

Since our last Board meeting March 15, we've been very active.

- Our Program Committee, Co-Chairs and staff have worked hard on putting together the excellent program May 3 at Arlington, "Inequality Matters...Moving Toward Fairness." Sixty-eight people were present to hear a fine selection of presenters and respondents and to dialogue on feasible steps for action to make a difference on this issue. Kudos to the hard workers.
- The Issues Selection Committee has been working hard to improve the process by which you determine our yearly foci.
- Our Immigration Task Force is working to identify a strategic immigration issue to focus our advocacy efforts.
- We've been working in collaboration with Jose Aguto, the Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy and Environment for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), who has been leading interfaith moral environmental initiatives on the Hill. We signed onto an interfaith letter in support of Senate Bill 2074 (Shaheen-Portman) spurring the use of energy efficiency technologies in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy.
- Our Finance Committee has been on top of donations and has prepared our budget for next year.
- We've improved our process for thanking donors, both congregational and individual.
- In terms of outreach and fund-raising, I've done worship services at Towson (3/23) and All Souls (4/27) and spoken before plate collections at Paint Branch (3/30) and at Union Sunday, Baltimore (5/4).
- Our Executive Committee is working on a succession plan to find a new Executive Director. I have let the members of the Chesapeake UU Ministerial Association (CUUMA) know of my stepping down and the position opening up soon.
- Our IT Committee has been constantly working behind the scenes to upgrade our communication and record-keeping capabilities as we keep expanding our utilization of Salsa's capabilities.

You should know that, with three Frostburg University students (two of whom were former Eagle Scouts), I was arrested for our non-violent sit-in on the Cumberland courthouse steps protesting the huge proposed Cove Point LNG facility and its relation to increased fracking in our region. At our trial May 1, we each received a sentence of seventy-five hours of community service (not determined by us) and stets, one step below probation before judgment.

And of course I hope you are aware of the great work our two Co-Chairs, Lavona Grow and Al Carlson, have been doing effecting the many changes at UUSJ and implementing our strategic development plan. There is so much they do behind the scenes to make all that UUSJ does possible. Lavona brings indefatigable energy, a keen eye for best practices and necessary steps, and an inspiring vision of what UUSJ can be. Al complements her perfectly with his procedural expertise, writing skills, thoughtful analyses and suggestions, and commitment to making us a more effective and compelling organization. They work very hard, along with our Executive Committee, deciding the many issues and accomplishing the many steps to carry out our Board's wishes. Pat Karlsen works not only on our Exec but also on several committees. Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson as Secretary both records discussions and decisions and also reminds us all of our take-away responsibilities. And John Gubbings as Treasurer keeps our complex finances clear and in order.

We are also most fortunate to have our volunteer Bookkeeper, Linda Collyer, working behind the scenes to make John's life easier and to bring her CPA expertise to our finances. And Rev. Cindy Snavelly continues to be our constant multi-tasker keeping us all together. She balances more balls in the air than any minister I know, and she manages to accommodate our varying needs into her busy schedule. She is a pleasure to work with.

Mike McCord is the only person leaving us as he completes his term as At-Large Board member and from his position on the Finance Committee. He has formerly served us as Accotink Board representative and also on the Executive Committee and as Treasurer. Mike has been an outstandingly capable presence for our finances and a thoughtful contributor to many deliberations. We will surely miss him, and yet we wish him every good thing in his new position in the Defense Department.

As this will be my last report as your Executive Director, I want to thank you all for helping make this good work we do together inspiring, fun, and shared. I take great pride in all the many and varied projects we've accomplished in giving effective voice to our UU values in this region. As I look back at our annual reports, I'm amazed at all we've done, and I know that behind all those events and projects there stands the volunteer work of you UUs who believe in doing our faith, living it in this world we inhabit. I cannot think of a finer group of people to have been working with. Of course, I will stay involved in climate work in this area, and so I may be seeing you occasionally around that, as is appropriate. I am buoyed by the knowledge that UUSJ is in such good hands as I leave, and I know there are whole new exciting pages to be written in the new focus on advocacy on the Hill. I'm expecting great things.

Toward a more just and compassionate world,

Terry