

Leadership and Committee Reports – Addendum

Committee on Ministry (CoM)

The members of CoM are LaRilla Combs, Will Jordan, Jennifer Hess, Susan Hund-Milne, Sigrid Trombley, and Charles Merrifield, chair. The minister is an ex-officio member. CoM serves two functions. First, CoM serves as a liaison for the minister and the congregation. Second, CoM serves in an advisory capacity to oversee the ministry of the church. Because we do not have a minister presently, CoM is focusing attention overseeing the ministry of the church.

The focus this fiscal year has been upon growth. One of the goals of growth is to be able to afford a minister. There appears to be a preference for a full-time minister, although growth is necessary for us to even afford a part-time minister.

On the premise that involved congregants become more committed congregants, we held a Committee Involvement Open House on November 9.

CoM received reports that a few of our Christian members had experienced comments from others that had reduced their sense of belonging. To help validate Christian's sense of belonging, CoM recommended and Charles presented a sermon in December on UU Christianity.

CoM has discussed the welcoming experience of visitors over several months. Larilla has visited with the UU Fellowship of Topeka to examine their visitor welcoming process. Several recommendations resulted.

Com has worked and continues to work with Rev. Phil Lund, our contact at the MidAmerica Region. We have held 3 growth meetings earlier this year. Rev. Lund has suggested further online meetings, along with leading a Sunday morning service.

CoM is very interested in helping the congregation maintain communications and involvement during the pandemic. We are working on modifying the email list serve to make it a more efficient means of inter-congregation messaging.

The terms of LaRilla Combs and Sigrid Trombley expire at the end of June. The board will need to elect two candidates for 3-year terms.

Partner Church Committee

The Partner Church Committee has been on hiatus for a few months as we await a new minister for the village church of Homorod-Szentpal in Transylvania, Romania. I was told one name of our new partner church minister by the previous minister and wrote to this person, after searching out contact info on the internet. She wrote back to explain, she has NOT been named the new minister, but that it is her dream and goal to do so. Meanwhile Homorod-Szentpal has a substitute minister, Janos (pronounced "Yah-nosh") Pal, so I have written to him to inquire about the status of our partnership. I have not heard back from him as of yet.

(P.S. FYI, I am still hoping to hear one way or the other if the previous minister absconded with the \$1500 I sent him. No one ever confirmed receipt of the money, but my one contact who can write in English did tell me that he had made "a lot of trouble for our church" and that he had left the area for some months for a mental health break. I think it is fair to expect an apology and to be reassured that this will not happen again in the future. At this point in time, the Committee feels our own church can use these funds from our fund-raising efforts-- (Valentine's Tea/Partner Church Hungarian Dinner) ourselves until we have heard or read that promise from Homorod-Szentpal. We want to make sure that our weeks of effort on the part of many volunteers contributes to the maintenance and expenses of the church in Romania itself and not any one individual.)

Debbie Wadman
Chair, Partner Church Committee