

President's Report February 20, 2022

When I gave this report last year, I didn't expect that I would be talking to you this year about the fact that we no longer employ a senior minister.

That said, I believe we are in good shape moving forward. Our regional representative, Rev. Greg Coles, has provided us with an excellent document outlining operational procedure during a ministerial transition. We have formed a Transition Leadership Team, which will be responsible for much of the day-to-day operation of this organization until such time as a new minister is employed.

The team consists of:

Chairwoman - Elaine Stebleton

HR & Administration - Joanne Ruzicka

Guest Speaker Coordinator - Barry Roberts

Care Team Coordinator - Ann Zenner

Class & Special Events Coordinator - Denise Landkamer

I believe this team is off to a great start and is doing an excellent job, and I want to thank them for stepping up to do this work.

We as a community have twice in the last 5 years gone through the transition process that is normally recommended of identifying who we are, who we want to

be and defining the characteristics of who we want as our next minister. And because we have done these things so recently, there is a strong sentiment in this community that we should be able to move more quickly than usual toward hiring someone new.

The Board in general understands this sentiment and agrees with it. We began discussion on the formation of a search committee this month and intend to form that team at next month's meeting. We have also begun looking at what materials we will need to pull together to create an information packet that can be posted on UWM's job search site for ministers.

One caveat that I would like to mention. While the process of posting our information allows potential ministerial hires to evaluate potential jobs for themselves, there is not a converse method for churches to search for ministers, so we are dependent on posting our information and job description and then waiting for resumes to come to us. This is not necessarily a bad method, but it does mean that there is an element of randomness in the process, i.e., who happens to be looking for a job at the time we post our vacancy. And it is the Board's position that until a qualified candidate that fits well with our community applies, we will continue to search.

I would now like to spend a couple of minutes talking about our Youth and Family Ministry, which, as you may know, is run by Denny Balish. Although omicron has limited her ability this winter to hold in-person classes for the children, the good news is that our YouthEd program has opened up again this morning and should continue to run, assuming conditions continue to improve. So the affirmation that we say every Sunday for YouthEd is working!

Denny is a Certified Spiritual Educator and has attended several trainings and monitoring sessions conducted by the Great Lakes Regional office and by Unity Worldwide Ministries. Denny focuses on developing lesson curriculum, maintaining an organized and calming space for the classroom upstairs and communicating with parents. She also maintains the Youth section of our website and writes the YouthEd Corner feature in the weekly e-blast. Thank you Denny for all you do.

Finally, we have a lot of ministry teams here at Unity of Madison, which provide a lot of opportunities to serve. I'm going to go through a list of the ministry teams currently either active or restarting now that the pandemic appears to be receding. I'm going to ask the leads for each of these teams to stand up, as I mention your name, so that anyone who would like to help you out will know who you are. In some cases those team leads won't be present, but you can also contact the church office or any

of the trustees and we can help to connect you with the team leads.

- Youth Education and Family Ministry- Denny Balish
- Celebration assistants- Josie Collins
- Spiritual care team- Josie Collins
- Music Ministry- Pete Calgaro
- Bookstore- Nancy Keeney
- Library- Nancy Keeney
- Building Maintenance- Nancy Sundal
- Finance Team- Nancy Sundal
- Garden Team- Joanne Ruzicka, Nancy Sundal, and Ann Zenner
- Hospitality- Lynn Weber
- Growth Team- Rymii Kaio
- Social Justice-Kay Frazier or Rymii Kaio
- Prayer Shawl Ministry- Ann Zenner
- Men's Group- Pat O'Laughlin
- Men's Breakfast- Jim Thayer-Hart
- Ushers/Greeter- Rich and Dee Hall

- Women's Retreat- not currently active. Notify office if interested in serving on this team in the future
- Floating Tithes- Michelle Honore
- Tech Team- Steve Roberts
- Christmas in July- Jennifer Parker
- Holiday Connection- Ann Schwartz and Pat Arnold
- Trustees

One final thing: if you have an idea for a new ministry team, and you are willing to work on it, please contact one of the trustees with your idea.