

Congregational Meeting

Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church

June 13, 2021

Report from the Board.

I will focus on the Board's perspective and activities which have occurred since our December, 2020 meeting.

MFC

In December, the Board finalized its contribution to the documents required by the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee on Rev. Kristen's behalf. After UU ministers are newly ordained, they apply for Fellowship, which is a sort of tenure. It's a lengthy and involved process which takes at least 3 years. There was also input from our Ministerial Development Committee (Lisa Key, Tom Spohn, Quinn Rose, Aida Sanchez-Vela, Suzanne Laurel). Our documents were filed with the UUA in January, and in May Rev. Kristen was happy to learn that succeeded in jumping that hurdle for the second year in a row. So, that's two years down, hopefully only one more to go in this process.

Living Into Mission

A subgroup of the Board (Karin Leisy, Anjali Lopez, Lauren Crowder, and Kristen Kuriga) has taken on the task of exploring how we live our Mission. The group created 4 workshops throughout the year on the theme of "Living Into Our Mission" - one workshop for each of our 4 Mission points. These sessions were well-attended.

PTF

The Pandemic Task Force (Anjali Lopez, Judy Featherstone, Karen LaFe, Sharon Crow) has remained active throughout the year, guiding the Board in its decisions regarding protocols in relation to our church's particular circumstances in light of recommendations by the CDC and King County Health Department, during the different phases of this pandemic. Recent changes have included a return to in-person services for the Haitian Christian Church, and the reintroduction of outdoor small-group gatherings for our congregation. In-person, indoor worship is anticipated for this September, but whether some limitations will remain is yet to be determined.

Administrator Search

Because of a need for staff changes, the Board convened, not once, but twice, a search committee to find a new administrator. Many thanks to committee members Galen Guffey, Tom Spohn, and Rev. Kristen for finding Katherine Miller, who began work this Spring.

Safety Team

The work of the Safety Team is ongoing. This Team has representatives of all groups who meet on the Saltwater campus. The Synagogue is particularly active in this area. Saltwater's representatives are Karin Leisy, Glenn Andrews, and Board liaison Anjali Lopez. This team looks at all manner of safety, from earthquake preparedness to active preparedness. The current priority is on the installation of outdoor lighting.

GA

For the first time in my memory, the number of people interested in being a delegate to this year's GA was double the number of slots apportioned to our church. (GA stands for "General Assembly" - the gathering of the national organization which occurs in late June every year.) The Board devised a discernment process by which our allotted 4 delegates were chosen. Our delegates are 1) Mary Paynter, 2) Rachel English, 3) Topher Benum, and 4) Neysa Peterson. GA will be virtual, as it was last year, and will run from the 23rd through the 27th of this month. Of course, you don't need to be a delegate in order to attend.

HCT & CRR

Lastly, I'll introduce one of the activities of the HCT (Healthy Congregations Team, consisting of Bev Ross, Quinn Rose, and Debra Valpey). It was almost 2 years ago when this team was given the task of formulating an update to our Covenant of Right Relations. Its work has become visible to most of us only in the last 6 months since they presented a proposal at our December 2020 meeting, where we congregants were first invited to provide feedback.

This is a good time for us to segue into our ballot measure today, with a very few words from one of the HCT members.....

Submitted by Ray Valpey, Board President