

## **PROGRAM COUNCIL REPORT**

Good day Beloveds! My name is Marcia Cederdahl, and my pronouns are she/her. In my report as Program Council chair, I wanted to begin my time by sharing this Quote:

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much ~Helen Keller.

I believe that quote sums up this past year. This is what I have the privilege of sharing with you today:

To give a brief overview: The purpose of the Program Council is to address operational issues of the church. The Program Council shall be comprised of 6 liaisons to clusters of committees, activity groups, and task organizers with similar functions. The Program Council shall be led by the Program Council Chair whose selection is set forth in the Church Bylaws.

The program council's the work is done by the 6 Clusters each led by a great Cluster Liaison.

This year I had the pleasure of working with the following leaders:

- Abby Lemburg McDowell, Youth Programs (Abby is now staff, and her position has been replaced by Kim Ziemann).
- Barbara Pearson - Facilities Cluster
- Angie Fass- Outreach Cluster
- Kathy Disney - Congregation Cluster
- Bob Haack, - Sunday Services Cluster
- Adult Programs Cluster – Judy Kelly was in this position; it is currently vacant.

Barbara, Angie, and Kathy will be finishing their terms on the Program Council, and Abby is now on staff. Please join me in giving them a huge round of applause for all their work!

I especially want to offer my sincere appreciation to Kathy Disney, who took hold of the reins as I struggle with my grief.

Today I am representing these 6 Cluster Leaders, and the members and leaders of the committees and Task Force groups of each Cluster reporting the accomplishments of this past church year.

I am so very proud of these accomplishments of the 2024-2025 Program Council including:

- Staff are invited to attend & participate in the monthly program council meetings.

- It was decided early on this year to focus on our meetings on the goals that the Council set. The goals were voted on and narrowed down to 4, including:

1. Become more purpose driven with a clearer understanding of what the Program Council does and how it should function within the life of the congregation, and to act with that purpose in mind.
2. spend more time in meetings on broader topics and problem solving, reporting to be done mostly in writing
3. re-examine the Program Council policy to see if it is still accurate and relevant for 2025. Re-examination could include creating clearer definitions of what committee, task force and task organizer mean in our church
4. Review the org chart for changes to make it more accurate and to simplify the visual structure to make it more understandable to everyone.

- There was a fifth goal; to complete the required self-evaluation, it will be done before the end of the year.

- Monthly written reports remain important, and submitted to the Chair, then shared with the cluster liaisons and to the Board of Trustees.

- Hybrid meetings – both in person and on zoom began in April of this year.

- A joint retreat was held with the Board of Trustees this year to focus on a ministerial search, it was so helpful and important to continue this dialogue and communication!

- There was a workshop held this Spring coordinated by the Program Council, cluster liaisons and their committees and task forces/organizers were invited as well as the Board of Trustees. The purpose of the workshop was to talk about the Program Council structure and how well it is working, as well as moving forward, and ideas for the coming church year. The revised organizational charts and the policies for the Program Council revisions were discussed and the work continues!

- The Program Council also created and approved a funding paths document, to be added to the Program Council policies.

- Cluster liaisons did a wonderful job of reviewing the financial documents and staying within their budgets.

There are so many more accomplishments I could mention! Let me finish by saying how proud I am to represent this talented group, and to be a part of this congregation. I would like to close with this quote: "Love is the power that holds us all together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love." Article II, Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Cederdahl