

# *Minister's Report*

SUBMITTED: JUNE 25, 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
- ❖ Monthly Finance Committee Meeting
- ❖ Monthly Community Coffee
- ❖ Weekly Supervision with DRE
- ❖ Weekly Supervision with Administrator
- ❖ Weekly Staff Meeting

## IRREGULAR MEETINGS, TRAININGS, CONSULTATIONS AND RITES OF PASSAGE

- ❖ Ordination of Rev. Emily DeTar. I led the Laying on of Hands.
- ❖ Meeting with the President and Meeting with the President and VP.
- ❖ Meeting with the new Caring Committee.
- ❖ Meeting with the InterFaith Council for Social Justice
- ❖ Meeting with Tracy and parents of young children
- ❖ Rock and Soul Concert

*(I had accepted an invitation by the Center for Earth Ethics for a training with Al Gore for 3 days, but had to cancel when things here were too busy.)*

## WORSHIP

Sunday, May 13:	Peace Is Who You Are: Mother's Day
Sunday, May 20:	Economic Justice For All: The Poor People's Campaign
Sunday, May 27:	Program Group
Sunday, June 3:	Gratitude Sunday
Sunday, June 10:	Flower Communion
Tuesday, May 29:	Silent Meditation
May Theme:	Truth
June Theme:	Justice

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- A. It is part of my Letter of Agreement that I take 4 weeks vacation and 4 weeks study leave in July and August each year. It is not easy to take all 4 weeks of vacation since our board retreat is mid-July. Therefore, I am planning to take 3 weeks vacation in July and 1 week in January. I'm hoping that's OK. The alternative is that I take the last week in August, but it usually gets busy that week, so I don't think we're well served if I'm not here.
- B. We had a Path to Membership Discussion in May and two people joined the congregation in June. Gina Piazza has expressed an interest in expanding and deepening that conversation in the coming year.
- C. Pastoral care needs had declined slightly but increased again. This was a year of tremendous pastoral need. In response to both the need and the lack of support by a Ministerial Intern, I've convened a small group of congregants to help. There are 4 women who have started reaching out in their way to help meet some expressed needs.

- D. There is a need in the county for a Sanctuary Church. I would like for us to look into making this happen. Given everything going on in the country, I believe we can be of service to people in need. I think there are others in the congregation interested in becoming a Sanctuary Church. It is my intention to contact them, do some research over the summer and get going in September to figure out what this would entail.
- E. While I'm on vacation and study leave, there is a list of on-call ministers for pastoral emergencies. That list will be given to the President and Vice President. Anyone seeking care should ask them for contact information. All of the UU ministers in our cluster (from Hastings to Kingston) cover for each other from mid-June to mid-September. I'm covering in June while others are at GA (which I didn't attend this year for the first time in a decade). In our cluster, there have only been two times when an on-call minister was called in the last 5 years and it was me both times because folks in the county know me. Otherwise, people generally wait for their minister to return rather than calling a stranger. With that said, one person has contacted me for the on-call numbers in anticipation of needing help. Please remember that if there's a serious emergency like a death, I should be called.
- F. Before Tracy became our DRE, it was the pattern of our religious educator to provide the board with reports three or four times a year. Tracy took on the task of writing reports monthly which has been helpful in keeping our board abreast of what's happening in the program, but as a half time position, it's not realistic for her to continue this pattern. I've become sensitive to both the time for which we've contracted Tracy and the actual time required to do the job. In light of this, we need to alter our expectations which will include a decrease in board reports.
- G. Tracy and I will engage our annual goal-setting for the year to come. This year, the task seems more daunting given the congregation's desire for more families and the many realities we are facing.
- H. On Wednesday, June 27, I will take Barbara out for a final lunch to say good-bye and thank you. I have taken other staff out for end of year lunches in the past. Sometimes I pay for them myself and sometimes there's money in the board budget to help cover the cost. If there's money, it would be lovely to be able to tell Barbara that the congregation was sending her off with a nice lunch. I also take Tracy (and our intern) out annually for this lunch as a sign of gratitude for the year. Since there are no Christmas gifts or annual salary increases, the Board might want to consider covering this lunch as a gesture of generosity. Again, some years there's money and some years there isn't. Please consider if this is possible. (We will go for lunch without the help; I think it's appropriate regardless of who pays for it.)
- I. Barbara's last day is Friday, June 29. I hope we will create a little Search Committee to find her replacement. We need a job description so I can post it and send it to some prospects and we need a timeline for hiring. I suggest we tell folks about the job and plan to interview in the first 2 weeks of September. I also suggest engaging Ron Katz and/or Sarah Clarke in the process.

## OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

- A. I was on the VUU, which is the UU live talk show online. I was invited to talk about the new book Justice on Earth for which I was a contributing writer.
- B. I attended one of the protests in Albany for the Poor People's Campaign. The PPC is a multi-faith, multi-racial campaign designed to disrupt our socio-economic status quo. There were maybe 400 hundred people there, including a significant group from Westchester and one of our members. I had offered to be part of the planning team in the county, but have stepped back in light of other issues in the country.
- C. I have become involved with the current national crisis related to the separation of children from their parents at the border. I attended a vigil at the federal court house in White Plains, a town meeting at South Presbyterian in Dobbs Ferry and will participate in the protest on June 30<sup>th</sup> as part of the InterFaith Council on Social Justice. I continue to invite congregants to participate with me, but so far, Tracy has been the

only person who has shown up.

#### UPCOMING DATES

<i>Board Retreat:</i>	<i>Saturday, July 21</i>
<i>Vacation:</i>	<i>July 1-15, August 19-25</i>
<i>Study Leave:</i>	<i>July 22-August 18</i>