

Board Notes September 2017

To All our Members and Friends at UUFM:

I'd like to begin with a few quick updates on things happening at UUFM:

- Building and Grounds has purchased a new refrigerator that is now on the right in our kitchen. Many thanks to Becky Rossow and Linda Ganske for spending time comparing prices in town!
- Our Membership Committee is now titled our "Connections Committee," which better represents what they are working to do: create more connections between us as members and friends and visitors.
- We are developing a Safety Policy to cover a variety of safety issues or emergency situations that could happen. Look for first aid training opportunities and fire alarm evacuation drills!
- If you are interested in Worship planning and worship services, or in working on Personnel hiring and policies, please consider joining these committees!
- We continue our search for a janitor and a choir director.

SEARCHING FOR OUR NEXT MINISTER TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!

On Sunday, September 24th, the board held our first Listening Circle of the year. We hope to hold either a Listening Circle after coffee hour or a Table Topic discussion during coffee hour on most months this year.

We were very grateful to have over 20 of our members and friends attend the Listening Circle on Ministry. We presented a PowerPoint of the ministerial duties that Rev. Don provided us during his two years with us, the duties we as a congregation shared with him, and the duties that the congregation provided. You can find a link to this PowerPoint [here](#).

As the facilitator at the board/committee chair retreat reminded us: "Everything we do is an expression of our faith."

We listened as you talked about:

- Our history of professional ministers
- Our hiring process
- A need to hear from a variety of voices in the Sunday pulpit to meet intellectual stimulation
- Meeting spiritual needs on Sunday am
- What kind of minister we may be looking for (answer: right now we are open to all methods of finding our next minister: developmental, contract and theological students)
- The need for flexibility in achieving our goals in ministry
- Diversity and examining our white privilege
- Deficit spending
- Our need for new people to take over jobs being done by longtime members

When the board met after the Listening Circle with Rev. Phil Lund, a consultant with the MidAmerica Region who came down to help with the circle, he said a few things that really resonated with me. One was his statement that what happens on Sunday morning is important, but that everything else we do is equally important! He also said that we will be looking for a minister to come and share with us and

grow together: that what we will be in 5 years is not what we are now. We need to be ready and flexible for that growth and change!

In Gratitude,
Nancy Cramblit, Your Board President