

Bridging Minister

Report to the 1U Annual Congregational Meeting – May 19, 2019
Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman, Bridging Minister
Time period covered: 12/1/2018 - 4/30/2019

Board/Governance

Participated in monthly Board Executive Committee sessions and Board meetings, 12/2018 - 4/2019, presented monthly reports

Participated in Deep Conversations, January and April

Participated in special meetings of the Board on the pledge drive and other topics

Participated in two (2) Zoom conversations with Christine Purcell of the Southern Region and Board members about ministry matters, Bridging and Interim

Accepted Board's invitation to serve as Bridging Minister January 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019 (contract now extended to July 31, 2019)

Discernment and Strategy

Attended Q and A between Rev. Kathy and congregation on ministerial staffing

Participated in several meetings to discuss program needs at 1U; responded to questions in relation to program needs: participated in meetings of the Program Development Team and described the minister's role in Policy-Based Governance

Discussed application for Interim Minister and suggested interview questions with members of the Interim Minister Search Team

Followed up on Board proposals about the role of the Bridging Minister in managing digital improvements and working toward a Program Council model; much consultation with Administrative staff in this follow-up

Discussions with stakeholders on alcohol policy and implementation at 1U

Participated in monthly meetings of the Finance Committee and Congregational Ministry Committee and two (2) meetings of the Personnel Committee

Participated in meetings to discuss the Pledge Drive, Building Use Policy, and Safety Plan

Supplied UUA books on Interim Ministry, pledge drive, and ministerial search to relevant Board members

Attended congregational roll-out of Capital Fund drive

Participated in three (3) sessions of Q and A at 1U in coordination with the Membership Committee

Conducted mid-year Personnel interviews with DCYM, Administrator, Program Assistant, and Music Director

Worship and Music

Coordinated with Rev. Kathy to develop the ceremony of leave-taking. Met monthly with Worship Team to plan services, clarify roles, and determine mini-themes

Coordinated with the team who researches and reads the Words for All Ages; recruited children to read poems in one service

Provided opening words to Sandy Cawthern for the film "The Yard"

Met with Aubrey weekly before choir practice to plan music and worship in services

Preached the sermon twice in January (including dialog sermon with Rev. Kathy), twice in February (plus led the service for the Generation 90s and 80s), twice in March (plus led the Generation 70s and 60s), and preached the sermon once in April (plus participated with Mystic Grove in their service and led the Generation 50s and 40s).

Recruited generational speakers and rehearsed them the day before their homilies.

Recruited speakers for brief homilies for the pledge drive in March and April

Recruited Rev. Kierstin Homblette-Allen, Aubrey Connelly-Candelario, and members of RUUM to do their service

Worked on the structure of the service with Ken Lofgren on his Channing service

Spoke as a colleague in Rev. Christine Dance's ordination service

Worked with Worship Team as they developed the slides for the services

Program

Met monthly with Lay Pastoral Associates, WUURL, Covenant Group (a former co-facilitator, now a member), Worship Team, Aging Support Group, RUUM (briefly twice)

Participated in Bingo night and the Hearts and Hand Auction

Attended 100th birthday party for Irma Scudder

Lifespan Faith Development

Participated in Sunday morning classes weekly

Met with Jess Hunt, DCYM, to plan as often as possible

Sent emails and phoned Jess when we couldn't meet in person because of scheduling difficulties

Recruited Linnea Nelson to mentor Jess and consulted with her numerous times; recruited Louise Christie to organize an R. E. Committee

Met with parents of R.E. and with youth and their volunteer advisors to discuss plans

Attended youth fund-raiser dinner and contributed personal funds

Coordinated with Jess to provide a safe space for congregants because of concerns about the UUA and transgender matters

Encouraged Jess to become more visible as a leader to congregation

Consulted with congregants one-on-one about needs and enhancements in the program

Community, Care, and Outreach

Corresponded with Lay Pastoral Care team on their worship service, attended their meetings

Paid pastoral visits outside the church, reached out to bereaved members and visited them, met with congregants in the office on pastoral matters, attended memorial service for Harriet L'Engle Little

Facilitated four (4) persons who signed the membership book after a conversation in the minister's office.

Met with a number of persons for pastoral care

Staff

Kept a daily presence at the office working with Church Administrator and Program Assistant

Working on meeting deadlines for publications I'm responsible to

Remaining available to congregants for meetings in the office or elsewhere