

# Team & Staff Reports

## Council

### June 4, 2019

## Team Reports

### Communications Ministry Team

#### Emergency Response Committee

Report Submitted By: Hal Schulman

Reviewed the State of the ERT with the Ministers, President Elect and other ERT Core subteam members. Discussions included a brief history of ERT accomplishments, and a look at the remaining work plan, resources, budget and related timeframes. A path to improve UUSG readiness in the event of more serious, unplanned incidents has been defined. Full implementation is a function of Board approval and funding, together with cross Ministry Team collaboration. Contact and communications is scheduled over the Summer.

#### Facilities Ministry Team

Report Submitted By: Kevin O'Neill

How many UU's does it take to change a light bulb? Four. During the Facilities Team Work Day on May 18, it took four team members to change the bulbs in the track lights that are recessed in the sanctuary's ceiling 20 feet off the floor. Pat McGleam scaled the ladder and put in LED bulbs, Jim Swick and Kevin O'Neill stabilized the ladder, and David Tomell snagged the old bulbs that Pat dropped down to him. This was part of the joint project between Green Sanctuary and Facilities Teams to convert all our lights to energy efficient LEDs. We have now converted the entire first floor and Pioneer House to LED lights. Electricity consumption for those areas will be reduced by at least 85%! Next up is the basement.

The same day the team completed a variety of indoor and outdoor projects – refurbished the bathroom door and secured the soap dispenser, installed a new emergency light in the stairwell, changed the curtain on the chancel, treated the vestibule roof to remove moss, and cleaned gutters. Big thanks to Sherri Casterline, Dave Hansen, Tom Lichtenheld, Pat McGleam, Kevin O'Neill, Jim Swick, and David Tomell.

Unfortunately, the air conditioning unit that services the basement was assessed as inoperable by our HVAC contractors, so we had it replaced this month. This resulted in an unanticipated expense of \$4,433.

If you want to see our historic site preserved, our meeting space improved, or our classrooms enhanced, then please contact Kevin O'Neill. The Facilities Team has a wide range of projects requiring all skill levels, so anyone can help.

## Finance Ministry Team

Report Submitted By: Christine Imielski

The monthly report will be available after this month's Finance Team meeting.

## Green Sanctuary Ministry Team

First Sunday's styrofoam collection has started

Reminder: it is only a tiny band-aid on a terrible problem

It would be better to practice bring our own containers, utensils, and bags with us as we travel. I know that sounds like a bother and I don't do it much myself. But still, we can have aspirations. Maybe think of it as good that we've managed to recycle some plastic, but very sad that we had too.

The Chasing Spring Ephemerals program has not been as successful this year as last. Maybe the long cool Spring did it in.

The SnowFall project has had very successful May. We produced over 60 postcards during May. The participation during the first Sunday in June was very small. Participation may be falling off for the lack of concern. I don't think writing one line of text on a postcard could have exhausted the congregation already. If someone has found something better to do fight climate change, please let me know.

I do have one very positive announcement that I have to give our congregation credit for. Something we should think of as being worth celebrating. We have gotten the League of Women Voters of Central Kane County to begin hosting Climate Change Forums similar to their very well known Candidate Forums. The Democrats did not do this, the Sierra Club did not do this, our Unitarian Church did this. As a reminder for those who think this may be too political, yes it is political. It is very political. But it is nonpartisan. In Illinois, most of the Democratic Party stands with the construction trade unions who stand with the pipe fitter's union who stand with the expansion of fossil fuels.

And in another adventure, as an emissary of our congregation's Green Sanctuary Team, I was able to have a dialog with an emissary of the Pope over this weekend.

Rev. Dr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam serves as the Coordinator of the Sector of Ecology and Creation at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. He is also Chair of Philosophy of Science and Director of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome. While in Chicago, Father Kureethadam came to the St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle. There he gave a short presentation on his book, the Ten Green

Commandments of the Laudoao Si. I am sure I was the only UU in the room but felt very much at home as he finished up his presentation with a slide on the Web of All Creation and followed with another about the need to embrace Native Peoples Intelligence about the Natural World. I was waiting for him to strike the ring gong!

