

## Moderator Annual Report 2023

Rev. Olive Hinnant was the pastor at UCC Parker Hilltop in 2023 January through the first week in August when she fulfilled her term as Interim Pastor. In that first part of 2023, she led a book group on the book she wrote, God Comes Out: A Queer Homiletic. She worked in community with two other churches to hold joint services, Prairie Unitarian Universalist church and Joy Lutheran and conducted her second membership class. She had three guest preachers, Rev. Anthony Scott, Amanda Newman Shaw and Rev. Russ Kirby. The last Sunday Rev. Olive Hinnant was at the church, she was honored with a potluck and a good UCCPH sendoff!

The Montessori school officially opened the nursery aspect of the school in March with the preschool scheduled after many recommended changes by the state of Colorado. This included several upgrades: installing an additional bathroom in the back storage closet; installing a hard-sided foldable door to separate the nursery from the preschool; bringing the septic system up to code; outdoor fencing for a play area and other issues outlined by the state. The school became fully licensed in September.

Every week the school breaks down the preschool classroom and sets up the tables for our social time after service. They are now paying some of the church youth to take the tables down on Sunday afternoons and set up the school classroom.

Council was very active in 2023 with revising the Bylaws; completing the Safety Plan; managing the Budget; supporting the Search Team; working with the Montessori school; transitioning from Interim to pulpit supply, to Bridge pastor; holding an outside-contracted wedding; managing the building and grounds; just conducting normal Council business. The Council lost one member and added another. During the transition of pastors, one of our congregants, Denis Dunlap, stepped up and preached for 4 weeks between Rev. Hinnant and Rev. Kirby. He did an excellent job and fulfilled a big vacancy!

All during this time, the Search Team has worked hard to find a settled pastor, reviewing profiles and conducting interviews. The Conference leadership for our search changed when Rev. Scott was asked to leave his position. Rev. Erin Gilmore stepped in to work with the Search Team and has continued this work and guidance throughout the year. Thank you to this team for their hard work and continued efforts.

UCC Parker Hilltop hosted the Annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference. We also participated in the Castle Rock Pride Fest and plan on hosting our own table at the Fest in 2024.

While this report may not have covered all that was done in 2023, it needs to be mentioned that it takes many hands to conduct the business of a church. We are small but we still do what many larger churches do, only with fewer people. Thank you to all the volunteers! Without them we would not be the church we are!