

Minister's Report

SUBMITTED: OCTOBER 22, 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
- ☪ Weekly Supervision with DRE
- ☪ First of Weekly Staff Meetings

IRREGULAR MEETINGS, TRAININGS, CONSULTATIONS AND RITES OF PASSAGE

- ☪ Officiated Sarah Clarke's wedding
- ☪ Participated in Ministering in the Time of Collapse
- ☪ Attended UUMA/LREDA Leadership Day on Conflict
- ☪ Officiated April Castoldi's Mother's Memorial Service

WORSHIP

Sunday, September 30: Comfort Me
Sunday, October 7: Seeking Sanctuary
Sunday, October 14: Animal Blessing
Sunday, October 14: Family Worship (which will always be on our monthly theme)
Sunday, October 21: (Pulpit Exchange) Consuming Convenience with Rev. Michael Tino

September Theme: Letting Go
October Theme: The American Experiment
November Theme: Hospitality

INSIDE THE CONGREGATION

- A. Our new administrator is altering her hours. They are now:
Tuesday: 11:00am to 4:00 pm
Friday: 9:30 am to 2:3pm
- B. Having a new administrator, even if only 10 hours a week, is a huge help. There is a learning curve which requires much of my time. I am sure this training period will end soon and Kathy will be more self-sufficient.
- C. We've started an Adult Coming of Age class in partnership with the Mt. Kisco Fellowship. There are a total of 8 participants, 6 of whom are from FUSW.
- D. The ministers of the 5 Westchester congregations are hoping we can all join efforts in our social justice work. On September 30, we're planning a meeting to talk about climate change and are hoping two people from each congregation will participate. No one from FUSW has stepped up yet.
- E. After preaching on sanctuary and proposing that we discuss becoming a Sanctuary Church, I was surprised by the positive feedback. I expected more pushback but witnessed no resistance to the idea at all. I'm looking forward to the Town Hall meeting where we can flesh this out a little more.
- F. I've also been surprised by people's openness to blessings offered during worship. I offered one during the Comfort Me service and after it went well, I welcomed animals to receive individual blessings. In both

cases the line was long and afterward people expressed tremendous gratitude.

- G. It's becoming more clear to me how much ministry is done online. Some is through social media, some through email or messaging and occasionally texting. While these interactions sometimes lead to in-person meetings, they are often full encounters in themselves.
- H. April Castoldi and I have started working on creating a podcast. We are calling it The Madness of Love. The learning curve is long and includes both technology and the navigation of the online system in an attempt to gain an audience. We have also enlisted our husbands to write a theme song. There are some upfront costs to this endeavor that April and I will cover ourselves. In the unlikely event that money is made from this podcast, we will be reimbursed.
- I. The woman who has been renting my office is going to stop. She and her husband are moving out of the area so she is no longer interested in growing her business in the Rivertowns. I'm wishing we had someone dedicated to renting our space; I think it's an under-utilized revenue stream.
- J. I see that no auction is planned this fall. I don't know that this is a bad thing, but I'm wondering if anyone is paying attention to fundraising.
- K. We need a point person for Juana. The problem is that Juana often requires attention at 6:30 in the morning. She generally texts me and because I'm the only full time person on staff, and because I'm on call for pastoral emergencies anyway, I respond. It occurs to me, though, that in a congregation that talks so much about being congregationally led, too many of these kinds of things fall to me. When we had a half time administrator, some of this was on her, but with a 10 hour contract person, we can't expect Kathy to deal with alarms going off at 7am. I am hoping the Board will designate a point person for Juana.
- L. The greatest struggle for me this year is a lack of time. There are a myriad of reasons for this. Requests for pastoral care are frequent and so far this year, most people are asking to meet me outside my office. The addition of Sunday RE, the podcast, the new administrator and the lack of a point person for building issues have all added to the busyness.
- M. Contracts for both Juana and Kathy have been neglected. Part of the reason for this is that Ron Katz is slowing shifting his membership to 4th Universalist in NYC near his home and Sarah Clarke has moved to Fishkill and is also in the process of shifting her life. This leaves us without an HR person in the congregation.
- N. Given the many needs we have, I wonder if we could have a sign up sheet for things like Juana point person, Share the Plate, fundraising, rentals and call attention to it during the town hall meeting.

INSIDE THE DENOMINATION

There has been some tremendous work in our denomination around white supremacy. Nonetheless, the issue is hot and got hotter this week when a youth of color volunteering at the UUA received some vicious hate mail. Because this family has taken leadership around issues of race in our denomination, this youth's mother has been on the wrong end of this kind of communication before, but this is the first time her children have been targeted. Our President, Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray has spoken out on the issue and is taking steps to help keep this family safe, but we all need to be aware and to stay vigilant.

UPCOMING DATES

<i>Sunday, October 28:</i>	<i>Town Hall Meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday, October 30:</i>	<i>Multi-Congregational Justice Meeting on Climate</i>
<i>Sunday, November 11:</i>	<i>Afternoon Religious Education in Mt. Kisco</i>

Sunday, November 18: Annual Thanksgiving Service (including food collection)
Sunday, November 18: Afternoon Family Worship and Religious Education
Sunday, November 25: Michael Carmen Covering Worship
Friday, December 7: Sue McAnanama induction for service