

July Board Notes

Your Board met last Wednesday. While we dealt with several “business” matters, we talked about three things of particular interest—our finances, the upcoming Board Retreat, and the committee on shared ministry.

I hate to lead off with money issues, but that is the order in which things came up. We are on target to end the year with \$225,000 in reserve, and are projected to exhaust those reserves in a little over 4 years if nothing changes. We finished the year with 95% of our pledges met. For most congregations, that would be good news, but our history has been that 97-99% of our pledges are met. The downward trend is slight but troubling, especially since we had already adjusted our initial pledge estimate down from \$120,000 to \$115,000. Perhaps some of us have just been waiting until the new minister arrives—remember, now that we have her *we* have to keep her!

We are planning to hold our annual Board Retreat on Saturday, August 18. Every year, we try to set out the calendar of events for the coming year (so, keep your eyes on the calendar on our website!), and to spend some quality time thinking about what we want to accomplish (and why) for the coming year. This year will be a little different—later in the Fall, the MidWest Region of the UUA will also help us with a “Start-Up Seminar” which they do for churches who have hired a new minister. Although that seminar is usually targeted at “leadership,” we will be looking for opportunities to open up at least part of it to everyone who is interested. In any event, we will use the Weekly to provide as much information as possible.

Finally, the Board has been discussing ways we can support Rev. Rita’s ministry. Since she is newly ordained (“preliminary fellowship” in the ministerial association), she must have a committee separate from the Board which helps the UUA assess her growth in ministry. In addition, many UU congregations broaden the charge of that committee to assess not just the minister but all of the ministries of the congregation. We have been looking at some of those models, and are looking forward to exploring them in more detail with Rev. Rita when she comes in August.

We discussed a lot more at the meeting—feel free to look at the agenda online. If you have questions, or comments, or advice—or if you just want to talk—get hold of any of us on the Board. We’d be glad to hear from you.

Tony