



Unitarian Universalist Society



MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.

From Your Board President, Jim Laughlin

2017/2018 has seen our years of dreaming come to reality. Our shining new home was completed. We are at the threshold of our new lives together, spiritually diverse, touching hearts, changing lives, and transforming our world.

Our goal of successful transition from 10 S. Gilbert St. to 2355 Oakdale Rd. was accomplished through diligent work from the New Facilities Committee and the Transitions Task Force 2, with long hours of mutual cooperation. Many people stepped up and made it happen through countless hours of planning, committee meetings, creative visioning, and “hands on” support. We are all forever grateful.

After much effort, we got final occupancy on October 13th, 2017. Our first service was Sunday, October 15th, with a large overflow crowd attending.

The lure of our beautiful building was further confirmed when we had our Open House for the public on October 29th. While we hoped for a good turnout, we were thrilled to host more than 850 visitors!

In November we dedicated our home with a dignitary-filled audience; a commissioned hymn, “Spirit Make Us One;” and a sermon by Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs.

Our goal of increased engagement and re-engagement of members was realized. Our RE classes, which had been very small during our transition, swelled to large numbers almost immediately. Members came who had been gone for years, some bringing friends and neighbors. Our attraction for new members has been very strong as well.

“Many people stepped up and made it happen through countless hours of planning, committee meetings, creative visioning, and ‘hands on’ support. We are all forever grateful.”

Our goal of increased visibility within the community has been greatly enhanced by our new building. Our spaces are attracting attention from groups that want to rent and use them for celebrations, meetings, and concerts. Social justice causes we support are among these.

After our Director of Religious Education Saunia Powell’s resignation, we were very fortunate to have our former director Jessica Zimmer return to Iowa to resume her position.

After lengthy discernment, dialog and introspection, the Board reached a mutual agreement with Rev. Steven Protzman regarding his future transition to a new calling. His work here has been a very significant factor in our success.

As we continue to grow together, always keeping our mission and vision in mind, patience will be the key. Our covenantal promise of the seven principles will serve us well as we transition into our future together.

As always, the Board of Trustees thanks you for your support and will strive to make the coming year a success.



Over 850 people attended our Open House and Ribbon Cutting on October 29th, 2017 (left and below).



From Your Minister, Rev. Steven Protzman

*Out of wood and stone,
out of dreams and sacrifice,
the People build a home.
Out of the work of their hands and hearts and minds
the People fashion a symbol and a reality.*

*May this house be truly
a place of Meeting—
meeting one with another
in warmth and joy and openness;
meeting one with another in courage and love and trust.*

—From “A Place of Meeting” by Eileen B. Karpeles

On November 5th, we finished our year-long 175th Anniversary Celebration and we dedicated our new building. Our two year transition was over, and we began the work of settling in, starting our new routines, and creating a life together. Our theme for the year, “Tending Our Roots, Spreading Our Wings,” was inspired by *Spirit of Life*, hymn #123 in *Singing the Living Tradition*, specifically the phrase from the hymn “roots hold me close, wings set me free.” This theme was chosen to reflect our work of tending our roots (literally as well as figuratively), caring for the spiritual needs of our members, and spreading our wings as we opened our doors to the community and asked how we are called out into our neighborhood, the greater Iowa City area, and the world to serve others.

“Our theme for the year, Tending Our Roots, Spreading Our Wings, was inspired by Spirit of Life, hymn #123 in Singing the Living Tradition”

My priorities this seventh year together were to continue helping each of you discover and share your gifts, holding before us our mission and vision as we completed our transition and began settling into the new building, walking with you through life’s joys and struggles, doing some self care and renewal by taking sabbatical time, and working carefully with the Board to create the policies and procedures we need to govern ourselves well and walk together in our covenant of mutual love and care. As I preached and led worship, as I taught and served you, as I worked with the staff and the Board and the many committees and ministries, I invited us again and again to be willing to discover new ideas and new ways of being alive, and to be ready to experience the wonder, the beauty, and the awe that still awaits us, no matter where we are in our journey. I held up and continue to hold up our shared vision of a world where justice and peace are enjoyed by all people. I spoke words of indictment to racism, systemic injustice and oppression, and words of hope to inspire us to continue working for the Beloved Community. As we continued to become a fully operational program-sized congregation, I encouraged you to more fully embrace shared ministry, offering your gifts, wisdom, talents, skills, and resources so that this community continues to thrive as a place where we can grow spiritually through both giving and receiving these gifts. Our ministries continue to grow and thrive in response to our ever deepening understanding of what it means to serve each other, the Iowa City community, and the world.

Worship

As your minister, one of my primary tasks is to create and lead worship experiences that challenge you, inform you, nurture you, connect you with the depths, and help you understand what it means to be human and Unitarian Universalist. Along with the year’s theme, each month also had a theme, which came from the program *Soul Matters*, a group of over 200 UU congregations who follow the same monthly worship themes and share small-group material, as well as worship, sermon, music, and children’s religious education resources. These monthly themes were used by our covenant groups as well.



***The Building Dedication service
on November 5th, 2017
(left).***

From Your Minister (cont'd)

Our worship time included eight services for all ages:

- Water Communion (September)
- Apple Communion (October)
- Thanksgiving
- The annual Winter Holidays service
- Christmas Eve morning and Christmas Eve night
- A celebration of the completion of our annual Thirty Days of Love (February)
- Easter and Flower Communion (Mother's Day)

Our services while we were in the Kirkwood Community College building waiting to move into our new building were also all-ages services. Other special services this year included a service to present our new congregational hymn "Spirit, Make Us One," a Service of Remembrance, the Building Dedication, our first Holiday Blues, a Winter Solstice Service (led by our CUUPS group), Thirty Days of Love/Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday (which was also our first Sunday of Service), the celebration of Brigid/Imbolc, the 450th Anniversary of the Edict of Torda (a Partner Church service), Earth Day, Lois Cole's ordination, and services led by our Racial Justice Circle.

The Worship Associates helped shape and create worship in many ways this year, including the planning and coordination of services during my sabbatical, summer services, leading worship, and coordinating speakers for my Sundays off, researching and discovering new worship materials and ideas, and offering each other support, care and encouragement. The Worship Associates also chose the theme for last summer: "Love is a Muscle: How Do We Work It?" in which our UUS members and friends offered reflections and topics that highlight the effort, the resistance, and the nourishment of love.

Thank you, Worship Associates, for your hard work, commitment to this community, and your passion for crafting good worship.

Staff

It has been a pleasure this past year to work with our talented, creative, dedicated, and hardworking staff. Thank you Emma, Jessica, Peng, Gloria, Peggy, Anna, Nik, Lori, and Bailey for your hard work this past year and for your commitment to UUS and its mission. The staff works with me and the congregation's leadership to serve you, to see that our mission, vision, and strategic plan are carried out, and to lead and nurture the congregation's many volunteers. We hold weekly staff meetings to coordinate the week's events, discuss any concerns or issues of importance, keep each another informed, and to hold each other accountable for achieving our year's goals and serving the congregation and its mission. In addition, Peggy, Jessica, and I meet as the Program Staff team to do strategic level planning. As supervisor of the staff and manager of day-to-day operations, I also met with each staff member individually to check in, discuss any concerns or problems, praise achievements, and share information. There were again several staff transitions this year. Saunia Powell resigned as our DLRE, and we welcomed Jessica Zimmer back as our interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education. She was hired as our ongoing DLRE in January of this year. In the fall, we welcomed Lois Cole as our Community Minister, and we hired Lori Marshall as our Facilities Coordinator.

2017/2018 Monthly Service Themes

What Does it Mean to Be a Community of:

- **September:** *Welcome*
- **October:** *Courage*
- **November:** *Abundance*
- **December:** *Hope*
- **January:** *Possibility and Promise*
- **February:** *Voices on the Margins*
- **March:** *Perseverance*
- **April:** *Emergence*
- **May:** *Creativity*

Life Passages

Member Deaths

Jean Reese
Janice Williams
Marjorie Cantor
Doris Levens
Mary Jepsen

Member Weddings

Michael and Rachel Cole
Jacob and Katherine
Otto-Simmering
Ellie and Tina Primmer-
Tamayo (vow renewal)
Ed and Mary Anne Wolfe

A Special Note of Thanks

I wish to thank Winnie Ganshaw, who graciously made herself available this last year to provide emergency pastoral care during my absences.

"While it is wonderful to summarize our many achievements this last year, none of them would be possible without your commitment, the gifts of your time, energy, talents and skills, and your financial support."

With Gratitude

On July 31st I will finish my seventh and final year as your settled Minister. I continue to feel so very blessed and fortunate to serve this faith community! While it is wonderful to summarize our many achievements this last year, none of them would be possible without your commitment, the gifts of your time, energy, talents and skills, and your financial support. Week after week, I am amazed and humbled by the generosity, kindness, enthusiasm, love and commitment of each of you, as you serve as Board members, lay leaders, greeters, ushers, coffee servers, volunteers, religious education teachers, pastoral care providers, covenant group facilitators, members of the facilities committees and Land Ministry, choir members, newsletter assemblers, Worship Associates, committee members, kitchen workers, social justice leaders, publicity team members, and all the dozens of other ways you serve as you bless this community and the wider world with your time, passion, and energy. Thank you! May our dreams and hopes for this diverse spiritual community and Unitarian Universalism continue to guide and inspire us as we touch hearts, change lives, and transform the world.

Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry

The Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM) furthers the mission and vision of UUS by monitoring the ministries of UUS and serving as a resource for strengthening the effectiveness of these ministries. Members of CCLAM serve three year terms. The 2017/18 members and their terms are Winnie Ganshaw (co-chair) and Terri O’Berry, 3rd year term; Sharon Booker (co-chair) and Marsha Cheney, 2nd year term; and Hazel Seaba and Sandy Keller, 1st year term. Ex-officio: Rev. Steven Protzman (The DLRE and DCL are invited to meetings on an as needed basis).

