



## **Pastoral Care at UUA**

Annual Report - 2020-2021

rev. theresa rohlck, Congregational Chaplain

It is important to note the Covid-19 pandemic began before and will extend beyond the year represented in this report. In addition, Pastoral Care staff leadership changed during that time. Quiana Denae Perkins moved to full time Coordinator of Congregational Life in September 2020, at which point rev. theresa rohlck was designated as the Congregational Chaplain and coordinator of Pastoral Care.

**The Pastoral Care Team:** Donna Clark, Julie Dybdahl, Karl Sikkenga, LB Hilbert, Priscilla Spencer, Sandy Breck, Sherry McCargar.

In the past year, Sandy Breck completed the UUA's online Spiritual Care Training course for Lay Leaders, with rev. theresa mentoring. The program may be one that others on the team will consider in the coming year.

### **Ongoing activities of the Pastoral Care team over the past year:**

- PC news published weekly
- Newsletter article from Congregational Chaplain published monthly
- PC team monthly meetings, with additional meetings when needed
- Verbal weekly update by Congregational Chaplain to Staff at staff meetings
- Comfort shawl ministry continues, with collaboration with the new FiberArts group
- Round 2 of the QBuddy program
- "Comfort" or "respite" meals specifically targeting families with school age children
- Rides (limited due to Covid-19 restrictions)
- Meal trains
- Cards to mark a variety of pastoral needs (deaths, births, anniversaries, birthdays, awards, thanks/gratitude, checking in, etc.)
- Numerous calls and visits with congregants to provide support; these were mostly by zoom or phone due to pandemic restrictions, but in some cases the congregational chaplain was able to visit in person (at home, in the hospital).
- Visitors team met monthly, even though in person visiting was on hiatus during the pandemic

**One time projects over the past year:**

- Creating a charge and mission, outlining roles of the team and its members
- Revision of PC webpage
- Redesign of PC logo for the weekly and monthly electronic news, and other PC related communications (note cards, etc.)
- End of year cards to the family member(s) of congregants who died in the past year, and cards to congregants who have lost a beloved in the past year

**Looking ahead:** The Pastoral Care team anticipates holding a mini-retreat in August 2021, to recognize those leaving the team and welcoming the new member(s), and to engage in planning for a possible series of educational events around the theme of Aging in Place. We also hope to more resume in-person visits, and as such will work with the visitors team to expand the number of congregants we are able to reach.

Pastoral Care is difficult to quantify; it is the love and care we give to each other, when we are present for each other, when we listen to each other. May this be the way we are with each other, always.