

Senior Minister's Report to the Board, October 2015

I am happy to report that worship attendance has remained high as we are now well into our new church year. Our 11 AM service is full and our 9 AM service is about one third full. I will be working with our worship associates and the DRE in finding ways to encourage more attendance at the first service. We also held our first multi-generational service which is a collaborative effort between our music, religious education and worship ministries. We will be having one multi-generational Sunday per month on average.

One reason for this programmatic shift is due to the lack of volunteer teachers in RE. The multi-generational service takes some pressure off that need. I am working with Mary Collins in strategizing how we can alleviate this problem in the future. We are not alone in having this teacher shortage. It is due to many factors. The fact remains that our parents want a high quality religious education program and having that program is a major driver of growth and vitality. I will report on this again.

Organizationally, the church is running well. I devote approximately 15 hours of my work week to staff supervision and development. Our management team is working extremely well as we deal with the many demands on a growing church amidst building repairs. As previously reported, we are in search for a new lead sexton to manage the physical plant including our assistant sexton. This will be a part time job moving towards full time. We have just hired a coffee setup and Sunday kitchen person to be sure coffee is served and clean up assured. Mary Collins is in search of a new RE assistant and we are hoping that position is filled soon.

I continue to devote a fair amount of time to small group ministry, pastoral care, worship and stewardship. Each of these areas have excellent teams supporting the work of our church and I see progress in function and accountability.

As we continue over the next several months I will be spending more time strategizing on my goals which came out of our retreat last month. For now, I feel comfortable that our transition to our settled ministry is moving smoothly.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Respectfully yours, Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse