

**Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist
Minister's Board Report - November 2011
Submitted by Gretchen Haley**

As the church year moves into full-swing, we continue to make meaningful progress in all of our focus areas.

Worship: In October, we offered four Sundays of services exploring the theme of *Belonging*, two of which were fully coordinated by the Worship Committee. We kicked off our Fellowship Sundays and have already reviewed lessons from this first effort that we will incorporate into our November service. The service on October 23rd with Lisa Dancing-Light brought in a number of visitors just due to her contacts. We are looking to bring Lisa back in March when Jimmy is on vacation.

Community Events/Outreach: The Blessing of the Animals event was a great success, with many visitors/guests/members of the wider community joining with us - I would guess we had about 40-50 in attendance (check out the photos if you haven't already!). I believe CARE also felt it was a positive opportunity for outreach for their facility as well. I can imagine that this will be a great annual tradition for TRUU, though I can't guarantee the weather will always be so spectacular! We continue to move forward on our Solstice celebration plans - a group of us (Sue Edelstein, Alyssa Reindel, Sue Coyle and Amy Barr) are meeting regularly with a committee from Third Street Center, and we are beginning to see how a community-wide Solstice event on December 21st at 3rd Street will be a reality! Bread oven will be fired up, many tenants will be involved, and Jimmy will likely be organizing a band to fill out the evening with great music. Start spreading the word now!

Leadership and Organizational Development: We recognized our lay leaders in our service on October 16th, and it was great to see how much participation there truly is from our congregation - almost everyone stood up! Following the service, we had a meaningful workshop with Rev. Deb Holder from the MDD with 16 in attendance, and we began to formulate a shared vision and articulate our shared values. Attached please find the "word clouds" describing our initial data, as well as the detailed report. Next steps include completing additional one-on-one interviews, and hosting a "follow-up" gathering where we look at the information we collected and continue the conversation. In terms of organizational development, I am currently focusing on getting the new Membership Committee (COLMM) fully functional, as we need to ensure we are getting potential new members involved and integrated.

Denominational Connections: Trina, Sue and I represented TRUU at the MDD Annual Meeting on October 7th-9th in Colorado Springs. Trina and Sue will offer a report to the congregation about their experience in the November 20th service. Our next opportunity for denominational connections is January 20th 22nd for the annual Building Beloved Community workshop. I would like to see us send at least 3 members of our community, particularly those who have not yet attended a District event. We need to begin our planning now to make this happen.

Religious Exploration: The first Bright and Spirited Path class was extremely well attended- we had about 20 present. I anticipate we'll hold onto about 15 of those as we continue classes this Sunday. The second session begins Sunday night. I continue to wonder about family participation and ways to ensure our consistency in programming for families with younger children. I also am continuing the conversations with Heather on Unitarian Universalist components of our children's programming.

Pastoral Care: We have had a number of pastoral care concerns arise in the recent weeks, and in addition to my calls/visits, I am working closely with the developing Personal Care Committee to ensure we are reaching out to people in moments of need or transition. The PCC is a great tool for our congregation and helps us function as the church we hope to become. Boulder-Denver area ministers will be gathering in January to discuss best practices around this lay-pastoral team model and I will bring back information from these conversations into our PCC and the LDC.