

Minister's Board Report

Board Meeting—July, 2022

Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley

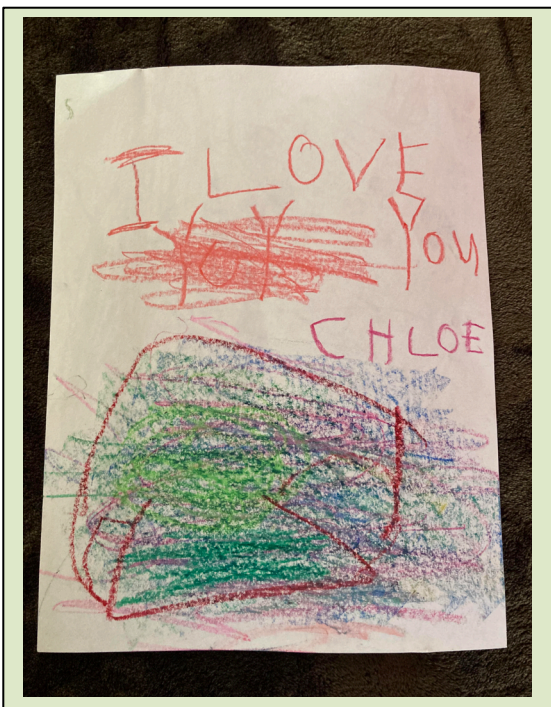
Minister, North Universalist Chapel Society

It is so good the younger families are coming. Right now, however, they are coming inconsistently. That worked in our favor on Sunday, July 17th. Chloe Powell was not feeling well that day. Thanks to her organization, she was able to contact me on Saturday. While it was

too late to find a substitute, we were able to provide coloring materials and the kids were able to stay in the Sanctuary without attracting too much attention.

Building community is a serious commitment. Sometimes, it means a noisier Sanctuary than we are used to. The young ones bring their own energy and healthy churches know how to honor that. When we are honest with ourselves, we know that the word “energy” is complicated. It isn't always a good thing. It isn't often a good thing. Yet,

without the presence of the young ones, young families will stay away. We have to strike a balance between the spiritual needs of people of all ages. We need to be mindful of the future church and its needs as we move forward together.

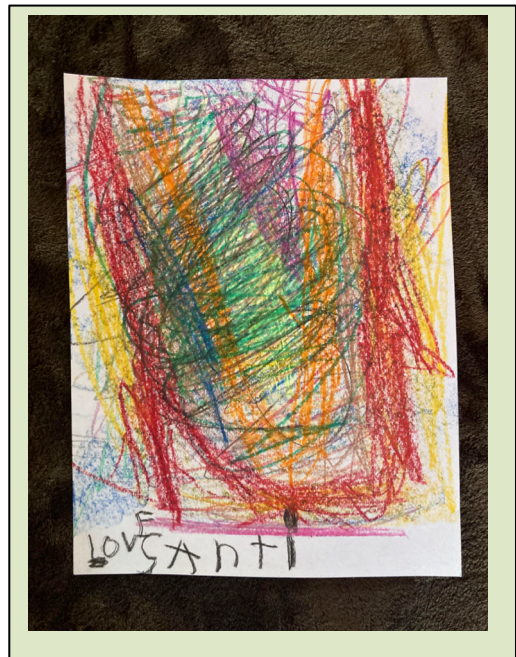


It is obvious that the kids themselves feel very connected to Chloe. Santi (who is about 5 years old) created great art and his parents were grateful that they could be served by the church on Sunday morning.

Generally speaking, kids are noisier than adults. So there is a tension between the spiritual need for quiet reflection on Sunday morning and the practical needs of parents/kids/younger families.

It seems like we are in the slow process of figuring out what will unfold for North Chapel. Clearly, North Chapel Clean-up day, the SE garden project, the creative arts day with Lakou Mizik from Haiti... These activities (as well as the normal Spiritual Exploration activities) are beginning to coalesce into a more formal curriculum that is uniquely suited for North Chapel.

It is a good time to start the long-range planning of special services. This practice is something that was normal pre-COVID and can be revived. It would be a good idea of this to be owned by the Worship Committee but practiced jointly between the Worship Committee and the Board. I propose that we meet jointly at some point to map out the year and think about what services might be useful to North Chapel and strategize about how and when to do them.



The Ukraine Fundraiser was a spectacular success. I can still feel the power of that experience. As the war drags on (and I fear that it will for quite some time), it is good to have acted so effectively.

There have been several memorial services and several weddings with which I have been and continue to be engaged. Meg Brazil, Patricia Hill, Christiana/Walker, Nellie Horseman, the Maynes family... I have been very busy. I am looking forward to these two Sundays away. I will also need a larger block of time in the fall. This summer, I have not had a significant break. I feel it deeply in my level of fatigue and I also need to get home to see my mother.

The pastoral arm of North Chapel continues to develop. Richard Schramm has created a report that will be useful to us. It was a canvassing of only 15 or 20 participants (Richard, you will have to tell me the actual number). Richard and I met last week and our 2-hour meeting generated a lot of interesting ideas.

Finally, as I shared with Kathy earlier, it's time to start thinking about how the church can blossom, how new energies can find their way to leadership. Months ago, David Parker resigned from the Board. There were tender feelings about his departure. How are we healing and how are we feeling about that?

I would love to think about creating a leadership workshop that is fun, associated with a meal and elucidating of experienced wisdom and budding talent and treasure. This would be a great thing for early September.