



Pastoral Care at UUA

Annual Report - May 2021 - 2022

rev. theresa rohlck, Congregational Chaplain

The Pastoral Care Team: Julie Dybdahl, Karl Sikkenga, Priscilla Spencer, Sherry McCargar, Lucy Graff. Larry Works will join the team in June 2022.

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. Meetings have remained on zoom.
- Verbal weekly updates by Congregational Chaplain to Staff
- Comfort shawl ministry, in collaboration with UUA's FiberArts group
- Rides
- 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; as pandemic restrictions eased, the congregational chaplain was able to visit in person more frequently than in the previous year. Visits were at UUA, at someone's residence or living community, or while hospitalized.
- Visitors team meets monthly, even though in person visiting was limited during the pandemic; contact by phone or zoom was utilized

One time projects over the past year:

- Launched a monthly series on Aging in Place in conjunction with lectures offered by the Turner Geriatric Center. Five Saturday zoom discussions were planned and facilitated by PC team members Sandra Breck, Julie Dybdahl and Lucy Graff.
- Began a focused effort on addressing the pastoral care side of Climate Justice; initial conversations have been in collaboration with SGD, families and youth.
- Continued revision of pastoral care sections of the soon-to-be launched UUA website

- Commissioned artwork from local artist Debra Jean Golden for use in a new card writing project to mark milestone birthdays and anniversaries of congregants
- 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
- Held a mini-retreat at the end of August to kick off the new church year

Looking ahead: The Pastoral Care team anticipates holding another mini-retreat in August 2022, to welcome the new member(s), and to engage in planning for the coming church year. This may include developing a new series of educational events; beginning the milestone card project; and continuing to work on the Climate Justice initiative. The team also expects to have a presence in the Social Hall beginning in Fall 2022, if covid restrictions allow a return to pre-pandemic social hall use after services.

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. It is something each member of the community engages in; it's not limited to the Pastoral Care team or volunteers. May this be the way we are with each other, always.