

MINISTER'S State of CIC 2015 REPORT-

Membership numbers -

Wavelinks subscriptions - 184

'Friends & Families' list as maintained by Jan Rocks is - 95 people

79 declared members, 24 have indicated a connection to the UCC. This means that these persons want it recognized that they feel a connection to the UCC. I added this designation myself as I have, in my current position, come to a more informed understanding of how they support us. I have used their resources a fair bit. We pay a very small quantity to UCC for each member with this designation.

CIC membership is determined by someone letting the current minister know they would like to be a member. We ask that members pledge as they are able, participate in the running of CIC as they are able and let us know if they decide to end those commitments.

This year we have one new member;
Sabra Hull

3 - Members have left the community;
Steve Ulene
Gabrielle O'Sullivan
Beare, Marjorie* - note: Marjorie, a member in absentia, died 2/3/15

(Declared Members list updated for 2015 attached at end.)

I asked Karen Ray about our community care efforts. She reports;

Our community has pulled together this past year to offer continued support to Annie and Hugh and their family, to the Putvin family, and to Patti and her husband Ed this past year. A small group of us also gathered to make soup for families dealing with illness or other challenging life events. As the community needs coordinator, Karen says

she is deeply appreciative of the willingness of so many CIC members to give of themselves in this way. She knows the meal, transportation, and other logistical support is hugely appreciated, and the emotional comfort we provide is held dear. Thank you all.

Care Committees -

We have 2 of these committees and both have shifted significantly this year. Virginia's committee is doing phone check ins occasionally and as needed support. Arlene's care committee still does very regular support, though the jobs have been streamlined and there is less need for appointments and driving.

There are members at large who cannot make it to celebrations and I hear tales of other members doing visits and keeping CIC connected to folks lives. I personally have been visiting Barbara Gibson, Gene Beach and the Davidson's.

Leeann's take on the CIC 2015 year.

I have only been acting as your interim leader for half of this period. Last year at this time Kathleen was announcing her retirement. This understandably resulted in some marked sadness for the community. Kathleen has been a beloved leader and her leadership will not easily be replaced.

As a steering circle member I was noticing a drop in attendance. We had conversations about how few kids are involved and this kid trend has continued.

In spring 2015, CIC did a lot of work talking about who we are and what we value as we processed the reality of hiring a new minister. Hire inside or from out? Interim or immediate hire? Interim for months or a year? We discussed qualities we thought would be desirable in a new minister and directions CIC recruitment. Who should be on the selection committee? How much guidance should they be given? I confess to being amazed, thrilled and inspired by those meetings. So

many voices and opinions, so much patience and history. I had never seen consensus work so well.

As the spring wore on, attendance still flagged. In my experience there was a clear ebb in energy at CIC. An undertone of sadness seemed ever present, I heard folks reflect on the low attendance. No one was throwing in the towel but "What if" had passed through many minds.

Based on those spring Town Hall discussions Steering Circle proposed an Interim Team of Jan Rocks and Leeann Tourtillott to manage CIC from July 1 - Dec 31.

Attendance at Fort Flagler was low and it was decided, to save money, not to use a group tent site. Summer arrived and Kathleen's retirement began.

I started in July eagerly wanting to learn about interim ministry work. I encouraged folks to talk to me, to tell me what they hoped for in the interim, how they wanted to grow and address community needs. The reading and research I did over the summer on interim ministry spoke at length about using an interim for a redefinition and a recommitting to goals for the congregation. I have pondered if I might have lost an opportunity, to push for more goal and definition work. Just keeping Sundays happening, place holding so to speak, is less risky, easier, more comfortable. My personal experience is that more risk, more work, less comfort, is often worth growth, fresh energy and new direction. It may be that we will start doing more of this sort of self definition work with our new minister.

Then came September.

I brought an inquisitive and open energy to Fort Flagler, Steering Circle and Celebration Planning. I was in search of interim work that many felt had been completed in the Spring. There is interest in acknowledging and processing the lack of Kathleen in our midst still. In-

terim is not a settled minister time, I believe there is more self definition work that we will find our way to and through.

The Pope's Synod on the environment and justice for the poor was big news, and CIC took part in the local clergy discussion of what this meant. The shootings in Olympia over the summer gave rise to the Black Alliance of Thurston County, there were at least 5 CIC members involved in the first large community gathering. The Syrian refugee crisis has loomed large and been a topic of discussion at Social Justice meetings. Violence against Muslim communities spurred a visit to express support of clergy for the local Mosque, again CIC took part. Gun violence seems to have become bigger in societies awareness and local lobbying efforts have drawn CIC members attention. At the Mosque. Dannie from IFW noted to me "CIC shows up repeatedly at these supportive gatherings in numbers that defy the small size of the CIC community."

