

INCIDENTALS REPORT

April 2023

[A monthly report from the UUCS Executive Team to the Board of Trustees]

The Executive Team submits a monthly Incidentals Report to the Board of Trustees. This report highlights key updates on UUCS operations; things that the Board ought to be aware of but fall outside the scope of Board policy work.

SUNDAYS

- **Worship Attendance** during the month of March averaged 186 each week.
 - Average in-person adult attendance: 104
 - Average in-person children attendance: 11
 - Average Zoom connections: 72
- The hospitality team is experimenting with setting up **coffee hour** prior to worship to encourage gathering and mingling before worship begins.
- The hospitality team is beginning to direct congregants to enter OBIC through the **downstairs entrance** on Sunday mornings. This prioritization is to 1) be respectful of **Christ United Methodist Church** (who has modified their Sunday morning schedule so that their worship service begins at 10AM) and 2) streamline responsibilities for our volunteer greeters.
- Thanks to the leadership of the Worship Steering Committee, the **worship calendar** is planned through the ministerial sabbatical, to Sunday, August 27.

MEMBERSHIP

- Ten first-time visitors completed **visitor forms** in the month of March.
- The following individuals have formalized their membership at UUCS:
 - Haley Fischer (March 5, 2023)
 - Annilin Fort (March 23, 2023) — past member who held “friend” status since 2008
 - Emily Murphy (March 26, 2023)
 - Martie MacKenzie (March 26, 2023)
 - Mike Hammett (March 26, 2023)
 - Natalie Roberts (April 2, 2023)
 - Merrill Pearson (April 2, 2023)
 - Mikayla Kurkjian (April 2, 2023)
 - Natalie Coore (April 2, 2023)
 - Anna Kayes (April 6, 2023)
 - Chris Kayes (April 6, 2023)
- The following individuals have resigned their membership:
 - Elizabeth Gammon
 - Melanie Milner

STEWARDSHIP

- As of April 7, 2023, UUCS's pledge drive has reached **\$453,627** (61% of our dollar goal) from **105** pledge units (37% of our participation goal). Comparison to previous years:
 - 2022: As of April 7, 2022, 149 households had pledged \$475,660 for FY22-23
 - 2021: As of April 1, 2021, 166 households had pledged \$500,728 for FY21-22
 - 2020: As of April 5, 2020, 138 households had pledged \$456,342.88 for FY20-21

- Individual **pledge outreach** is underway with 10 callers reaching out relationally to congregants who have not yet pledged.
- Twenty-three congregants attended **pledge parties** in the month of March, out of 54 possible spots. While every pledge party attendee made a pledge, the overarching goal of widespread congregational engagement and connection through pledge parties was not achieved. Pledge parties require significant effort on the part of the party coordinator, party hosts, pledge presenters, and staff; the Stewardship Council, pledge volunteers, and staff will engage in a postmortem to evaluate the disconnect between the congregation's expressed desire for pledge parties and actual turnout.

PROGRAM

- Nine participants joined Sara Davidson for the first **drop-in reflection group** held on April 2, 2023. No longtime UUCC members attended; all nine of the discussion participants were newcomers from the past year.
- Religious Education updates
 - Our **middle school** programming has shifted to a youth group model, with an emphasis on community connection and student-led projects. The middle school students now meet on Sundays immediately following the worship service, and the first of their projects is an ice cream social fundraiser on April 23 for the Little Free Pantry.
 - **OWL** for grades 4/5 has begun with four students enrolled.
 - The RE and **Nourishing Garden** teams are working together to incorporate the garden into our children's programming; the children have planted peas and strawberries with the support of Ann Wing, Mary Rodgers, and Trish Steinhilber.
 - **Sunday morning children's programming** invites and welcomes additional volunteers and teachers for the two Sunday morning classes!
- The Joyful Gatherings team is planning a **family fun day** for Saturday, May 20.
- Two adults and two youth registered to participate in the [now postponed] reimagined UUCC **Boston pilgrimage** this spring. The youth chose to postpone the trip in hopes of generating more congregational engagement and participation around this multigenerational opportunity.
- UUCC youth Teaghan Verow McLaughlin served as a youth dean of the UUA's **Intergenerational Spring Seminar** held in Minneapolis, MN with the theme "Demilitarization & Abolition: Resist Policing and Empire." Teaghan plans to share what she learned at the seminar with YRUU and the congregation, and to continue to connect UUCC's youth with people she met at the seminar.
- Both the **Worship Steering Committee** and the team of **Worship Associates**, led by Colette Gelwicks and Michael Adcock, will be meeting monthly through the ministerial sabbatical. The trained team of 13 Worship Associates is well-served by the dedicated efforts of Colette, who has been regularly updating the Worship Associates manual to reflect the ongoing processes of creating meaningful worship services at UUCC.
- Becky Reese is leading the efforts to build a **pastoral care steering group** to oversee the various components of UUCC's lay-led pastoral care ministry. Through the ministerial sabbatical, Becky will serve as the primary point of contact for **Karuna**, and Caela Barry will coordinate meals and other short-term services on behalf of the **caring committee**. Jenny Afkinich will join Caela as co-chair of the caring committee after Jenny completes her term on the Board.
- Five UUCC congregants have registered to attend **UUA General Assembly** this summer in Pittsburgh. They are: Kerridwen Henry, Melissa Affolter, Martie MacKenzie, Mike Hammett, Marie

Razulis. As previously reported, staff members Sara Davidson, Valerie Hsu, and Hannah Nelson will also be attending.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Board of Trustees meeting** — Tuesday, May 9, 2023
- **UUCU Annual Meeting** — Sunday, June 4, 2023
- **UUA General Assembly** — June 21 – June 25, 2023
- **Ministerial sabbatical** — April 1 – August 31, 2023