

September Board Report from Rev. Michelle

I will keep this month's report shorter as I know that we will be focusing our time on the Widening the Circle of Concern task force report and recommendations during our time together. I will say that I hope that we truly adopt and move forward with the recommendations from the task force, perhaps even going so far as to view the recommendations as a strategic plan for our next few years as a congregation. It is something that I believe UUCB is ready for and well situated for, as well as something that is part of our identity.

Some other things to report:

The work of the Transition Team – the Transition Team continues to meet with me monthly, and we have adopted a project that we hope to be able to implement during this church year. I believe that it would have been listed in the Widening the Circle recommendations as well, as it is in the UUA report and was discussed by the task force, but since the Transition Team had already taken it on as a project, it wasn't included in the WTCOC recommendations. The project is the creation of a conflict transformation team for UUCB. While we are still exploring the purpose/mission and scope of the group, I imagine that it will encompass encouraging our covenant and covenant-based relations and behavior proactively as well as conflict that arises in the congregation. Right now we are exploring possibilities for the purpose and scope of the group, as well as theological grounding for it based on the recently published UUA Commission on Appraisal's report on covenant. In the spring, we will be sponsoring programming on healthy congregation and conflict transformation and will be forming the team.

Decisions on reopening and delays – These remain incredibly difficult decisions to be making. Last week, I had to make the decision to NOT hold an in-person gathering on Sunday 9/12. I know that we miss each other and we miss gathering together, and it is heart-breaking to have to continue in virtual church mode. I am glad for the Opening Task Force and for the updated UUA guidance on gatherings, as well as for the data shared by the medical and scientific communities to help guide our decisions. I am hoping that we will at the very least be able to shift to recording the worship services in the sanctuary as we begin to use our new recording and live-streaming equipment which will be installed as some point during the month.

To let you know, during the month of October, I will be taking call with the UU Trauma Response Ministry. This means that I will be taking any phone calls that come in during the month, and if an in-person response is needed, that I will be offered a place on that team. Before any in-person response though, I would check with Beth and/or Helen as it may mean some volunteer time away from the church, although it is usually not too much. This is volunteer work that I do for our larger UU movement.