I encouraged and continue to encourage folks to bring and invite friends to come and check us out, to let the broader Olympia community know we are here, we thrive and contribute to this community.

It is important to recognize what an amazing job the Selection Committee has done. The level of commitment, the intellect the cooperative work is very impressive. The sheer number of hours and heart that they bring to the work is really a blessing that has been impressive and a joy to witness. As time progresses it has become apparent we need more time for the hiring process so we are continuing with Jan Rocks, in an assistant role and Leeann as interim lay-leader.

There has been a shifting of calls and steering circle is currently in flux as Evie formally leaves her position as Finance Shepherd as of tonight. Jan Rocks Call Shepherd report elucidates this further.

Scott, Evie, and I, made some changes to the on line version of Wavelinks, it has evolved and matured. We are starting to use links in e-mails regarding larger community efforts and events. A formal pro-

cedure for seeking community support for endorsements has been created (see Town Hall notes for 17 Jan 2016.).

We have had a fair bit of contact with TUCO this year. Unfortunately some of that contact is born of break-ins and unexpected visitors. I feel a camaraderie with TUCO's interim minister Tammi Stamphli and really appreciate our mutual support.

I have grown in my understanding of the minister's job and through that work I have grown as a person. Deciding to step back from my application was one of the more "indecisive" decisions I have ever made. I have truly enjoyed and gained much from this position and experience. While brief, it is one of those BIG life experiences whose significance is in no way measurable in hours. I am deeply grateful for this, for you.

Since September we have had some really great attendance at CIC. The article in the Olympian last Nov., spear headed by Karen Ray, drew some visitors, and we have had more folks checking us out, even coming back. I cannot determine if attendance of already established members is increased because of the hiring process, serendipity, life circumstance, or a combination of unknowns. Coming to take part in the process and attend celebrations is a most sincere indicator of connection to CIC.

I am available to CIC to act as Interim Minister through 1 June 2016, at which time I have travel plans. Jan Rocks has said she is available in an assistant role until Town Hall feels her services are no longer needed.

January 2016 CIC Declared Members: 79

"Active members" do one or more of the following: attend CIC services, small group activities; hold a call, pledge, affirm their continuing membership even if not actively involved

“In absentia”: people who have moved away but have chosen to keep their membership active.

Full disclosure, Kathleen would, every 2 years or so, go through the membership roster and call folks we have not seen in a while. I did not do this this year.

*- indicates membership in the United Church of Christ (24)

Anderson, Jonnel*
Beach, Genne*
Bentley, Shelly
Bernstein, Jodi
Bishop, Scott
Bishop, Trina
Brian, Virginia*
Buchanan, Arlene
Curtz, Jo Thornton*
Curtz, Thad* 10
Dahle, Kristen
Dailey, Zoe (changed name from Cheryl)
Davidson, Cherie*
Davidson, Don*
Fagergren, Evie
Farris, Laura 12/14
Frey, Constance
Gibson, Barbara*
Hamilton, Tricia*
Annie Hankins 1/15 20
Hauptman, Hilarie
Hauser, Betty*
Hauser, Dick*
Hauser, Emelyn
Henry, Peg
Huntington, Sarah
Hull, Sabra joined 1/17/16
Levesque, Cezanne

Logan, Patti 12/14
Kaszynski, Jayne 30
Kilgannon, Anne
Knapp, Rob*
Krupp, Lester
Keller, Nika*
Lohmann, Karen
Luvaul, Irene
Luvaul, Larry
McCollough, Joyce*
McManus, Annie
Marshall, Ramona 40
Nix, Jan
Olmstead, Judy
O'Neill, Hugh
Parke, Megan
Peppard, Kathleen*
Porter, Coral Ann
Pruitt, Kathy
Purkerson, Penny*
Putvin, Tammy
Putvin, Ted 50
Ray, Karen
Rocks, Jan
Rocks, Paul
Rush, Jody*
Rychener, Sophia *
Ryken, Teasy
Ryle, Jen
Ryle, Ted
Sobottke, Blanche*
Stephens, Ryan 60
Spencer, Donna*
Spencer, Hal*
Starzyk, Pat
Sterlin, Miriam
Tougas, Joe

Tourtillott, Leeann*
Tvedt, Karen
Vleck, Jan
Vogler, Candace*
Waldron, Boojie 70
Waldron, Roxane
Waterman, Lori 1/15
Waters, Julie
Wheeler, Shelly
White, Gordon
Wingfield, Jane
Witherow, Bev
Witley, Gary
Witley, Vonda
Zaire, Zeryn 80

Members in absentia (6)

Beckstrom, Cherie
Luenn, Nancy
Macs, Erika *
Ott, Jan*
Popp, Emily
Tuominen, Mary* 88