During the discussion after, I asked if he had a sense of the Bishops perspective or appreciation of the situation. Just a few words from the Bishops to the local priests would go along way to wake up so many people. But, he lamented sadly that their response is “We don’t hear much about Climate Change”. And so, therefore, are not overly concerned. They too have no sense of urgency.

“I or We, don’t hear much about Climate Change”.

This is the exact same phrase we hear from our elected officials, even those who are sympathetic. Fr. Kureethadam is on a mission from the Pope to go around the middlemen and bring the word directly to the people. He was asking us all to rise up and express our concern so that something can be done while there is still time.

And then he did something I did not expect. He expressed a great gratitude for the Children’s Strike against Climate Change that is happening all over Europe. And in much of the rest of the world. And while I concede this is indeed a small sign of hope, he did not lament that the children feel the need to rise up because the adults are not.

Which brings me back to our SnowFall project. Writing a postcard expressing concern about Climate Change. Why do we do such a trivial thing?

So our children can see that we are doing something, the single most important thing you can do - telling our elected reps we are concerned. With the introduction of the Green New Deal, action on Climate Change has entered the national debate. It has risen up several levels of concern quite rapidly - after only 50 years of inaction. But it is still not far enough up on the list of concerns to lead to substantial action.

Such as ending fossil fuel subsidies and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. Both of which are still celebrated as economic advancement. In fact, there are many states passing laws now that will make protesting such a catastrophe into a felony offense.

Or stop the passage this Spring of HR1616 - a pro-fracking bill - with a vote of 391 to 24 without Democratic opposition. So yeah, non-partisan. Fossil Fuels still have a stranglehold on our government. Even when we talk about the Green New Deal and clean energy, there is very little concern or comment about ending fossil fuel use. Increasing the supply of fossil fuel will have the exact opposite effect of putting a price on carbon and undermines any chance of clean energy becoming “economical”.

But, still, no concern.

Slavery, genocide and now Climate Change. All are in the same league of horrors. So when you have the chance, please write a postcard. And tell those on your team, that the postcard thing is not a simple as it looks. I think a substantial goal for us would be to maintain about 10 cards a week. With that, we could send 2 cards a day to our congresspeople.

For this, we will need to double our efforts. We need about 20 more people to make this a continuous effort of writing for 5 minutes, once a month.

And on Tuesday, Julianna vs. the US goes to the Supreme Court. Once again, with the children. Where are the adults? Where is the concern? Where is the sense of urgency? Where are we? Facing the end of civilization.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1616/text>

## Heritage Ministry Team

## Hospitality and Fellowship Ministry Team

## Lifespan Religious Education

## Make A Difference (MAD) Fund

## Nominating Committee

Report submitted by: Jim Frazier  
Election of the board completed at congregational meeting.

## Personnel Committee

Report submitted by: Molly MacKay Zacker  
Lucy and I are meeting with Jennifer and Patrick on June 12th to discuss the role/purpose/future of this Committee.

## Social Justice Ministry Team

BOW

In April we collected \$790 for the Conservation Foundation

The May BOW Cause is the Human Library

The June BOW Cause is JAMS

Lazarus – We are still looking for volunteers for dinners and lunches Please direct people to sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4cfa628a31-lazarus>

BOW Cause - Diane Gallentine presented “GirlForward”. GirlForward supports refugee high school girls who have been displaced by conflict and persecution. See their website at <https://www.girlforward.org/> The Social Justice team voted to accept her proposal to support this organization as our BOW cause for this July.

Jean and Bill Koehl will be taking over the coordination of our Friday Flicks program from Tom Haslet starting in July.

We are planning for an August 10<sup>th</sup> Noon SJ retreat at the Scowns' home in Geneva to update goals and BOW plans for the year.

Our next meeting will be June 30<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30AM at UUSG.

