

Interim Minister Annual Report for 2022

There's good news and more good news this year. UCCPH is more than half way through the interim process! Read on about ways the congregation has grown in numbers, mission, and love in 2022. My report plus all of the others combined give witness to God's grace in leading UCCPH forward into a bright and caring future.

But first, a recap of what progress was made specifically on the **Interim process**. After the **Profile** was completed by the Transition Team in September it was sent to Council for review and editing. In October, the Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott, associate conference minister, led worship and held a Q & A with the congregation about the pastor search process. The Pastoral Search Team (Melissa Kelsey, Denis Dunlap, Desi Galloway, Brooke Albright, Don Wick and Cam Burkard) were selected by Council, voted on by the congregation and commissioned in October. After the Council edited the Profile, the congregation had time to review it. More edits, formatting and proofreading were done, and the Council approved it in November. It was forwarded to the Conference for validation. The associate conference minister for search-and-call, Rev. Erin Gilmore, made a few edits and it was validated and posted on the UCC National website on December 11. The Pastoral Search team will work with Rev. Erin Gilmore as the conference staff support. As the interim, I am not involved in this process and will not have information about it. The team will communicate with the congregation about their progress.

TRANSITION TEAM: The Transition Team held an all-church conversation in May to lead the congregation in a discussion about who the church is today. They compiled research, statistics, and Conference information to complete the Profile early September when they sent it to the Council for review. Our thanks go to Gus Burkard, Ralph Datema, Holly Jay, Angie Law, and Joe Narracci for their diligence and perseverance through the year.

MEMBERSHIP: UCCPH membership has increased with the addition of three couples with their children totaling 10 new members. We've had 3-5 visitors per month, some coming back, and two interested in joining. Hopefully, there will be another new member's class this year. The Office Administrator, Peggy Campbell and I regularly responded to each visitor with a follow up email letter including Zoom visitors. Six confirmands were received in November bringing the total active church partners to 91, in addition to many friends who journey with us in faith. I have led three Memorial Services (Darrell Pidgeon, Paul Callahan, and Randy Hiler), two baptisms (Maggie Fahey and Fiona McGee). There was a reception to celebrate the marriage of Denis Dunlap and Nathan Ablicki.

WORSHIP: We have had a steady 60-65 people participating in weekly worship either on Zoom or in-person and a big increase 115 at the Christmas Eve Service and 116 at Easter. We've enjoyed two choir performances led by Peggy Lundberg and accompanied by Sue Neal. We held a joint service with the Prairie Unitarian Universalist congregation with a long fellowship time afterwards! Three guest preachers came (Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott, Rev Amy Petre Hill, and

Rev. Terri Baird). Our retired minister member Rev. Al Thompson was gracious to fill in on two Sundays.

Music—In February there was a music director search with no applicants. Fortunately, we have been blessed with very gifted musicians that I've had the pleasure of working with in planning and leading 52 + worship services. Our regular volunteer musicians are Peggy Lundberg, Joe Narracci, and Sue Neal. We have been blessed with additional musical leadership from Ellie Yoakam, Paul Lundberg, Joyce Asmus, Ben Jenkins, and Luann Hiler.

Sanctuary Care—Many thanks to Rosanne French for lovingly preparing the alter area for worship each week creating a sacred space with attention to seasonal changes. Thanks to Jean and Dick Sherer for changing the cloth according to the church year.

Audio Visual Team—Many thanks to Shellie Luallin for her leadership of Zoom volunteers and paid audio techs for each worship service.

COUNCIL: Many thanks to Jan Narracci for her dedicated leadership as moderator. Through her gifts and skills, the Council faithfully attended to church business. She has strengthened the church's connections with the Rocky Mountain Conference and the South Eastern Association. Your Council members (Al Thompson, Brooke Albright, Gene Eliassen, Kay Frunzi and Paul Campbell) worked hard in many ways to steer UCCPH forward after two intense years of COVID isolation and regrouping. They each bring their gifts and talents in service to the church.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

Confirmation—After a year of classes, service projects and lunches, as well as a beautiful worship service led by the Confirmands, the class of six were confirmed on November 13, 2022. They are Spencer Albright, Spencer Bailey, Jason Birdwhistell, Cal Harvey, Fiona McGee, and Izzy Wick. The congregation is blessed with their creative energy, insightful questions, and service. Co-leader, Eileen Enterline and I know they are a blessing and hope you'll continue to involve them in the life of the congregation.

Mission— With Dick and Jean Sherer, I led some of the Confirmands and their parents on a La Puente gleaning trip in September and coordinated other mission projects with the youth.

Faith Formation (young kids)—Eileen and I create and plan Faith Formation. Many thanks to her for her creative ideas for teaching faith to our next generation weekly. We met with parents to gather feedback about what could strengthen the program. There were some special seasonal activities including an Advent party, Easter Egg Hunt, and a Christmas pageant.

Youth Group— The youth participate regularly in worship. Eileen and I have offered a few program opportunities for all the youth grades 6-12.

Adult Education—Held two book studies over the year. One with Prairie Unitarian Universalist minister Roger Butts using this book *Seeds of Devotion*. The second one we held jointly with the two congregations using two different books. This was held at Books Are Awesome bookstore in Parker.

ADMINISTRATION:

All of the above ministry activities were coordinated, communicated and support by the office administrator, Peggy Campbell. Peggy always goes beyond the call duty in her service to

UCCPH. Besides preparing the weekly worship bulletin and newsletter, the office administrator keeps church calendar, manages office equipment, and contracts, and reminds me of deadlines. Peggy has collected information and pictures to create a new church directory which will arrive in 2023. For a couple of months in the summer there was a short-term office administrator, Lexi Jones. She left to return to her studies in preparation for ordination. Peggy was rehired in October.

IN CLOSING

Professionally, I attended two weeks of continuing education, one on preaching and the other was at Mediation Skills Training Institute. I have been active in the Metro Denver Association, and the Rocky Mountain Conference, and I attended a workshop at La Foret. I remain connected with my home church, 6th Avenue in Denver and my pastor. Personally, I had time for a family vacation, and a silent retreat at Ghost Ranch.

There is much to be thankful for in 2022. Many, many hands, hearts and minds have followed God's Spirit of leadership this year by stepping up and going the extra mile. I celebrate and give thanks to God for this past year. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your interim minister. I pray for the congregation as it stands on tiptoes waiting to see what God has in store for 2023. And remember, "**The Adventure Goes On.**"

Faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Olive Hinnant