Evaluation of the Ministries of UUS

Much of our energy this year focused on developing and implementing Procedural Guidelines for Evaluating UUS Shared Ministries. The evaluation consists of an 11-point model assessing the health of a committee and a 7-point model assessing the functionality of a committee. It also recommends a time frame in which the assessment takes place. This model provides several advantages, for example:

- It provides structure in terms of what needs to be accomplished and when
- It provides some comparability across committees, and may set some reasonable standards for future committees
- To some degree, it holds committees accountable for accomplishing objectives
- At the end of the year, we have a somewhat accurate assessment of the health and functionality of committees

Results of utilizing this model will be part of a year-end report.

We spent time discussing Appendix D of *Assessing Our Leadership*, and how the recommendations therein could be addressed by CCLAM. We also discussed the degree to which CCLAM was understood within our congregation. In this process, we acknowledged there was an information gap and identified ways in which this could be remedied.

The last several months have been filled with opportunities and challenges as we grow into our new space. Leadership and members and friends will continue to find unique ways to respond to the needs of our congregation and the larger community.

—Submitted by Winnie Ganshaw



Heart-shaped drawings and notes from UUS adults and youth on how they Stand on the Side of Love adorned the corridor wall in February (left).

Leadership Development Committee

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is made up of five members who are elected by the congregation. This year’s members are Sherry Dolash, Kirk Witzberger, Maureen Patterson, Jim Olson, and Linda Rice.

Our goal is to identify qualified candidates for elected leadership positions in our congregation, to work toward a congregational culture that nurtures and supports its leaders, and to help members of our congregation develop leadership skills at every level.

The LDC first met this past year in June of 2017 and conducted meetings as needed. The focus of these meetings has been to identify candidates to serve as members of UUS’s elected bodies:

- The Board of Trustees
- Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry

- Leadership Development Committee
- Endowment Committee

In 2018, candidates were identified for the following upcoming openings on elected committees, to be voted on at the May congregational meeting:

- Board: Vice President and two trustee positions
- LDC: two three-year positions
- CCLAM: two three-year positions
- Endowment: one five-year position

In May of 2018, LDC presented a Wholehearted Leadership Workshop that was well attended. The committee will work with the Board of Trustees, UUS Councils of the Minister, the Director of Congregational Life, and the Director of Lifelong Religious Education to present Leadership opportunities for the Congregation.

—Submitted by Sherry Dolash

From Your Board Treasurer, Chris Rode

Introduction

The second half of 2017 began a period of tremendous change and growth for UUS. On October 15th, 2017, we were finally able to have the first service in our new facility. Later that month, our first Treats & Talents Auction in the new building brought in record proceeds, and our Operating Budget stewardship campaign saw growth over the previous year as well.

2017 Year-End

There are still a few expenses applied to 2018's budget that need to be cleaned up and applied to 2017, but overall, the Society ended 2017 in a good financial position. Our revenues exceeded expectations by about 5%, and our expenses came in short by about 8%. We ended the year with a surplus of roughly \$67,000 compared to budget. A portion of that (\$43,200) was carried forward to 2018. This goes against our norm of any surplus going into cash reserves, but all of the monies carried forward were due to construction delays, and the bulk of these funds were expected mortgage expenses that we didn't incur in 2017.

	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
Revenues	480,000	506,791.45	26,791.45
Expenses	480,000	439,784.86	-40,215.14
NET	\$ 0	\$ 67,006.59	

Table 1: 2017 Year-End Actual vs. Budget

2018 Operating Budget

The transition into the new facility made the budgeting process for 2018 unusually difficult, as there were a number of items related to the facility that we could not compare with historical amounts. In addition, there was also uncertainty around the final amount of the mortgage for the new facility, as we were still drawing against the construction loan during the budgeting process.

At our December 2017 congregational meeting, a budget for 2018 of nearly \$550,000 was approved. This represented a 13% increase over 2017, much of which was related to the new facility. The good news is that as of mid-April, pledging for 2018 is at about \$370,000, which is an increase—albeit slight (just over 1%)—over 2017. In addition, the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation from the Finance Council to use a portion of the gift from the Jean Reese estate (\$15,000) to fulfill the STEM (Staffing our Transition to Expanded Ministries) Fund goal of \$100,000. As of the end of March 2018, we are right on track with our budget, with revenues exceeding expenses by \$4,300 for the year.

New Facility, Mortgage & Capital Campaign

As of mid-April, our mortgage balance on the new facility is just over \$1.2 million, and we have about \$250,000 retainage left to pay the contractor once they have worked through the punch list of outstanding issues to our satisfaction. In April 2016, the congregation approved securing a mortgage of up to \$1.6 million, and we will come in under that, which is good news.

“Our revenues [in 2017] exceeded expectations by about 5%, and our expenses came in short by about 8%. We ended the year with a surplus of roughly \$67,000 compared to budget.”

Aside from the retainage that we still owe McComas-Lacina Construction, there are a number of other costs related to “settling in” to the building that we will incur. These include draperies for the interior windows of the sanctuary along the RE commons and hallway, additional kitchen cabinets, a water softening system, outdoor patio furniture, snow guards for the roof to prevent damage from large amounts of heavy snow, and other miscellaneous items. In total, these items will cost around \$25,000 and have been approved to be paid out of the Capital Campaign account.

The last approved project related to the new facility at this time is the natural playscape outside the RE wing. This was estimated to cost about \$50,000, but it will likely come in under budget. Again, funds will come from the Capital Campaign account.

As of mid-April, we have received \$1.97 million of \$2.1 million pledged to the Capital Campaign, and we have about \$140,000 unspent in the Capital Campaign account. In fall 2017, we received news of a very generous gift to the congregation from the estate of Jean Reese, and the Board of Trustees approved allocating approximately \$385,000 of that to the Capital Campaign. This will likely reduce the final mortgage balance to around \$900,000 once all outstanding costs are taken into account and monies from the Capital Campaign are applied to that balance.

Endowment

Our Endowment remains strong. It ended 2017 up 6% over 2016, and as of mid-April the value of the endowment is \$1.25 million, including the funds from the Jean Reese bequest that were allocated to the endowment by the Board.

From Your Board Treasurer (cont'd)

Expenses		
Existing Mortgage Balance		1,211,336.27
Contractor Retainage		233,682.85
"Settling In" Costs		~25,000.00
Natural Playscape		~50,000.00
TOTAL Expenses	\$	1,520,019.12
Revenues		
Cash On Hand		139,635.28
Outstanding Pledges		136,327.15
Jean Reese Bequest		~385,000.00
TOTAL Revenues	\$	660,962.43
NET MORTGAGE BALANCE		859,056.69

(Above) Table 2: Projected Facility Costs

Uncertainties

As a congregation we face a number of financial uncertainties as we look forward to the second half of 2018 and beyond. First is the mortgage. While we can project what the final mortgage balance will be, we won't know how that translates to monthly payments until we actually close out the construction loan, which should happen in the next few months. Second is other expenses related to the new facility. Until we have a full year under our belts, it is difficult to estimate some of the

"It is through the giving of your time, energy, service and finances that our liberal religious tradition and shared ministry is able to thrive and grow in this region."

recurring costs related to our building. For instance, we vastly underestimated the cost of snow removal and had overspent the budget allocation for the entirety of 2018 before the end of February. Electricity is another cost that is difficult to project until the solar comes online and we've experienced all four seasons in the new facility. Finally, there will be expenses related to the ministerial transition process that have yet to be determined. To attract a skilled Interim Minister who will meet the needs of our rapidly growing congregation, the budgeted amount for ministerial salary and benefits may need to increase. To address all of these uncertainties, the UUS Board of Trustees may make adjustments to the 2018 budget as necessary.

Conclusion

Overall, the Society is in a strong financial position. I am confident that we will finish out 2018 in good shape and that we will be able to grow into our future in 2019 and beyond. The Finance Council is planning to begin budget preparations for 2019 later this spring, and you can expect to see good things come out of that process at our next congregational meeting this winter. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve this congregation in my role as Treasurer, and I look forward to the remaining two years of my term. I also want to extend my gratitude to each of you for your continued generosity. It is through the giving of your time, energy, service and finances that our liberal religious tradition and shared ministry is able to thrive and grow in this region. I am grateful to have found this community and am excited to see what our future holds.

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee (EC) has worked with the Finance Council and the Board of Trustees in determining how the Endowment Fund will help to service the mortgage debt on our new facility. We have begun the search for a new financial adviser and are creating publications to help educate the congregation about the various funds that we maintain.

The Endowment Fund has seen steady growth for yet another year under the guidance of our financial adviser who retired in December 2017.

Due to the activities in fall of 2017 (e.g., moving to our new facility, the fall Treats & Talents auction, and the annual Stewardship campaign) we did not hold our annual Endowment party, which has historically been our one fundraising event. We will reinstate that tradition in the fall of 2018.

An incredibly generous gift from Jean Reese's estate has been used in part to create a new fund, whose proceeds will be earmarked for land ministry.

The EC has five members, elected one-per-year, each serving a five-year term. That newly-elected committee member replaces the person who is completing his/her fifth year. For the current year, the committee members are Barb Haring (rotating off), Larry Audlehelm, Pete Brokaw (chair), Gary Lawrenson, and Ken Atkinson.

The role of chairperson next year will be filled by Larry Audlehelm in his final year on the committee. We are extremely grateful to Barb for her hard work and dedication over her five-year term on the committee.

