



Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.

Annual Report to the Congregation

Sunday, June 12, 2016

Current Membership: 481

Certified Membership: 464

Board of Directors

Kathleen Sideli, President; Von Welch, Vice President; Arzetta Hults-Losensky, Treasurer;
Ann LeDuc, Secretary *At Large*: Pat Brantlinger, Doug Cauble, Deb Hutton

Ministers

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister
The Reverend Douglas Wadkins, Interim Minister

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Minutes of June 7, 2015, Annual Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana



Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Congregational Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2015

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Submitted by Ann LeDuc, Secretary

Call to Order 4:05 PM Von Welch

Call to order by Von Welch, Vice President, at 4:05 PM.

Introduction of Board Von Welch

Von Welch – Vice President

Ann LeDuc – Secretary

Arzetta Hulst Losensky - Treasurer

Pat Brantlinger – At Large

Doug Cauble – At Large

Deb Hutton – At Large

Kathleen Sideli, Board President, was not able to attend due to the death of her mother.

Chalice lighting and Opening Words Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Introduction of Parliamentarian Guy Loftman

Senior Minister's Report Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

In the Annual Report to the Congregation there is an in depth written report which reviews this past year through our vision statement and our Board's Ends Statements.

Reverend Macklin has been enjoying her teaching pastor role with student intern Natalie Spriggs-Trowbridge. Next year, Natalie will be working with our staff and congregation for 20 hours a week starting in September.

This past year, the Worship Artist in Residence was Janiece Jaffe. The 2015-16 Worship Artist in Residence will be Ken Roberson. He is in Musical Theatre at IU, has won many awards, and brings with him many experiences and skills.

In the recent edition of UU World, our Administrator, Carol Marks, was quoted regarding our use of live streaming. More people are attending via live streaming and not attending in person. Live streaming is helping attendees stay connected during times when they cannot attend in person.

Starting on June 21st we will try one service each Sunday, until the end of July.

Judy Bennett was recognized for the great work she has done for the congregation. Shari Woodbury will work as the Connections Coordinator on a temporary basis.

The church building and grounds are reviewed regularly by the Building and Grounds committee, along with staff. Three upstairs Religious Education rooms will be renovated to create two larger rooms.

A team is looking into how to reduce glare from the large circular window behind the pulpit.

Reverend Macklin has been in communication with Minister Emeritus Bill Breeden and was happy to report he is doing well. Some congregants continue to ask when he will return. Our need to ask when he will return is evidence that we are still looking back rather than forward, and the time is not yet right for him to return.

The Inter-Cultural competency training that was held at the church in early spring was well attended. The next stage of education for our congregation is called Beloved Conversations, which will look at racism in our lives.

This has been a challenging year for Reverend Macklin. The interim period is a time for her to explore the direction she wants to go as she moves forward in her ministry. She will be taking time off to explore what direction she wishes her ministry to go in the future. She will be out of the office for all of July and August to do personal and professional exploration.

Planned Giving Committee Anne Haynes

31 people or couples have joined the Legacy Circle to date.

Libby DeVoe, Joan Caulton, Anne Haynes and Clark Miller are members of the Planned Giving Committee. Contact a committee member if you would like to join the Legacy Circle.

Stewardship Update Drew Schrader

Drew Schrader and Mary Boutain are the co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee.

The committee was thanked for their work on this year's campaign. This included planning, canvassing and thank you notes. They are: Kathie Lazerwitz, Carol Ver Wiebe, Charlie Pickle, John Summerlot, and Kathy Sideli.

The Annual Pledge Campaign is ahead of this time last year in total funds pledged, although pledge numbers are down a little. Some pledges are expected to come in between now and July 1st, and over the course of the next year

A sub-group of the Stewardship Committee continues to discuss what stewardship means. They are finding more ways for people to give and feel connected.

Our numbers pledge wise are solid year after year, and continue to be solid during the interim. Usually churches expect to see a reduction in pledges in an interim pledge campaign.

Congregants were thanked for their generosity of spirit in navigating financial conversations with the committee.

Interim Minister's Report Reverend Doug Wadkins

Reverend Wadkins presented the following priorities for the next year of the interim:

- Assist in creating a vision of shared ministry that is sustainable and dynamic for the future ministry.
- Be available as a resource person for the search committee.
- Work with committees as needed to help them see how they fit into the mission of the church.
- Assist ministry team with issues around worship, what works and what we want to do differently. This will include looking at how we do live streaming and the use of multimedia in worship.
- Work with the ministers, staff, and congregation to create a plan to start well with the new Associate Minister.

Special Purposes Fund Report Chris Haynes

Balances of the SPF is \$303,339 total. See the Congregational Meeting Power Point presentation for details.

The Special Purposes Fund Committee manages our endowment.

Newly received money has been going into investments rather than cash and gold, which has reduced their percentages of the total.

The Social Justice Task Force Grant has been our largest use of funds this year.

Investment review, including consideration of fossil fuel divestment, is still in process. The paid investment advisor decided to withdraw, creating a setback in the investment review.

On September 26th, 10:30-noon, there will be a town hall meeting on SPF investments and fossil fuel divestment.

The UUA's Common Endowment fund has recently divested and is being considered for management of SPF assets.

Quorum Report

10% attendance is required to have a quorum.

101 members were in attendance with only 48 required to have a quorum.

Motion: Board to approve congregational minutes at a future board meeting Von Welch

Motion by Jan Skinner: to approve the congregational minutes at a future Board meeting.

Seconded by Amy Taylor.

Approved unanimously.

Vote on 25% Plate Recipient

Millie Jackson was thanked for her work on the 25% Plate efforts.

Candidates included: Bloomington Pride's Prism Youth Community, Girls Incorporated of Monroe County, and Monroe County CASA.

Votes were collected via paper ballot from attendees.

Motion: Approve Leadership Cultivation Slate Von Welch

Personal thank you from Jan Skinner to those on the LCC Slate.

Returning Board Members (2-year terms):

Von Welch, Vice President

Arzetta Hults-Losensky, Treasurer

Doug Cauble and Deb Hutton, Directors At-Large

Returning Special Purpose Funds Member (3-year term):

Joanne Wilhelm

New Leadership Cultivation Committee Members (3-year term):

Sheri Benham

Danny Callison

Matt Stonecipher

Motion by Von Welch: to approve the LCC slate.

Seconded by Clark Miller. Approved unanimously.

Board Agenda Von Welch

Board Accomplishments 2014-15

- Hired Reverend Wadkins as Interim Minister.
- Researched and implemented process for selecting Ministerial Search Committee.
- Focused on fiscal health of the church:
 - Close attention to the budget.
 - Ended the Green Spaces campaign (w/grant from SPF).
 - Collaborated w/ Stewardship Campaign to continue towards fair and sustainable compensation.

- Searched for next UUCB legal counsel.
- Appointed Stuart Yoak to SPF, replacing Kim Deckard.
- Consulted with ministers and members on variety of church issues.

Ministerial Transition Update

John Summerlot was thanked for updating the transition timeline poster.

Summer '14:

Board members attended two workshops on ministerial transition.

Fall '14:

Board contacted six other congregations in transition to learn from their experiences.

Retreat to plan process, facilitated by Reverend Wadkins.

Met with Rev. Keith Kron, UUA Transitions Director and our Ministerial Search Representative.

January '15:

Launched search.uubloomington.org web site, started regular prologue updates, and held Town Hall meeting on January 25th.

February '15:

Over a hundred members of the congregation nominated trusted members for consideration as MSC members.

March - April'15:

Board analyzed nominations in collaboration with Ministers, confirmed nominee willingness to serve, and assembled representative MSC slate.

May 4th:

Board announced MSC slate in Prologue and online.

Those who agreed to be considered for the MSC were thanked.

Motion: Endorse Ministerial Search Committee Slate

MSC Slate: Barb Backler, Mary Boutain, Craig Coley, Michelle Cook, Abby Gitlitz, Amy Taylor, and Stuart Yoak.

Endorsement of the committee by attendees was requested by the Board.

Questions and comments from the congregation:

Noretta Koertge- Is it possible to know more about newer members of the congregation who were selected to the committee?

Von Welch- The bios of the MSC slate members have been available since May. We did not plan time in today's schedule for each member to give a speech today.

David Keppel- Thank you to the Board for picking a great Ministerial Search Committee. They are a wonderful subset of the community and will serve us well.

The vote to endorse the committee was unanimous, with no abstentions.

Von Welch, representing the Board, officially formed the Ministerial Search Committee and charged them with finding an Associate Minister candidate for the congregation to vote on calling to join our ministry team.

Ministerial Search Committee Next Steps

Summer-Fall'15

- Is an independent group. The Board has no power over the committee.
- Meets with Rev. Keith Kron, our Ministerial Settlement Representative, as a resource.
- Gathers input from our congregation, Ministers, other congregations, other resources, and UUA, e.g.:
<http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions>,
<http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/150364.shtml>
- Determines our ministerial needs.
- Creates a “packet” describing UUCB, with help from the congregation.

Winter-Spring'16:

- Obtains list of applying Ministers.
- Selects 3-5 pre-candidates from applicants.
- Visits neutral pulpits to experience pre-candidates preach.

Summer'16:

- Selects single candidate and have candidate visit UUCB for a week.
- In a special meeting, the congregation votes on calling the candidate to be our Associate Minister. – goal is >90% approval, bylaws require 1/3 quorum

Fall '16:

New Associate Minister joins our ministry team.

Treasurer's Report and Motion to approve 2015-16 budget Arzetta Hults-Losensky

See page 16 of the Annual Report to the Congregation for the proposed fiscal year 2015–16 budget.

Work begins on the budget in February and March. Reverend Macklin, the Finance Committee and the Board all have input in preparing and fine tuning the proposed budget.

The budget lines for our committees, including Outreach and Campus Ministry, have been restored or enhanced. Our minimum wage is now \$10 an hour, including for our child care workers.

The budget lines for music, including the pianist, guest musicians, and sheet music purchases have been increased.

The committed new pledges and grants, and prior year pledges comprise about 89 percent of the projected income. If we do not get the projected pledge amounts, we would need to reduce some of the budget lines,

beginning with the long term maintenance reserve and equipment reserve. If we get additional pledge income, we would like to give the staff a better cost of living raise. The current raise for the staff is just 1.2 percent.

Iris Kiesling- Why was denominational affairs total has decreased?

Because the number of members reduced, the amount we will need to pay the UUA is less.

Last year Outreach and Campus Ministry was temporarily greatly reduced. It was restored this year.

Motion by Harv Hegarty: to approve the proposed budget and to permit Reverend Macklin and the Board to make any necessary adjustments, depending on the amount of pledge income received.

Seconded by Karen Jewell.

Unanimously approved.

Everyone who worked on the budget was thanked.

Special Services Award Recipients Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Andy Beargie was thanked for keeping our technology working.

Special Service awards are given to congregation members that go the extra mile, often doing the grunt work.

This year's recipients:

Ruth Ann Cooper

She is a member of the Caring Committee, provides medical information to ministers, supports LGBTQ rights and activities in our congregation, and helps organize our UU Retreats.

David Keppel

He shares information on domestic and international issues and helps our ministers and congregation understand complicated issues, is a gifted writer which has made him well known to state and federal legislators, attends Monroe County Religious Leaders meetings to represent our liberal religious voice, has many connections throughout the UUA, passionately speaks about social justice issues, has helped children and youth with letter writing, and has been a youth mentor in our congregation.

Phil Cooper

He is an usher for our congregation, builds connections with our children, teaches OWL, makes homemade caramels for events, is organizing the Social Justice Task Forces in the 4th of July parade, has been the chairperson of the Rainbow Rights Task Force, has raised awareness around marriage equality and LGBTQ rights, and is our unofficial LGBTQ ambassador in Bloomington and Indiana.

Guy Loftman is retiring this year from being our pro bono church attorney. The Board presented Guy with a iPad/book holder, made by Steve Lessmann, in appreciation of his years of service.

Carol McCord thanked the Board for all of their work this year.

Announcement of 25% Sunday Plate Recipient

The winner of the 2015-16 25 % Sunday Plate is Monroe County CASA.

Minister's Closing Words Reverend Doug Wadkins

Adjournment 5:22 PM

Motion by Jan Skinner: to adjourn.

Seconded by Karen Jewell.

Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.

**Minutes of December 13, 2015 Congregational Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana**



Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Congregational Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2015

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Submitted by Ann LeDuc, Secretary

Call to Order Kathleen Sideli

Call to order by Kathleen Sideli, President, at 4:01 PM

Introduction of Parliamentarian Guy Loftman

Chalice lighting

Introduction of Board Members and Responsibilities Kathleen Sideli

Kathleen Sideli- President

Von Welch – Vice President

Ann LeDuc – Secretary

Arzetta Hulst-Losensky - Treasurer

Pat Brantlinger – At Large

Doug Cauble – At Large

Deb Hutton – At Large

Doug Cauble and Deb Hutton were unable to attend.

Purpose of Policy Governance

In Policy Governance, the Board empowers the ministers, staff and lay leaders to make decisions and perform the day to day functions of the church. The Senior Minister delegates to the staff and lay leaders. This allows the Board to focus on strategic issues.

Ends Statements are aspirational statements that guide activities. Monitoring by the Board ensures that Ends Statements are effective and followed.

Senior Minister's Report Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be held this summer in Columbus Ohio. Regional Assembly will be in Minnesota. We are looking into taking a bus to General Assembly.

We have an ongoing relationship with Monroe County United Ministries. This is an important connection we have outside of our congregation.

Shari Woodbury has asked us to ordain her into the ministry. Her ordination will be held here on April 3rd, 2016.

