

Minister's Report

SUBMITTED: FEBRUARY 12, 2018

LIST OF REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED

- ☪ Monthly Board Meeting
- ☪ Monthly Westchester UU Ministers
- ☪ Monthly UUMA Cluster
- ☪ Monthly Committee on Ministry Meeting
- ☪ Monthly Visit with Mentee
- ☪ Monthly New Minister Discernment Group
- ☪ Weekly Supervision with Intern
- ☪ Weekly Supervision with DRE
- ☪ Weekly Staff Meeting
- ☪ Weekly Community Coffee

IRREGULAR MEETINGS, TRAININGS, CONSULTATIONS AND RITES OF PASSAGE

None this month

WORSHIP

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| January 14: | Martin Luther King Day |
| January 21: | Program Group |
| January 28: | William Preached |
| February 4: | Youth Sunday |
| February 11: | Stirring the Oatmeal Love |

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| January Theme: | Resilience |
| February Theme: | Love |
| March Theme: | Wandering/Journey |

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- A. We hired an Administrator! Since our last Board meeting we created a little Search Committee, interviewed 4 (or 5?) people and hired Barbara Montrose. This is a huge step for us and it's already paying off. Barbara is a delight to have in the office and things are already running more smoothly. We are reinstating full staff meetings on Wednesday afternoons as needed and as schedules allow.
- B. Now that the Listening Conversations are over, I'm hoping we can move forward with some concrete planning for the future. It is my intention to preach on a vision for our congregation as part of my stewardship sermon on February 25 but I'm hoping that sermon is part of a larger plan to help us move into a shared vision for our congregation.
- C. One of the things I heard from the Listening Conversation is that a few folks wish I had a higher profile in the community. I have a very high profile around issues of food and climate justice and am asked to speak often on those subjects. I co-founded a successful organization called [InterGenerate](#) in 2009 which has a strong reputation. I've been interviewed many times and was once named a local hero by Natural Awakening Magazine because of that work. When I first started at First Unitarian, I asked for support in a variety of ways but was turned down. InterGenerate paid for half of our own community garden in an attempt to create a partnership, which seems so natural, but after accepting the money, the Board rejected any other relationship. For the most part, I let it go, but I do bring it here in very small ways. For instance, the Food Bank Farmer, Doug DeCandia, who comes here each fall for our Share the Plate is a member of the InterGenerate Board; I've made connections for our community garden with other local farmers when they've had questions or needed help and Rob Carrol has asked me to speak several times at the Federated

Conservationists. I'm helping them host a conversation with local clergy next week on educating congregations for climate change. While I always say I'm the minister here, First U hasn't been interested in aligning with me on that work. I remain open and hopeful that one day that will change. It is a great opportunity for us to be visible in the community. (I wrote two chapters for a book on climate change that will be published this spring; it might be the boost we need to get the congregation interested.)

- D. There is a good chance Blanca is going to be deported in April. I would like to prevent that from happening by becoming a Sanctuary Congregation. I just learned about this on Sunday, so I'm spending Monday learning all I need to know. I'm hoping by Tuesday's Board meeting I'll have the information we need to talk about this effectively.
- E. I am actively working with the other UU ministers in the area on our shared Earth Day service. Richard Slade can't be with us, but it's my hope our choir will sing anyway. There will be one shared choir piece and each congregation will be responsible for one additional piece of music. I'll be talking with Diane about that. There will be a reflection in three parts, one of which I'll provide. Our religious educators are planning joint programming for children and youth.
- F. A Seventh Day Adventist pastor came to visit on Sunday. He's invited me to join an interfaith dialogue with his congregation. After investigating further, I realize he's not as interested in dialogue as he is in proving to his congregation that their theology is correct, that all other paths lead to damnation. As you can imagine, I'm not going to participate.
- G. Community Coffee has been more successful than I had imagined. People are coming to talk about very powerful things from personal struggles to deep theological questions. Most ministers offer this kind of time in coffee shops but spend much of it alone. While that would be fine with me, that so many folks are taking advantage of this opportunity has been a joy.
- H. Thank you for the vacation time. It worked out very well. I didn't go anywhere since Graham and Zac were working/in school, but that might have been even better. I was able to read and write and sleep. It was a blessing.

UPCOMING DATES

<i>Finance Committee Meeting:</i>	<i>February 21</i>
<i>Interfaith clergy conversation on climate change:</i>	<i>February 21</i>
<i>Stewardship Sermon:</i>	<i>February 25</i>
<i>The Shared Pulpit:</i>	<i>February 28</i>
<i>Tag Sale Set Up:</i>	<i>March 9 (No Drumming Circle)</i>
<i>Tag Sale:</i>	<i>March 10</i>