

Board Notes August 23, 2017

To All our Members and Friends at UUFM:

The UUFM began as a very strong, very small group of dedicated lay people, who organized Sunday School classes for their children in their homes. Gradually, this group of people decided to also hold adult meetings. When the group began to grow, they purchased a former farm house on Pohl Road in Mankato. When I started attending services in 1991, the Sunday service was held in a small addition that had been added to the farmhouse, with many windows to let in the sun and the view of many trees around the property. At that time, we had a quarter-time minister that we shared with the Nora UU Church in Hanska. Volunteers did everything else: the newsletter that was mailed monthly, printing the Order of Service with runs to Kinkos, organizing Sunday School (Religious Education) classes for children and youth, cleaning, mowing, and all the other multitude of tasks to keep a building and a lay-led congregation running.

A few years after that, we decided to hire a Religious Education Coordinator 10 hours a week for 9 months (we didn't meet in the summer in those days). Now we have a half-time Children's Faith Development Director, Carrie Rice, for the whole calendar year.

After hiring our first person to help with RE, we decided to hire an Office Administrator, at about another 10 hours a week. This first OA was Gerry Tostenson, who stayed with us after we moved to Charles Ave. Now we have a half-time Office Administrator, Linda Ganske, who is beginning her fifth year with us.

We are extremely fortunate to have these two talented, dependable and creative people working to help make our church welcoming, meaningful and inviting for all! Please let them know how much you appreciate their work for us. THANK YOU, LINDA AND CARRIE!!

Michelle Sturm helped establish our choir, first as a volunteer and then as paid staff. Following a brief interim with Cayley Jameson, we are still looking to find a permanent replacement for Choir Director. From what we are hearing, such a person is most likely to be found through personal contacts in the music world. If you have any possible leads, please let Danielle Stedman, our Personnel Committee chair, know. Having a choir remains a very important goal for us.

An overriding staffing goal for us is to find a full-time minister as soon as possible. As a congregation with 2½ times as many adult members since we moved from Pohl Road, we have realized the importance of having that full-time presence in our church and representing our church in the community. We were unsuccessful this past year in finding a minister interested in living here as our Developmental Minister (DM). Our search for a DM continues to be listed on the UUA Transitions website and Rev. Keith Kron, who leads the transitions team, is mentioning our church to new ministers as they become accredited.

Please know that your Board of Directors is committed to finding a full-time minister as soon as possible. We will be talking about this and listening to your ideas and dreams about a minister in a **Listening Circle after the luncheon on Sunday, September 24th, from noon to 1.** Please put this on your calendar! Phil Lund, a congregational consultant with our MidAmerica Region of the UUA, of which we are

members, will be joining us that day to help facilitate the discussion and to help us brainstorm next steps for attracting a minister.

***PLEASE COME TO OUR LISTENING CIRCLE ON FULL-TIME MINISTRY FROM NOON TO 1 ON SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24TH!!***

In Gratitude,
Nancy Cramblit, Your Board President