Our social justice task forces continue to be very active and have an impact on the world. We have added a Racial Justice Task Force recently. The Just Peace Task Force may have played a role in the nuclear agreement with Iran. Senator Donnelly's Aid for Foreign and Military Policy, Rachel Livesay, met with members of our Just Peace Task Force regarding the agreement.

Reverend Macklin's recent time off included a ministerial assessment. Her ministerial assessment taught her to delegate more and let others step up in their responsibilities.

Reverend Macklin is considering participating in Leadership Bloomington to become more connected to the larger Bloomington community. She is also considering completing a Doctor of Ministry degree at her former seminary. If she pursues this degree, she would focus on end of life issues. She feels that her passion for end-of-life issues is a product of her experiences with our congregation.

In closing her report, Reverend Macklin stated that extremists do not dictate our lives. It will take love and courage to go forward in our world now. Reverend Macklin vowed to dedicate her leadership to love and courage.

Interim Minister's Report Reverend Douglas Wadkins

This is year two of Reverend Wadkins's interim ministry. This year he led the July worship services and assisted or preached most of the worship services in August. He has provided a great amount of pastoral care and has been an active part of the Social Justice Task Force. He assisted in preparations for the consultation on religious education, and has been active in Beloved Conversations. Beloved Conversations provides an opportunity to examine our preconceived notions about race.

Reverend Wadkins is a resource for the Ministerial Search Committee. He continues to work with the staff and the Senior Minister towards a sustainable ministry. This includes identifying the strengths of the staff, and assisting Reverend Macklin in discovering what her future ministry will include. The future ministry of the church will be an interconnected web of shared ministry between the staff and ministers.

Reverend Wadkins continues to assist the congregation in examining the history of the congregation, the current leadership, clarifying the congregation's mission, and how we work together with ministers and staff.

Quorum Report

10% attendance is required to have a quorum.

74 members were in attendance with only 48 required to have a quorum.

Updates

Stewardship Report Drew Schrader

This year's stewardship campaign theme will be memorable. The stewardship planning team is a small group. There will be many smaller opportunities for congregant involvement in the stewardship campaign.

Planned Giving Libby DeVoe

The Planned Giving Committee members are Melinda Swenson, Anne Haynes, Joan Caulton and Libby DeVoe.

There are 36 households in the Legacy Circle. A luncheon is held every Fall to show appreciation for members of the Legacy Circle.

Planned gifts to the congregation make a difference, as seen in the recent renovations to the Religious Education wing.

Leadership Cultivation Matt Stonecipher

The Leadership Cultivation Committee members are Harv Hegarty, Sheri Benham, Matt Stonecipher, Danny Callison, Von Welch (Board representative), Reverend Macklin, Reverend Wadkins, and Shari Woodbury (Connections Coordinator).

The committee had a retreat on November 14th. Their short term goals include addressing leadership roles coming up for re-election on the Board and Special Purposes Funds (SPF) Committee. Board offices up for election are President, Secretary, and one at-large member. There is also one position on the SPF committee up for re-election. Currently, the Leadership Cultivation committee is contacting the incumbents to learn their interest in continuing in their current roles. The Board President is not eligible for re-election.

Long-term goals of the committee include initiatives that could foster leadership in the larger congregation, not only the Board and SPF committee.

Special Purposes Fund Chris Haynes

The Special Purposes Fund (SPF) committee is responsible for managing an endowment and a general fund for activities outside of the normal operating budget of the church. This is stated in the church bylaws, section 7. A webpage will be available soon that includes information about the operation and processes of the SPF committee. Members of the SPF committee include three at large members, the church treasurer and one Board member.

The endowment provides a steady stream of income into the general fund. The endowment continues to grow as a result of new endowments and bequests. Sub-funds are maintained to honor donations with restrictions. SPF provides quarterly reports (available in the church office), an annual summary at each June congregational meeting, and semi-annual reports to the Board.

Fossil Fuel divestment has become important to SPF. SPF held a Town Hall meeting on divestment. There has been an interest in using the Common Endowment Fund, which is managed by the UUA. SPF has found that the Common Endowment Fund does not perform well over time.

If investment opportunities change, the position of SPF on divestment from fossil fuels may change. At this point, the most likely scenario is that SPF will create a sub-endowment and sub-general fund. These sub-funds will be invested in a way that is divested from fossil fuels. Donations and bequests with restrictions that they go into these divested funds will be welcomed. Please contact a committee member or email SPF@uubloomington.org if you would like more information.

Leonard Lundin bequest

Leonard Lundin was a member of our church from 1948 until his death in 1988. He left a generous gift to the church. His bequest was used for capital improvements and the remainder put into the Special Purposes Fund. There is a Leonard Lundin Social Justice Endowment fund. There is a restricted fund for future purchase of the Belcher property, which will remain unchanged. There is also a restricted fund - the Lundin Monroe County Youth Facility.

Since a new youth facility will not be built in Monroe County, this part of his bequest must be repurposed. An ad hoc committee, consisting of those who knew Leonard Lundin, was formed to explore possible options to re-designate this fund for another project and to make a recommendation to the SPF committee and to the congregation. Emphasis was given to a project that honors Leonard Lundin and his commitment to youth in the local community and to social justice. The committee members were: Joan Caulton, Jackie Hall, Iris Kiesling, and Lloyd Orr.

Over several months this summer, the committee researched and discussed several options. The consensus of the committee was to provide funds for renovating three Monroe County United Ministries pre-school

classrooms. The pre-school classrooms serve about 90 children, ages 2 to 5, from low income families to prepare them for kindergarten.

Motion by Clarke Miller to:

- Rename the SPF Leonard Lundin Monroe County Youth Facility Fund as the Leonard Lundin Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) Classroom Fund,
- place \$17,078 into this newly named fund to donate to MCUM to update three preschool classrooms, and
- deposit the remaining funds into the Lundin Social Justice Endowment.

Seconded by Libby DeVoe.

Unanimously approved.

Green Sanctuary Task Force

Molly O'Donnell, Stephanie Kimball, and Marcia Veldman

The Green Sanctuary Task Force (GSTF) responded to a call from Interfaith Power and Light to sign the Paris Pledge which asks us to cut our energy usage 50% by 2030 and to aim for Carbon neutrality by 2050.

The GSTF has created a vision of ways to cut energy usage and reach carbon neutrality. Some of these ideas include:

- add to our solar panel array,
- grow deciduous vines to add shade windows in the summer,
- plant trees on north side of building to create a wind block,
- plant fruit and nut trees to help with food shortages,
- install swales to maintain moisture,
- use fossil free transportation,
- share skills and knowledge of how to deal with our changing world, and
- install geothermal to use the energy of the earth to keep our building comfortable.

The committee is working on a process for soliciting feedback on this vision.

Our Green Spaces initiative has given us a great start towards these goals by funding many initiatives. As a result, our energy use has been decreased by 50% since 2010, and we received a 99% energy star rating.

Specific ways we can reduce energy usage:

- use rooms that are already heated,
- do not override the thermostat,
- close doors to rooms with thermostats, and
- dress for the season.

We need to continue to work to change policy that shapes how energy is used. This requires government action. The Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) builds political will to pass national legislation addressing climate change that is effective, fair, transparent and efficient. Endorsement forms from CCL were handed out before the meeting. The form asks us to adopt a climate action resolution, asking congress to take effective action to reduce climate change.

Motion by David Keppel: to adopt climate action resolution to ask Congress to take effective action to reduce climate change.

Seconded by Steve Arnold.

Unanimously approved.

Motion for the Board to approve the Congregational Meeting minutes at a future Board meeting

Motioned by Harlan Lewis: for the Board to approve the Congregational Meeting minutes at a future Board meeting.

Seconded by Iris Kiesling.

Unanimously approved.

Fall Social Justice Grants Announcement Steve Mascari

Rainbow Rights Task Force PRISM Youth: \$1600

Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Walnut Grove Food Pantry: \$500

Homelessness Task Force Park Feeding Project: \$500

Green Sanctuary Task Force sponsored Bring Your Bag Bloomington: \$200

Reproductive Justice Planned Parenthood Snack Brigade: \$200

Hope for Prisoners Read to Me Project: \$200

Ministerial Search Committee Update MSC

MSC members presenting: Michelle Monroe-Cook, Craig Coley, Barb Backler, Amy Taylor, and Abby Gitlitz.

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) held a retreat with Keith Kron. Their first actions as a committee were to establish protocols for visibility and communication. The MSC has regular communications with the Board and Reverend Wadkins. The committee meets regularly as a whole and in smaller work groups.

The committee has held 16 cottage meetings, conducted a congregational survey, and submitted the congregational record to the UUA transitions office. The congregational survey and cottage meetings provided a rich and diverse understanding of the church and the minister we are seeking. Using this information, the MSC will construct a “packet” that highlights our uniqueness as a congregation.

In February and March, the MSC will create a short list of prospective candidates and start interviews. The MSC will choose one candidate to preach at our church and spend a week with our congregation. After the completion of that week, there will be a congregational vote to call that candidate to be our Associate Minister.

On February 14th there will be a workshop called Beyond Categorical Thinking. This workshop will provide an opportunity to examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become part of the search process.

Board of Directors

Treasurer’s Report Arzetta Hults-Losensky

See the attached slides for an abbreviated summary of the income and expenses for July to November 30, 2015.

The total income received as of November 30th is \$293,566 and does not include the proceeds from the bazaar, grocery card sales, or other miscellaneous income sources. The income received thus far is 45.5% of the projected budget amount with seven months remaining in this fiscal year. The total disbursements for July through November 30th is \$257,425. This creates a net income of \$36,141.

Our bylaws require an audit or review in odd years. In years that we do not have an external audit, the finance committee members perform an internal review. This year, in September, we had an external audit. Blue and Co was the CPA firm that conducted the audit. Overall, it was a very positive audit. The CPA identified one deficiency, that we do not have an independent auditor to oversee the preparation of internal financial statements. The CPA said this is true of 95% of the non-profit organizations they serve. Solutions to this issue are being explored.

We are currently in the process of refinancing the church mortgage. We plan to complete the refinancing process in early 2016. The mortgage loan amount is about \$200K. Based on preliminary information, we hope to have the mortgage paid off in approximately five years.

Update on Consultant Recommendations

Board response to the consultant's recommendations

Von Welch and Kathleen Sideli

Nancy Heege was hired as a consultant to the church earlier this year. Her consultation concentrated on our Religious Education (RE) program and governance processes.

As a result of the consultation, the Ends Statements of the Board Policies are now more visible on the website and a preamble has been created to explain the Ends Statements. The Ends Statements were originally drafted in 2010.

Also as a result of the consultation, we have a better understanding of the terminology "Linkage" in Policy Governance. In Policy Governance, linkage with the congregation refers to two-way communication between the Board and congregation. The Board currently communicates with the congregation in many ways. A new way the Board will communicate with the congregation will be by having Board members available once a month during coffee hour in the new yellow booth.

The Board is in the process of creating policies on dispute resolution and healthy communications. This will include a covenant of right relations. Part of the covenant on right relations will be guidelines for e-mail and social media communications.

Religious Education response to the consultant's recommendations

Reverend Emily Manvel-Leite and Adrienne Summerlot

The Religious Education (RE) program currently utilizes many diverse modes of communication. Additionally, the program is taking steps to increase communication.

As a result of the consultation, the top priority of the RE program is to create a shared vision for RE. The new shared vision will be created in the context of our congregation's vision statement.

A re-visioning workshop for RE, facilitated by Reverend Wadkins, will take place on January 31st. Volunteers will be sought after the workshop to take the ideas from the workshop and create a succinct vision statement for RE. The congregation will be invited to affirm the new RE vision statement.

In the future, mission statements and covenantal relationships may be created to define the work of RE committees and volunteers in-line with the new RE vision statement.

Update on Meeting Room Window Molly O'Donnell

Glare and brightness from the large round window in the meeting room can be distracting and even painful for some members of the congregation. A long-time member, who has been impacted by the glare, has offered to help fund a solution. A team of congregants are working towards a solution, with the help of staff and external professionals.

The goal of the team is to improve the visual experience in the congregation, as well as for online streaming, while preserving the unique beauty of the meeting room. The team has been researching a very large number of possible solutions. Two top options currently are the tinted acrylic sheets and motorized dimming shades.

Adjournment

Motion by Amy Taylor: to adjourn.

Seconded by John Summerlot.

Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Minutes of April 24, 2016 Congregational Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana



Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Congregational Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2016

CALL TO ORDER KATHLEEN SIDELI	18
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ADJOURNMENT 1:42 PM.....	20

Submitted by Ann LeDuc, Secretary

Call to Order Kathleen Sideli

Call to order by Kathleen Sideli, President, at 1:06 PM

Introduction of Parliamentarian, Guy Loftman

Chalice lighting

Changes to the agenda: None

Overview of the Agenda

Kathleen Sideli reviewed the agenda.

Overview of Ministerial Search Abby Gitlitz and Amy Taylor

Members of the Ministerial Search Committee reviewed the search process starting with the retirement of Reverend Bill Breedon. This included:

- Gathering information from the congregation to determine what qualities the congregation would like in the new Associate Minister.
- Creating a congregational record and website, detailing every aspect of the church, for dissemination to ministers that may be interested in the position.
- Reviewing applications of interested ministers.
- Conducting phone interviews.
- Meeting in person with candidates.
- Traveling to hear candidates preach.
- Discussing candidates with Reverend Macklin to determine her support.

Reverend McNeill was the clear top candidate, with enthusiastic support from the committee and Reverend Macklin.