—Submitted by Pete Brokaw

Finance Council

The Finance Council met six times between September 2017 and May 2018. Major activities included preparing a recommendation to the board for Jean Reese's gift to the congregation, as well as routine activities related to the annual budgeting process and assisting with communication to the congregation and board about financial matters.

Members are determined by role and include: the Board Treasurer (Chris Rode), Minister (Steven Protzman), Board Finance Trustee (Sara Feldmann), Chair of Stewardship Committee (David Martin, who will be replaced by Jeffery Ford and Vanessa Taylor next year), and Chair of the Endowment Committee (Pete Brokaw)

—Submitted by Sara Feldmann

Social Justice Action Fund

The Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF) Committee oversees the dispersal of funds to support events and projects that promote social justice causes primarily in the local area but sometimes on a broader level. Since July 1st, 2017, the SJAF has funded ten new projects (\$5,509.39).

Per policy, the SJAF Committee has six members. This year, the members were Sara Feldmann (co-chair), Pete Brokaw (co-chair), Marta Little (retired from the committee in late 2017), Joe Brisben, Mary McCann, Jessica Zimmer, Rev. Steven Protzman.

The committee will focus this upcoming year on promoting the SJAF and the projects and events we've funded, identifying new funding sources, updating our policy document, and increasing our presence on the UUS website.

—Submitted by Pete Brokaw

Date	Event/Project	Amount
July 2017	Consultation of Religious Committees: Support for ToGather Together program (school supplies)	\$500.00
Dec 2017	Corridor Temporary Worker's Coop: Cleaning supplies	\$250.00
Dec 2017	Center for Worker Justice of E. Iowa: Water testing kits for Regency Mobile Home Park	\$500.00
Dec 2017	Vocational basics for immigrant youth	\$2,000.00
Dec 2017	Simon Tunstall at Iowa Medical and Classification Center	\$310.95
Feb 2018	BLUU	\$250.00
Feb 2018	Center for Worker Justice E. Iowa: Summer Children's Program	\$698.44
Feb 2018	Iowa City Pride sponsorship	\$500.00
Mar 2018	Building Rental to host Sudanese Potluck	\$300.00
Mar 2018	Guatemala Fundraiser lunch supplies	\$250.00
	Total:	\$5,559.39

Stewardship Committee

We started our campaign for the 2018 operating budget in September 2017 by sending out brochures and pledge cards in late September. Since there was so much uncertainty as to when our building would open, we decided not to have any kind of special event for the pledge campaign. Our theme was *Tending Our Roots, Spreading Our Wings*. We collected pledges during October, and then 30 individuals volunteered to help with follow-up during November and December.

Our goal was \$380,000. While we got very close, we did improve our pledge amount over the previous year. For the 2018 campaign the average pledge was \$1814.00. We ended with 204 pledges for \$370,000, compared with 199 pledges for \$357,000 for the 2017 campaign.

“[A] special thanks to everyone who was able to increase their pledge over the previous year.”

We thank everyone who made a pledge to our operating budget and a special thanks to everyone who was able to increase their pledge over the previous year.

Stewardship Committee members were Dave Martin (chair), Vanessa Taylor, Gary Lawrenson, Tom McMurray, Diana Miller, Matt Martin. Vanessa Taylor and Jeffery Ford have agreed to co-chair this committee for this next year.

—Submitted by Dave Martin

Capital Campaign Committee

The Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) met quarterly in 2017. The focus of the committee's work continued to focus on campaign follow-up and keeping momentum high so that members continued to honor their pledges.

As of April 17th, 2018, 199 pledges, totaling \$2,109,323.50 have been made. \$1,972,996.35 has been paid for 94% fulfillment of pledges. Additionally, \$13,096.45 in non-pledge donations has been made.

In December, 2017, the “Phase IV” campaign was conducted. Letters were sent to 6 groups of individuals:

- Members who pledged and have fulfilled their pledged amount, thanking them for their generous support.
- Members who pledged and have fulfilled a portion of their pledge, thanking them and noting what their pledge balance is.
- Members who pledged and have not made progress on their pledge, thanking them and noting what their pledge balance is.

- Members who did not pledge to the campaign, inviting them to make a gift now that they've seen the new building.
- New members who have not previously made a gift.
- Long-time friends who have returned since occupying our new building, inviting them to make a gift now that they've seen the new building.

In cooperation with members of the Aesthetics Committee, it was decided to “commission” an original piece of art that will include all donor names, including the “in memory of” and “in honor of” names. The art work will be hung in the Fellowship Hall. The CCC is currently preparing the final list, which will be proofed, then forwarded to the artist.

Jamie Sharp chaired the CCC. Jeffery Ford served as Vice-Chair. Members: David Martin, Diane Martin, Vicki Siefers, Jim Laughlin, Barbara Haring, Alan Swanson and Liz Swanson.

We look forward to the successful completion of the CC and gratefully thank everyone who has contributed to Building a New Way.

—Submitted by Jamie Sharp

From Your Director of Congregational Life, Peggy Garrigues

Open House and Transition to New Building

We had a wonderfully successful Open House on October 29th, with 850 members, friends, community members, and visitors in attendance! Steve Vincent and Lori Marshall ably took leadership of the Open House Planning Task Force, which Sally Hartman, Diane Martin, Jessica Zimmer and I also worked on. Many, many volunteers helped with food preparation and serving, designing and providing photos for posters and banners, making sure the building was ready to be shown, preparing informational brochures about the building and land, and having numerous people on hand to answer questions and guide people around. We had wonderful entertainment by our own Fireside Choir, Peng Zhang, Phoebe Burt, the LGBT Quire, and Mike Haverkamp. Several local dignitaries were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A combination of the Open House Task Force and the Publicity Committee handled communications. The large numbers of people who attended the Open House were attracted through a combination of formal invitations to congregation members, printed and email invitations to pass along to friends, formal invitations to nearby religious congregation and community partners, social media, print ads, doorhangers in nearby neighborhoods, online calendar postings, and posters in the community. It was a wonderful and celebratory event!

“[The Membership Associates] ... coordinated an Engagement Project to make personal contact with 58 individuals and couples who ... had become less active during the transition. ... [Many] attended the Open House and services in the new building.”

In preparation for entering the new building, the Membership Associates and a couple of additional volunteers coordinated an Engagement Project to make personal contact with 58 individuals and couples who had been previously active in our congregation but had become less active during the transition. With a team of additional volunteers whom we trained to make the contacts, many personal conversations were held. A large proportion of those contacted attended the Open House and services in the new building.

Adjusting to Our New Building

Many conversations were held to educate and facilitate ease of parking and transportation as we regularly have more people in attendance on Sundays than parking spaces available on site. Steve Locher, Virginia Melroy, Kelly O’Berry, and I worked to implement plans for shuttle and carpool options. Kelly contacted the Coralville Police and was assured that we would be allowed to park along the street on our side of the street on Sundays.

After having 27 people volunteer to be shuttle drivers, we began to offer shuttle service between the old hospital parking lot and our building beginning at the end of February.

There was also interest expressed in organizing some carpools by neighborhood and geographic region. Plans have begun to coordinate those carpool groups, which would organize drivers and riders amongst themselves most likely via groups in Realm.

Along with the service time change back to Sunday mornings, Oaknoll residents faced some more challenges getting to services until the Oaknoll administration decided they could once again provide rides to the UU Society. Thank you to the many volunteers who offered rides for several months to Oaknoll residents: Kris Barrash, Ron Crawford and Judith Quinn, Dan and Meredith Gall, Sally Hartman, Nancy Lynch, Ron McCall, Hazel Seaba, Jamie Sharp, Hilary Strayer, and Glenn Wiltgen. Thank you also to others who offered rides on their own.

Volunteers

This year on April 8th we recognized children and youth as well as adult volunteers and had a total of 370 people listed who had given their time to projects with RE classes, helped on a Day of Service, served Free Lunch, worked on a committee or special project, worked with transition projects, helped organize details for the new building, or served in a myriad of other ways. See the full list at the end of this Annual Report.

Visitors

We have had a steady stream of visitors to our Sunday services in our new building. Not counting visitors to our Open House, we have had 161 recorded visitors to our Sunday services since May 2017.

As we entered the new building, we began to offer a series of informational “Inquirer Sessions” after every service for visitors or anyone interested. The sessions rotate between: UU 101; Q&A with Rev. Steven; Religious Education Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults; Introduction to Nurturing Mind and Spirit Groups; Introduction to Interest and Activities Groups; Introduction to Social Justice Opportunities; Introduction to Volunteering Opportunities; and a Tour of our building and land.

From Your Director of Congregational Life (cont'd)

New Members

We had 17 individuals join the UU Society since our last annual meeting:

- July 9th, 2017: Kris Canfield, Kerry Finley, Alan Swanson, Liz Swanson
- December 17th, 2017: Aiden Bettine, Allison Bettine, Elaine Waples
- February 25th, 2018: Craig Christophel, Laura Christophel, Carolyn Howe, Mary McCann, Sarah Ross, Glenn Wiltgen
- April 15th, 2018: Bruce Alexander, Ian Cawley, Emily Johnson, Star Wojciak

A number of others have expressed their interest in joining at one of the next opportunities and have already attended some of the Inquirer Sessions or the Pathway to Membership class.

Membership Associates

We have recently added new Membership Associates, so our committee now includes: Larry Audlehelm, Pete Brokaw, Jan Locher, Paula Miller, Carol Nordquist, Jim Olson, Kim Palmer, Susan Salterberg, and Emily Uhl. We are in the midst of re-organizing ourselves, now that some of the basic procedures in the new building are in place.

Hospitality Teams

Hospitality Teams, under the able leadership of Kim Palmer and newly added co-chair Emily Uhl, have worked hard to learn procedures in the new building. We have also added many additional team members in an effort to keep up with the additional work required with larger attendance on Sunday mornings, and our hope to be as green as possible in our use of materials. Teams have been very generous in providing food for the social time! Thank you to so many who are involved on a Hospitality Team!

