

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
October 2, 2024
Cancelled

October 9: A full Board retreat was held at 765 Broad Rock Rd, Wakefield from 9:00Am till 3:00 PM.

Board meetings will now be held in person in the Oneto Room from 10:30 - 12:30 on the first Wednesday of every month. This change was made to better accommodate young families and those who have long nighttime commutes.

Staff reports: Appended

Minister's Report to the Board of Directors
UU Congregation of South County
Rev. Denis Paul
September 26, 2024

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Since my return from vacation at the beginning of August, I've had responsibility for the following Sunday morning services:

9/8 "Wonder Twin Powers," Water communion Service with Lee Cowan

9/15 "What We Call Ourselves," with Barbara Nowicki

For the latter service, because I was down with Covid, Nancy Richman graciously filled in for me, reading the script that I had prepared. It reminds me that in the nearly three years of my time with you, we haven't had any instances in which a lay leader has had to resort to using one of the emergency sermons on file in the Patterson Library.

These are my thoughts on three areas of ministry:

Worship Life

On October 5 the Worship Assistants (Worship Committee members, plus the others who occasionally co-lead services) will be gathering for another "grounding session."

That same week, Nancy and I will be meeting with the co-chairs of the Music Committee, so they can share their ideas about how to move forward with the Music Director Search. After our 9/8 Chalice Side Chat, it seems that most folks agree that engaging in an interim period without a Music Director affords us the opportunity to close at least some of our budget gap, while also allowing us to enjoy the skills and generosity of the musicians in our congregation. My feeling is that for that plan to be successful, we'll need the Music Committee to take on the responsibility of recruiting, scheduling and working with musicians, including the occasional paid guests that can work with and accompany the choir, even if it isn't every week. The worship Committee and I simply don't have the time to do the coordinating on top of all of our other responsibilities. I know The Music Committee will do a great job.

Congregational Life

Jeff Berry shared with me the records of congregational giving. It wasn't the first time I've seen them, but it's the first time I've had a copy in my possession. My plan is to use the information to think about whom I can approach about stepping up giving. My feeling is that with the deaths of so many generous big givers in the last few years, we need a few pledge units to replace them. We also need everyone to step up their giving just a bit.

Let me be clear here that my access to records of giving in no way affect my presence with or availability to anyone in the congregation, member or friend, based on their gifts. Everyone is valuable. Everyone's needs matter. And congregations like ours thrive only because some are willing and able to give more than their "fair share," in order for everyone to be included.

I'm working with Lee to plan Wunder Academy events throughout the year, beginning with a Wunder Day in early November. The goal is to build a culture of Metamorphosis while inviting the whole congregation into the events.

Community Life

We are developing so many connections with the wider community! The learning Lab has signed a lease. Qi Gong will be offered here weekly this fall. The Community Sewing Space will be up and running again shortly. We are walking our talk and forming connections with organizations whose values align with ours.

Meanwhile, I am continuing to work on the Leadership Team of the Ballou Channing Chapter of the UU Minister's Association.

Housekeeping

My next furlough week is October 15-20

Since my last report, I have disbursed no funds from the Agape Fund.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Paul

Office Administrator Board Report, October 2024

Facilities

Things are getting busier, as always happens in the fall. I coordinated scheduling for the classes and activities that are resuming and make sure they are listed and/or promoted in the newsletter and Breeze calendar.

Community

I collected and delivered questions submitted for the candidates' forum organized by UUCSC members who are involved in the League of Women Voters.

Ongoing

I continue to work with Etta on the newsletter and website, and to take care of the mail, email and phone messages and getting the bills to Karen St. Peter, in addition to producing the weekly order of service

October 2024, DRE

Dear Board,

We are trying a new model of RE Committee this year. We will be hosting "Visioning" sessions that everyone is invited to. Our first one is Oct. 6th at 11:30. This will be a chance for anyone to contribute to the planning of RE. This first one will be focused on our first mini-Wünder Day! And I will be asking a few people to be sounding boards throughout the year to help me think through ideas via email and to carry out action items. So this will be the experiment instead of monthly committee meetings.

Mini-Wünder Days: the idea is to have touchstones throughout the congregational year when we can revisit the Wünder Academy and continue to build the culture together. The first one is planned for Nov. 10th from 10am-3pm. We will start with the kids during RE time, focusing on our characters, complete with names and costumes. Then at noon we will invite everyone to gather in the backyard to enjoy a hearty Stone Soup, cornbread and autumn games. Then the kids will have time at the end to do some Wünder Academy deepening together.

I have been digging into the UUA offerings this fall and have signed up for several classes and gatherings. I attended a LREDA zoom gathering yesterday that was FULL of really helpful offerings and resources, plus a good chance to connect to colleagues. I'm signed up for two Spark classes through the UU Institute: one is called "Facilitation for Transformation" to help facilitators of Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression/Multicultural curricula, including the Mosaic Lifespan Anti-Racism Curriculum that I am interested in incorporating into RE. The second class is "Spiritual Care Training for Congregational Leaders." I'm also signed up for an "RE kick off" zoom call and hopefully a Teen Depression Workshop if they can find a way to offer the live presentation via Zoom.

We've had some lovely Sundays together, beginning with water communion all together and then having some sweet Roses Buds and Thorns sharing circles as we begin our year in RE. We have one new family who have come every Sunday this month and it's great to get to know them And we have a new RE staff person! Suzelle Glickman, Elizabeth Carter's daughter will be helping us every Sunday. We hope to have a rotating list of people to come in as a second staffer on Sundays: some teens, Kenneth and Jenny Rebecca when they can.

The middle schoolers and I, along with two moms, are going camping at Burlingame this weekend! I love the ways that we can connect outside of Sundays. It's so wonderful to be deepening these relationships.

Renting the RE space to Elisabeth Swain is going great so far!

Thanks for all you do

Lee