Although, church Bylaw 6.1 requires an 80% favorable vote of the assembled members to call a minister, Reverend McNeill will not accept the position with less than a 90% favorable vote.

If there is not a 90% favorable vote to call Reverend McNeill, the entire search process will start over from the beginning with a new committee.

Motion to call Reverend Scott McNeill as Associate Minister

Motion by the Ministerial Search Committee: Should the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington call the Reverend Scott McNeill as its Associate Minister?

Seconded by Steve Dillon.

Quorum Report

Bylaw 3.6 requires one third of the total membership be present to constitute a quorum at a meeting to appoint a minister.

There are currently 474 members of the church. One third of all members is 158.

254 members were in attendance.

Kathy Sideli, Board President thanked the search committee for their work.

Motion for the board to approve congregational minutes at a future board meeting

Motion by Harlan Lewis: to approve the congregational minutes at a future board meeting.

Seconded by Wayne Holmes.

Vote: approved unanimously.

Vote on calling of Associate Minister

Before the meeting, church members received ballots upon signing in and verification of membership by the board.

Ballots stated:

“Should the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington call the Reverend Scott McNeill as its Associate Minister?”

Circle only ONE response: YES NO”

Attendees circled Yes or No on their ballot. Ballots were collected.

Votes were tabulated by members of the Board of Directors.

Announcement of Vote Results

There were 248 “Yes” votes and 5 “No” votes, resulting in a 98% approval of Reverend McNeill as the new Associate Minister.

Reverend Macklin shared her excitement and feeling of connectedness with Reverend McNeill.

Abby Gitlitz, MSC Chair, called Reverend McNeill and let him know of the 98% approval.

Adjournment 1:42 PM

Motion by Steve Dillon: to adjourn.

Seconded by Harv Hegarty.

Vote: approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Social Justice Funds Committee: 25% Sunday Plate Fund Applicants

The 25% Plate Fund applicants will present at both morning services on Sunday, June 12.

The vote will be taken at the congregational meeting at 4PM on June 12.

Here is background information on the two applicants for our 25% Sunday Plate Fund for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

New Leaf – New Life

New Leaf – New Life (NLNL), a local non-profit organization, offers services to individuals during incarceration in Monroe County, and outside to former jail and prison inmates. The primary goal is to reduce recidivism by helping clients gain access to treatment, education, housing, transportation, and employment.

To those incarcerated, NLNL offers educational and therapeutic programs, the Addicts in Recovery Block (a program for a group working toward sober living), and services (birth certificates, housing and recovery treatment applications). At the Transition Center on S. Walnut, decarcerated individuals receive help in accessing social services, clothing, bus tickets, and job counseling.

Education can be a means of breaking the cycle of poverty, drug use and recidivism.

With the UU funds, NLNL will create an Education Fund to be used for inmates wishing to complete high school or enter college. The Education Fund would

– pay for the High School Equivalency and Work Keys examinations offered in or out of the jail.

-- cover the cost of tuition and books for a single course at IVY Tech as they begin or resume college work.

With numerous requirements from the courts and probation, taking one course while receiving guidance from a NLNL volunteer will help insure success.

Shalom Community Center–Friend’s Place Program

In the spring of 2015, Martha’s House, Inc. went bankrupt. Their financial breakdown put at risk a life-saving service in our region – the only year-round, nonreligious, emergency shelter for adults experiencing homelessness in seven counties. If the shelter were to die, over 400 homeless people each year would have no place to turn to in the midst of crisis.

Shalom Community Center (SCC) stepped up to the plate and offered to take on the operation, management, and provision of social services for the shelter–now called Friend’s Place. UUCB funding of Friend’s Place will help in two fundamental ways.

1) Our support will help Shalom to build long-term financial sustainability for Friend’s Place. Secondly, all of UUCB’s support received before December 31, 2016 would count towards a \$200,000 match from the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA), in effect doubling our gift, and providing additional financial security in the years to come.

2) If SCC fully funds the match at \$200,000, it will have enough funding, along with funds provided by city, township, county, and other sources, to run the shelter for four years before having to take on the full, annual costs in its operational budget.

Leadership Cultivation Committee Report 2016

The ongoing work of this committee is to identify congregants that are a good fit in leadership roles. We work closely with the ministers, Connections Coordinator, and committee chairs to serve as a resource to match need to talent.

We want to develop a pool of congregants that will be genuine assets to the leadership positions of the church. We see value in identifying early, and developing member potential. This will help the church long term by creating invested, dedicated members who serve the whole mission of the church.

The Leadership Cultivation Committee is pleased to present to the congregation this slate of candidates for elected positions. This slate will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on June 12, 2016.

Board of Directors

President:	Von Welch	(July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018)
Vice President:	Connie Nelson Laird	(July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018)
Secretary:	Deb Hutton	(July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018)
At-Large:	Pat Brantlinger	(July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018)
At-Large:	Helmut Hentschel	(July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018)

Special Purposes Fund

Chris Haynes, to serve another 3-year term (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019)

Leadership Cultivation Committee

All current members are continuing:

Sheri Benham (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018)
Danny Callison (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018)
Matt Stonecipher (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018)

If elected, the resulting 2016-17 groups will be as follows:

2016-17 Board of Directors

Von Welch, President
Connie Nelson Laird, Vice President
Deb Hutton, Secretary
Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Treasurer
Pat Brantlinger, At Large
Doug Cauble, At Large
Helmut Hentschel, At Large

2016-17 Special Purposes Fund

Chris Haynes
Joanne Wilhelm
Stuart Yoak

Leadership Cultivation Committee

Sheri Benham
Danny Callison
Matt Stonecipher

Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget

2015-16 Budget	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Budget
	Low	Mid

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Indiana

	2015-16 Budget	2016-17 Budget Low	2016-17 Budget Mid
Income			
Pledges & Grants	540,000	547,000	565,000
Bazaar	10,000	10,000	10,000
Facilities Use Fees	6,100	6,100	6,100
Interest	50	50	50
Investment Income	2,500	2,500	2,000
Kroger Marsh Fundraiser	7,000	7,000	7,000
Miscellaneous	6,000	7,000	7,000
Other Fundraising	2,000	0	0
Prior Year Operating Extra	12,000	12,000	12,000
Prior Year Pledges	20,000	10,000	10,000
Sunday Plate	28,000	24,000	24,000
Talent Auction	11,000	11,000	11,000
Total Income	644,650	636,650	654,150
Expense			
Campus Ministry & Outreach	4,660	2,953	3,153
Ministry	210,947	205,501	206,257
Music	40,528	41,554	42,403
Office	116,658	124,150	128,089
Childcare	12,541	12,541	12,541
Religious Education	82,382	82,097	83,502
Committees & Programs	13,268	10,364	10,939
Denominational	44,742	41,274	42,074
Physical Plant	119,313	117,429	122,257
Total Expense	645,039	637,863	651,215

UUCB Board of Directors Annual Report 2015-16

The 2015-16 year began with the board inviting Nancy Heege, a consultant from the UUA MidAmerica Region, to examine our Religious Education program. This process gathered input from many stakeholders and culminated in a report with recommendations for going forward and a series of meetings on re-visioning Religious Education that continued through the year.

The board's fall retreat focused on how UUCB currently approaches administrative, ministerial and committee tasks and how those might be reorganized and enhanced with the arrival of a called associate minister. This retreat resulted in the hiring of a part-time bookkeeper, freeing our senior minister and church administrator to focus on other responsibilities.

The board enjoyed the privilege of ordaining Reverend Shari Woodbury, longtime member of our church and Connections Coordinator in 2015-16, at the memorable event which included many religious and lay leaders, including Denny Davidoff, former UUA moderator, and the Reverend Dr. Lee Barker of Meadville Lombard, as well as UUCB members and friends.

After the election of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) last June, the board monitored its progress and supported the committee throughout the year. The MSC's success was evident in the recent calling of Reverend Scott McNeill who will join us as our first called Associate Minister in August. The board was grateful to the UUCB members who participated in the search process, including candidating week and the more than 250 members who attended the congregational meeting where they called Reverend McNeill with a 98% positive vote on April 24, 2016.

The board is pleased at the progress we have made as a congregation at nearing fair and sustainable compensation for the ministers and staff, particularly if pledges for 2016-17 reach our goal of \$565,000.

Board of Directors



Senior Minister's Report

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

June 2016

The following report is based on Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Ends Statements.

The Ends Statements were adopted by the board in September of 2010 during the transition to policy governance and are a living document maintained by you, the board, with input from the congregation.

This has been quite a year. The Search Committee went into full action, led by Amy Taylor and later Abby Gitlitz, to bring us a wonderful candidate, Reverend Scott McNeill. I look forward to his arrival in August.

Meanwhile it is hard to imagine not working with Reverend Douglas Wadkins in the years ahead. I know he will flourish in Ann Arbor, MI, and I wish the congregation and Reverend Wadkins the best on their new adventure. But not until AFTER July 31st! We have him until then. Peace, MAM

SEEKING THE SPIRIT

We have a meaningful liberal religious experience which includes:

- **A rich diverse worship life.**

Our year was full of rich worship. Our new pianist, the talented Ray Fellman, our choir under the direction of Susan Swaney, Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, and our Worship Artist in Residence, Kenneth Roberson all brought their considerable gifts to enhance our workshop experiences this year. Thank you to Steve Krahnke for his creation the "Heart World in the Window," which was made for the "All You Need is Love" service in February.

Our youth led a fine worship service. We enjoyed the Wisdom of Ages worship service, celebrating our varied theological backgrounds and outlooks. Our Social Justice service brought light to the Social Justice Legacies within our congregation.

We purchased enough copies of the Teal Hymnal "Singing the Journey" to make it possible for the entire congregation to enjoy new forms of hymn singing, with Rev. Wadkins as our occasional song leader. We had a Taoist service with beautiful poetry during Winter Solstice and also shared humor with Pooh, Piglet, Christopher Robin and the gang. There was an appearance by Darth Vader when we were worshipping in the round. Our worship services were more interactive this year, with lay people of all ages participating.

Theme based ministry both challenged and inspired us. We will continue to explore this avenue of ministry.

- **Compassionate pastoral care.**

The choir sang at several memorial services this year and continues to provide meal trains for choir member families dealing with illness and loss. Director Susan Swaney also led an interfaith choir for The Holocaust Remembrance Service in May.

Connections Coordinator Shari Woodbury met with the Caring Committee regularly and helped us pilot a parish nurse program with the help of Melinda Swenson and Ruth Ann Cooper. Our Chalice Circles continue to be a part of our overall pastoral care as members in each circle care for each other during the joys and sorrows of life. Kudos to the Sharon Yarber (chair) and the Caring Committee and their follow-up to pastoral situations.

- **Life-long opportunities for spiritual growth through religious practice, leadership roles, and community action.**

With the help of Matt Stonecipher, Harv Hegarty, Danny Callison, Sheri Benham, Von Welch, Shari Woodbury and others, Leadership Cultivation is renewing itself and its role in the congregation. Meanwhile, the choir spawned a social committee for extra fellowship between Choir members. With the leadership of Douglas Wadkins, we brought in a trained facilitator twice to help us explore Beloved Conversations and racial justice. Reverend Macklin led an Owning Your Religious Past class. Our Connections Coordinator formed an exploratory group on Wellsprings, a UU program for spiritual deepening. Our Humanists and Freethinkers continue to explore current issues and issues that spark the mind! And Religious Education as well as Social Justice continue their active programs with volunteers who are Seeking the Spirit. Building Community. Changing the World.

- **Knowledge of denominational and congregational history and traditions**

While it is an ongoing challenge, this is increasing within our congregation. Our Exploring UU classes extended themselves deeper into history by offering an additional class. Within Beloved Conversations' focus on historical and present racial violence and oppression, timelines were created to deeply understand our congregational, city, state and country in terms of institutionalized racism.

Last summer, our religious education summer program focused on UU History; several worship services were dedicated to this topic. Did you know that Ralph Waldo Emerson ate pie for breakfast? We've honored the spiritual ancestors of our congregation and our historian, Elof Carlson, continues to explore UU historical figures in our newsletter.

Members, friends, ministers and staff of the congregation will attend General Assembly this year; we sent delegates to the MidAmerica Regional Assembly in April, and we hope to send a small team to Mosaic Makers, a multi-cultural programmatic gathering, in August 2016. Also our Director of Religious Education, Adrienne Summerlot will be attending the national Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) conference this year.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

We have a policy of nondiscrimination — we welcome all and are supportive of people of all ages, races, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, education, and politics.

- **We are generous with our time, talent, and resources.**

Our choir not only rehearses and is present on Sundays, they also donate their time and talent in other venues to further our liberal religious vision. They sang at the ordination of Reverend Shari Woodbury (ordinand) this spring as well as at a concert at IU's Auer Hall. Our Rainbow Rights Task Force sponsors Prism youth community meetings here in our building. Our building, itself, is made available for a variety of community events and groups. We also now have regular blood drives here; thanks to the work and vision of Steven Mascari and The Count!

It takes over 100 volunteers to make a Sunday morning happen, including office volunteers, greeters, kitchen crew, teachers, ushers, worship associates, booktable, social justice task forces, choir members and many more.

- **We actively encourage shared ministry and lay leadership.**

Our Getting Involved Fair twice a year is an invitation into shared ministry within the current activities of the congregation. We are sending 3 youth and 1 adult to Midwest Leadership School this summer (2016)

Chalice Circles is an ongoing program which trains and encourages lay leadership within the ministry of the congregation, as is our Exploring UU facilitator pool.

