocation at the start of the Brevard City Council Meeting, January 17.

I led the College Walk UU discussion circle on January 25.

We're working with the ushers to be sure to include Candles of Joy and Sorrow in the Wednesday "Member to Member" care note that goes out to members. In addition, LHHH and I are keeping track of the people in our congregation who need connection.

I Checked in with Dave Roberts preparing for the start of the Thursday (live) Men's Group, and taking on the facilitator role at least once a month. (Started first Thursday of January).

Social Justice

Challenge the congregation to address social justice issues directly.

My Wayfinding column and January 22 service highlighted the UUA “Side With Love” campaign for the month, “30 Days of Love” so that we might all be part of the nationwide focus. <https://sidewithlove.org/30daysoflove2023>

I led the Pronouns workshop in December to encourage more engagement in respect of genderflux, non-binary and transgender folks.

Target Goals

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

I included Christian, Jewish and neo-Pagan references in the services I led. NeoPagan focus was a part of the Solstice service at UUTC in December as well (led by others).

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.**

Beginning this process.

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

For future Sunday.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

I officiated at the **graveside service of Robert Henry Hellrigel** (1941-2022) at Blue Ridge Gardens of Memory, Pisgah Forest, NC on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022. The family was referred to me from a member of UUTC as they didn’t have a church home themselves and needed a service which would be open-minded religiously.

Christy and I hosted a **dinner for UUTC office staff** at our home on Dec. 14. We had not gathered in a social way since early in the pandemic, and I’m glad we could get together.

I’m talking with Membership Team about hosting a new member reception at our home sometime in March.