

Midweek Update Supplement for 7 November 2018

From the Board President

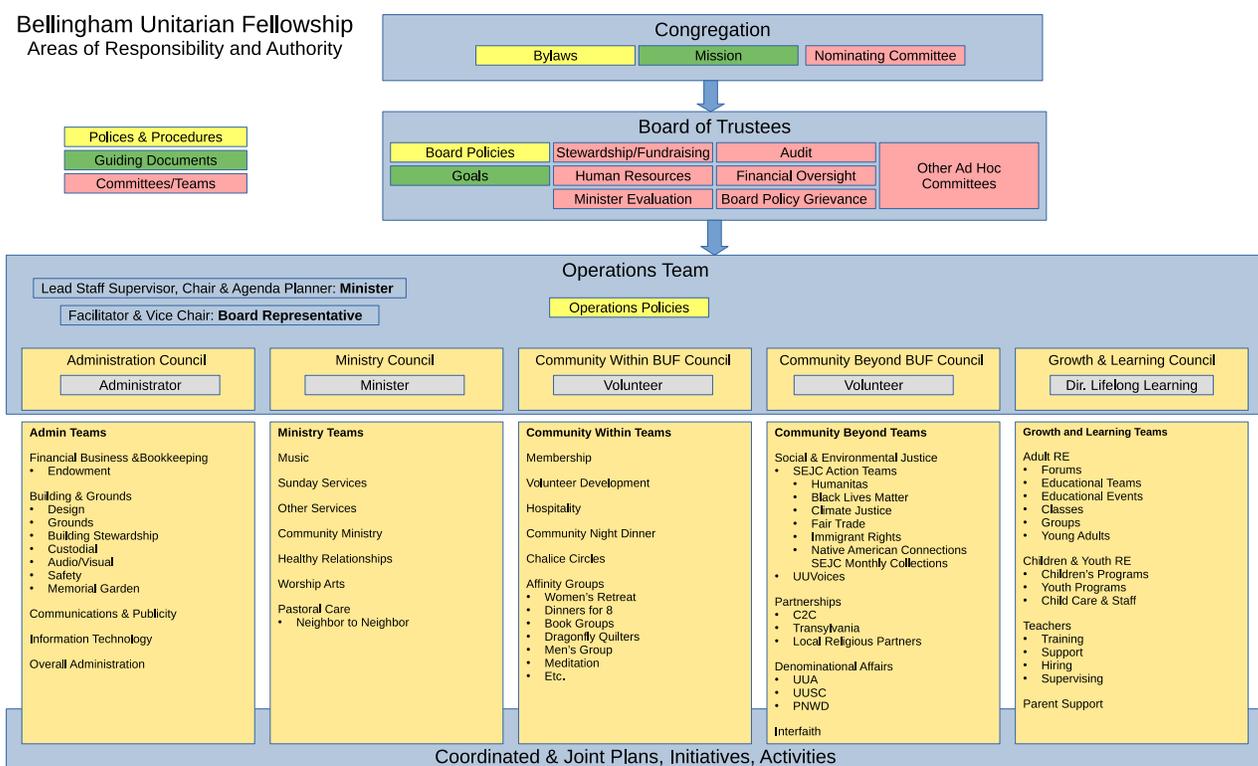
Dear BUF Community,

Many of you had the opportunity to learn about our new organizational structure for the Fellowship in spring and summer. For those of you who have not yet heard, or for those of you who have heard but want to know more, the Board is offering an orientation to the new structure this Sunday, November 11th. A diagram of this new structure is included here in the mid-week update and will be posted on buf.org as well.

Please join us at coffee hour this Sunday to see a large scale diagram and talk with Board members about this new organizational structure. Your questions are welcome. In addition, there will be a short skit during the service describing this new structure.

The official launch of this structure happened in September, with the first meeting of the Operations Team.

~ Warmly, Kara Black, Board President



Save the Date and Heads Up!

Intent to Propose a Resolution at the BUF Congregational Meeting in May 2019.

This is a heads up that a congregational resolution proposal is being discussed for the upcoming congregational meeting in May 2019. One of the concerns in the resolution process in the past has been that the congregation, as a whole, has not been involved in the drafting of resolution until the resolution was finalized and announced just prior to voting on it at the annual meeting.