We are continually grateful for our adult and children religious education teachers who offer their presence and talents to encourage intellectual, spiritual and emotional growth within our congregation. Our Auction and Bazaar exemplify our wealth of lay leaders and shared ministry in the congregation. Kudos to chairs Julie Lawson (Bazaar) and Debbie Fish (Auction).

- **We responsibly manage our staff, resources, and facilities.**

We continue to adapt our building and space to the needs of the congregation. Last summer we managed the creation of a youth room and larger meeting area for such groups as The Humanist Forum and Freethinkers. A ping pong table was added as well, much to the delight of the youth and staff!! Rooms downstairs were recreated to express a meeting friendly atmosphere. Our new Lucy Booth is a welcomed hub for conversation on Sunday mornings.

Our staff enriches its work through continuing education; this year included a daylong retreat with Reverend Barbara Child on Conflict Management. Staff also attended the Creating Cultural Competency retreats both in Kentucky and locally. Reverend Wadkins worked with the staff to update our strength-based inventory. Our staff also met monthly to explore Kegan and Lahey's book on the Seven Languages of Transformation within the workplace. Our web-site continues to evolve and work to further our vision of Seeking the Spirit. Building Community and....

CHANGING THE WORLD

We are leaders in our community and world.

- **We are committed to social justice and equality for all people.**

We have ten formal social justice task forces (Just Peace, Feed Our Hungry Neighbors, Green Sanctuary, International Outreach, Hope for Prisoners, Habitat for Humanity, Racial Justice, Rainbow Rights, Reproductive Justice and Homelessness) and other areas which do social justice work such as religious education, choir, chalice circles and adult education.

This year our 2nd to 5th graders helped the Humane Society. The YUUMS raised \$400 for Rainbow Rights with a bake sale. The Habitat Women's build involved 35 women this year for UU day and overall our task force helped build three houses. We look forward to our first Loving Day Celebration in June. Football parking continues to fund our social justice task forces. The Green Sanctuary Task Force engaged our congregation to commit to our environment by signing on to the Paris Pledge. Many members of our congregation have pledged to be openhearted by signing onto the Open Hearted Campaign, to stand in solidarity with everyone, regardless of religion, country of origin, or race. It also encourages stronger friendships and partnerships between Muslim Americans and all Americans. Our UU youth remain active in ICEY—the Interfaith Community of Environmental Youth.

Our participation in the July 4th parade last year was stellar. Thank you to Director of Religious Education Adrienne Summerlot and many volunteers to make this happen!

- **We advocate against prejudice, injustice, and oppression of any person or group.**

Intercultural competency trainings have enhanced our advocacy and awareness in this area. While we already had a gender neutral bathroom downstairs, we also changed our downstairs children's bathroom signs to be "All-gender" (lower RE and courtyard entrance). We finally removed the obstructive water fountains upstairs and downstairs to improve accessibility. Racial Justice Task Force and Rainbow Rights continue to reach out within our community (RJTF Interfaith Gatherings) and RRTF presence at Monroe County Fair and Spencer Pride Festival. Our curriculum Our Whole Lives continues to educate our children and adults in the area of healthy sexuality in the 21st century. Prism youth created educational GLBTQ events for teachers in MCSSC.

- **We work with other congregations and institutions with shared values and goals.**

Interfaith Community of Environmental Youth. Monroe County Religious Leaders. Reverend Macklin's work with Interfaith Groups to sponsor MLK Day and Holocaust Remembrance. Reverend Doug's participation with Shalom Center's Memorial for those who have died while experiencing homelessness. All the work of our task forces.

Our Ministers, DRE and MRE and Church Administrator attend cluster meetings with colleagues. This congregation hosted the MidAmerica conference for bridging youth. Our annual

Ramadan Service (chair Abby Downey) brings together the Islamic Center and UUCB for an evening of prayer and the breaking of fast. This year we will be invited to fast along with our Islamic brothers and sisters on June 17th. During our Chalice Circle Training this year we had additional trainees from the UU group in Paoli and the Lafayette congregation.

- **We work with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the MidAmerica Region.**

Consultant Nancy Heege from the MidAmerica UU Region assisted our congregation as we addressed adaptive changes and challenges within our Religious Education program. Usher chair, John Summerlot, created a stellar Emergency Action Plan, which has become a model for other congregations. The Lilly Foundation's Center for Congregations is interested in his work for congregational education. We proudly ordained the Reverend Shari Woodbury with assistance from Columbus UU and Voces Novae.

- **We help heal the earth.**

Our monarch habitat works in the southeast corner of the courtyard and it is expanding. An amazing venture on our congregational grounds, literally, to aid a struggling species. Got Milkweed???

Our Green Sanctuary Task Force is boldly exploring permaculture and its resonance with our UU principles as we continue to pledge ourselves anew to our earth and all her people one. We work with Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light and we are creating energy sheriffs to monitor our congregation's energy use in positive and educational ways as well as continue our green practice of clothing swaps and the white elephant sale at the Bazaar. Our solstice and equinox services also help keep us connected to the rhythms of our earth.

Interim Minister's Report

The Reverend Dr. Douglas Wadkins, Interim Minister

My how the time has flown! I submit for your exploration an overview of my work with you in year two of our shared adventure. I return to the focus points of interim ministry for assistance in organizing my thoughts!

Heritage

While exploring the lived heritage remained an important part of our shared ministry, most of our progress in this area focused in the realm of worship this year. Among the highlights, I facilitated a sermon on your heritage around Social Justice with members of the congregation in July. There were further sermons that included a significant focus on your heritage and history in September, October and November.

Leadership

Leadership is a broad area that includes working on the general health of the structure and stewardship of a congregation, as well as helping the congregation work on a sustainable and helpful approach to finding and empowering leaders within the congregation. I have been involved for a second year in the planning and overview of the Stewardship Campaign. I also continued to work with the ongoing Stewardship steering team in looking at the big picture. I preached on Stewardship in March, and I also worked with the Leadership Cultivation Committee these last two years as we explored various ways that the committee could do their important work. A large component of leader development also occurred in my regular ministry with the staff on team building and exploring models around change.

Connections

Connections includes ways the congregation relates to the community and the larger Unitarian Universalist world. I continued to work with our marvelous Social Justice Task Forces, all of whom do essential connective work with the community, other congregations and the larger UU world. One example of this included assisting the Racial Justice Task Force formation process. Another important point of connection with our region was our work last summer with UUA Regional Consultant Nancy Heege, as she helped us address essential issues in Religious Education. I was the point person in helping coordinate that work between Nancy and the congregation. On a national level, I worked with the Fahs Collaborative (part of Meadville Lombard Theological School) to plan and facilitate the racial justice program Beloved Conversations. To continue this larger UU connection, I plan to attend General Assembly in Columbus, OH.

Mission

My work with you in bringing clarity and connection to your mission happened in a variety of ways this year. I preached on our shared understanding of mission in services during September and January. Much of my work with the search committee and with the staff & board has been essentially driven by mission. In my work with Nancy Heege, regional consultant, to explore ramifications of the findings of her visit, there was mission-related work in a resulting focus on board-congregation linkage, and our efforts to envision and clarify a philosophy of religious education.

Future

Much of this year has included exciting shared ministry to look towards the future with enthusiasm and vision. I preached on imagining your future in January with a Religious Education themed service. I then worked with you in various components of RE-Visioning, including facilitating a congregation-wide workshop and subsequent focus groups. Certainly in my work assisting the Search Committee in their process and planning for the packet and interviews, we used various approaches to be clear about the future you were seeking with your new associate. The search team and I worked together to shape the process to find the best fit. They really did an amazing job. Another area that had a definite future orientation has been my work exploring what sort of Pastoral Care system will serve the congregation in the future. I also will work with you all to think about beginning well with your amazing new Associate Minister, Scott McNeill.

There is so much that I could reflect but these are some highlights of my ministry that addressed the interim time with greater intention. Most of all, the true highlight was getting to minister with all of you! What an extraordinary community and set of individuals you are. You will continue to be a shining beacon of liberal religious values for this region. I am so honored to have shared this time with you!

Blessings,

Doug

Church Administrator's Annual Report

INTERIM MINISTRY – Enjoyed a second great year supporting our ministers, including the Reverend Dr. Douglas Wadkins, our interim associate minister.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS – Gave thanks daily for the work of our Office Assistants, Monica Overman and Deeva Khatiwada. Monica was hired in summer 2012, and Deeva was hired in summer 2015. Also thankful for the willing assistance of volunteers: Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, our Treasurer, Taylor Albright, Will Bongard, Rick

and Lois Holl, Peggy Yood, Pat Aungst, Anne Haynes, and others. Arzetta's help was especially significant during Deeva's time away in Germany in May and June.

HIRED A BOOKKEEPER! This changed my life. In April 2016 we were able to hire Jessica Bailey as this congregation's first bookkeeper. This relieves the Church Administrator of the day-to-day bookkeeping and bill-paying, freeing up time to be more supportive to the Senior Minister. Oversight for Jessica's work comes from the Church Administrator as well as the Treasurer.

STAFF SUPERVISION CHANGES -- In Spring 2016 Reverend Macklin asked me to assume responsibility for supervising our Multi-media Managers Andy Beargie and Andrew Walden, as well as our Custodian, Jeff Stone. What a great crew!

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Appreciated the leadership and assistance of Molly O'Donnell, Rhonda Baird, and Dick Stumpner in caring for our building and grounds. Facilitated soundproofing and repainting of Room 207B (Thanks, Steve Pollitt!) and purchase of furnishings, to make it Rev. Scott McNeill's new office. Oversaw installation of new high efficiency HVAC for lower Religious Education wing.

CONTINUING EDUCATION – In the fall of 2015, attended two workshops sponsored by the Center for Congregations: Communications and Welcome and Legal Basics for Churches. Attended two church administrators' cluster gatherings in Indianapolis, one in October and one in April. Participated with other core staff in studying Robert Kegan and Lisa Lahey's "How the Way We Talk Can Change the Way We Work: Seven Languages for Transformation." Will attend professional days of the Association of UU Administrators in Columbus, Ohio, preceding UUA General Assembly in June 2016, where I plan to ask this question "How do you provide rides to church for those in need?"

Looking forward to the coming year.
In faith,
Carol Marks, Church Administrator
June 6, 2016

Music Director's Annual Report

This year we welcomed **Ray Fellman** back as our congregational pianist!

Our Worship Artist in Residence was **Kenneth Roberson**, who conceived a wonderful all-ages extravaganza, *All You Need Is Love*, featuring our children, youth, adult choir, an intergenerational band organized by **Amy and Andy Smith**, a close-harmony sextet singing and dancing a specially-commissioned arrangement of *L.O.V.E.*, a beautiful window decoration designed by **Steve Krahnke**, and **Amanda Biggs** singing *Love in Any Language* with the youngest children. Many, many volunteers and staff hours contributed to this fun event!

Special choir events this year included:

- Singing **Malcolm Dalglish** pieces for **Shari Woodbury's** ordination.
- Singing **Don Freund's** *Welcome Prayer* on his faculty composition recital at IU's Auer Hall.
- Hosting an Interfaith Choir for the Holocaust Remembrance Service.
- Several choir anthems with in-house string players **Kit Boulding, Lauren Bernofsky, Silja Weber, and Shelley Taylor.**

This year **Maureen Biggers, Sandra Freund, and Eve Loftman** created a choir social committee, which organized several gatherings, including a potluck to meet ministerial candidate Scott McNeil.

The choir mourned the loss of the radiant soprano and flutist **Sandy Taylor** and were honored to sing at the memorial services for Sandy, James Biggers, Paul Lane, and Chris Lohmann.

As always, it is a pleasure to work with my stellar staff colleagues to serve this music-loving congregation and the choir I love so much!

Susan Swaney, Music Director

Connections Coordinator Annual Report

It has been my pleasure this church year to serve as interim Connections Coordinator, working with our wonderful volunteers and staff, and serving the members of this congregation as we carry out our mission. I have built on the strong foundation of membership work laid by Judy Bennett, who served in the position from its inception in 2009 through 2015. Continuing baseline activities have included supporting Sunday morning hospitality for visitors, conducting monthly First Steps drop-in classes, coordinating the quarterly Exploring UU series with a cadre of friendly facilitators, conducting new member ceremonies every other month, meeting with new members individually to help them make connections in our community, staging two “Getting Involved” events during worship and coffee hour over the year, and connecting members with pastoral needs to the Caring Committee and ministers.

As a one-year interim staffer I brought fresh eyes to the work of connections and tried some new things also. It was my pleasure to contribute in the following new ways:

- Commissioning the yellow Connections booth (aka Peanuts-inspired “Lucy booth”), made by our creative custodian Jeff Stone, and coordinating its use by various church groups.
- Co-facilitating the first round of Beloved Conversations and nurturing future leadership for this program, which creates a covenantal learning community to engage in racial justice learning and support members’ growth in that area.
- Helping get a pilot Parish Nurse program going, and continuing to serve as staff liaison to the Caring Committee.
- Rebuilding our young adult group through the email list, Facebook group, and organizing monthly lunches, as well as my personal caring contacts with young adults.
- Bringing the lens of membership development to our adult RE offerings and initiating strategic conversations on what will support our members as they continue their journey with us. One resulting project was the retreat on Owning Your Religious Past that Rev. Macklin, Jan Armstrong (a member of the Membership Com.) and Clarke Miller recently held. Another was...
- Recruiting a planning team to select or develop programming that will help our members Seek the Spirit, with the UU Wellspring program a key resource of interest. I facilitated the kick-off mini-retreat in April. New programming may be developed by 2017 to feed the spiritual hunger that many of our members are expressing.
- Supporting the Leadership Cultivation Com. with the goal of developing processes to identify potential leaders much farther out, and create a leadership pipeline for UUCB. I also recruited a new Auction chair and was staff liaison for the organizing group.
- Helping leadership sort through what ought to go in the Connections portfolio in future, and revising the job description. I’m also working to write up procedures for posterity.
- Forming a planning team to organize a Loving Day party at our church (June 12), celebrating multiracial families and people and building multiracial community.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to this, my home congregation, for bestowing the honor and sharing the joy of my ordination ceremony, held here April 3. And I add my congratulations to the congregation and the

Ministerial Search Committee on a job well done in calling my colleague, Rev. Scott McNeill, to serve as your new associate minister. The future is bright for the UU Church of Bloomington. Onward!

