

Community Ministry Status

For the Ministry of Rev. Barbara F. Meyers

December 2015

Status of ministry since last Report

Notes of Particular Importance

Joys

- High-lights
 1. Connections: A Counseling Center Affirming Spirituality and Diversity seeing clients since January. Hired a Business Manager who is taking on many of the responsibilities very capably. Financial situation precarious.
 2. UU Congregational disability certification program is now formally underway with one congregation applying and others in process. I am leading the implementation. Four congregations have applied for official status.
 3. Mental Health is the yearly social justice priority for MPUUC. Led the effort to design this program for the coming year. Had a church book-read of American Psychosis, and a hymn sing at Morton Bakar clinic. More planned for 2016.
- Continue helping care for both grandsons: Nate, age 4 every other Saturday and Zach age 5 months every other Tuesday.
- For the UUMA program in Entrepreneurial Ministry I Attended an outstanding week-long education retreat for Entrepreneurial Ministry in Chicago
- Exercise schedule going well.

Challenges

- My dear, dear father died on November 5. Worked to arrange for 2 memorial services, in California and in Kansas. Buried his ashes in Kansas on December 3. I am executor of his estate.
- Keeping from being over committed. Sometimes this is easier than others.

Education

Classes, Conferences and Seminars Taken and Planned

- Attended an outstanding week-long education retreat for Entrepreneurial Ministry in Chicago August 24-28. Very impressive professors from the Kellogg School of Management gave us the principles of becoming an entrepreneur.

Healing

Counseling Center

- Held monthly Board meetings, and many more working meetings. Recruited new Business Manager. Financial situation precarious.
- Seeing clients. Not a full load, yet.

Reaching Across

Continued compensated job at Reaching Across organization, for quarter-time work. Attend Monday support group meetings, two Interfaith Support Groups per month, a spirituality group once a month, Friday craft days and some Wednesday events.

Support Groups

- Continued co-leading interfaith support group for people with depression and sadness.
- Continued to recommend support group for families of those with mental illness.

Pastoral Associates

- Led the Pastoral Associates meetings and worked with several congregation members as an associate. Substituting for congregational pastoral care for Jeremy Nickel when he was on vacation.

Community Ministry

- Continued mentoring a community minister. She applied for final fellowship this year. Waiting to hear.

Spiritual Direction

- I am a Spiritual Director at Connections.

Priestly

- October 4. Service on *American Psychosis* – MPUUC Social Justice project kick-off
- November 29. The Spiritual Practice of Smiling at MPUUC. Well received.

Social Justice

Community Awareness

- Mental Health pages on MPUUC web site continue to be widely accessed.

UUA Accessibility Group

- The congregational disability accessibility certification program called the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) program is formally underway. Four congregations have officially entered the program. I am in charge of getting this off the ground. We have set up four review teams to follow the congregations through the process.

UUA Addictions Ministry

- As member of the UUA Addictions Ministry, helped run their web site www.uuaddictionsministry.org.

Board Membership

- Have been on the Board of the Universalist Recovery Church, a UU church specializing in recovery from mental health and substance abuse located near Portland, Oregon. Resigned from the Board on December 31.

Other

Books Read

- *How to Be Yourself: 300 Inspirational Quotes, A Guide to Living an Authentic Life*, by Michael Nagel, 2015. Collected quotes from many philosophers and great thinkers with commentary. Discusses how to be your own unique self. Book read for Reaching Across.
- *Alice Munro's Best: Selected Stories*, by Alice Munro, McClelland and Stewart, 2006. Great stories by Alice Munro, who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013.
- *Moons of Jupiter*, by Alice Munro, Random House, 1977. More Alice Munro.
- *Family Furnishings – Selected Stories 1995-2014*, by Alice Munro, Vintage International, 2015. More Alice Munro.
- *Selected Stories, 1968-1994* by Alice Munro, Vintage Books, 1997. More Alice Munro.
- *A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories*, by Lucia Berlin, Farrar, Straus and Girous, 2015. Another marvelous story teller.
- *Ariel – The Life of Shelley*, by Andre Maurois, translated by Ella D'Arcy, Frederick Ungar Publishing Company, 1924. A highly-romanticized version of the life story of Percy Bysshe Shelley.

- *Finding Family – My Search for Roots and the Secrets in my DNA*, by Richard Hill, 2012. An adoptee finds both of his birth parents by a combination of dogged genealogy and DNA analysis. A good read.
- *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel*, by Anthony Doerr, Scribner, 2014. Historical novel about the WW II siege at Saint-Malo a walled port city in Brittany, France. The author weaves together stories of the lives of two characters, one a blind French girl and the other a German orphan against the background of World War II. Very entertaining.

Personal

- Need to continually work at life balance, stress and depression management. This is going successfully and is sometimes easier than others.
- Work out at City Sports 3 times a week. Keep up running regularly
- Completed a weaving for Connections waiting room.



Other

- Met with Community Ministry Advisory Committee regularly
- Monthly status meetings with EqUual Access
- Visit my spiritual director and my psychiatrist regularly.
- Attended MPUUC Board meetings.

2015 Development Plan

| Area | Plans | Time line | Measurement | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Continuing education: | | | | |
| Take one or two classes a year | Investigate classes to take in this year | Ongoing- Identify classes | Take classes by December 2015 | Entrepreneurial Ministry Classes taken. |
| Attend GA in person or virtually | GA in June | June 2015 | Event attended | Completed |
| Attend Mental health seminars / conventions | Attend at least one local / state mental health convention in next year | Chosen by March 31 NAMI California conference where I was on a panel. | Attended by Dec. 2015 | Completed |
| Help in starting new counseling center | Attend meetings as member of the board of the new center | Throughout 2015 | Center is on a sound financial footing and self-sustaining. | Still not financially secure |
| Areas for growth in the next 2 yrs: | | | | |
| Disability Credentialing Program | Lead the group which will administer the AIM certification program for UUA congregations. | Program made public in June 2015 | New congregations sign up for the program | Program started. So far 4 new congregations have applied. |
| Spiritual Direction | Continue to grow Spiritual Direction practice at Connections. | On-going | | No clients yet |
| Long term possibilities | | | | |
| Plan for sabbatical | Plan for ministerial sabbatical of 6 months | Don't know when | Rethink this after Zach is older and Connections is well established. | |