

President's Notes: Mid-Year Meeting & Board Meeting

Although a large part of the Board meeting this month was devoted to plans for the Mid-Year meeting, there are a few items for your attention. The agenda for the meeting is here.

- We acted on the Finance Committee's recommendation to finance the upgrade of our lighting using our own reserve funds. This Spring, you should notice much improved (and less expensive to operate) LED lighting throughout the building, and photovoltaic panels on the roof!
- We appointed a task force to work together with Rev. Rita to prepare for her Installation as our first called minister this April.
- We recommended to the congregation the upcoming Mid-America Assembly in St. Louis, April 5-7, and General Assembly in Spokane, June 19-23. If you are interested in GA but aren't able to travel to Spokane, there is also a possibility of attending off-site (online).

The Mid-Year meeting gave us the chance for a midpoint check-in, and the opportunity for feedback on several issues that have bubbled to the surface. Unapproved minutes from the meeting are here:

- In the report on the ministry teams, you will notice a recurring theme—"new team members." With Rev. Rita's leadership, we are shifting from standing committees that meet monthly to more of a team approach, supporting task forces that come together around a narrowly defined focus, for a limited time, and meet only as often as necessary. **Please**, look at the descriptions of what the various ministry teams are doing, and contribute your time and talents as you are able.
- Our pledge drive generated pledges for our operations for July, 2019-June, 2020 of just over \$115,000! Our pledges have been fairly consistent over the last 5 years. We also acknowledged the bequests from Roy Cook, Lisa Cook, Cheryl Lee, and Dottie Barrett. These gifts are a big part of the reserves that we are drawing on now as we grow. Kay VanBuskirk, Stewardship Chair, also offered some thoughtful comments about the ongoing responsibility of stewardship in our congregation.
- John Knox, our Treasurer reported that, at least at this midpoint, we are in better financial shape than we had thought we would be when we adopted our budget last June. Instead of a projected deficit of about \$53,000, if current trends hold, we will spend down our reserves by about \$18,000 (a little less than 10% of our budget).
- We asked how you want us to keep you informed. The top choices were the Weekly Update, announcements in the Order of Service, the UUFM Website, and e-Mail messages.
- We also asked for ideas for fundraising (other than the pledge drive). There were a wide range of ideas (listed in the minutes); if they lead you to think of others, please share them with Barb Keating, Finance Chair, or Rev. Rita, or anyone on the Board.

Finally, a plea from the Board—We have closed the campaign for pledges to support the operations of the UUFM for the coming year (July, 2019-June, 2020). But we have not heard from roughly a third of our members. We need to know the baseline for our operations in order to set the budget for the coming year, and we do not know what interpretation to put on silence when it comes to pledging. Please, if you have determined that you cannot predict how much you might be able to contribute next year, send us a pledge for "\$0" (you can find the form on the website; use the search function to look for "pledge," or under "Connections" there is a link to online donation). You can change it later, if your circumstances change; and if they do not, we are glad to know that you are

participating in the pledge drive and hold us in your intentions. If your circumstances are different so the pledge form does not work for you, let the Treasurer know and he will make it work.