In love and gratitude,
Rev. Shari Woodbury, outgoing Connections Coordinator

Religious Education Report

Minister of Religious Education: Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

Director of Religious Education: Adrienne Summerlot

Religious Education Assistants: Kitty McIntosh & Miranda Sanders, Beth Doolen

For the 2015-2016 year we had 166 children and youth registered in the religious education program and 64 volunteer teachers. Social justice continues to be a focus in religious education. Middle school youth partnered with Homelessness Task Force once in June and again in July 2015 to make 100 lunches for the homeless in People's Park. Guests at Our Table Envelopes and Procession of Giving collected \$1,758.91, which was donated to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and we hosted a mitten tree at the Family Christmas Eve Service. We also focused on the idea of acts of kindness through a project called "Ben's Bells." Clay artist, Connie Nelson Laird helped the kids make clay shapes and beads, later in the year, other kids helps glaze the pieces, and more kids helping to string them together transforming all the pieces into a beautiful wind chime. Later this summer, middle school and high school youth will bring this project to a close as they distribute these wind chimes throughout town for others to find and hopefully spread kindness wider in our community. All in all, at the end of this project, each "bell" will have has at least 10 people involved in its creation. Middle School and High School Youth each partnered with social justice task forces working football game parking to raise money to help pay for travel to conferences and leadership school. Childcare continues to be a welcoming pathway for families. Choir, Exploring UU, Chalice Circles and Adult Religious Education all utilize childcare to make their programming accessible to everyone in our community. Miranda Sanders resigned as Religious Education Assistant 2 in May 2016 and Beth Doolen was hired as her replacement in June 2016. There have also been several staffing changed in the childcare team.

Religious Education Programming:

Summer 2015-Travel in Time (June & July 2015)

Preschool continued their exploration of UU identity in their Spirit Play classroom. Adrienne Summerlot combined elements from the curricula Travel in Time and Building Bridges and created a unique program for our children in kindergarten-8th grade. We began with their own personal timeline and worked together to create a timeline of important events in the world and Unitarian Universalism around the room. Some highlights included: Steve Mascari and Russell Boulding presenting social activism through music in an engaging lesson on Pete Seeger. Choir members joining kids at the end each week to learn a new hymn. A panel of long time church members shared pictures and stories of how the building and congregation had changed over time. Through music, games, movement, art and special guests, kids learned some of the history of Unitarian Universalism and our own congregation and made connections to important events in our past.

August 2015- "Wonder"

A summer intersession was offered again after successfully expanding our intersession offerings to two per year in 2014. Many children in our program travel over the summer and attend different schools, so they have different school year start times. August intersession created an opportunity for friends to reconnect whenever they arrived back at church and to attend a class based on their interest. During this five week intersession, children in K-8th grade chose to explore the congregational theme of wonder via art, outdoors or photography. Gumboot dancing, window art and water colors were highlights of art. While outdoors were thrilled to learn about geodes and fossils and create fairy houses. Bubble day was gobs of fun for everyone of all ages to conclude our summer.

2015-2016 School Year (September 2015-May 2016)

This was a year of continuity and change for our **preschool**, as most of our preschoolers moved into the kindergarten classroom in the fall, but veteran teachers remained in the class. The tiny groups were a

challenge for these volunteer teachers early in the year, as classes often had only 1-3 children on a Sunday. Mid-year, eight new teachers were trained in the Spirit Play method, and four of them joined preschool teaching teams. In March-May, a new infusion of three and four year olds created good class sizes. Most of these children will be continuing in preschool this fall. The preschool will be experimenting with joining the older children for the summer of 2016, bringing some elements from their classroom into the summer program to create some comfort and connection.

Our K-2nd class was so overwhelmed by the new infusion of kindergarteners that it became the **K-1st class** this year. They continued their exploration of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist through learning about our UU principles, history, and sources. This group especially enjoyed having youth teachers both semesters, and having a new group of Spirit Play teachers joining teaching teams in the spring. Both the preschool and K-1 classes have enjoyed a new feature of their program as parents and family members are encouraged to visit the class on the last Sunday of each month for Visiting Day. Teachers have really enjoyed the opportunity to meet parents, and children and parents appreciate the opportunity to share a little bit of the classroom experience.

Due to a large number of 2nd graders, the 3rd-5th grade class expanded to **2nd-5th grade**. We utilized a hands on curriculum, Spirit of Adventure which proved to be very successful with a larger class with a bigger age range and lots of movement for children to explore Unitarian Universalist identity. We focused on sports, medicine, building and science. The DRE and religious education assistant often lead class or provided other in room support, as we had several new teachers. including high school youth and more kids. In the spring, the kids were learning the science of baking and chose to sell their goods during coffee hour and raised almost \$30 for the Monroe County Humane Association.

This year our middle school age grouping, **Young Unitarian Universalist Middle Schoolers (YUUMS)** was 6th through 8th grade with a primary focus on creating a strong sense of community within the group as the majority of this group will be taking Our Whole Live together as 7th and 8th graders in the 2017 school year. Advisors Amy Makice and Drew Schrader used the UUA Families curriculum as a touchstone to come back to throughout the year while choosing activities like canoeing, gaming, and videography to help the group connect with each other and the church. The group also attended 3 youth conferences which helped expand their connections with other youth in our area. They went to Camp Piomingo near Louisville in September, Comic Con in Lexington in November, and LepreCon in West Lafayette in March. They ended the year with an overnight and hosted a bake sale in May 2016 which raised over \$400 for Rainbow Rights Task Force.

9th -12th Grade (YRUU): Our High School Youth group has been consistently larger this year, perhaps partly due to the welcoming new Youth Room at the end of the upstairs hall. They love their ping pong table, donated by Darrell and Vivian Breeden, and enjoy relaxed space for conversation, movies, and games. The group was experimenting with having six people serve as youth advisors this year, and they enjoyed meeting the various personalities but felt that their connection to the advisors was not as strong with fewer opportunities to spend time with each advisor. Highlights of the year included the annual cabin weekend, participation in the Procession of Giving service for the second year, playing music with youth advisor Charlie Jesseph at the Dome, and being able to attend the MidAmerica Bridging Con right here in Bloomington due to the hard work and coordination efforts of Adrienne Summerlot. This coming summer, youth members Gigi Kirkley, Hans Kelson, and Jonathan Leite will be attending Midwest leadership school.

Our Whole Lives Programming:

Matt Stonecipher and Abby Gitlitz were trained as OWL facilitators for 7th-9th grade OWL in August 2015 and will teach OWL for 7-8th grade in the 2016-2017 school year.

1st-2nd grade class of 18 students was taught over the course of 6 weeks in Spring 2016 by John Summerlot and Adrienne Summerlot.

4th-5th grade class of 23 students was taught over the course of 8 weeks in Spring 2016 by Carol McCord and Matt Stonecipher using the new updated curriculum.

Winter Intersession 2016- "All You Need is Love"

Religious education staff collaborated with music director Susan Swaney, pianist Rey Fellman and worship artist in residence Kenneth Roberson to design a special intergenerational musical service. This intersession spanned 6 weeks and provided opportunities for kids in kindergarten through high school to create art, music, and dance. Over 40 children and youth participated in the service, with many more helping to create art projects.

Rites of Passage

In November, our first graders enjoyed receiving books from their parents and talking about the new learning adventures that are coming in their lives. The Coming of Age group of ninth and tenth graders was especially large this year, with 14 participants joining the program. It took longer for the group to meld, but after nine months together, this intergenerational community of 28 mostly felt good connections with one another. Through the work of our Continuing Connections team last year, it became apparent that there were major milestones in our children's lives that our congregation wasn't yet attending to.

First, the transition from elementary to middle school. This transition is being helped by a strong middle school retreat in the fall that is held by the Southern Cluster of the MidAmerica region, but it remains an area for more attention in the future.

The second transition that merited further attention was the transition from high school to post high school adventures. This year, with the guidance of the Youth RE Committee (see their report), Reverend Leite coordinated a number of gatherings to try to address this transition more effectively both for seniors and for their parents. These included: a future visioning session for seniors in August, a parent meeting in September, a meeting of parents of seniors and parents of recent graduates to share experiences and tips, a writing workshop for parents of seniors, and a series of brunch meetings between seniors and Reverend Mary Ann Macklin.

Finally, the ministers worked together to create a ritual marking this moment of letting go for seniors and their parents, and added it to the Flower Communion service. All of these offerings will be assessed and revised after this first year of experimentation, but it is clear that they were meeting a need that has been present in the congregation for a long time.

Other Religious Education Events:

Monroe County Humane Association visit, Children and Youth Religious Education Open House in September, Spirit Play for Adults and Spirit Play for All Ages, Charlotte's Web Party, Holiday Sing a Long, Family friendly New Year's Eve Party, Wildcare Visit, May Pole Dance--with a new May Pole thanks to Jeff Stone, Ben's Bells Project.

Religious Education Consultancy and Re-Visioning Religious Education:

August-December 2015 MidAmerica consultant Nancy Heege visited our congregation in August at the request of the Board, in the hope that she could help us look ahead to what we dream of in our religious education programming. Her visit included three open conversations: Interim and Transition, Spirit Play, and Continuing Connections, to address varied areas of interest and concern. After her visit, Nancy sent a report that discussed where RE is now and her recommendations for the future. It became clear that it is time for some visioning work around religious education in our congregation. Adrienne Summerlot and Reverend Emily Marvel Leite presented her findings and plans for this process at the December congregational meeting. Even before then, the RE program began making changes in response to the report--increasing information for parents through weekly emails, creating a calendar of the Religious Education year, and promoting visiting days for Spirit Play families.

January-April 2016 Throughout the spring, RE staff continued to think about how to best engage with the congregation as a whole, and added an RE box to the order of service and Friday update to keep everyone informed about what is happening in religious education. At the end of January, Reverend Douglas Wadkins led a first workshop and conversation to try to capture some of the congregation's hopes and dreams for the future of RE at UUCB. Nearly 60 people attended this workshop and contributed their thoughts. Those present had a diversity of experiences with the religious education program at UUCB-- including current

parents, past parents and RE Committee members, board members, and several interested adults and elders who have never had children in the program.

A few people who had attended this gathering then met to process what had happened and how to move ahead. The group came up with three questions to take to small cottage meetings:

1. When children and youth leave our religious education programming, what do you hope they are taking away as young adults?
2. What do you hope parents' conversations with their children could be like on the way home from church?
3. What do you hope would be the experience of teachers participating in our program?

Over the next months, conversational opportunities around these questions were offered several times to the congregation. Despite the high number of people attending in January, interest in these smaller conversations was limited. In all, three meetings took place, two facilitated by Reverend Wadkins and one by Amy Makice.

These meetings are informing the work of a writing group that will draft a working document to capture something of our collective hope for our children, youth, and adults in religious education. Over the coming year, we anticipate experiencing the draft vision statement as a living document, trying it on for size and continuing to learn and grow in relationship to it.

Youth Religious Education Committee - Year-end Report 2016

Youth religious education of 2015-2016 included successful YUUMS (Young Unitarian Universalist Middle Schoolers), YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) and Coming of Age programming throughout the year. These included weekly (YUUMS, YRUU) and monthly (Coming of Age) Sunday gatherings, as well as holding lock-ins, a cabin weekend (YRUU) and travel to youth cons. The YRUUs created a successful youth service in February, and the 14 youth completing their Coming of Age program shared a little bit about who they are and what they believe in, in the culminating Coming of Age service.

In the fall, we met with Nancy Heege from the UUA, which was the start of the RE-Visioning that is still in process. The new youth space on the second floor, complete with ping pong table and TV, was a welcoming change for returning youth. On the programming side of things, we implemented several of the plans that emerged from last year's study of Continuing Connections. The themes we had decided we wanted to devote time and attention to were "Internalized Faith," "Partnering with Parents" and "3 Invitations." As a result of these, we encouraged Con culture by holding a MUUSA (Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly) meeting, hosting the important Bridging Con, and scheduling several LIFT (Life Issues for Teens) meetings. We also organized H.S. senior brunches with Reverend Macklin, held support meetings and a writing workshop for parents of H.S. seniors, and we announced opportunities and events that parents and their youth might like to do together.



Committees and Task Forces

Auction Annual Report

The Auction took place on Sunday, May 15th. We had approximately 70 people who ate lunch and we brought in \$675 before expenses for salads and drinks. The auction involved 30 plus people working before and during the event. We had 52 live auction items and 75 silent items. Sixty-eight bidding paddles were given out and \$12,000+ was raised. Debbie Fish

Booktable Annual Report

The Booktable Committee runs the Booktable during the Fellowship Hour every Sunday to (1) greet newcomers and provide information about introductory Unitarian Universalist books and brochures; (2) offer books/audiovisual materials that promote UU Principles and Purposes which are recommended by the ministers, reflect current congregational interests, and/or support congregational or local authors and musicians; (3) offer books for UU Adult Religious Education courses; (4) provide an opportunity for congregants to recycle and/or purchase used books/audiovisual materials; and (5) host a free magazine exchange. The Booktable also supports the book sale at the annual UU Holiday Bazaar by providing used book donations and assistance with set-up, sales, and tear-down. Proceeds from sales and donations are used for purchasing new materials for the Booktable and UU Library. The Booktable is a self-sustaining committee.

This year our volunteer pool for the Booktable has shrunk in recent times, but our seven loyal regular Booktable crew members are currently Anne Clark, Doug and Julie Cauble, Glee Noble, Harold Ogren, Susan Gulick, Veda Stanfield, and Yasuko Watt.

If you are interested in helping with the Booktable, please contact Glee Noble, gleenoble@yahoo.com

Caring Committee Annual Report

We have continued to provide services for our church community. Transportation, meal coordination, visits, cards, and memorial services are all part of what the UU Caring Committee can provide to our members and friends. We welcomed a new member this year, Martha Dogan. Martha is co-chair with Anna Wiley for medical appointments. We have had more “team support” this year. We have families who needed regular visits, food, cookies, errands, etc. Our church volunteers were eager to provide these services on a rotating schedule. Much appreciation has been expressed by these families for all the care and support of our gracious volunteers. We continued to provide long-time support for some of our elders in health facilities. If anyone knows of a need or they themselves need support, a referral can be made through Carol Marks or one of the ministers.

Our Caregiver Network Support Group continues to meet the first Sunday of each month. This Caregiver Group shares joys and challenges of caring for someone such as; a family member or friend, near or far. We started this group in September 2014 and we continue to have new people join.

Submitted by Sharon Yarber, Chair

Chalice Circles

The focus of each Chalice Circle meeting is on a topic that serves as a springboard into reflection on deeper issues of who we are and what gives our lives meaning. At the core of each session is deep listening. Questions are posed and each person responds in turn. The other participants provide the speaker with rapt attention. They don't ask questions, they don't give advice—they listen deeply.

This year we formed 12 Chalice Circles with approximately 100 participants, plus 19 facilitators. Each facilitator went through training in August, 2015. Facilitators attend a monthly Facilitator Circle, under the direction of either Reverend Watkins or Reverend Macklin. These meetings allow facilitators to share experiences and learn from each other.

The Chalice Circles program participated in the monthly theme program adopted by UUCB. We provide facilitators with session plans related to the monthly themes. This will continue next year.

Efforts are made to make the Chalice Circles as accessible to congregants as possible. Some of the Circles met once a month, others meet every third week, while others met twice a month. Some meet during the day, while others meet at night. Some provide childcare. Some meet at the church, others at facilitators' homes. We have one Circle meeting in Martinsville and two Circles that meet at retirement communities. All facilitators were trained to deal with hearing issues among Circle participants.

Each Circle is responsible for doing social service activities. Many committees within the church have learned to come to Chalice Circles when they need help. In addition, Circles provide services for community agencies.

Chalice Circles begin in late September or early October of each year, after an awareness and registration period. They end in May of the following year. They begin again in the fall, with new participants in each Circle. The Chalice Circle season ends with a recognition event for facilitators, held in early June.

Jeanette Miller, Alan Backler, Reverend Doug Wadkins, and Reverend Mary Ann Macklin serve on the Chalice Circles Executive committee. With Jeannette's departure from Bloomington in the spring of 2016, Anna Beauchamp has taken her position on the committee. (Submitted by Alan Backler)

Denominational Affairs Committee 2016

Members of the Denominational Affairs Committee are those individuals who have attended the previous year's UUA MidAmerica Assembly and/or the UUA General Assembly.

The purpose of this committee is to help encourage members of our Congregation to attend the next year's Assemblies. (Our Congregation does provide some financial support for our delegates, i.e. registration at least.) In addition, if new issues or GA study items arise that delegates feel the Congregation should be involved in or at least have input in, then the former delegates can alert our membership to help us take a stand or make sure our voices are heard at the UUA and at both the MidAmerica Regional Assembly and the UUA General Assembly.

At this time we are eligible to send ten (10) member delegates, as well as our ministers and our minister emeritus/a to both these annual Assemblies.

In 2016 the MidAmerica Regional meetings took place April 29th to May 1st in St. Paul MN. Our delegates were Dan and Sharon Wiseman and Ed and Claire Robertson. With much gratitude to the Robertsons for providing home hospitality. Doug Cauble continues to serve on the MidAmerica Regional board, as well as the Bloomington UU board of directors.

In 2016 the UUA General Assembly will take place June 22-26, 2016 in Columbus, OH. Those who have agreed to be our delegates are Martha Foster, Earon Davis, Patrick Brantlinger, Anne Haynes, Ann LeDuc, Roxanne Smith, Bryan Smith, Stephanie Kimball, Marlin Howard, and Iris Kiesling. Our alternates are Chris Haynes, Jackie Hall, Lloyd Orr, and Kelly Rauch.

There will be a van going to GA in Columbus OH on Saturday, June 25. Deb Hutton is coordinating persons who wish to attend this one-day General Assembly. There is a one-day registration fee required which most individuals going will pay but the van will be paid by the church. We are grateful to Phil Cooper for driving and for arranging to help make this happen. We look forward to hearing from our delegates as to their experiences.

Sincerely, -Iris Kiesling, Chair Denominational Affairs

Fellowship Dinner Annual Report 2016

Fellowship Dinners, held once monthly in October, November, January, February, March, and April, are an opportunity for church members and friends to gather and share a meal at the homes of those who join the

group. The host(s) prepares the main course and the guests provide the side dishes. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others in our church in a casual, friendly atmosphere. In a large church such as ours, such opportunities are important in building community.

In the past year, membership in the group increased from 42 in 2014-2015 to 57. This increase was probably due to a more concerted effort to advertise the group through a brief presentation given at a Sunday service in September and greater attempts on the part of some members to invite and encourage friends to join. The facilitator also invited new church members to attend a dinner; two did, but neither joined the group.

Each member or hosting couple hosted a dinner and several hosted twice. Thirteen members are single, the others are couples. A total of 37 dinners were held, with numbers attending each varying from five to twelve.

Linda Pickle, Facilitator

Greeter and Welcomer Committee 2016

Members: Craig Coley (chair), Mary Jo Conley, Libby DeVoe, Abby Downey, Molly Gleeson, Sandra Hernshaw

Accomplishments:

- Scheduled 40 or 50 greeters and newcomer welcomers every month.
- Recruited at the Volunteer Fairs.
- Held three orientations for new volunteers.
- Maintained a loyal cadre of more than 80 trained greeters and welcomers.
- Two members, Yonjoo Cho and Ann LeDuc, left the committee, and two members, Mary Jo Conley and Sandra Hernshaw, joined the committee.

Greeting continues to be both a significant service to the congregation and a good initial volunteer opportunity for newcomers.

Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar 2015

The 57th UU Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar was a success. The weather was good, all operations went smoothly. Our Friday evening lasagna dinner was well attended. We had 28 artisan exhibitors instead of the usual 30, so our booth fee income was down, but I think we offered a wider variety of art. We are no longer “the only game in town” at this time of year. We have some major competitors. This means we have to celebrate what makes us different from other pre-holiday art fairs and work on being even more innovative. The Bazaar Committee is up to the challenge. Stay tuned!

For the weekend’s efforts we were able to net upwards of \$12,500 – about \$1,500 more than last year. As usual, 20% of the net went to the Women’s Alliance for their good works, and so the contribution to the church’s operating budget was about \$10,000. About 12% of purchases this year were made by credit card. The participating UU task force tables estimated taking in about \$5,000.00 collectively to support their various missions.

Volunteer sign-ups were down again at the start of the recruitment campaign, but fortunately did go up. With the help of some wonderful last minute volunteers, we were able to put the church back together again in record time. Almost 100 people volunteered to work one or more Bazaar shifts, and even more contributed cookies, jellies, persimmon pulp, books, white elephants, pies, soups, and other goodies and treasures. Our co-volunteers were our elders and our children, old and new friends. The vendors were generally pleased, although some did better than others. All of them, however, expressed genuine fondness for the event and for how they are received by the UU family. They are also some of our best food customers! We like to think that the Bazaar is a very large, involving, engaging, friend-engendering, give-and-get back, fun event, that brings us together and also brings the greater Bloomington community to us. Many thanks to all!

Your Bazaar Committee

Humanist Forum 2016

The UU humanist forum began in 2011. The forum explores human knowledge and activities without supernaturalism. Our discussion topics include issues relating to morality and ethics, human development, evolution, the nature of the universe, love, the capacities of the brain, free will, the latest scientific research and discoveries. We invite humanists, agnostics, atheists, freethinkers, religious naturalists, interested theists, and anyone who wishes to attend.

The UU Humanist forum is a discussion group that invites people to share an hour together exchanging ideas on a wide range of topics. Each discussion has a leader who introduces a topic for 10-15 minutes, which launches a free discussion. The discussion is moderated and individual remarks limited to 2 minute intervals.

We meet after the second service every other week (alternating with the Freethinkers) at 12:45 in Room 208.

In the past year we met regularly, including three pot luck meetings at which topics for the next four months were selected. A typical meeting has had 15-20 participants. The meeting topics for last year were:

2015

May 24	"Mixing Alternative Religions and religious alternatives in UU." Leader, Wade Altevogt
June 7	"Charity vs tax-supported Government Aid." Leader, Sandy Dolby
June 21	"What do you have to hide? Surveillance today." Leader, Harold Ogren
July 5	"Economics as Ecology and Ecology as Economics." Leader, Lloyd Orr
July 19	"What has Comparative Genomic taught us?" Leader, Elof Carlson
August 2	"Freedom-Security-Tyranny." Leader, Betty Wagoner
August 16	"Food Future and population." Leader, Jim Tarnowski
August 30	"Charlie Hebdo and the Ethics of Satire." Leader, Noretta Koertge
Sept 13	Meeting with the Ministerial Search Committee
Sept 27	Pot luck and topic selection for Fall.
October 11	"Lessons from the declines in Oil Prices- Carbon Emissions." Leader, Lloyd Orr
October 25	"Teaching Values to Children." Leader, Denise Ogren
November 8	"Natural Spirituality and Humanism." Leader, Jon Chaffin
November 22	"Why is there such opposition to Planned Parenthood?" Leader Sandy Dolby
December 6	"Conservatives and Liberals - Moral and psychological differences." Leader, Betty Wagner
December 20	"Are you carrying? Guns in the United States." Leader, Harold Ogren

2016

January 3	"Universal Health Care?" Leader, Sandy Dolby
January 17	Pot Luck and Topics for Spring 2016
Jan 31	"Why is scientific progress on Food and Health rejected by many?" Leader, Elof Carlson
Feb 28	"The Mind Body Code." Leader, Anna Wiley
March 13	"How could something come from nothing?" Leader, Harlan Lewis
March 27	"Fables, Ethics and Morals " Leader, Sandy Dolby
April 10	"Is America a Christian Nation? " .Leader, Sandy Dolby
April 24	no meeting- Congregational meeting
May 8	"People-to-people economic future, ala Uber and AirBnB" Leader, Harold Ogren
May 22	Pot luck lunch and topic selection for summer

Free Thinkers 2016

Free Thinking in the USA is often traced to Thomas Paine and includes such personages as Clarence Darrow, Ethan Allen, Samuel Clemens, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Margaret Sanger, Walt Whitman, and Robert Ingersoll. The purpose of the Free Thinkers is simply to provide an ongoing opportunity for participants to raise issues, make comments, and ask questions related especially to political thought and practice, economic and environmental issues, and religious/theological conundrums.

The Free Thinkers have been meeting every other Sunday since October of 2014. Attendance varies, usually between 12 and 17.

Questions and comments range from issues related to Donald Trump, environmental pollution, fracking, pipelines, creedal statements such as creeds and confessions, to abortion and sexual politics.

A person who raises a concern or topic has several minutes to explain his/her position and then acts as a moderator, fielding comments from the group at large. Persons speaking to the question or topic at hand then have about two minutes in which to respond. Usually only two or three topics are covered in an hour.

New participants are always welcome. Meetings are in Room 208 after the second service beginning promptly at 12:45. (Submitted by John Crosby)

Membership Committee Annual Report 2016

This year our membership volunteers were organized less as a standing committee and more as a set of interrelated groups, carrying out various tasks critical to our welcome of newcomers and the pathway to membership. Here's what we did:

- New Membership Chair Kelly Rockhill represented the committee at new member ceremonies and facilitated the ceremony on several occasions. We had six "signing the membership book" ceremonies since last June, with 22 new members (including 3 youth, plus an additional 6 youth who joined at culmination of Coming of Age program in May, for 28 new members total). New member bios have continued to be published in the Prologue.
- The all-congregational potluck on Sept. 18 was staged by staff and membership volunteers.
- Carol Ver Wiebe and friends at Meadowood collected clippings of members in the news and posted them on the member kiosk in Fellowship Hall.
- A friendly cadre of people emailed visitors after the first visit, and again three months later, to welcome them and answer any questions about the church: Christine Linnemeier, Jamie Kirkley, Steve Gilbert, Jan Armstrong, and Denise Ogren.
- Fellowship Hour Hosts circulated during coffee hour to connect with newish people and offer them a warm presence: Karen McCalister (until her death), Carol Ver Wiebe, Teri Klassen, Jana Anna, Mary Lee, and Jamie Kirkley.
- Lay leaders coordinating our Java Crew (Amy Holmes and Wayne Holmes) and our greeters and newcomer welcomers (Craig Coley and Libby DeVoe) supported the work of additional large groups of volunteers who ensure our church offers visitors and members alike a warm welcome.
- Marlin Howard stepped up to offer the First Steps drop-in class at times when our Connections Coordinator was away.
- Exploring UU classes were conducted quarterly by our fine crew of facilitators, including John Woodcock, Kelly Rockhill, Carolyn Emmert, Dave Emmert, Jack King, Melinda Swenson, and Steven Gilbert, plus Stuart Yoak (who taught the UU history class). Almost 30 people completed the Exploring UU series over the year, and over a dozen people at various stages of membership took the standalone UU history class.
- Jan Armstrong co-facilitated the Owing Your Religious Past retreat, a logical next step for new members (as well as established members) sorting through what to leave behind and what to bring forward from previous religious experience into their life as a UU.
- John Woodcock and John Summerlot have lent their photography skills to various parts of church life. Additionally, John Summerlot has helped maintain a UU presence at Indiana University as our campus ministry sponsor.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help us welcome and support people as they explore Unitarian Universalism and become members of our liberal religious community.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rockhill, Membership Chair

Ministerial Search Committee

The ministerial search committee was tasked with finding a candidate for associate minister for the church. Its members were chosen by the congregation with a final slate put together by the board and voted in at the

2015 congregational meeting. It consisted of seven members; Amy Taylor, Abby Gitlitz, Barb Backler, Craig Coley, Mary Boutain, Michelle Monroe-Cook, and Stuart Yoak.

