Annual Report – SE District – Southern Region

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This report will briefly cover the program activities in the SE District this year and what may be ahead. As we enter this transition phase programs have remained in 'districts' with the expectation that they will move out into the region. Clusters will continue to provide programs and support to their congregations. This be a rich experience for all of us.

Cluster activity this year has been steady and growing. The newly formed Blue Ridge Cluster hosted Rev. Meg Reily from CLF in the fall, Eastern Tennessee hosted a workshop on Non-violent Communication with Rev. LoraKim Joyner, Western Carolina had a stewardship worship for leadership. This spring Western Carolina invited Rev. Terasa Cooley as keynote and Tidewater invited Rev. Jake Morrill and Matt Meyer.

Each of these events attracted 60+ attendees.

The Virginia Unitarian Universalist Young Adults (VUUYA) continues to grow and plan activities. Since last Spring they have hosted three conferences, elected a council to continue and stabilize their planning . All of these conferences cross district line, joining SE with JPD young adults. Their themes have been spirituality and Social Justice. Join their VUUYA facebook group to keep informed.

With the Campus Group at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, three of our congregations held a UU Revival Sunday, February 24. The ministers from Williamsburg, Newport News and Norfolk and 500+ people from their congregations worshipped together.

Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry in our congregations have continued to grow in numbers and strength.

Chalice Lighters and the Dreamteam (AR/AO/MC) continue to be strong committees and engage increasing numbers of our congregations in creating beloved community. They each have individual reports in this packet.

Leadership Training is a strength that the region has developed. SUULE (Southern UU Leadership Experience) was at Penn Center in SC in February, Consultants were trained in Atlanta in January and in July, Newport News is hosting Goldmine, a leadership experience for youth.

Legislative Ministries in NC and VA are growing and regional goals are to support this development in each state.

In addition we have continued to provide workshops for start ups for new professionals and staff, transition interviews, board retreats and other services as they have been requested. The generous assistance of our regional consultants have made all of this possible.

On the horizon are exciting activities in the E. Tennessee cluster. In September a group of ministers from around our region and other areas are planning a conference called Life on Fire. Its focus is Missional Living. Watch for their website. In February, Oak Ridge in E. Tennessee is hosting three evenings of concerts by Ysaye Barnwell. Plans are to host workshops with an AR/AO/MC focus in conjunction with the music.

Finally, it has been a joy and an adventure to serve you for the last 6 years. I will miss you.