New Groups and Programs

Most of our groups now meet onsite. A few have specifically chosen to meet elsewhere: Buddhist Sangha and UU Book

Discussion Group meet at Oaknoll, and Secular Humanists meet at Old Brick downtown, which makes it possible for the college students involved in Secular Students at Iowa to attend regularly.

Once we moved into our new building, we started having a variety of Sunday Forums and programs after the services.

We had several new groups and committees begin this past year: UUS Board Gaming Club, Kitchen Committee, UUS Habitat for Humanity Group.

Classes for Adults that were offered in this past year: InterPlay, Zentangle, Conscious Dance, Speaking by Heart, Wholehearted Leadership, Gender 101, and Building Your Own Theology.

In March 2018, we hosted an Alternative Spring Break Trip with 12 students from Bowdoin College in Maine. They were in Iowa to study Food Systems and Rural Communities, and they had a strong focus on sustainable agriculture and social justice issues as part of that. They stayed at the home of the Ingersolls and led our Sunday service on March 11th.

This spring, at the initiative of Sarah Ross, who volunteered to be head chef, we have held three Community Meals. The meals were prepared ahead of time and offered without charge, but a low-key freewill donation was collected. There have been 35 to 40 people in attendance at each meal, enjoying good food and conversation.

This fall we look forward to starting a Wellspring program for UU spiritual deepening, and the Secular Humanists will be guiding our congregation in conversation toward becoming a Freethinker Friendly Congregation.

Realm

I have been working to get more group leaders oriented to using Realm on a regular basis, and we have created quite a few registration events in Realm. One of the advantages of having lots of information and records kept in Realm is that we will be able to more effectively track how many people we are impacting with our programs, and how well we are keeping members engaged. We are beginning to clarify what numbers would be good to track in Realm to monitor attendance, engagement, and growth.



Participants show off their Zentangles created during the class in February (left and below).



From Your Director of Congregational Life (cont'd)

Publicity

A major website overhaul was undertaken by the Publicity Committee, with Jeff Walberg taking the lead. The new website, which is strongly focused for visitors and uses the UUA style and formatting suggestions, was rolled out on Labor Day weekend. There is also a Members section to access forms, information, and the full congregational calendar.

Bailey Kelley, as Publicity Coordinator, led us to a stronger social media presence and worked with a new team of volunteers to explore new ways to reach out to the community.

“The new website, which is strongly focused for visitors, and uses the UUA style and formatting suggestions, was rolled out on Labor Day weekend.”

General Assembly 2017 & 2018

In 2017, Winnie Ganshaw and I attended General Assembly in New Orleans. My partner, Sarah Ross, also went along and attended some of the public events. Winnie was our only voting delegate on site, but several other delegates were able to cast their votes online for the new UUA President.

We expect 13 UUS members and friends to attend General Assembly 2018, which will take place in Kansas City, Missouri June 20th to 24th. We will have our full complement of 6 delegates voting. The UUS Board elected the following delegates: Jane DeWitt, Sally Hartman, Colleen Higgins, Jim Laughlin, Mary Losch, and Dave Martin.

Unitarian Universalist Association of Membership Professionals

I am currently working on the reading and writing requirements towards becoming a Certified UU Membership Professional. I hope to complete that process by the end of 2018.



UUS marches in the Iowa City Pride Parade, June 2017 (Pictured left and below).



Covenant Groups

Each covenant group consists of about 9 to 12 members who meet monthly to discuss topics that connect them more deeply with Unitarian Universalism as well as to one another, and occasionally work together on service projects. The group co-facilitators (usually two per group) comprise the Covenant Group Council. Currently there are nine groups, totaling 97 members (an increase of one group and 10 members in the past year).

Activities in the past year included regular meetings of the facilitators to discuss topics and issues that come up, participating in an Inquirer session, and holding two all-

covenant-group potlucks. For the second year we have been relying primarily on *SoulMatters* materials to develop our discussion topics. In this way, our discussions share common themes with worship and LRE.

Leaders: Winnie Ganshaw and Russ Lenth (co-chairs), Jan Locher (past chair and membership coordinator), Phil Beck (past chair and newsletter-article writer), Hazel Seaba (CCLAM liaison). Tyler Ellis, Amy Fretz, Sally Hartman, Adam Ingersoll, Brigitte Ingersoll, David Jepsen, Leigh Nida, Lula Palmer, Maureen Patterson, Shona Roeder, Sharon Thomas, Vicki Siefers, and Theresa Ullerich all serve as co-facilitators for their groups.

—Submitted by Russ Lenth



The 2017/2018 UUS Fireside Choir (above).

From Your Music Director, Gloria Corbin

The Fireside Choir is growing! We now have a group of 20 core singers:

- **Sopranos:** Colleen Higgins, Kaye Winder, Bonnie Penno, Kristina Gratz, Vicki Siefers, Dixie Cassady and Laurie Neuerburg
- **Altos:** Sandy Keller, Cec Owings, Carol Adamson, Elaine Waples and Heidi Sinderman
- **Tenors:** Gerry Pearson, Jim Olson and Linda Fisher
- **Bass/Baritone:** Joe Brisben, Damian Pieper, Jim Laughlin, Chris Johnson and David Gallaher
- **Staff Accompanist:** Peng Zhang
- **Director:** Gloria L. Corbin

We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm and also from 9 to 9:25 am on the Sundays that the choir sings.

During the course of the liturgical year the choir prepared and sang 25 octavos and led the congregation in learning and singing 9 hymns/songs. Additionally the choir enhanced hymn singing with SATB arrangements of the hymn melody.

A small group of children gathered after services to prepare the "Welcome Carol" to be sung for the Christmas services. The singers delivered the story in the verses and invited the congregation and adult choir to join them on the chorus of the song.

Highlight: Spirit, Make Us One

To honor the conclusion of the 175th anniversary celebration of the founding of UUS, a hymn, "Spirit, Make Us One," was commissioned, written by Jason Shelton and Kendyl Gibbons. The commission fee was supported by 15 individual contributors. The hymn was also used in the programming to celebrate the opening of the new building.

Guest Musicians

A total of 25 guest instrumentalists and vocal soloists enhanced the year's church services.

- Peggy Garrigues, fiddle
- Carol Adamson, guitar
- Dennis Pedde, trumpet
- Alice Atkinson, flute
- Red Cedar Duo: Miera Kim and Carey Bostian;
- LIROS Ensemble: Hal Ide, flute; Barb Reck, oboe; Suzanne Smith, clarinet; Sue Orhon; bassoon, Russ Lenth horn and conductor
- Tabitha Rasmussen and Cassie Kaminsky, violins;
- Dave Hempel, oboe
- Kenn Hubel, alto sax
- Paul Corbiere, drum
- Jeremy Laughlin, guitar
- Erika Rist, Emily Wheeler, Benjamin Ross, Colin Wilson, solo quartet;
- Audrey Adamson, soprano soloist
- Tad Goldner, tenor soloist
- Chuck Bogh, tenor

Wind/String Ensemble

An invitation was issued to interested instrumentalists to form a UUS House Ensemble. The UUS Ensemble rehearsed five Thursday evenings in preparation for the Christmas season where they played on December 24th for both services. The ensemble gathered again during March to prepare to play for church services on April 8th and 15th.

Instrumentalists: Bonnie Penno, and Alice Atkinson, flute; Audrey and Laura Friestad, clarinet; Mike Pavelich and Sam Cochran, trumpet; Kenn Hubel and Carolyn Johnson, sax; Jeanette Carter and Russ Lenth, French horn; Linda Fisher, baritone; Chris Johnson and Jane DeWitt, piano; and Ian Cawley, cello.

From Your Music Director (cont'd)

Appreciations

- The UUS Board provides a budget that pays for the purchase of music, piano tuning, a professional staff accompanist, funds to hire guest musicians, and professional development for myself. Thank you!
- Joe and Martha Rasmussen gifted a beautifully refinished family grand piano, cover, and dolly to UUS. The piano is housed in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!
- The UUS Endowment Committee provided funds to restore the lower octaves strings and recondition the Rasmussen piano, and purchase a Piano Saver Unit (Humidifier) to be installed on the piano. Thank you!
- The UUS Facilities Committee generously purchased 4 black music stands. Thank you!

- An anonymous donor generously provided a Wenger Corporation conductor's podium. Thank you!
- Our staff accompanist, Peng Zhang, has become a member of our musical family. We admire his skill at the keyboard as hymn leader, soloist, and accompanist for the choir and guest soloists. Thank you!

I am grateful for the partnership with Rev. Steven and appreciate his support and guidance. I am also very grateful to all of the singers in the choir, members of the UUS Ensemble, and the children singers for the joy their participation in making beautiful music provides for the congregation. Last but not least, the office and furnishings in the new building provided for the Music Director far surpassed any personal expectations and honor the importance of music at the UUS. It is both a pleasure and joy to be the UUS Music Director. Thank You.

The 2017/2018 UUS House Ensemble (below and right).



From Your Congregational Administrator, Emma Barnum

It has been a busy year getting settled into the new building and establishing new practices and procedures! There are too many updates from this past year to list (many mentioned elsewhere in this Report), but here are some worth mentioning here:

- Helped a Naming/Branding Task Force look into a new name for the Society (the decision was tabled, but we did decide to drop the "of Iowa City" from our name for publicity and day-to-day use).
- Administrative Assistant Nik Jakob continued to provide excellent support to the office.
- The 2017/18 Office Volunteers included Gay Mikelson (leader), Dave & Diane Martin, Jeanette Carter, and Cari Malone.