Under the leadership of Chairperson Amy Taylor the MSC utilized the resources offered by the UUA to craft the search, including having a retreat lead by the UUA Director of Transitions, Keith Kron.

In the fall of 2015 we set out to learn what it was that the congregation wanted from a new associate minister through cottage meetings and surveys. We took this information and created a congregational record detailing every aspect of our church and what we were looking for, and a website, and put that forward to the UUA to disseminate to ministers who were in search.

In January we were given the names of potential candidates and we began interviewing people, first by phone, and then as we narrowed the pool, in person at pre-candidating weekends. At the end of this process we unanimously and enthusiastically put forward the name of Reverend Scott McNeill to serve as our Associate Minister.

We brought Reverend McNeill to Bloomington April 16th-24 to meet the congregation and to learn more about UUCB. At the end of his visit we called for a congregational vote. With a 98% yes vote we called Reverend McNeill as our new associate minister.

Planned Giving Committee 2016

Members: Joan Caulton, Libby DeVoe, Anne Haynes, Melinda Swenson

The congregation has responded generously to the Planned Giving Committee's visits and educational materials. More than 40 households, representing 60 members of the congregation, have told us that they have included the church in their estate plans. That is more than 12% of our membership!

We are deeply grateful to these donors, whom we recognize through the Legacy Circle. The committee hosts an informal soup and salad thank you luncheon for Legacy Circle members each Fall.

We have highlighted the ease with which donors can arrange bequests without changing their wills, simply by completing a new beneficiary designation form specific to their retirement plan or IRA. We have explained that donors may leave a percentage of their estate to the church rather than a fixed dollar amount, if they wish.

Social Justice Annual Report 2016

Social Justice is a way of life in the UU Church Bloomington. Our vision statement Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World gives us guidance and leads us to assure that SJ is incorporated in many ways:

- On Sunday mornings a SJ issue is often a topic and 25% of our Sunday offering is given to a local agency (see SJ Funds report below for details).
- Each month a social justice task force of group is featured. The group does a Social Justice moment during the Sunday worship service (usually the first Sunday of the month), have special information on the Social Justice bulletin board and table.
- UUCB is fortunate to have so many task forces and opportunities for congregants to participate in social justice work. They are: Green Sanctuary TF on Global Climate Change, Habitat for Humanity, Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors, Homeless, Hope for Prisoners, International Outreach, Peace and Economic Justice, Racial Justice, Rainbow Rights, and Reproductive Justice. Our small group ministries program, Chalice Circles, requires two service projects a year, many of which are SJ in nature. Our Religious Education program features many SJ programs. We have a SJ Funds Committee which administers SJ Grants and the selection process for the 25% of Sunday plate recipient.
- Beloved Conversations has been held with two different groups.

- Connections have been increased with the Islamic Center through the OpenHearted Campaign as well as holding Ramadan and attending Islamic Center open house
- Investigating supporting refugees through a new Exodus office in Bloomington.

Jackie Hall



Green Sanctuary Task Force

The Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change (GSTF) promotes mindful, Earth centered living, working to educate and motivate individuals and institutions to take positive steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the understanding that it is our moral imperative to care for the Earth. To this end the GSTF has been active at various levels in the congregation and the wider community.

Activities in the recent fiscal year included:

- Signed onto Interfaith Power & Light's Paris Pledge, along with hundreds of other congregations across the country. This pledge commits us to working towards a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2050. Presented information at the December Congregational Meeting on the Paris Pledge and our plan to use permaculture principals to assist in achieving this goal.
- Earned Energy Star Certification with a score of 99 out of 100.
- Held the weekly fair trade coffee and chocolate sales, which provides an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to support the work of the GSTF and keep informed of its activities.
- Held a fall and spring clothing swap in Fellowship Hall with both being well attended.
- Hosted the Earth Fair between the Earth Day services, including the purchase and distribution of 400 tree and shrub seedlings.
- Sponsored the Bloomington Community Orchard breakfast.
- Endorsed Citizens' Climate Lobby's Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation and sought and received the congregations' endorsement of CCL's request of Congress to take action on climate change.
- Continued energy efficiency updates on the building and the greening of the grounds including additional LED and halogen lighting. Dedicated \$2,000 toward improved efficiency lighting.
- Provided financial support to Citizens' Climate Lobby Indiana (\$300); Healthful Food for All Fund (\$200); Stephanie Kimball to attend the GA (\$200) and ICEY MLK Day Event (\$200).
- Active member of Citizens' Climate Lobby; Monroe County Energy Challenge; ICEY (Interfaith Coalition of Environmental Youth); Bring Your Bag Bloomington; Earth Care, Bloomington's Interfaith Group for the Environment; Hoosier – Interfaith Power and Light; and Indiana Forest Alliance.

Marcia Veldman, Co-chair



Habitat for Humanity Task Force

Habitat for Humanity Task Force members: Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson Laird, co-chairs, Ann DeLuc, Nedra Carlson, Peter E. Garretson, Jackie Hall, Kathleen Chmelewski Angela Lexmond, Mary Blizzard, Emily Tenney.

Meetings: The task force meets monthly on first Sunday, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Objectives:

- Educate congregation about local housing needs, including purpose and accomplishments of Habitat and other housing-related groups, including Area 10 Council on Aging;

- raise money for housing projects, upcoming builds, including annual Women Build;
- support Habitat by providing volunteers and food for builds, financial support for projects, volunteers for ReStore.

Funds: Task force has \$8,403 as of May 2016, raised through parking cars at IU football games, bake sales, selling items at the church bazaar, sponsoring a breakfast and other fund-raisers throughout the year.

Activities:

- Sponsored one day (Aug. 1) of Habitat build by contributing \$8,750 and supplying 20 workers;
- organized 35 women to work on Women Build (May 13) and team and UU donations raised \$11,080;
- provided Easter breakfast at church, raising \$923;
- organized one UU table for More Than Houses Habitat fund-raising event;
- parked cars during IU football games, raising about \$2,000 for Habitat;
- sold crafts/food at UU Holiday Bazaar, raising \$1,079;
- worked with UU group planning co-op housing project on south side and got local Habitat chapter interested in building homes there;
- hosting four church bake sales annually (first one raised \$325 for Women Build);
- contributed financially (about \$440) to Area 10 Council on Aging to build two ramp/stairs projects for elderly;
- planning Interfaith Habitat build, tentatively scheduled March 2017, and expect to donate at least \$10,000,
- help sponsor joint fund-raising activities, organize intergenerational activities to involve youth, other UU members in events leading up to build.

Barb Berggoetz, Co-chair



Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force(HFOHN)

The past year was another successful year for the HFOHN Task Force. We continued the activities that have been so successful for us in the past, and expanded our work with the food pantry at Walnut Grove Apartments.

2015-16 Activities: and Totals:

- **Holiday Basket Food Drive.** (November 2015) Annual food drive for MCUM’s Emergency Food Pantry. Individuals and families at the church can donate a “holiday basket” to benefit a local family in need. A basket is actually 2-3 days worth of groceries, which can include the fixings for a holiday meal. In 2014, our congregation donated 75 holiday baskets.
- **BountyFull Sunday Food Drive.** We changed our food drive schedule from monthly to twice a year (April and December). December 2015 total: 597 pounds, April 2016 total: 400 pounds.
- **Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar.** (December 2015). HFOHN runs a booth selling hand knit and handmade fiber items (scarves, hats, quilts, etc.). Members and friends of the congregation make these items and donate them to the sale. In 2015, the booth brought in \$1565, a portion of which was donated to MCUM Emergency Services. Another portion of the money was set aside to acquire food from Hoosier Hills Food Bank to supply the Walnut Grove Food Pantry.
- **Recipient, Social Justice Grant.** HFOHN was awarded a \$500 2015 Social Justice Grant for our work with the Walnut Grove Food Pantry. The funds were used to acquire healthier food options from Hoosier Hills Food Bank and to purchase canned hams and fresh fruit for special Christmas baskets we put together for the food pantry patrons.
- **Macaroni and Spaghetti Drive for Shalom Center.** (2015-16). A joint effort with the Homelessness Task Force. Shalom Center has a very low grocery budget and needs organizations to volunteer to donate a single staple food item for the entire year. HFOHN has been collecting both macaroni and spaghetti and meeting our goal of 62 lbs of each per month.

- **Walnut Grove Food Pantry:** In March 2015, HFOHN began running a monthly food pantry at Walnut Grove Apartments in Bloomington. Food from Hoosier Hills Food Bank is delivered to the site and task force members and other volunteers (primarily from the church) set up and run the food pantry on the 3rd Friday of each month. The pantry has been serving 40-50 families each month so far. Thanks to our fundraising from the Holiday Bazaar and the SJ Grant Award, we have been able to “buy” (at a low cost) food from HHFB to supplement the foods dropped off by the truck. So far, this has been a great opportunity for us to work directly with people experiencing hunger. It has also been a great opportunity for this task force to expand our work with members and friends of our own congregation who volunteer at the pantry each month. We have been able to host a Chalice Circle who volunteered, several youth from the church and many others. Without the support of these volunteers, we couldn’t sustain this much-needed food pantry.

Anne Graham, Chair



Homelessness Task Force

The major activity of the Homelessness Taskforce, this year, was to operate the Interfaith Winter Shelter (IWS) at First United Church on the second Saturday of each month from November 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. Approximately 30 volunteers from UUCB and other churches staffed the shelter from 7:30 PM until 7:30 AM on those nights. Many of the UUs volunteered on other nights as well.

Darrell Breeden served as site director when UUCB was responsible for staffing the shelter and was there all night. Darrell did an excellent job, providing continuity to the operation of the shelter.

The taskforce worked closely with other UUCB groups to serve the needs of people in our community experiencing poverty and homelessness.

- Chalice Circles provided hot meals for guests (40-60 people) on the nights that UUCB was responsible for running the overnight shelter.
- We work with the Hunger Taskforce to supply macaroni and spaghetti to Shalom Community Center every week, year round.
- We also collect sleeping bags, rain gear, and tents for distribution to Shalom guests who have no shelter during the months that the winter shelter is closed.
- We work with organizers of the Bazaar and Auction to distribute left over articles to agencies serving the needs of the less fortunate in Monroe County
- Students from the PRISM youth group, which meets at UUCB, volunteered with set up on the nights that UUCB was in charge.
- We collected items such as pots, glasses, sheets, pillows, and other household items.
- We worked with a Chalice Circle to create “welcome baskets”, using these items, for people moving from homelessness to housing, through the Shalom Rapid Re-Housing program.
- We have joined an Interfaith Taskforce to prepare and supply food for people experiencing homelessness and poverty, once a month over the summer of 2015. We will continue that project in the summer of 2016.

Jim Harvey, Marlin Howard and Alan Backler serve on the task force. Jim serves on the board of Shalom Community Center. Alan is on the boards of Shalom and the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Marlin volunteers at Shalom every week.

Alan Backler, Chair



Hope for Prisoners Task Force

The mission of this task force is to work with the community to initiate, coordinate and encourage efforts to aid both incarcerated and released people in Monroe County and the State. We partner closely with New Leaf New Life on programs to reduce recidivism by helping with housing, job searches, fighting addictions, and developing skills to aid successful reentry to the community.

We continue our efforts to eliminate the death penalty in Indiana, and have greatly expanded our Read to Me Program with 91 books and recordings distributed to children through the efforts of Mary Goetze, who has also enabled the women inmates in the Monroe County Jail to participate in this program. Mary has also worked on several education programs inside the Monroe County Jail including the High School Equivalency program, song writing for women inmates, and arranging speakers for inmates in the AIR dorm.

Several other volunteers have worked at Pages for Prisoners mailing books and letters to people incarcerated across the Midwest. Member Jack Harlow continues to be instrumental in arranging speakers for our quarterly meetings, held on the second Wednesday in January, April, July and October.

