

## President's Notes:

The Board had a packed agenda this month, as we begin the new year. We did some planning for the Start-Up Workshop October 5-6, facilitated by Rev. Phil Lund of the MidAmerica Region, that will give the congregation and the Board the opportunity to fill out our vision of what we can do together with our new minister, Rev. Rita (see the related article about the Congregational Potluck).

We also spent a fair bit of time working out the stewardship campaign for next year's budget. In the past, the stewardship campaign was held in the Spring, and often was not concluded before the Board presented a budget to the congregation in April. We have shifted to asking for your pledges in the Fall, so the Finance Committee can prepare a budget that allocates the resources that the congregation have entrusted to us. Of course, the success of this venture depends on your willingness to pledge your support for the coming year (even if that pledge is \$0—it is better to make our plans based on realistic figures rather than hoping that additional “outstanding” pledges will come in later to fill the gap). So, this year we are asking you to get your pledge in by Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Pledge materials will be coming in the mail. Make it easier on all of us and drop them in the special collection baskets on that Sunday (or mail them in beforehand, and we will put them in that basket)—if you don't, we will be contacting you after that (see the related article)

The Board also considered a request from EdJ to sponsor the YWCA's annual “It's Time to Talk” forum on race on December 4 this year. We have been a sponsor of the forum since its inception. Each time, we have had a Second Collection in November to underwrite this project, and you have generously contributed enough to cover almost the full expense (\$1,000). We urge you again, this year, to be generous in supporting this witness to the community of our UU Principles of the inherent worth of all and equity, justice, and compassion in our relationships. It is this commitment that has won our congregation the 2018 MUUSJA Beacon of Justice Award (see related article).

And we approved a new job description for child care providers, along with a new pay scale that is more in keeping with community standards. We are still assembling a list of people who could be available, as paid staff or as volunteers, either on a somewhat regular basis (Sunday mornings, Wednesday choir practice) or on-call for special events (like the potluck for the Start-up Workshop on October 5). If you or someone you know is interested, share the names with our Director of Child Faith Development, Carrie Rice.