- Gay Mikelson (leader), Sue and Lee Eberly, Donna Johnson, Jane Slaymaker, and Jeanette Carter made up our Newsletter Team. Thank you to all our Vols!
- In December 2017 we hired a part-time Facilities Coordinator, Lori Marshall, to work with rental parties and help with internal event management. Our building is becoming an attractive venue for weddings, concerts, and outside workshops, and Lori's help creating best use guidelines and checklists for our spaces and equipment will be invaluable for both internal and external events moving forward.
- In May 2018 we hired a part-time Building Steward, Ron Wright, to perform various maintenance tasks around the building and provide occasional setup and cleanup for congregational events.

Historical Records Committee

The Historical Records Committee (HRC) participated, along with all other UUS groups, in celebrating our move into the new building. We had selected and stored many artifacts from 10 S. Gilbert that would find a new home in Coralville. Our concerns were mainly with special pieces of furniture, photographs of earlier buildings and ministers, and with the filing cabinets filled with historic documents. These have all now been transferred to their pre-selected spaces in UUS.

An ad hoc committee, "175 years: Stories of our Past, Dreams of our Future," was formed in 2016 and continued through 2017. It included members of the HRC as well as Rob Dietrich, Sarah Holmes, Karen Mason, Gay Mikelson, and Vicki Siefers.

We continued to be involved in celebrating the 175th anniversary of the society throughout 2017. Our main event was a very successful workshop on October 15th, conducted by Cynthia Grant Tucker, author of *Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930*. Copies of her book were sold, and a Common Read preceded the workshop. Our thanks to the Detiger Fund for sponsoring the program.

We also continued to provide occasional articles in the newsletter that reflected our society's heritage.

While researching materials for the 175th, we came across a master's thesis at the University of Iowa entitled: *The History of the Universalist Church in Iowa, 1843-1943*, written by Elva Louise Tucker. This contained much information on the Iowa City Universalists. Iowa Research Online, the University of Iowa's Institutional Repository, graciously digitized it, and it is now available for download.

A large storage cabinet was purchased with memorial funds in memory of our longtime chair, Marilyn Jennewein.

Throughout the transition to, and the celebration of, our new space, society leadership and members were generous in their recognition of the rich heritage of our local society and incorporated it into opening events.

We welcomed a number of new members to the committee: Diana Henry, Diana Miller, Carmen Griggs, and Aiden and Allison Bettine. Members who continue on the committee are Jeanette Carter, Sue Eberly, Karen Mason, Faye Strayer, and our chair, Charity Rowley.

Our future goals include organizing the files brought from 10 S. Gilbert, improving accessibility of our records, both online and in print, and continuing to make our congregation's history meaningful and enjoyable to all.

—Submitted by Charity Rowley



A tree is filled with flowers brought by congregants to the 2018 Flower Communion service in May (left).

UUS adults and friends work together on various service projects, including making blankets for DVIP and Shelter House, during the January Day of Service (below).



Staff Relations Committee

The Staff Relations Committee provides support to supervisors and staff to maintain a positive and effective workplace for UUS. Our actions included:

- Proposing personnel policies and procedures to the Board
- Providing consultation to individual staff and supervisors
- Providing guidance for regular employee/supervisor practices and during disciplinary actions

- Facilitating staff discussions
- Updating job descriptions
- Assisting search committees for staff vacancies.

A complete set of personnel policies is available online. Members (approved by the Board) include Carmen Griggs, Brigitte Ingersoll, and Mary McMurray (chair). Brigitte will be on leave in 2018/19. A new member will be onboarded in July 2018.

—Submitted by Mary McMurray

Building and Grounds Committee

The mission of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to maintain and facilitate repairs of our buildings and grounds. Deb Schoelerman and Kurt Haman are co-chairs. Volunteers include Jim Laughlin, Peg Voelker, Gary Lawrenson, Garret Saltzman, Emily Peck, Elaine Waples, Joe Rasmussen, Larry Kent, Mark Bulacheck, Dave Gallaher, Rick Bradshaw, and Mike Halloran.

Our focus at the Oakdale House included:

- Mowing the grounds and the trails of the property
- Organizing the contents of the shed
- Maintaining the lawn tractor and tools
- Helping with the move to the new facility

Our focus at the new facility includes:

- Learning the new systems (HVAC, geothermal, solar, lighting, kitchen appliances, water softener, water heater, etc.)
- Interviewing and recommending to the Board the hiring of a Building Steward
- Increasing the membership of B&G and having regular meetings
- Arranging for snow removal company
- Maintaining the lawn tractor and tools

—Submitted by Deb Schoelerman



In the fall of 2017, volunteers filled the three bioretention cells on our property with plants to filter water runoff and reduce water pollution (left).

Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7 pm. Members are Jeanette Carter, Deb Schoelerman, Carol Throckmorton, Sally Hartman, Marsha Cheney, Janet McKee, Linda Fisher, Lois Hughes, Peg Voelker, Peggy Garrigues, and Miriam Kashia. We have a budget of \$500 for 2018.

The mission of the Green Sanctuary Committee is to promote stewardship of the earth in our congregation and in our local and global community. The driving force behind this mission is a commitment to the UU Seventh Principle: “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

We strive to have all actions of our committee exemplify our accordance with the Mission and Vision statements of UUSIC, with emphasis on social justice work, healing the earth, and transforming the world.

Our activities of the past year included:

- Received official Green Sanctuary Accreditation from the UUA in October. We are very proud of this accomplishment!
- Facilitated two Welcome Home Wednesdays sessions in the spring of 2017.
- Registered for Net-Zero Certification.
- Sponsored a presentation by Green AmeriCorps on home energy conservation.

- Facilitated the Earth Day service on April 22nd featuring an address by John Ikerd who spoke on “A Return to Relationships of Necessity—with Each Other and with the Earth.”
- Organized petitions in support of a statewide CAFO moratorium.
- Worked with the hospitality team to educate congregants and to streamline our recycling and composting.
- Worked on updating the “Green Policy” for UUS.

Memberships:

- IPL: We maintain our membership in Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), the statewide organization of faith organizations whose mission is to mobilize the religious community to become leaders in the fight against global warming through education, assistance with carbon footprint reductions, and advocacy for sustainable policies. We will be involved in creating a local chapter of IPL.
- We are members of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth (UUMFE) and continue to work toward accreditation from this organization.

Goals for 2019:

- Continue to educate our congregants on “how to live” in the Greenest Church in Iowa.

—Submitted by Deb Schoelerman

Land Ministry

The Land Ministry Committee's (LMC) mission is to prepare and implement plans for the use of the Society's property on Oakdale Road in order to protect and enhance the property and its flora and fauna through sustainable practice. The LMC has the ongoing responsibility for updating and implementing this plan. Deb Schoelerman is the chairperson.

The committee began work on developing polices for the outdoor spaces and submitted their recommendation to the Board in April. There are six sub-groups to focus on various areas of the land:

1. Community Garden, facilitated by Vicki Siefers

Prepared the raised garden beds for the community garden. Volunteers constructed several raised beds in April. The gardens were planted with bedding plants in May. We look forward to sharing our harvest with the Coralville food pantry.

2. Woodland Management, which includes trail management, facilitated by Tom and Mary McMurray

Volunteers worked in the spring to remove invasive plants including garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet, and grape ivy. Other work sessions are scheduled. Mark Vistosh, DNR forester, met with the group to assess our land. He shared a written report of our property.

3. Outdoor Landscape, facilitated by Jim Laughlin

Several trees were planted in the parking lot and in the front of the building. A plan is being developed for more shrubs, small trees, and hostas to be planted near the building.

4. Outdoor Play and Recreation (See separate report on next page).

5. Worship and Meditative Spaces (labyrinth, ritual space, memorial garden), facilitated by Virginia Melroy

A sub-sub-group is discussing location and surface of the labyrinth. No specific planning has happened regarding the memorial garden or ritual space, although we are looking at other UU congregations' polices regarding their memorial gardens.

6. Bio Retention Cells, facilitated by Deb Schoelerman

The bio retention cells were constructed in August by the general contractor. In September, over 30 volunteers, under the guidance of workers from Sustainable Landscape Solutions, planted over 800 plants—including grasses, cone flower, black-eyed Susan, western sunflower, butterfly milkweed, coreopsis, prairie phlox, and more.

—Submitted by Deb Schoelerman



Members unload outdoor chairs and tables this winter (left).

The furniture is now out for general use on UUS's back patio, which is also lined with hostas from our old building at 10 S. Gilbert and donated from members' yards, transplanted in May by volunteers (below).



Playground Committee

The Outdoor Play and Recreation Committee, chaired by Brigette Ingersoll, is a sub-committee of Land Ministry. The committee has about 10 members, and has worked closely with the DLRE to ensure that the needs of the youngest in our community will be met.

The committee began meeting at the end of 2016 to plan the outdoor playscape. We were able to hire a professional natural playground designer to design a playscape that uses the contours of our beautiful property and is meant to stimulate and challenge all 7 senses in those who engage with the space. The committee is excited that the challenge of finding funding

was removed, as the playground is being fully paid for through funds remaining for the new building. We have begun the final phase of our work: seeing the playscape through to its completion. We are currently ordering the components that we will purchase and planning for constructing those that we will build ourselves.

We have hired Sustainable Landscape Solutions to help with some of the heaviest and most technical work, and that work will begin sometime this spring. We hope to have much of the playscape in place by mid-summer 2018 and expect that the community will have many years of enjoyment ahead in this unique and engaging space at the south end of our building.

