

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Way Collective Quarterly Report

February, 2020

From the Advisory Team:

We received the news of Ben's resignation with some surprise but also gratitude, particularly for the years of important work that Ben has done and for the peace he feels about this decision.

Ben's resignation changed the focus of our work this quarter. We had been planning on holding our first "signature" fund raiser for February, but we decided that we needed to put that on hold, instead focusing our efforts on supporting Ben through the transition and working with the congregation to determine the future of 3WC. This included:

- Meeting with Leadership to work on possible paths forward for 3<sup>rd</sup> Way. Based on that meeting in January, Leadership Team decided to survey the congregation with three questions and use the results of that survey to guide the discussion at the February congregational meeting.
- Discussion of doing an evaluation of 3<sup>rd</sup> Way by student participants to help guide future planning
- Ensuring that we have sufficient funds to complete Ben's term

From Ben:

It was with a variety of emotions that I announced that this spring semester would be my last in this role with 3<sup>rd</sup> Way Collective. It has been a deep joy to be your campus pastor over these past five and a half years – something that I consider to be a deep privilege. You affirmed my gifts and abilities – not only in word and action, but also in ordaining me for this work. UMC was bold enough to consider hiring someone for a brand new role beyond our congregation. This was (and still is) unusual at a moment in time when so many churches and faith groups are cutting staff and directing a greater portion of their budget inward. Campus ministry is in decline broadly, and yet you were willing to take a chance on starting something new. I celebrate that spirit in our congregation, and hope that wherever our discernment leads us we continue that tradition.

3<sup>rd</sup> Way Collective's spring semester has been meaningful so far, and will continue to offer connecting points around a table, guest speakers, and many other ways of engaging campus ministry in a new way.

I still love this opportunity to meet students in unique ways, centering on a faith-based call to peace and justice. I will spend the final months of this semester savoring the chance to do this work on behalf of

o  
u  
r

c  
o  
n  
g  
r  
e  
g  
i  
s