

CYF Minister Staff Report to the Board of the Church of the Larger Fellowship March 2010

In the last year I have worked with the Church of the Younger Fellowship in the following broad areas:

Membership – In agreement with the CLF staff and minister at General Assembly we created a plan to merge the membership process and support for CYF members into the CLF office. This required a full membership purge, during which the membership was solidified at around 400 members and our database on the CYF site was compared and corrected with the CLF database so that all members were accounted for. After this point the CYF volunteers and I could let go of the daily management of the membership and turn ourselves to welcoming new members, serving them with programming and providing a twice a month member chat.

Volunteers Interaction – This year there has been extensive work on the part of the CYF Steering Committee and me to make long range plans and to work on the day to day programming for the website itself. Over the last year we have moved from weekly phone meetings to a twice a month system where we have a full Steering Committee meeting and then break out into working subgroups one focused on the worship and spiritual life of the community and the other on the website programming and Facebook content. This allowed us to open up our working groups to include others who volunteer and to increase connection and interaction with the general members.

Programming – In the last three months together with the Steering Committee we have been able to turn our energy towards direct programming (many thanks go to the entire CLF staff who have so generously worked with us as we transitioned much of the membership and fundraising into the office, without them we would not be able to work so directly on the program itself.) The programs ready to roll out or under current development include a membership class, multiple classes that will run throughout the year (many adapted from the Tapestry of Faith curricula available through the UUA), worship and integrated spiritual programming, regular topical chats, better support for interest groups, a new calendar that allows us to track what is coming up on the site itself, a Facebook group, and a revised system of social networking for the site itself. We hope to work with the Standing on the Side of Love campaign as well work on more social justice based programming in the coming year.

GA Planning – This past GA was the first that I had attended as the minister of the CYF. In this capacity I spent time networking and connecting with ministers and religious professionals at ministry days, and continued into GA itself with an eye on how I could pass on the good news of CLF and CYF to others. I spent a good chunk of time in the GA booth which this past year was merged with the CLF booth and got to interact with many of our members there, our CLF worship service, and as a part of the ingathering for CLF and CYF members.

I am happy to tell you that this year has been a good one of setting some groundwork for us to continue to grow and change as a program of the church. I want to thank all of you and the CLF staff for the support you give us. I also want to thank the volunteers and those who work tirelessly for the CYF, it is truly a team effort and I am glad to work with dedicated Young Adults.

Most sincerely – Rev. Amber Beland