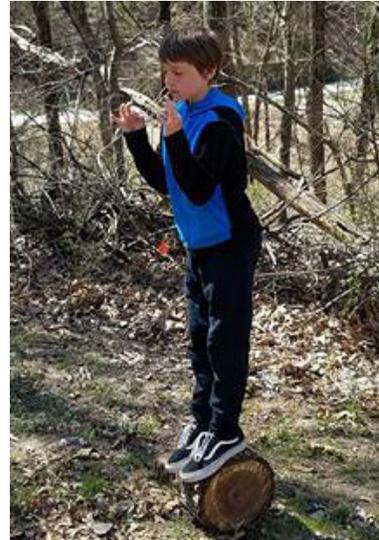
—Submitted by Brigette Ingersoll

New Facilities Committee

The New Facilities Committee (NFC) accomplished its purpose in this past year and has died from unnatural causes—excessive contributions of time, talent, and treasure from you, our members. As a result, we have the facilities you dreamed and then co-created. The NFC members were Jane DeWitt, Jeffery Ford, Adam Ingersoll, Steve Locher, Sue Otto, Steven Protzman, Deb Schoelerman, and Kirk Witzberger. It was an honor to serve you.

—Submitted by Kirk Witzberger

Our Community Garden was planned, built, and planted by UUS volunteers (below).



UUS youth test out the first delivery related to the UUS Playscape: logs for stump seats (left).

Covenant group members help glue plastic tips to the bottom of Fellowship Hall chairs to reduce noise (below).



Aesthetics Committee

Aesthetics Committee continued the work of selecting furnishings for the new building. Committee members were Theresa Ullerich, Brian Glidewell, Jan Locher, Deb Schoelerman, and Gay Mikelson.

Our goal has been to create a warm, welcoming environment for UUs and the community and to provide ongoing guidance for acquisition and placement of art and furnishings.

We started the process in 2016 with an inventory of furniture on hand and a needs list from staff. We asked our vendors for

furniture that would be as green as possible, giving preference to recycled content, sustainable materials, and high durability. By the beginning of the 2017/18, year most of the decisions had been made. Orders for sanctuary seating, fellowship hall chairs and tables, and office and classroom furnishings were placed in early 2017. After move-in we have added, subtracted, and tweaked as necessary to make sure the new environment is comfortable and welcoming to all. Installation of art and historical items will continue through the next year.

—Submitted by Theresa Ullerich

From Your Director of Religious Education, Jessica Zimmer

The Religious Education (RE) and Our Whole Lives (OWL) programs have served over 115 children and youth over the 2017/18 RE Year.

With help from many dedicated volunteers, we moved into our new RE Wing in October 2017, and our flexible spaces have been transformed to meet many needs, from a children’s meditation circle to slime-making stations to comfortable adult meeting spaces.

RE classes have been incorporating more hands on projects and experiences each week. Some favorites from this past year include: making bunny piñatas for the Iowa City Animal Center, making (and eating!) pancakes in the kitchen, starting seeds for the children’s garden, and getting outside to explore our new property.

RE classes have also been focusing on helping the children and youth live out our 2nd and 6th Principles through social justice action. Some of this year’s activities include:

- Making scarves, desserts, and snacks for the Free Lunch Program
- Through the congregation’s generosity donating 222 lbs. of peanut butter and jelly for the Crisis Center’s “Spread the Love” drive

- Volunteering at Shelter House’s Children’s Holiday party
- Making blankets for Shelter House and DVIP

In February, RE began a weekly coin offering called “Change for Change.” Thanks to the congregation’s kickstart with a noisy offering, and weekly contributions, the children and youth have raised over \$250. At the time of writing this Report, the RE kids had selected and are voting between three possible local organizations to give their offering: DVIP, Crisis Center, and the Iowa City Animal Center.

Continuing our commitment to sexual health education and justice, we’ve increased our number of trained OWL facilitators so we can increase our OWL offerings—be on the lookout for elementary and high school OWL information soon—and, via a class purchased at the UUS Treats & Talents Auction, held a Gender 101 class for adults.

The RE program, in partnership with many UUS committees, groups, and volunteers, has been working to increase our family programming and multigenerational events. This year we held our first ever Parents’ Night Out event, added a VIP (Very Inquisitive People) section during our all-ages worship, created an all-congregation art piece with our Small Great Things service, and held three monthly Community Meals for all UUS members and friends.



A bounce house fills the Sanctuary for the Treats & Talents Auction in October (above).



Tweens enjoy the RE Wing during an overnight in May (above). Kevin BF Burt performs for UUS youth in February (below).



Program and Activity Groups

The following Program and Activity Groups were active during the 2017/2018 liturgical year:

- **UU Board Gaming Club** (leaders: Emma Barnum and Bailey Kelley, met monthly in the Fellowship Hall)
- **UU Book Discussion Group** (leader: Mary Lou Welter, met monthly at Oaknoll)
- **Buddhist Sangha** (leaders: Brian Glidewell and Cindy Spading, met weekly at Oaknoll)
- **Dances of Universal Peace** (leader: Virginia Melroy, met monthly at the East Side Recycling Center, then in the RE Commons)
- **Dinners for Eight** (leader: Joe Rasmussen, see separate report on next page)
- **Friends of Friends** (leaders: Michael and Rochelle Honey-Arcement, met monthly in the Hickory Room)
- **Girls' Night Out** (leaders: Anna Rode and Jamie Sharp, met monthly at various local restaurants)
- **UU Grief Group** (leader: Gail Garwood, met monthly at Oakdale House, then in the Oak Room)
- **Kiirtan** (leader: Andy Douglas, see separate report on next page)
- **Owl Moon CUUPS** (leaders: Marsha Cheyney and Paula Miller, see separate report on next page)
- **UU Partner Church** (no leader at this time, see separate report below)
- **Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle** (leaders: Alison Oliver, Dave Martin and Peg Bouska, met twice a month at Oakdale House and then in the Conference Room, see separate report in the Social Justice section)
- **Scrabble Group** (leaders: Gary Lawrenson and Jeanette Carter, met monthly at various locations, then at UUS)
- **Secular Humanists** (leader: Mark Yuskis, met monthly at Old Brick). See separate report below)
- **Vegetarian Community** (leader: Carol Throckmorton, met multiple times a month for movie nights, potlucks in the Hickory and Oak Rooms and in the Fellowship Hall)

Secular Humanists

Our 14th year of providing education, enrichment, and community for a growing number of atheists, agnostics, freethinkers, and other non-theists has seen many exciting developments:

- Our attendance numbers at monthly meetings (at Old Brick) have been between 35 and 45, including UUS members and friends, 10 to 20 Secular Students at (UI) Iowa, and area visitors.
- We have established a Leadership Group of 10 members to help with planning and events.
- We are developing a new Mission/Vision Statement to guide our planning and goals as a UUS group.
- We have established a Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee that received unanimous Board approval to guide the UUS congregation on a year-long interactive series of forums, services, and special events to satisfy UUA/UU Humanist

Association's criteria to earn official designation as a Freethinker Friendly Congregation, meaning UUS explicitly welcomes people with humanist, atheist, agnostic and other non-theist worldviews. This work will start in earnest in Fall 2018 and continue through Spring 2019.

- We have continued to maintain support and interaction with other community secular/humanist groups such as Humanists of Linn County and Secular Students at Iowa, sharing in each others' events.
- We have continued or established affiliation with the UU Humanist Association, The Eastern Iowa Coalition of Reason, and continue ties (speakers) with Freedom From Religion Foundation in Madison, Wisconsin, which works mainly on separation of Church/State issues nation-wide.

—Submitted by Mark Yuskis

Partner Church Committee

We have been partners with our Partner Church in Janosfalva, Transylvania, Romania since 1993. Because of our relocation to our new building and a reassignment of the minister in Janosfalva to a larger church our contact in the past year has been minimal. A new minister for Janosfalva will be appointed in 2018.

Goals for next year:

New Leaders. After more than 20 years Joe Brisben and Mary Kathryn Wallace have retired as leaders of

the Partner Church Committee. A revitalization of this committee is needed in order to strengthen, broaden, and deepen our connection to our historical roots in Transylvania.

A ReFresh Workshop will be held November 9th through 11th, 2018, at UUS. This will be led by Rev. Roger Bertschausen, Executive Director of the UU Partner Church Council (UUPCC) and will give participants the opportunity to assess our partnership and what we want in the future.

—Submitted by Mary Kathryn Wallace

Kiirtan

The Kiirtan group has been meeting in the Sycamore Rooms in Iowa City. We made the decision to meet there, as more people were attending from the East side of Iowa City and it was agreed it was more convenient. We generally have 2 to 8 people attend the monthly gathering. Leader Andy Douglas participated in the 'speed dating' Inquirer Session in the fall, and several new attendees signed up there.

—Submitted by Andy Douglas

Dinners for Eight

These casual adult-only, potluck-style dinners were held at members' homes on the first Saturday of November, December, February, March, and April, 24 to 32 participants each month. Joe Rasmussen serves as the coordinator of the program. In the upcoming 2018/19 year, we will probably alternate months, i.e. October, December, February, April, June.