## Stewardship Ministry Team

## Technology Ministry Team

## Welcoming Ministry Team

Report submitted by: Jim Frazier

No report

## Women's Circle

The Women's Circle team wants to round out our 2018-9 program year by thanking all of those who attended! Your enthusiasm and lively participation certainly keeps us going!

Women's Circle offers six Saturday afternoon sessions each church year. We seek to create extended opportunities for UUSG members and friends who identify as female to continue to build community and grow in spirituality. We have continued to receive popular support each year, and have attracted a growing and diverse group of participants. Sessions this year have averaged 20-25 participants at each program.

Our topics this year included:

- Happiness, Deb Brod, facilitator
- Nature, Trish Beckjord, facilitator
- Gratitude, Pam Verner, facilitator
- Self Compassion, Julia Friesen, facilitator
- Sanctuary, Rhonda Robinson, facilitator
- Walking the Labyrinth - Julia Friesen, facilitator, held at the Tau Center in Wheaton

The WC Planning and Facilitation team thanks each of the women who participated. We appreciated your help with snacks and set up/clean up, we loved your enthusiasm and openness, and we used your feedback to improve each month. We learned and grew together! And, we believe (from our observation and your feedback) that our large group has shared deeply, listened carefully, grown closer and developed spiritually in this year.

Again, thank you to all who participated. We plan to continue our explorations starting in late September. New Topics coming soon. If you might be interested in joining the Planning team, please contact one of us to discuss!

Trish Beckjord, Deb Brod, Julia Friesen, Rhonda Robinson, Pam Verner

## Worship Ministry Team

### **Attendance Report Submitted by Christine Imielski:**

Sunday Worship Service Month Average for May (2 Worship Services): 117

The average attendance for Two Worship Services (September 2018 - May 2019): 131. This is down from 155 in 17/18, and 170 in 16/17.

Sunday Worship Service Month Average for May & June (1 Service): 85. May 26 was first Summer Sunday with an attendance of 64. June 2 had a high turn out of 105 for LRE's "Moving Up" Celebration Service.

The Summer Worship Attendance average (Last weekend in May - present): 85. This is down from 108 in Summer of 2018, up from 80 in Summer of 2017.

### **Worship Team Report Submitted by Rhonda Robinson:**

The Worship Team is charged with several key responsibilities, including selecting, planning, and coordinating one service Sunday each month and several throughout the summer. In April and May, we invited Jean Pierce and the Social Justice Team to offer a service, as well as Rev. Tom Capo, who spoke on *A Sense of Belonging*.

We continue to seek interesting guest speakers and topics for services in July and into August. Besides a Hymn Sing Service led by Cynthia Spiegel, other possibilities include several diverse topics on social justice issues, learning more about other religions' spiritual beliefs/practices, poetry, and more.

In addition to providing one Sunday a month off to our Interim ministers as contracted, we believe that meeting and hearing a variety of service leaders may help the congregation explore our needs and future directions as we begin our search for a settled minister. With that in mind, come explore with us this summer. Remember that our popular 'Youth Hang Time' is offered again this summer to provide fun, supervised and planned activities for young members aged 6-14.

We also continue to consider changes in our Order of Worship and the role our Worship Associates and Greeters can play to further strengthen our welcoming approach to our Sunday services.

We hope that many of our members and friends will continue to attend our services—see many of you throughout the summer!

We invite your suggestions to the group: Geoff Pynn, chair; Deb Brod, Tracy Dullea, Aaron Fogleman, Rhonda Robinson, Cynthia Spiegel, Jeff Stibal, and our Interim Co-Ministers.

## WOW Ministry Team

Report submitted by: Glenda Peck

- Tracy Dullea provided transportation from the Naperville train station to Batavia for a member of the congregation and her visiting friend from New Mexico.
- Carol Myers and Glenda Peck accompanied and provided transportation to and from Cantigny for a member and her visiting friend.
- A member of UUSG has recently had surgery to remove a kidney. WOW has contacted this member and offered support. At this time, she is being cared for by family, but leadership has asked the team to express their care and concern with cards. Next week, Carol Myers and Glenda Peck will be delivering soup, bread, and cookies to this member to provide quick easy meals during her recovery.
- Two dear members have recently suffered the death their husbands to illness. These members have been contacted by WOW and offered sympathy as well as more practical help. At this time, neither widow has reached out to WOW for assistance. We continue to keep in touch with these two women as they establish themselves in their new circumstances.

