

Minister's Report: August/September

To Discuss with Board:

- 2nd Wednesdays Leadership Letter for Beacon Bits: On 2nd Wednesdays, I meet with the Houston Area UU Minister's cluster in the mornings, which is normally the time I write my Beacon Bit's column and other materials. Because of the HUUMA meeting, I always scramble and stress to complete it on time this week, and so I would like to ask that the Board take this week to write a "Leader's Letter" to the congregation in lieu of the minister's column.
- Reopening Thoughts- See Reopening Report (separate document)
- Developmental Goals Review/ Ministry Assessment: I recommend the board appoint a task force to oversee this project, starting with a timeline (board retreat material?)

Updates:

Supervision: I have completed quarterly reviews with both staff members and submitted them to HR for documentation. (This year, it looks like I'm doing these reviews every four months instead of every three, so they aren't technically "quarterly," but since that's three more than have been done in any given year thus far in living memory, I still feel pretty good about it.)

YouTube: We're getting a good number of videos on YouTube, and folks are watching them! I'm working with Jamie to include a larger YouTube channel presence on the website, and including a link that each week's playlist in the Beacon Bits and sharing it in the Facebook group.

Membership: Membership is implementing a plan to have all of our new members actually sign the book, with one person taking the book to their houses and delivering their new member gift bags in the process. We have also put the new member information form online, so it will be much easier to get that information from folks.

Worship: The WA Team and I are working on finding ways to bring in other voices to our worship services online, and creative ways of delivering our message in service. I'm excited about some of these ideas! We are also discussing doing an outdoor service in a park in the new year. We are also bringing Peter Mayer to lead a worship service and provide music this December, as well as commissioning three worship videos for this fall, each of which will have a short reflection and a song from Peter on the themes of compassionate community, spirited searching, and courageous action. The Worship Production Team is working its collective tail off to provide quality online worship experiences, and I tip my hat to them all. I literally could not do it without them.

Fall Programming: This fall, we have a couple of new adult offerings:

- "Second Hour" offerings every week after service: First Sunday: Adult Forum (Hallie Moore managing), Second Sunday: Parents' Meetup (Gay Lynn facilitating), Third Sundays: Small Groups (after the test run this Sunday, Jamie will facilitate), and Fourth Sundays: SEE Justice Forum (SEE Justice leaders facilitating)
- Adult Learning: I am offering three adult enrichment/faith development programs I'm planning to offer this year. One is geared toward newer folks (Pathways 2.0), one is designed for folks in or considering leadership (Harvest the Power), and one centers around developing spiritual practices (Spirit in Practice). I hope these groups will be ways to deepen members' connection to each other and commitment to Northwoods, as well as build that path from new member to

committed member and ultimately leadership, which ties in with both groups. These groups are currently in “rolling registration.” Once a class fills with enough participants, we will begin and find a time that works best for us at that point.

- Other ideas that have yet to find a home or coordinator include a pen pals postcard program and online Circle Dinners. Both sound great, but would need folks to promote and organize them.

Professional Development: As I said Sunday, my professional goals are: Stay alive, stay sane, and stay connected. To this end, I am working with a couple of spiritual directors monthly to support my own spiritual life (without which it’s a LOT harder to do my job, apparently). I am also participating in a clergy-only Wellspring group online. Wellspring is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development that I have been interested in checking out for a long time, so I am looking forward to seeing where that goes.

Scheduled Time Off:

- Sept. 19-22: Personal Leave
- Nov. 9-13: Study Leave
- Nov. 16-20: Personal Leave
- Dec. 25-Jan. 1: Church office closed for holiday (Rev. Sarah off)