

2016-2017 UUAA Leadership Development Team Report

Submitted by Tom Reischl

The mission of the Leadership Development Team (LDT) is defined in the UUAA Bylaws. The LDT is charged to (1) identify, cultivating and developing leaders for the Congregation and to (2) Prepare a slate of nominees for positions to be filled by election at the spring annual congregational meeting. This mission aligns with UUAA Core Values of Community, Stewardship, and Culture. During the past year, the members of the LDT were Hayley Boyse (Board of Trustee Liaison), Elizabeth LaPorte, Pete Mooney, Mary Lynn Stewart, and Tom Reischl.

To identify, cultivate, and develop leaders during the past year, the LDT hosted four events designed to build stronger connections among current lay leaders of UUAA ministry programs. These events were also designed to build stronger connections with and among emerging lay leaders. The first two events were Lay Leadership Appreciation social events hosted in homes of LDT members. At these social events, lay leaders engaged in informal conversations about their work with UUAA ministry programs and exchanged ideas for future work. The other two events were Lay Leadership Discussion Forums where small groups of lay leaders discussed goals and strategies for engaging congregants in their ministry programs.

Hosting these events with current lay leaders gave the LDT the opportunity to engage those leaders in helping the LDT identify congregants who would consider serving in elected leadership roles. This groundwork helped the LDT identify a slate of nominees for the spring annual meeting election.

Finally, the LDT engaged in monthly discussions about the leadership capacity needs at UUAA, especially during the interim ministry period. One very helpful discussion occurred when Rev. Doug Watkins attended a meeting and provided his perspectives on leadership needs at UUAA.