

August 2016

To All our Members and Friends at UUFM:

Your Board of Directors is committed to keeping all of you informed of what we as the board are up to! Some of the things we are instituting in order to be as open and informative as possible are:

- Putting our monthly agenda in the Weekly Update the week before the meeting: all are welcome to attend!
- Putting our approved meeting minutes as a link in the Weekly Update, on our website, a paper copy on the bulletin board in the social hall and sending them out to all committee chairs
- Writing monthly board notes in the Weekly Update (such as this one)
- Continuing our periodic Listening Circles

We will have four Listening Circles to discuss the idea of Developmental Ministry next year. They will be on four Sundays, starting at noon: September 18th and 25th and October 2nd and 9th. We will then have a Congregational Meeting on October 16th at noon.

The purpose of our Congregational Meeting will be two-fold:

1: To vote to approve the Endowment Fund Policy approved by the board this month. This policy establishes the guidelines we would follow in seeking donations to build a dedicated fund that, as it grows, would generate funds that can be used for special projects. The Finance committee has worked hard to put this together for us. See the attached link to view this document and begin asking any questions you have about it to the Finance Chair: Dennis Cramblit or during our Listening Circles.

2: To vote to enthusiastically approve entering into the Developmental Ministry program for our next minister, beginning in August 2017 after Rev. Don leaves us. The board has passed a motion recommending this move into Developmental Ministry for our congregation.

There are two documents for you to use to help start understanding what Developmental Ministry is about and what it can do for our church. One is a rating scale on 'Congregational Fitness for Ministry.' The other is a document from our MidAmerica Region explaining what Congregational Ministry is about. Please review these before attending one or more Listening Circles in the next 2 months. See this link for viewing these 2 documents:

The Congregational Fitness for Ministry was developed by a minister to help congregations assess how attractive they might be to a minister in search of a church. He says that he would not be interested in a church that did not rate at least 2 '4's on the rating scale. None of us on the board rated us a 4 in any of the areas. Our average rating was about at a 3. Try it out and see how you would rate our church!

We are in conversation with a staff member at the MidAmerica Region about our candidacy for Developmental Ministry. We will be able to share more information with you at the Listening Circles.

We had a board and committee chair retreat earlier this month and made changes to our Long-Range Plan document. As you remember, this was begun with input from all of you who attended the Listening Circles last spring. The board worked over the summer refining that input into 3 goals for the next 3 years: Governance and Organization, Ministry and Environment and Facilities. We will be sharing the final Long-Range Plan with you after its approval at our September board meeting.

In Gratitude,

Nancy Cramblit
Your Board President