

Shared Ministries Team Annual Report
May 2020

As the Shared Ministries Team moved into its second year, its statement of purpose was narrowed from its original intent. Initially imagined as a team that would focus on healthy relationships and processes in the congregation, it was decided to separate those roles into two teams. Starting in the fall of 2019, the SMT began focusing on concerns that were/are more closely connected to operational and policy questions. So while the previous statement of purpose was broader in scope, the charge now reads as follows:

“The purpose of the lay-led “Shared Ministries Team” (SMT) is to support and nurture the health of the congregation and its many thriving communities, with a primary focus on operational policies, processes, and communication.”

Some highlights of this year have included co-sponsoring several workshops with the Unity group and the newly formed Living Our Values team. Presented and facilitated by Reese Havlatka, these workshops are aimed at raising congregational awareness of how conflict can be resolved in a community that aspires to kindness and that is committed to not harming one another. While several more of these were scheduled for the spring this year and had to be cancelled, we hope to pick the theme back up when we can meet again, or perhaps devise a way to continue online, if necessary.

Another effort has focused on examining, evaluating and revamping policies that revolve around events and rites of passage within the community, particularly those held at the UUAA building itself. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the guide that will be published has been put on “pause” until staff attention can once again turn to this work, but we do look forward to having it available for use by the entire congregation in the future.

As we look to the 2020-2021 year, the Shared Ministries Team looks forward to continuing our work, responding to concerns from members of the congregation, and collaborating with staff and other teams to better the processes and policies at UUAA.

Respectfully submitted by Margie Teall, Chair
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