

## Senior Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees

April 2019

As we wind down our first full year in Adapted Policy Governance, I offer the following reflections on the entirety of our Global Ends Statements starting with "Within":

*1.1 WITHIN: TUCW is where the lives of children, youth and adults of all ages are –*

*1.1.1 Deepened spiritually in worship that guides them in individual and communal responses to the sacred, enriched through expanded religious understanding, and moved, uplifted and sustained by living out UU principles;*

*1.1.2 Embraced in a community of spirit and love, committed to the well-being of one another and care for the Congregation;*

*1.1.3 Transformed as they develop spiritual resources to find and keep their balance in a community where they can open themselves to pastoral care in times of joy, sorrow and transition.*

1.1.1 As reported on previously I believe our attention to engaged and meaningful worship has enhanced our spirituality as a congregation. I am particularly pleased with the renewed attendance at our 9 am service. We thought we would sunset this service by the end of 2018 but when we revised it to be more contemplative in nature with more instrumental and smaller vocal music, along with longer meditations and a space in the round, we found our attendance increasing to between 30-40 each Sunday. This service was as low as nine people at one point and the choirs were complaining that there were not enough people to make it worth their while. This has changed and takes some of the seating pressure off our 11 am service. Most Sundays the 11 am service is around 70-80% full within the margins most church growth experts say is "comfortable" for new people to find their way into.

Obviously, our entire ministry of Faith Formation is aimed at achieving 1.1.1. We have dedicated staff and resources to this emerging ministry with high hopes. Using our UU Principles as a focal point for this ministry is very intentional. You will hear it in our sermons, stories and music. The Membership Team has posted our Principles by the door to the sanctuary. I am encouraging our Worship Associates and Chaplains to participate in wider UU trainings.

1.1.2 Almost everything we do is geared to the deepening our community. Specifically, our Pastoral Care Chaplain Ministry is the most obvious manifestation of this. This is one of our most successful ministries. Rev. Jim Francek was named Community Minister for Pastoral Care in order that we might more adequately coordinate the pastoral care of our congregation. Jim meets weekly with the staff and we are in daily communication regarding those who need our care. I consider us 90% in compliance with this end.

1.1.3 I view this end as a continuation of 1.1.2. In this regard our pastoral programming which spins off of our Chaplains Ministry is the most obvious example of our success in this regard. The establishment of our Addiction Recovery Ministry has been a great success not only for our congregation but for the community at large. We now have three separate 12 Step programs meeting at our church. Our on-going Grief Groups are another success. Thanks to skilled professionals who have donated their time these groups have been transformational in deepening the lives of those they touch. More importantly, the groups have been attracting outsiders. We are known in the wider community for offering this service and area clergy refer people to us. Our work with the #MeToo movement has also opened up a space for those in need. The on-going TUCWomens Group and A Better Man are both examples of our deepening pastoral care. Finally, under Rev. Shelly's leadership we are using our Faith Formation Ministry to address these needs with workshops on resiliency and spiritual biography.

I think there is a great deal more that can be done here and I am hoping that as we continue to mature programmatically we will see a proliferation of support groups for elder care (now being organized) and parents facing a variety of issues. I consider us to be 80% in compliance with this end.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse