

Board Notes August 2017

To All our Members and Friends at UUFM:

I'm writing this to let you know about the main results of the board/committee chair retreat we had on August 4th and 5th at the Holy Spirit Retreat Center outside of Janesville. We were fortunate to have the excellent help of Karen Gustafson, a consultant with the MidAmerica Region of the UUA.

With Karen's assistance, our group shared idea after idea after idea on how we could make this year without a minister a terrific one for our church. Some of the main points we came up with were:

1: The **value of deep listening** as a way to build trust. Karen taught us a way to share our levels of participation in our congregation from our initial time attending to the present. We will be sharing this process with as many of you as possible during the year. We learned how our stories of involvement in the church are important to tell and to hear.

2: How to manage the **worship schedule** and other tasks without a minister.

3: The worship schedule: we began helping Kim Evans, our wonderful Worship Chair, with the schedule of Sundays for the year. We all agreed that the speakers/visiting ministers will be asked to ground their talks in the **4 aspects of our mission statement**: nourishing the spirit, broadening the mind, nurturing the earth, and building community. Carrie Rice will be developing and leading each monthly Intergenerational Service.

4: Some of the **initiatives** that we will be working on this year include:

- Shared Pulpit, where members learn about how to craft a sermon and lead a worship service which will be led by Carrie Rice and
- Stabilizing our governance structure: we will complete our Personnel Handbook, continue work on a safety policy and a revised building use plan. New governance changes will wait until next year when we have a minister.

5: We plan on having several Listening Circles and Table Topic discussions during the year. Our first Listening Circle will be on Sunday, September 10th from noon to 1, where the board will be sharing where we are in our search for a minister next year, and listening to your ideas about ministry.

Let me know if you have questions about any of this!

In Gratitude,
Nancy Cramblit, Your Board President