

Minister's 2023-2024 Annual Report

Another incredible year! With all that is happening in our world and in our state, being a religious liberal can feel so daunting and frustrating at times. But I am so proud to serve this congregation who champions justice, takes care of one another and our larger community and continues to cast exciting visions for the future.

This year marks 9 years since I first arrived as your new settled minister. So much has transpired during that time, for the congregation, the country & the world. With each passing year I watch this community strengthen its commitments to living our values, bring more ideas for connection and spiritual growth into being and enjoying all that we do and create as a beloved community!

You are an incredibly healthy congregation. I watch from afar as some of my colleagues describe intense conflicts erupting in their congregations from financial challenges to division over if and how we support commitments to collective liberation and justice. I hear about member squabbles and leadership breakdowns and micromanaging and I experience none of that here. In fact, I most often experience a deep kindness and compassion, even in the midst of minor frustrations (which are normal). I witness a deep concern for the larger community and those on the margins and I experience a willingness to grow and learn from each other, our UUA and the wider world.

You are an incredibly generous congregation! And not just in financial resources but in your time and talent. You give so much of yourself to this community and to our larger community through the activities and programs that bubble up here.

There is an energy bubbling up here that is really exciting to watch. And, it is each of you, the people of this community make it happen. Coffee clutches, walking groups, Happy Hour,

If you have an idea for an event or gathering or program... you can make it happen. Gather a few folks to join you, talk to our staff and e'll support you.

Maybe you'd like to host a game night or help organize a Chili cookoff or just a summer potluck!

Thank you!

We have done so much this year, it would take me a long time to mention all of it, but I do want to highlight a few things.

This was a year of justice to be sure. From educational opportunities to community actions, our ministry teams have been doing incredible work! But I want to start with worship. Because our worship services reflect our commitment to justice by grounding us in the spiritual depth and values of the issues and infusing us with joy and spiritual nourishment for the work.

Worship & Inspiration

- Creative, experiential worship services!
 - Drag Church, Book Communion, Interfaith Pride Service (no in-person worship)
 - Beautiful, rich spiritual themes from the Book An A;tar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor with small groups, chalice circles and neighborhood pods using them as discussion topics. Inspiring me in my on sermon writing
 - Hymn Services to re-introduce us to our favorite hymns after the pandemic years of more videos than singing
 - 2 Christmas Eve Services including the unwrapping worship
 - All our beautiful communion services - water, fire, stones,
 - Incredible worship Team
 - Amazing music from choir and guest musicians!

Justice Making

- Racial Justice Ministry
 - Indigenous People's day with Wilson Wewa
 - Anti-racist learning circles with other UUs
 - Intimate Apparel
- Refugee & Immigrant Justice Ministry
 - Holiday Bazaar
 - Wassmuth Center Event
- Interfaith Reproductive Justice Ministry
 - Began meeting as an interfaith group
 - Supported by Portland UU Funds
 - Pro-Voice Project
 - SMA workshop
 - Under G_d Screening
- Pride/LGBTQIA+ Ministry
 - Trans Collective Summer Carnival
 - Authentic Selves Brunch - centering community care
 - Legislative Advocacy & Direct Actions - 48,000 hearts
 - Trans Prom

Many of these programs and projects were supported by social justice grant funds from the Auction special appeal

Our Home

Forest School! This year the board welcomed a partnership with The Forest School, a progressive homeschool cooperative that aligns with our values, particularly those of caring for our earth.

Tending to the beauty of our outdoor sanctuary

Generosity

You are an incredibly generous congregation!
Consider a legacy gift

Board & Staff - AMAZING

Amazing pictures of our next generation!