—Submitted by Joe Rasmussen

Owl Moon CUUPS

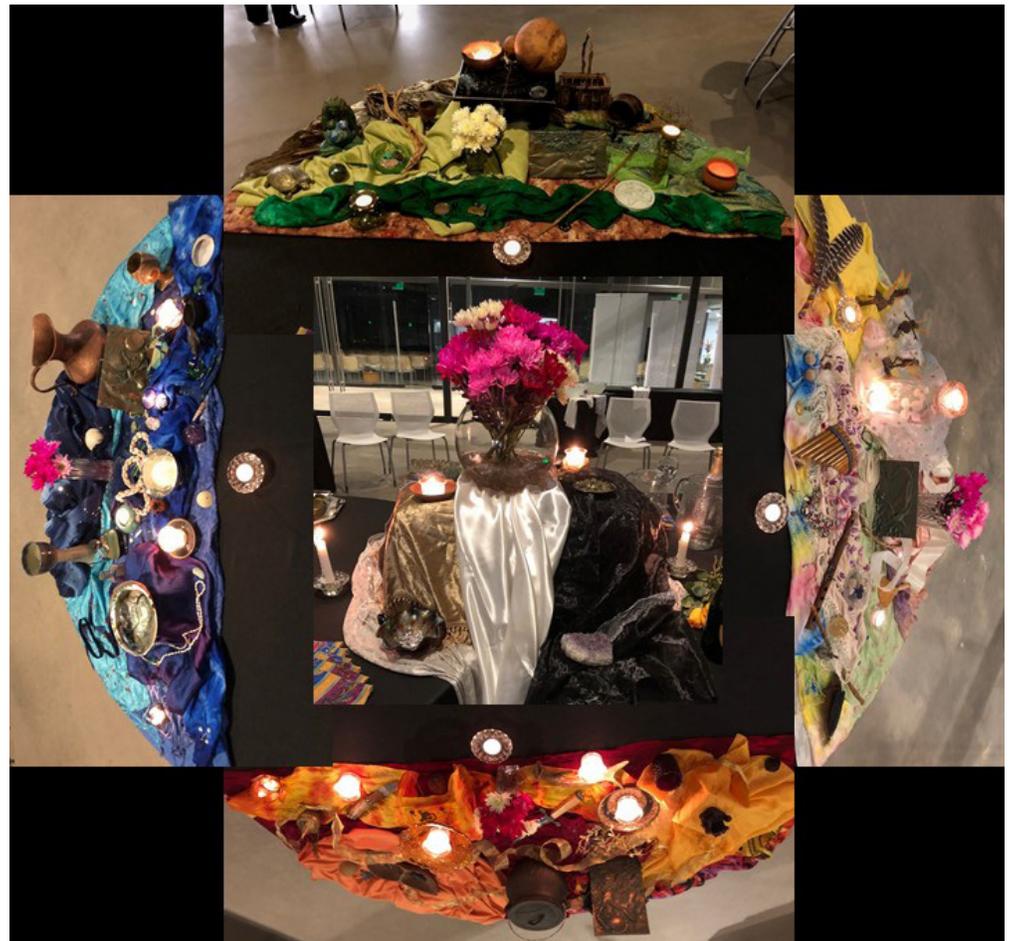
The Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) is led by Marsha Cheyney and Dawn Marshall. Our goals this year were to bring more experiences of Earth-centered traditions to the congregation and to provide worship opportunities for those drawn to Earth-centered spiritual paths, both in the UUSIC congregation and those in the community who may not have a spiritual home. We did this by offering a variety of gatherings, rituals, and workshops:

- Exploring spiritual practices—We met on the New Moons and Full Moons each month to explore our spirituality through meditations, journeys, divination, authentic speaking/listening, and following the moon's cycles with intent.
- Celebration—We hosted seasonal rituals for many of the Pagan holidays:
 - Mabon/Stone Soup Ritual—Celebrating the magic of building community. Held in September.
 - Samhain/Beyond the Gates—A ritual to honor our ancestors. Held in November.
 - Yule/Winter Solstice—Celebrating the returning light (in collaboration with the WomenSpirit Group). During the offering we collected donations of \$127 for the Crisis Center. Held in December.
 - Imbolc/Indulgence Ritual—Exploring the magic of liberty and the magic of the love that makes community. Held in February.
 - Beltaine—Celebrating the fertility of the Earth. Held in May.
- Workshops—we hosted 2 major workshop series:
 - Herbal Self-care—a four workshop series held ~monthly through fall/winter, taught by Stephany Hoffelt.

- Tarot—two workshops held in April; an introduction to reading the tarot and a more advanced class on building a relationship with the tarot, taught by River Roberts.

Membership in the CUUPS group has expanded over the course of the year, with newcomers at nearly every event. We have three new members who will be leading rituals and classes in the future. We held a visioning meeting this spring, and based on input from the group, will be shifting our monthly gatherings to a more regular schedule (rather than moon-based) and will be starting a series of knowledge- and skill-building classes. We will continue to bring in regional teachers for workshop and to celebrate seasonal holidays in ritual.

—Submitted by Marsha Cheyney



Elemental altars from the Indulgence Ritual February (above),

Social Justice Coordinating Committee

The vision statement for the Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC) is:

We gather in collaboration to identify problems of unbalanced power and privilege. We mobilize resources to dismantle oppressions and build solutions for inspiring and empowering just communities.

This year's 5th Sunday offerings benefited the Minister's Discretionary Fund, our Circle of Friends families, UNICEF for African children, and Black Women Houston.

In 2017 there were two Days of Service:

- In January, fifty-five people worked for the community. They cleaned and prepared a mailing for Uptown Bill's, cleaned the winter overflow shelter for Shelter House, made blankets for DVIP and Shelter House, made t-shirt bags for local food pantries, and prepared a meal for Ronald McDonald House families.
- In June, sixty-one people participated. They built a raised garden bed for the Center for Worker Justice, packaged food for Feed My Starving Children, cleared trails on the UUS property, washed walls, etc., for Uptown Bill's, and knitted premie hats for newborns at UIHC.

SJCC again participated in several annual events sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities and other community organizations. These included the Winter Clothing Drive, Gifts for Parents, the Homeless Children's Trust Holiday Party, Project Holiday for holiday meals for the Crisis Center, the CROP Walk, and the Chico Mendes Reforestation Project.

At holiday time, we work with the UUS Circle of Friends to provide gifts of clothing, toys, grocery, and gasoline gift cards for the immigrant families that we help to support.

For the 12th year, UUS put together the spring Shelter House Luncheon in May 2017 at Zion Lutheran Church, a temporary location during our transition. Forty-eight UUS folks helped make the event happen and raised \$950.

Two of the SJCC committee members keep up and inform the committee on the progress of Death with Dignity legislation throughout the country and in Iowa.

SJCC has a representative to the Crisis Center Common Fund. UUS has a pledge that it fulfills each year to help with rent and utilities for people struggling financially.

Courageous Love Awards were given to UUS members Peg Bouska, Sally Hartman, Miriam Kashia, Nancy Noyer, Mike Cervantes, and Deb Schoelerman for their work for social justice in the Society and the wider community. Dorothy Whiston, retired minister of First Baptist Church, was also honored in recognition for her work with prison ministry.

The Committee frequently receives updates from Free Lunch, Green Sanctuary, IUUWAN, the Racial Justice Circle, and Circle of Friends.

—Submitted by Gay Mikelson and Diane Martin

SJCC Contributions in 2017

2017 Total Giving: \$32,583

2016 Total Giving: \$26,432

2015 Total Giving: \$30,545

Community Partner Donations (from Sunday offerings)

January: DVIP	\$1,500
February: Abbe Clinic	\$1,500
March: Inside Out Reentry	\$1,050
April: Crisis Center	\$1,375
May: Table to Table	\$1,000
June: JC Neighborhood Centers	\$1,050
July: United Action for Youth	\$1,200
August: Free Medical Clinic	\$1,300
September: Emma Goldman Clinic	\$1,250
October: Shelter House	\$2,550
November: Free Dental Clinic	\$2,500
December: Free Lunch Program	<u>\$2,700</u>
	\$18,525

Misc. Contributions & Expenses

CRC Dues	\$150
Common Fund of CRC	<u>\$1,750</u>
	\$1,900

Other UUS Fundraising in 2017

Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$475
Partner Church	\$1,628
Sudanese Brunch	\$600
CROP Walk	\$1,120
Circle of Friends*	\$700
Shelter House Luncheon	\$950
UNICEF* (African Children)	\$500
Black Women Houston*	\$1,000
Coralville Food Pantry	\$1,360
Circle of Friends (+ individual gifts)	\$1,285
Minister's Discretionary Fund*	<u>\$2,540</u>
*Fifth Sunday Offerings	\$12,158

Adults and youth play musical chairs at the 2018 Valentine's Dance/Party to celebrate the end of the 30 Days of Love (below).





Free Lunch Program

On the 2nd Friday of each month, ~30 UUS volunteers came together to serve a meal to anywhere from 113 to 182 guests at the Free Lunch Program. UUS volunteers purchased food, prepared and served it to our guests, and cleaned up afterward. Guests voiced appreciation and took leftovers for their evening meal. In return, UUS volunteers enjoyed conversation with each other over food preparation and experienced the deep satisfaction of serving our community. Diana Miller, Leigh Nida, and Carmen Griggs serve as the co-chairs of the UU Free Lunch Team.

—Submitted by Diana Miller

Members of the UUS Free Lunch Team prepare a meal during a Friday Free Lunch Program shift (left).

Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle

Alison Oliver, Peg Bouska, and Dave Martin served as co-chairs of the Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle (RJC). In 2017/18, activities included:

- Presenting two Sunday Worship Services focusing on racial justice guided by UUA's Black Lives of UU curriculum:
 - The UUA White Supremacy Teach-In and adult education forum on October 22nd
 - The Promise and the Practice service on February 4th to support our financial commitment to the Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective.
- Participating in the forming of conversations with the Johnson County Interfaith Cluster to work collaboratively on justice actions, especially for persons of color experiencing racial and economic inequality in the county, region, and state.
- Attending a number of films, lectures, and discussions to educate ourselves about the issues related to racial justice, locally and beyond.
- Facilitating discussion groups in March on the UUA Common Read for *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnama.
- Participating in the national interfaith campaign, *Community Safety for All*, with a film screening and discussion forum of the Ava Duvernay documentary *13th*.
- Contacting our government officials regarding legislation relating to racial justice.
- Continuing our local advocacy and witness activities with community partners, including supporting events and actions by the Sankofa Outreach Connection, Black Voices Project, Iowa City NAACP, Inside Out Reentry Program, and the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee.