Currently, there is a movement underway to bring forward a Truth and Reconciliation process in the State of WA. For those of you not familiar with the term “Truth and Reconciliation,” it is a process where the indigenous and settler communities create the space and effort to acknowledge our troubled past relationship, our roles in it and look to seeking a way that healing can take place and a path to the future can be forged together as true neighbors. Similar Truth and Reconciliation movements have been active in Canada and in the State of Maine (the only one in the U.S.). While both the Canadian and Maine movements have focused predominantly on the history and current state of affairs in removing Indian children from their homes and placement either in white boarding/residential schools and/or into white foster care systems and the resulting trauma and culture degradation, we will be looking to a number of issues that have contributed to the cultural isolation and genocide of our indigenous communities.

As this is a new movement, we are offered the opportunity to be a participant in it at the ground level. There is no text yet for this resolution. That’s where you come in. At this stage, I am reaching out to the members of this congregation to invite any of you who are interested in drafting a resolution to support a Truth and Reconciliation process to contact me. There will be opportunities to become informed through panels, films and group work. Once a draft is created the intention is to put it forward to the congregation for comment (much like the commenting process in the greater community that we’ve become familiar with). The proposed resolution will be submitted for approval by both the Native American Connections Committee and the Social and Environmental Justice Committee and then submitted to the Board to be included on the agenda for the congregational meeting. I’ve requested the Healthy Relations Team to be a part of this process and our efforts here could be folded into our equity, diversity and inclusion goals set out by the of BUF’s Membership and Diversity Goal Team. This could serve as well as a program that began during Native American Heritage Month 2018 (November).

That’s the bare bones of it right now and some of the process may change as we move forward. Additionally, that which is created by our congregation can be shared with other UU congregations around the State. Who knows? Maybe we can introduce something like an Action of Immediate Witness at GA in Spokane this year!

You have the opportunity to get a head start on this as Whatcom Community College is hosting an event about the Truth and Reconciliation on **Friday, November 9, 3:30-5:45 in Heiner 209 at Whatcom Community College**. No worries though if you are unable to attend this particular event as there are plans in the works for two information sessions at **BUF on**

Monday, on November 26th, one in the day and one in the evening (details to be announced). It is also recommended that if you get the opportunity, watch the film “Dawnland” which was aired on PBS and is a film about the T&R movement in the State of Maine. Other informational opportunities could include inviting UU ministers from British Columbia who have been heavily involved over the last several years in the T&R effort in Canada to come and speak about their experiences and programs. They have a wealth of experience, knowledge and practical application that could be very helpful to us, not only in the resolution, but in future steps to achieve this goal.

This looks to be a long-term project with many opportunities for BUFsters to participate. If you are interested, please contact Deb Cruz at dwcruz@comcast.net.

BUF-SEJC Special Collection, November 2018, York Community Farm

York Community Farm (YCF) serves multiple purposes: sustainable food production, jobs and internships, with a living wage for the underserved (veterans, homeless and recently incarcerated folks), and a place in the sun for the homeless.

Here are some of YCF’s accomplishments:

- Placed 4,000 sq. ft. under agricultural production;
- Planted an orchard;
- Grew and distributed hundreds of pounds of vegetables and fruits;
- Awarded 27 internships to the underserved local people, @\$1,500 each, total of \$40,500;
- Fully fossil fuel free—hand production. Tools will be upgraded;
- Conducted successful spring campaign to kick-start fund-raising for a new greenhouse.
- Future Plans:
 - Acquire and grow a greenhouse to expand food production and employment year round;
 - Start a pilot project of aquaponics, using alternative solar power;
 - Aquaponics, a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics, where fish and plants thrive in a mutually beneficial process.

SEJC is pleased to support this socially conscious York Community Farm, and urges BUF members and friends to contribute this month, to help upgrade its tools and equipment, for fossil fuel free, hand production. Also, look forward to BUF Sunday Forum on the YCF next Sunday, the November 18th.



~ Sita Amba Rao, SEJC, Special Collections

Women Fasting for the Children of Yemen: 14 chairs • 14 hours

14 million at risk of starvation in Yemen, mostly women and children. What kind of response can we make to one of the greatest famines in modern times?

Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 7 am to 9 pm in front of the Federal Building, 104 West Magnolia St, Bellingham, WA. I'm setting up 14 chairs in front of the Bellingham Federal Building on November 14 for 14 hours, calling it "Women fasting for the Children of Yemen." Women who sit in a chair vow to fast for 14 hours. Sit in the chair for an hour. Fast for 14 hours. Grieve the obliteration of a country. Would you be interested in joining me? Men are welcome in support roles. For more information, contact marymele@gmail.com



