

Freedom School (Lisa Ross) – Freedom Schools were started in the 1960's and the Children's Defense Fund now has Freedom Schools for kids, there are 4 schools in STL, and they are looking to expand in the City. These are a 6 week long Summer program, they want to expand the age range for the upcoming Summer. They are focused on literacy, cultural empowerment and developing cultural action skills. They want kids to learn to love reading. It's a rigorous curriculum, all staff get local and national level training. Kids are fed breakfast and lunch, then Harambe (Cheers and Chants), Reading, each kid gets a copy of 10 different books, they have DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), they also have a community speaker read to the kids, they have lunch, in the afternoon, they have enrichment activities which are devised by staff at the particular site. There are a variety of activities. And on Friday's they have fieldtrips. Lisa wants our church to be a Freedom School space, and the FS folks are very excited about our space. FS would like us to have 40 kids, Lisa prefers K-5th Grade and not start with middle schoolers, we have to have a safe way for the kids to get in and out of the building. They can function without volunteers, but they want volunteers. You can help out with breakfast or lunch, or volunteer for afternoon activities and fieldtrips. And reading volunteers. They have a grant finding team, and we have the potential to get a grant from the Mission Free School. Lynn thinks that there might be extra costs to the tune of 5K. Board has given them the go-ahead to move forward. Discussion ensued. We won't know if we have the funding until October. Disbursement in December from the Mission Free School. Council voted and approved.

Board Liaison (Kathy Wilke) – Board discussed the Freedom Schools, see notes of Sidney Watson. Board is developing a process for how folks initiate discussions about various issues that come up in the church. Kathy discussed the LGBTQ training that the Board and Council will be participating in. Kathy related that this is not mandatory.

Grace – 1) RE is doing the Lego Curriculum this year. Registration is still open. Greeters are being encouraged to encourage folks to register and welcome new RE family. Teacher training was August 14th. They're planning a field trip to the Zoo in November. The plans for OWL are on hold, but they're meeting with potential instructors for the Spring. Next RE meeting is October 8th, from Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant. 2) Library – Dottie reported that they are switching to the Tiny Cat system, which will be cheaper. Dottie wanted something that would allow everyone to register their library books and their book system. Terry Yokota has chaired the library committee for many years and plans to step back from it. They plan to remove the old computer and only using tablets or smart phones to access the Tiny Cat library catalog system. Rev. Kim and Grace agree that the Council doesn't need to be involved so long as they are staying in budget. They are hoping to make the transition to the new catalog system be seamless with the addition of online access. 3) Worship Committee – Water communion went well, feedback was positive. Retreat is coming up in February. They are planning for weeks in which Rev. Kim isn't at the pulpit. Rev. Sabrina will be replacing the Story for All Ages with Connection Moment.

Women's Alliance want to get a plaque for Karen Siegrist, but they need to coordinate a landscaping piece. Cathy talked to Stan Birge about this, and Cathy has a connection for free trees. Cathy will help Stan procure some free trees. All of the trees are native trees. They want to do something for Karen that is similar to Connie Goss' plaque.

Growth and Engagement (Erin) - Care and Concerns assisted with the memorial service for Karen Siegrist and will be helping with two additional upcoming memorial services, one for Warren Lammert, and the other for Martha Grimm. The Women's Alliance held their opening potluck on September 9 and on September 24, they will be carpooling to the metro and riding the bus directly to the Blues Museum. The Membership Committee met on September 14, 2025 and discussed the New Member Class curriculum, developed a New Member Class Schedule, discussed "Connection Cards" to be created for people to express their interests in the church and their possible needs. Newcomer Chats and New Member classes were scheduled. 5 newcomers attended the Newcomer Chat on 9/7/25 and it appears that all of them might be interested in joining the Young Adult group as well. The next meeting will be October 19th at 11:30.

Tom Finan – Shingles issues with the church roof, the Going Green guy is locating a special high-end shingle for the church roof. Plastering is being done in the chapel and the back hall. Library will be painted and plastering will happen there. The front sidewalk will be repaired by the City, we are hoping that the concrete slabs are being replaced by the City (6 slabs in total). French drain was recently installed which is helping with gutter issues. They are looking at new thermostats. The church insurance folks did an electrical inspection. Some fuses will need to be replaced so that we pass insurance inspections. We are needing to finalize our bids for the front walkway and the roof. Wind damage is coming out of pocket because of our high deductible. Landscaping and planting will be happening soon, some of this will be occurring in light of Karen Siegrist's passing and trying to bring back some things that were demolished by the storm. Some of these items can be given to us free of charge since we are a church.

Fran – Designated Collections Process is up and running. Community Fund is reviewing application. They will dispurse \$800 per grant. Rosemary Lawton asked to raise an idea with the Council – she would like to designate October as a Food Drive Month because we will be having a designated collection for a Food Bank in St. Louis and it's a good time to solicit donations for this. Rosemary would like volunteers to assist her with this effort. QR code for the designated collection isn't working. Fran is looking for volunteers for Rosemary, who is traveling this month. Cathy and Fran might work on this together, to get notices out and to coordinate this with Lynn, and to bring in some baskets to receive collections. Partner Church – Service scheduled for November 16th. There will be a guest speaker from Transylvania, who is currently at Starr King. Social Justice Committee feels like they are more responsive than planful – and they want to be more planful. They are feeling fragmented. They have decided to adopt for this year the UUA Common Read Social Change Now, a guide for reflection and connection to formulate a coherent agenda. They are scheduling a retreat for January 10 to work their way through some of the reflections in the UUA Common Read with the goal of shaping a more coherent and planful way of moving forward. Native American programming continues to work toward a goal of adopting a land recognition statement and what that might look like. Lunches are being held with lots of food, by the Social Justice Committee. Social justice witnessing was paused. Another conversation was paused and things are up in the air about whether and how to resurrect that tradition for the church, and whether they want to continue to do the vigil.

Church volunteers are still helping with Tabernacle and CDC activities – goal is to get the whole congregation involved instead of just the social justice committee. Gala at the CDC on October 5, CDC is the Community Development Corporation. For Social Justice, hybrid meetings will be utilized moving forward.

Erin E. Milligan