—Submitted by Alison Oliver and Peg Bouska

Circle of Friends

The goal of the Circle of Friends (Immigration Group) is to support immigrant/refugee families in the community. Active members are Sally Hartman, Diane Martin, Gay Mikelson, Peg Bouska, Rob and Peggy Dietrich, Betsy Fischer, Irene Morgan, Deb Schoelerman, plus the generous support of the congregation.

For several years we have provided financial support for two Guatemalan families and two families from the Sudan. In December we added another family from Sudan. We also teach English to adults in the Sudanese families. The mother of one of our families now has a job and is doing well. She has received less financial support from us this year.

Our activities this past year include:

- In coordination with SJCC and the Holiday Giving Project, gifts and gift cards were collected and delivered to our five families in December.
- On January 6th we hosted a family gathering and potluck supper in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate "King's Day," a holiday celebrated in Latin American countries. The Three Kings, bringing gifts to the baby Jesus, arrived at UUS to share their story and give gifts to all.
- To celebrate the end of "30 Days of Love," a potluck and pizza party was held in the Fellowship Hall. Three of our families attended along with a few UUS members and friends.
- With individual donations and additional funds from the "5th Sunday in April" collection, we have been able to help with rent, utilities, and other expenses of the families.
- We also provided lunch on the January Day of Service. Griselda, a member of one of our Guatemalan families, helped to prepare the meal, and we received donations of \$700.

By supporting and being friends with our Circle of Friends families, we are touching hearts, changing lives and transforming the world.

—Submitted by Deb Schoelerman

We Recognize Our 2017/2018 UUS Volunteers

We express our pride and gratitude to all our amazing volunteers who have donated their time this past year.

We apologize if anyone's name was inadvertently left off this list.

Carol Adamson	Amanda Decker	Rochelle Honey-	Noah Linley	Kim Palmer	Renee Speth
Tim Adamson	Jane DeWitt	Arcement	Marta Little	Maureen Patterson	Hope Spragg
Bobbe Akre	Monique DiCarlo	Michael Honey-	Stephen Locher	Dorothy Paul	Virginia Stamler
Bruce Alexander	Peggy Dietrich	Arcement	Jan Locher	Mike Pavelich	Dee Stebbins
Margaret Allen	Rob Dietrich	Al Hood	Mary Losch	Pat Pavelich	Jill Stephenson
Kurt Anstreicher	Mary Dix	Jean Hood	Nancy Lynch	Gerald Pearson	Jane Sternecky
Dorothy Armstrong	Sherry Dolash	Vaughn Hotsenpiller	Caryl Lyons	Emily Peck	Hayden Stevenson
Alice Atkinson	Andy Douglas	Peggy Houston	Jeremiah Madlock	Bonnie Penno	Faye Strayer
Ken Atkinson	Lee Eberly	Carolyn Howe	Elaine Mahler	Debbie Persons	Hilary Strayer
Julia Audlehelm	Susan Eberly	Jan Hubel	Cari Malone	Connie Peterson	Sheila Streeby
Larry Audlehelm	John Elson	Kenn Hubel	James Margadant	Damian Pieper	Margaret Street
Craig Bancroft	Niall Elson	Lois Hughes	Dawn Marshall	Ron Pile	Alan Swanson
Joe Barrash	Lori Enloe	Merle Ihne	Heather Marshall	Paul Pomrehn	Liz Swanson
Kris Barrash	Jim Ephgrave	Adam Ingersoll	Lori Marshall	Ellie Jai Primmer-	Ellen Sweet
Seth Barrash	Pat Ephgrave	Brigitte Ingersoll	Lynette Marshall	Tamayo	Danielle Tallman
Barbara Beaumont	Christine Etler	Evelyn Ingersoll	Rory Marshall	Tina Primmer-Tamayo	Dan Tallman
Philip Beck	Coraline Etler	Fiona Ingersoll	Clara Martin	Steven Protzman	Adam Tatro
Sharon Beckman	Zoey Fett	Isaac Ingersoll	David Martin	Judith Quinn	Vanessa Taylor
Joyce Bernardy	Sara Feldmann	Katrina Ingersoll	Diane Martin	John Raley	Al Thomas
Aiden Bettine	Kerry Finley	Naomi Ingersoll	Ian Martin	Christina Randall	Sharon Thomas
Allison Bettine	Betsy Fischer	Nik Jakob	Matt Martin	Joe Rasmussen	Carol Throckmorton
Sharon Booker	Linda Fisher	Sasha Jakob	Hilary Marvin	Martha Rasmussen	David Tokuhisa
Peg Bouska	Dawn Fitzpatrick	Mary Jepsen	Robby Marvin	Tabitha Rasmussen	Judy Tokuhisa
Mandi Bozarth	Diane Flynn	David Jepsen	Kären Mason	Tony Razavi	Ethan Trepka
Beckett Bozarth-	Jeffery Ford	Sarah Jewell	Marianne Mason	Amy Rein	Jim Trepka
Greteman	Amy Fretz	Carolyn Johnson	Ronald L. McCall	Erica Reschly	Cheryl Tugwell
Whitman Bozarth-	Kim Friese	Chris Johnson	Mary McCann	Justine Reschly-	Ada Turner
Greteman	Kurt Friese	Debbie Johnson	Laurie McCormick	Krasowski	Hudson Turner
Rick Bradshaw	Audrey Friestad	Donna Johnson	Jake McCusker	Madelyn Reschly-	Sullivan Turner
Joseph Brisben	Keith Friestad	Emily Johnson	Jessica McCusker	Krasowski	Adam Uhl
Pete Brokaw	Laura Friestad	Cassie Kaminsky	Brad McDowell	Miriam Reschly-	Emily Uhl
Wendy Brown	Dan Gall	Leah Kaminsky	Sam McDowell	Krasowski	Harper Uhl
Mark Bulechek	Meredith Gall	Haley Kamps	Penny McKean	Linda Rice	Theresa Ullerich
Kevin B.F. Burt	Nathan Gall	Miriam Kashia	Janet McKee	Nancy Ridenour	Avery Van Abbema
Phoebe Burt	Dave Gallaher	Emma Kearney	Mary McMurray	Aedan Rode	Dana Van Der Heide
Amy Butler	James Gambrell	Daisy Keber	Tom McMurray	Anna Rode	Stephanie Van Housen
Kris Canfield	Winnie Ganshaw	Lucy Keber	Charlie McPearce	Chris Rode	Steve Vincent
Maxine Carlson	Gail Garwood	Sandy Keller	Virginia Melroy	Shona Roeder	Margaret Voelker
Rachael Carr	Joel Gilbertson-White	Bailey Kelley	Fred Meyer	Linda Rohret	Jeff Walberg
Jeanette Carter	Stephanie Gilbertson-	Larry Kent	Gay Mikelson	Jaia Rosenfels	Mary Kathryn Wallace
Dixie Cassidy	White	Shelly Kerr	Diana Miller	Sarah Ross	Kathy Walter
Ian Cawley	Brian Glidewell	Kathleen Kingman	Otis Miller	Rhonda Rowden	Elaine Waples
Michael Cervantes	Amy Grahns	Margaret Kinsman	Paula Miller	Charity Rowley	Julia Wasson
Jacelyn Cheyney	Kirstina Gratz	Margaret Koenig	Tony Miller	Susan Salterberg	Connie Webb
Kirk Cheyney	Calvin Greene	Juanita Kosier	Virginia Miller	Amelia Saltzman	Mary Lou Welter
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Reed Cheyney	Brenda Hagmeier	Susan Kramer	James Morey	Joscilynn Saltzman	Kristin Wildensee
Lucy Choisser	Conor Hall	Susan Krohmer	Shelby Myers	Maddilyne Saltzman	Glenn Wiltgen
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Curran Christophel	Julie Hammer	Zach Kyte	Laurie Neuerberg	Hazel Seaba	Ruth Wirtz
Dahmia Christophel	Barbara Haring	John Lanaghan	Leigh Nida	Jamie Sharp	Amie Wirtz
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Mirabelle Clark	Mike Haverkamp	Pat Larson	Gerald Nordquist	Isaiah Shon-Derifield	Mabel Wittenkeller
Judi Clinton	Jenna Haug	Kasia Laskowska	Carrie Norton	Mary Lund Shumaker	Norah Wittenkeller
Sam Cochran	Lucy Haug Bodling	Barbara Laughlin	Jenny Noyce	Dick Siefers	Scott Wittenkeller
Lois Cole	Myra Haug Bodling	Jim Laughlin	Nancy Noyer	Vicki Siefers	Kirk Witzberger
Gloria Corbin	Mike Haverkamp	Gary Lawrenson	Liz Noyes	Heidi Sinderman	Star Wojciak
Chris Coretsopoulos	Bruce Headings	Russ Lenth	Kelly O'Berry	Sabri Sky	Tanner Woody
Aster Cox	Ethan Headings	Carly Lewis	Terri O'Berry	Jane Slaymaker	Ron Wright
Ernie Cox	Joe Hennager	Carol Ligouri	Alison Oliver	Jean Snodgress-	John Yack
Ron Crawford	Diana Henry	Brenda Linley	Jim Olson	Wiedenheft	Mark Yuskis
Laurie Croft	Colleen Higgins	Emerson Linley	Sue Otto	Jerry Snodgress-	Sherri Zastro
Dan Cummins	Sarah Holmes	Jodi Linley	Cecile Owings	Wiedenheft	Lenda Zelinskas
Laurie Cummins		Macy Linley	Lula Palmer	Cindy Spading	

VISION:

Our vision is to be a loving, inclusive, and growing spiritual community. We celebrate life and a liberal tradition that leads social justice work, heals the earth, and nurtures the lifelong journey of mind and spirit.

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