

Harrisonburg Unitarian Universalists
Quarterly Dialogue August 25, 2019

1. Grayson Sless served as the Facilitator for the C. D. He went over the ground rules for our discussion.
2. Gratitude/Appreciation –
 - Grayson Sless stated that over the last two months, many people have been involved in the hire of our new Administrator, Tom Hook.
 - Dr. Paula Bennet was acknowledged for the successful Intergenerational Service and Kids Day.
 - Ryan Woolsey and others were acknowledged for the cleaning of the floors and the R. E. Building.
 - Paula Bennet expressed appreciation for the support of the congregation of her, the CRE program, and for the weekly volunteers.
 - Pam Helsley was acknowledged for the amazing care of the grounds, Barbara Moore for the beautiful weekly floral arrangements, and Pat Geary for the electronic media work on our behalf.
3. Updates and Announcements –
 - Elizabeth Franks gave an overview of the structure and work of Faith in Action. Past efforts have included Welcoming of Immigrants and Restorative Justice Initiatives. The next important dates are 9/9/19 (discussion of the potential focus for 2020) and 10/14/19 (determination of the general focus). There have been several suggestions of focus areas by members of the congregation: Climate Change, Drug Addiction, Criminal Justice, Housing, and Homelessness. CLA will have a discussion on 9/15/19 on Faith in Action and our involvement. A point was made that we should support, whichever issue is selected by the member congregations.
 - Jo Anne St. Clair announced that the Auction Committee will begin meeting in September to plan the 2020 HUU Auction. Involvement in the planning process is encouraged.
4. Suggestions for Future Work –
 - CLA and Covenant Groups need to be announced more regularly on Sunday morning through verbal and written announcements in the bulletin. Les Grady stated that the Daytime Covenant Group has space for additional persons – it meets at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays – location TBD.
 - Barbara Moore requested that at the end of the Mowing Season, could the Board of Trustees do something to honor Pam Helsley, the Board has discussed addressing this.

- Discussion ensued about Coffee and when it is prepared, as some people like coffee before the service begins. Statement was made that coffee is available when you smell it brewing.
- For further discussion, signage for Unisex Bathrooms.

5. Questions?

- Who fixed the radio coming through the microphone? Barkley Rosser stated that he did a lot of tweaking of the system.
- Issue was raised about a regular topic of discussion – increasing membership. David Lane stated that we are trying to hire a Consulting Minister, who has expertise in that area. We are surviving, but we want to thrive.
- Question raised about whether the Daily News Record (DNR) includes what the “sermon” topic is for each congregation listed in the Saturday paper. All of the congregations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County are listed, but the listing does not include the “sermon” topic
- Should we advertise in the DNR? That is a large expense and was not considered cost effective in the past. We used to advertise through spots on WMRA, but a previous General Manager discontinued that advertising opportunity. It was suggested that if, and when we hire a Consulting Minister, we should do a news release to the media.
- Dr. Paula Bennet stated that since starting as CRE Director a year ago, we have 5 or 6 new families attending. We should provide more education about what UUism is the general public.

6. Adjourn