## Staff Reports

Rev. Jennifer Innis, Interim Co-Minister

Rev. Patrick Price, Interim Co-Minister

# Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator

Highlights for the month:

1. Budget & Pledge Drive: Continued to work with Tom Haslett, Finance Team Leader, on preparing budget for 2019-2020, and wrapped up pledge drive with Kathy Cornell, Pledge Drive Coordinator.
2. Annual Meeting: Prepared ballots for Slate of Board Candidates and Search Team; provided materials and information to Tom Haslett, Brian Doyle, and David de Coriolis for their presentations; Gathered Board Member Biographies to be sent to Members & Friends.
3. Greeter Schedule. I recruited greeters to sign up for the summer. We now have ALL spots filled through homecoming Sunday! Thanks to all that signed up.

Previous month's other activities and accomplishments

·Communications

- Daily updates to UUSG website
- Facebook Postings.
- Edited Mini-Pioneer bulletins
- Sent weekly reminder emails to counters, check signers
- Answered emails and phone calls.
- Special Email blasts for Annual Meeting Materials, Town Hall, Swedish Days, Pledge Drive Update, YRUU Chili Cook-Off
- Created, designed, and edited Pioneer
- Updated various events and activities on the calendar
- Created/Edited/Updated Sign Up Genius for Luncheonettes, Greeters, Sister Suppers, Aurora Pride Parade, Town Hall, Memorial Services, Swedish Days Pizza Booth, Annual Congregational Meeting

·Facilities/Emergency Response Committee

- Attended ERT Meeting with Hal Schulman, ERT Leader, Debbie Leoni, and Rev. Jennifer to review ERT's mission and goals for the upcoming year.
- Coordinated the donation of an upright piano
- Memorial Garden Stones--corresponded with those who had purchased stones to be placed at the May 26 Memorial Garden Service, coordinated placement of stones with Lisa Rittenberry.
- Art Wall coordination
- Gave out door key codes as needed
- Coordinated room reservations and Building Use Agreements
- Garbage and Recycling out weekly

·LRE

- Registration updates and data entry.

·Technology

- Updated email forwarders as needed
- Updating member & friend info in Realm, adding new visitor information

·Finance/Stewardship

- Created Finance Report, Check Report, PayPal Report and Credit Card Report
- Corresponded with congregants on Pledge Balances and record keeping
- Processed Paypal donations
- Paid employment taxes, filed Federal and State reports

- Paid bills, ran payroll, made weekly deposits
- Corresponded with appropriate parties on BOW collections, sent donations to appropriate recipients.
- Paid reimbursement requests
- Reconciled Bank Statements with Dave Moore
- Other
  - Attended meetings: Staff (weekly), Finance, Council, Board, Meetings with Board President David de Coriolis, Interim Co-Ministers
  - Updated online worship outline weekly
  - Arranged for pickup/drop off of various items for congregation members
  - Created Search Team Binders for team members who requested hard copies of Search materials.

## Lisa Rittenberry, Administrative Assistant

- Create weekly Mini-Pioneers & E-blasts
- Edit and proof Pioneer
- Filing
- Press Releases
- Post Office & Process Mail
- Create name tags
- Tidy Sanctuary weekly
- Run Errands
- Attend staff meetings weekly
- Document Shredding
- Fill in Worship Outline
- Fill chalices with oil weekly
- Creation of various documents, reimbursement envelopes, funds transmittal envelopes, weekly docs
- Facilities Meeting May 8
- Maintain Handyman List
- Attempt to find a gutter cleaner
- Arrange for backflow inspection
- Arrange for ADS inspection
- Arrange for memorial stones to be engraved, marked spots, arranged throughout the garden, and for landscaping for placement of cremains, and for all 12 stones to be properly placed by a professional.