

Urban Leaders Live



Urban Leaders live a different life....this newsletter will help keep you up to date and in the loop!

March 2015

Volume 2, Issue 6

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Important Dates

3/4 Timesheets due

3/6 ULT Training

3/13 ULT Training

3/14 Depave with Habitat for Humanity (March Service Project)

3/20 ULT Training

3/27 ULT Career Training (optional)

HAPPY MARCH FROM URBAN LEADERS IN TRAINING!

Letter from the Director:

As we head into spring, the Urban Leaders in Training team has gone through a battery of questions this winter. Questions around wounds, reconciliation, forgiveness, leadership, service and life. These questions lead to more questions and those questions lead to even more. The team has embraced these questions as a way to grow and become better, they don't see them as burdensome in a scapegoat way. This poem reminds me of the team and the concept that leadership is ever evolving and relies on questioning in order to grow. February has been a wonderful month of readjustments and recalibration. From coming back to work after the holidays, my return from leave and the ULT retreat this past month has been full of adjustments, joy and fun. We continued this month to wade through reconciling leadership. What it means to us, what it includes, how it can be done correctly or incorrectly and where we might be seeking reconciliation in our lives.

March promises more questions and more growth! I cannot wait to see what these members make happen next....

-- Kari



Kari Young

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*I Keep Six Honest
Serving Men ...*

I KEEP six honest serving-men

(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and
When

And How and Where and Who.
I send them over land and sea,

I send them east and west;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.
I let them rest from nine till five,

For I am busy then,
As well as breakfast, lunch, and tea,
For they are hungry men.
But other folk have different
views;

know a person small—
She keeps ten million serving-men,

Who get no rest at all!
She sends 'em abroad on her own
affairs,

From the second she opens her
eyes—

One million Hows, two million
Wheres,

And seven million Whys!

The Elephant's Child

URBAN LEADERS

POWERED BY

Upcoming community engagement opportunities

3/7 8th Annual South Sound Sustainability Expo

- * Free Community event to celebrate and learn about resources for sustainable living including green construction, community building, cost-effective practices.
- * Activities also include a mini Farmer's Market, a Book-Movie-Music Swap, Kid's Corner, and workshops on LED Lighting
- * Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center (1500 Broadway, Tacoma)
- * 10 am—3pm

3/10 Wanted: A Spiritual Pursuit through Jail, Among Outlaws, and Across Borders

- * conversation and book signing reception with Chris Hoke, a prison pastor
- * 7 pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church (901 North J St., Tacoma)

3/12 UW Ocean Observatory: Underwater volcanoes, and earth quake and yet crabs oh my!

- * local marine organizations Surfride and Harbor WildWatch are inviting UW Professor Deborah Kelley and undergraduate Jesse Turner to speak on installing an ocean observatory in

the NE Pacific Ocean. And what this observatory means for understanding the underwater volcanoes, earthquakes and bizarre organisms that call it their home.

- * 6:30 pm, March 12 at King's Books (218 St Helens Ave, Tacoma)

3/14 Habitat for Humanity Depave

- * removing 3,000 sqft of pavement in the planting strip in front of the Habitat Store to make way for street trees and landscape planting
- * 9 am at 4824 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma

Michelle Huntington is serving with the Trinity Presbyterian Church's Trinity After-school Program (T.A.P.). For Huntington T.A.P. has been a space where kids can go to practice reading. She said so far this year three of the students in the program have bumped up three reading levels. A big success!

Michelle Huntington

She is also a classroom assistant at Bryant Montessori Elementary School. Some of their afterschool programming has included Late Start. One Wednesday a month at Bryant classes will start at noon because the teachers have a morning meeting. She facilitates activities for the students while the teachers meet that cover such areas as art, math, reading and free time. Recently she also organized a tutor appreciation day with her coworker Rachel. They decorated mugs for their tutors and had a baked potato bar. Daily they have up to 10 tutors. Tuesdays middle schoolers help tutor the elementary students and on Mondays and Wednesdays they have adult volunteer tutors.

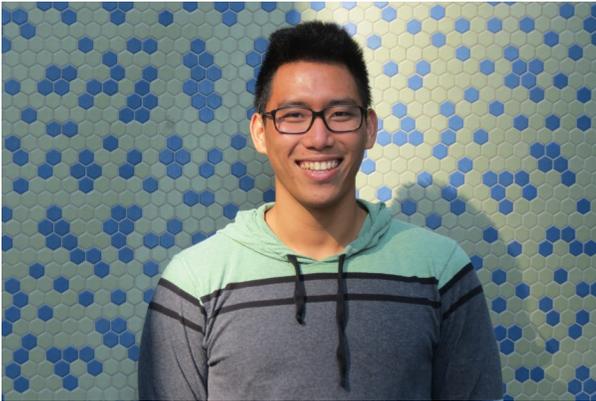


Every day at T.A.P., Huntington enjoys picking up the students from school and walking them over to Trinity. She learns how their day was and sometimes finds it challenging to get them walk across the street together. Huntington has also found it challenging when engaging with screaming children or when they act out and throw chairs. She finds it difficult in these situations to get the students to listen. It has also been a challenge to work with students who are struggling with their reading, especially with those who do not seem to care or are not trying to read at all.

Reflecting about ULT, Huntington has enjoyed the community aspect, especially the recent midyear retreat. She has enjoyed getting to know the people in the team. Initially she was nervous going to trainings after starting a little later and missing orientation. Now she looks forward to coming to trainings and seeing the team. She described it as a vulnerable space and a positive one that is nice to be around.

Thus far Huntington has learned that "leadership is understanding that everyone can be leaders." She said she has realized that you can still struggle in this world and still be a leader. "You can't hold off your life amidst the struggle," she said.

Her advice for future ULT members is "Don't be afraid to dive into the ULT community." She explained that ULT is more than just a job. She said, "We are always hearing about making a difference but seeing the difference is really cool." Great work Michelle!



Kyle Lee

Kyle Lee is serving at Trinity Presbyterian Church as the Trinity After-school Program's Learning Center Program Assistant at Trinity and Jason Lee Middle School. He also acts as a teacher's assistant in the Advanced Via Individual Development (AVID) classroom that focuses on college preparation from middle and high school students. He also helps run the after school program with Jaquette Easterlin at Jason Lee. He described the Trinity Afterschool Program (T.A.P.) as a place for students to get academic help and hang out with friends in a safe environment.

Lee enjoys entering Jason Lee Middle School and being welcomed by the students. They call him Mr. Lee. He likes getting to know the students, interacting with them and learning how their week is going or their plans for the weekend. It lifts his spirits. He said it's a good feeling when he can connect with them to the point that they will actually do their homework when he asks them too. Initially this was a challenging position for Lee not having any prior experience working with youth or students. He had to learn how to adapt his teaching styles and feels like he is in a better place now. Lee has really been working on how to find the balance with being firm with the students and still being able to build their relationship.

When it comes to ULT, Lee loves the people. He has found a solid connection with a lot of the ULT members in trainings and outside of his work day. Lee said, "I've learned its ok to be vulnerable in certain situations." He has found trainings to be a space to talk about hard issues. He also said he has learned that, "working with middle schoolers is all about building relationships and seeking to understand over being understood." He said that building a foundation of trust leads to great rewards.

When Lee was asked what advice he has for future ULT members he said, "Make time to hang out with team members outside or your worksite. From my experience it has helped me to be open in Friday trainings... all about Relational Leadership! And APPLY! Make a difference in the greater Tacoma community." Thanks for your hard work Mr. Lee!

"Working with middle schoolers is all about building relationships and seeking to understand over being understood." - Kyle Lee

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