

First Ever Quarterly Report to Congregation from the Committee on Ministry

January 2022

The Committee on Ministry has been busy since last year's Cottage Conversations. Some of the main takeaways from these conversations were a desire for more inspirational sermons, a desire for preserving the small group nature of the Zoom breakout groups once we started meeting in person and general concerns about the need for changes in how our church operates if we want to grow.

Here are a few things that the Committee on Ministry has been part of since then to address these concerns and desires.

Sermon Sounding Board and Sermon Evolution Group: *The Sermon Sounding Board is a weekly meeting for participants to share suggestions about upcoming sermons. This started in August. In addition, Chip will soon be starting a Sermon Evolution Group where the previous Sunday's service will be discussed with a focus on creating more meaningful, more nourishing, and more welcoming worship. Group members will share how service elements landed with them and offer constructive criticism with compassion. This is an open group; anyone may participate.*

Small Groups: *The topic of the service on December 5th was Artisanal Small-Batch Congregating which presented several small group opportunities that were proposed by our ad-hoc "Small Groups Group" and Rev. Chip.*

Engagement with Lisa Presley, the Congregational Life Consultant for the MidAmerican Region of the UUA: *The Committee on Ministry, Rev. Chip and representatives from the Board of Trustees have been meeting regularly with Lisa Presley to create a process for addressing concerns that were raised during the Cottage Conversations and shared with the Board of Trustees. We are putting together a series of events to help us address concerns effectively and to consider positive changes for our church.*

Conflict Engagement Workshop: *We are planning a Conflict Engagement Workshop to be led by Lisa Presley in February. The purpose of this workshop is for our congregation, to learn new skills to help us make the changes that are needed for our congregation to thrive. Our hope is that our leaders as well as members and friends will attend this workshop.*

Mission Statement: *The Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry have started working on a new mission statement and we are planning a church-wide mission retreat in the spring. This will help us to determine where we want to focus our collective energy in the coming months and years. Part of our goal for this mission statement is to help our congregation be more cohesive with shared goals.*

The Committee on Ministry is always interested in your feedback. Call, email, text or contact any of us (Lynn McDonald, Joseph Gress and Jim Ward) at any time with your feedback and concerns.