

Until our ends statements and limitation policies are in place, I will continue to report to you on a monthly basis. My reports will focus on the programmatic progress of our congregation, while Dorothy Adams, our Executive Director, will focus on operational and financial aspects. Once our ends are in place, our reports will orient to show you progress towards achieving our ends.

Programmatically we are off to a great start. Our Worship and Music program is fully in place. We had a wonderful homecoming service and we will continue to use thematic worship throughout the year. We welcomed Lara Fuchs our intern minister and she is hard at work learning and serving. I have appointed an intern committee, chaired by Kristen Leddy. Lara's focused initiative project will be to lead us through the curriculum that goes with the PBS film "Defying the Nazis" (which airs on September 20th). The curriculum includes helping us partner with the mosque in Bridgeport and other classes and learnings. Given the current political climate this will be much needed. I have already made contact with the Imam Nasif Muhammed who will be one of our panelists for the Dr. Diana Eck talk on October 16th on pluralism. He has also agreed to welcome our middle schoolers in their "Neighboring Faiths" program. In addition, to this contact, we will be invited to be in dialog and action with other faith groups through our new membership in the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport.

Our pastoral care chaplain team continues to improve and grow. We now have a better system in place to respond to pastoral needs. On October 30th the team will be hosting a "Transitions Workshop" for our entire congregation to identify resources to help with the major life transitions such as death, grief, loss of income, divorce and other family systems issues. Our small group ministry continues to need support from me in order to attract and involve more members.

Our Lifespan Faith Development Program (formally RE) is up and running. Social Justice is focusing on three major areas this year; dealing with racism and xenophobia, gun control and the Beardsley School. With the promotion of Dorothy Adams to Executive Director, you will be hearing about the improvements made in data collection, reporting and operations. In your agenda we will discuss committee realignment in light of our move towards policy governance and the constitutional dissolution of all standing committees of the board ratified by the congregation at our annual meeting. I am proposing the following:

- Committees under staff direction: Worship and Music, Lifespan Faith Development, Social Justice, Membership, Communications, Memorial Garden, Building & Grounds and Stewardship, HR
- Committees under joint staff and BoT direction: Finance
- Committees under BoT direction: Audit

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Dr. John Morehouse, Senior Minister