Rick and Lois Holl, Coordinators



International Outreach Task Force (IOTF)

Principles: We are raising funds only for the Ndethya Projects in Kenya, with the idea that giving more money to fewer projects is more effective aid mechanism. Therefore, we support Kenyan-founded and led projects:

- an AIDS orphanage school with over 350 students
- Spurgeon's Academy in Kibera, a low income suburb of Nairobi
- Msamaria Mwema, a small family-run AIDS orphanage in a semi-rural suburb of Nairobi, Kibiciku
- Ndethya wa Ngutethya, a women's agricultural collective in Eastern Province at Kathonzweni with 30 to 50 members

Activities/Fundraising: We travel to Kenya every two years to see how things are going and deliver funds. There are 5 UUs signed up for fall 2017 trip, and will enable us to take more children's clothing for the orphans, collected at the Church. In Sept of 2015, Claire and Jason Haworth, then UUCB office assistant, and an excellent photographer made the trip. Each traveler helps with the fundraising as they are able: Jason took wonderful photos and brought clothing. We need help with bake sales and collecting children's clothing. Participants make a \$100 deposit, which will be tax-deductible as a donation to the Church into the IOTF fund. Our core group has grown this year with more bake sale participation.

We raised \$10,000 in two years for projects: \$4,000 to Ndethya, \$4,000 to Spurgeon's and \$2,000 to Msamaria, a much smaller operation with 22 children in residence. They used the money to pay secondary school fees for 2 students for 2 years. It was noteworthy that when we arrived with the funds in Kenyan shillings at Spurgeon's, the school head told me that she had been praying over their dilemma: a big shortfall in funds for the month. Our \$4,500 then was distributed while we were there to pay the teachers for a month and renew food supplies that had run drastically low (they give the kids 2 meals a day), so everyone rejoiced in a heartwarming way.

Funding sources:

- Jewelry sales, at the Union and the UU Bazaar, over \$10,000 in two years
- Football parking over \$900
- Bake sales about \$1400 (this will be more next year due to increased participation and profits that will compensate for lost IU Football parking profits).
- Steady trickle of individual donations \$1000 per year

\$1000 used to buy new stock in Kenya and elsewhere, and materials for jewelry making. Jason received a subsidy from us of just over \$1200 to pay for his ticket, the other expenses being his own. We hope to be able to continue to provide a scholarship for a young person, but next year we cannot guarantee that, and there is only one place left in the trip with no youth volunteer so far to fill it, and no guarantee we'll have the funds to do it. The travelers pay their own expenses normally and have varied in number.

Conclusion: Attending the UU Regional meeting in St. Paul in April, as well as difficulties in getting started at UUCB and in arousing the interest of the UUSC, and UUs in Minneapolis-St. Paul in international development/poverty remediation efforts, helped me to realize that in pursuing these efforts, however modest they are in the overall scheme of things, UUCB is perhaps unique among churches. Most UU social justice activities are aimed locally, it seems. I am very grateful for the increasing support of the Bloomington community and the help of the volunteers with the bake sales, etc. We worked hard for that \$10,000 we raised and hope to raise more in the future.

Claire Robertson, Coordinator



Peace and Economic Justice Task Force

In 2015-16, the task force focused on mobilizing support for the nuclear agreement with Iran (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, negotiated by Secretary of State John Kerry and others). This agreement, which prevents Iran from having the capability to acquire a nuclear weapon in return for lifting sanctions, faced a key test in Congress. Had it failed, many believe (as President Obama warned) that war with Iran would have been likely.

Arms control and peace groups in Washington, DC told us that grassroots support for the agreement would be essential. In particular, Indiana Senator Joe Donnelly was considered a key vote, likely against the agreement. We devoted all the task force's energies to the effort to persuade him, holding forums, conducting postcard campaigns between services, and visiting his Indianapolis office. In April 2015, Rachel Lipsey, the Senator's Washington-based Legislative Assistant for Defense and Foreign Policy, met us (at UUCB in the Fuchs Library) for an in depth discussion.

Senator Donnelly was one of the first swing votes to announce in favor of the agreement, which survived the test in the Senate as well as the House. While tensions remain with Iran (exacerbated by those who failed to defeat the agreement), a major war has been avoided. For us, the effort was a much happier version of the effort we had made in 2002-3 to stop the U.S. invasion of Iraq, a disaster that continues to have tragic consequences in the Iraqi and Syrian civil war.

Meanwhile, the task force merged with the Jobs With Justice Task Force, and we changed our name from the Just Peace Task Force to the Peace and Economic Justice Task Force. Pat Brantlinger, Chair of Jobs With Justice, became Co-Chair, while David Keppel continues with a focus on peace and disarmament.

The task force is small. We deeply appreciate the support of the congregation in mobilizations in times of crisis, but we also need more active members for our ongoing work. We encourage anyone with an interest in peace and economic justice to get in touch.

David Keppel, Co-Chair

Racial Justice Task Force

UU Bloomington's Racial Justice Task Force continues our community's tradition over many years to participate in the transformation to a more racially just world with respect to its economic, social, political, and criminal justice systems. Its main goals are to: offer opportunities to **discuss, reflect upon, and learn about** structural racism for individuals, our congregations, and the broader community; provide **service** to the current civil rights movement; promote the growth and health of a strong anti-racist **community**; contribute to the role of **UU congregations and General Assembly** in civil rights movements; to create a more **welcoming** space for people of color; and to participate in **activism** to further the goal of racial justice.

Current projects:

- Continue work of developing new task force
- Connect with other congregations and organizations across Bloomington to work together on racial justice issues
- RJTF members will attend UUA/GA as delegates
- Establish Bloomington film discussion series
- Establish a book discussion series
- Hold a second Night of a Thousand Conversations on Ferguson truth telling testimonies
- Explore possibility of large interfaith/intergroup supported anti-racist gala
- Help with Loving Day party
- Fundraising events



Activities this year:

- Proposed and established task force late Fall 2015 with help of Rev. Doug Wadkins
- Created task force materials
- Organized and facilitated interfaith Night of a Thousand Conversations on Ferguson truth telling testimonies
- Created, organized, and facilitated interfaith workshop on anti-racism for white folks with art show
- Tabled for task force
- Developed strong start to interfaith anti-racist network in Bloomington
- Held task force and subcommittee meetings
-

Roxanne Smith, Co-chair



Rainbow Rights Task Force

- Continued to sponsor Prism, an inclusive youth group for ages 12-20 that meets here at UU on Tuesday evenings
- Partnered with Prism Youth for a social justice action evening at the Monroe County School Corporation Board meeting during which RRTF members and Prism youth spoke out on the need for cultural competency training for MCCSC teachers and staff
- Sponsored 24 people on the Gifts of Grace list from Positive Link through the UU Giving Tree
- Partnered with Prism Youth for an intergenerational tea for building connections and sharing skills.
- Hosted a booth at the Monroe County Fair offering resources and support for LGBTQ+ youth in Monroe and surrounding counties.
- Sponsor and Table at Spencer Pride and Bloomington Pride Summerfest.
- Providing training for those interested in staffing our Monroe County Fair booth this summer, incorporating Fair Talk, the Prism community trainings and Relational-Cultural Theory.

- Partnered with YUUMS for a lock-in and bake sale raising funds for tabling at Monroe County Fair 2016.
- Hosted Prism’s Community-Wide, youth-led, Education nights, including
 - The importance of familial support for queer youth
 - Looking at Microaggressions
 - Supporting LGBTQ+ teens
 - Open house and Panel on the Effects of Discrimination
- Hosted social events for local LGBTQ+ youth including
 - Breaking the silence party
 - Fall costume bash
 - Birthiversary Celebration
- Initiated Monthly Family Support Meetings for families of LGBTQ+ youth, partnering with White River PFLAG

Amy Makice



Reproductive Justice Task Force

What is *Reproductive Justice*? **The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent the children we have in a safe and healthy environment.** We educate ourselves and the community, advocate for reproductive justice, and connect with community partners to ensure reproductive justice for all women and men. We have several small groups working on “nugget activities” – short-term, tangible projects (summary below)

1. **Provide Snacks for Planned Parenthood patients:** We deliver snacks/drinks to patients waiting for their abortion procedure, allowing them to avoid protestors in the PP parking lot. We collaborate with First United Church.
2. Participate as **Escorts for Planned Parenthood** patients.
3. Support **Bloomington All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center**, celebrating its first full year of operation. This social service resource provides a place for women and men to receive non-judgmental counseling and help with decision-making. The Center offers referrals, baby supplies, and free pregnancy testing. Specifically, we have contributed by
 - Collecting reusable and disposable diapers for families unable to afford them (approximately 40 packages of diapers in our **Diaper Depot** so far).
 - Displaying “**Baby Boxes.**” These are portable “cribs” for newborn infants, and include baby clothes, parenting information, first aid materials, and (!) condoms.
 - Supporting **Backline**, an international telephone listening line for issues related to pregnancy, parenthood, adoption, abortion, and pregnancy loss. Two RJTF members are telephone counselors for Backline.
4. We conducted a **Valentine’s Day Standing on the Side of Love Bake Sale** at the UUCB and collected more than \$500 to help to finance our Snack Brigade and Diaper Depot activities.
5. We were a community sponsor for the screening the **documentary film TRAPPED.**
6. We kept ourselves and our colleagues informed during the very frustrating **General Assembly session.** We wrote letters, called our representatives, and tried mightily to influence the outcome. We failed. The new Indiana state law regarding access to safe and legal abortion is one of the two worst laws in the country. We are not giving up.

Melinda Swenson, Chair

Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC)

Fall SJ Grants Campaign October 2015: SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were recommended to and approved by Special Purposes Fund Committee:

- PRISM - \$1600
- Walnut Grove Food Pantry - \$500
- Homelessness Taskforce - \$500
- Read to Me/Hope for Prisoners - \$200
- Bring Your Own Bag - \$200
- Planned Parenthood Snack Brigade - \$200

Grant account setup and reimbursement protocols were updated for ease of tracking and oversight. Grant guidelines and SJFC oversight were updated for Fall 2016 Campaign.

Spring 25% Plate Fund Campaign April 2016: SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2016-June 2017.

1. New Leaf - New Life, nominated by Mary Goetze
2. Shalom Community Center, Alan Backler
3. Volunteers in Medicine(VIM), Melinda Swenson
4. Walnut Grove Food Pantry, Mary Blizzard
5. Brown County Humane Society, Rosalee Trimble
6. Wildcare Inc, Steve Dillon

SJFC selected the first three on the above list to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 12, 2016 congregational meeting. Since then, VIM has removed their organization from the list, and we have decided to just have two applicants this year. SJFC is using multiple avenues to educate the congregation about these agencies including tabling a display between services throughout May. SJFC Members: Jana Anna, Anna Beauchamp, Steve Mascari. Co-Advisors: Jackie Hall a : Jackie Hall and Rev. Doug Wadkins. (Millie Jackson stepped down from chair position in the fall)

Steve Mascari, Chair

Special Purpose Fund Report 2016

Special Purposes Fund Annual Report – April, 2015 through March, 2016

Accounts

	Beginning Balance	Earnings	Distribution	Other Transfers	Deposits	Expenses	Ending Balance
Endowment	101,748.90	70.65	-3,428.67	-830.17			97,560.71
General	198,589.80	3,841.30	3,428.67	830.17	21,776.97	-66,169.67	162,297.24
Total	300,338.70	3,911.95			21,776.97	-66,169.67	259,857.95

Investments

Endowment	100% Vanguard Wellington Mutual fund (approximately 2/3 equities, 1/3 bonds)
General	4% Cash 1% Gold 15% Vanguard intermediate term bond fund 14% Vanguard short term bond fund 65% Vanguard Wellington Fund

Income

15,000.00	Carol Shapiro Bequest
60.00	Arda Landergren memorial fund
3,500.00	to Social Justice Grant fund from Green Spaces Initiative
50.00	Tosca Sideli memorial fund
1,500.00	Harv Hegarty, for "Special Projects" R Special Projects Fund
13.71	Return of unused SJ Funds, i - Lundin S.J. Grant Fund
1,500.00	Legacy Fund: in honor of Dan Willard
50.00	Legacy Fund: in memory of Paul Lane
	Lundin SJ Grants Fund: refund of unused 2015 grant money, Repro Justice
78.26	
25.00	Legacy Fund: in memory of Paul Lane

Expense

347.21	UU Church: Grounds Endowment Inc Q3 & Q4
40,000.00	UU Church: to pay back loans for Gr Sp Project
2,500.00	UU Church: for Room 208/210/212 remodeling
1,500.00	MidAmerica Region Nancy Heege, Carol Shapiro Fund
197.02	UU Church: Grounds Endowment income 15Q4
39.09	Harland Clarke check printing - 2 signor checks
1,000.00	Amethyst House - per Harv Hegarty, special projects fund
99.60	IU - racial justice project - per Guy Loftman
208.75	UU Church: Grounds Endowment Inc 16Q1
3,200.00	UU Church: Fall 2015 Social Justice Grants
17,078.00	MCUM donation from Lundin MCUM Classroom Fund

Fossil-fuel Divestment

In this year's investment review the Committee has explored several options for fossil-fuel divestment. In quarters following the period of this report a separate accounting will be made of divested holdings. These will be reviewed annually by the committee in light of the desirability of increased divested holdings, while maintaining diversification and superior performance for SPF holdings as a whole. Henceforth at the donor's request, gifts to both endowment and general funds may be restricted to fossil-fuel divested investments.

Committee

Chris Haynes (Chair), Arzetta Hults-Losensky (Board Treasurer), Stuart Yoak, Von Welch (Board appointed), Joanne Wilhelm (Secretary)

Women's Alliance Annual Report 2016

The Women's Alliance main funding comes from 20% of the net of Bazaar income. This combined with our dues (July 1 to June 30) of \$20 allow us to be active in our community. Our mission statement calls us to meet for fellowship as well as for church support and community outreach. We seek to improve visibility in our community by this support.

This year we made financial contributions to the Soup Bowl, Women's History Month Luncheon, Habitat for Humanity, Planned Parenthood, Living Earth Television, CASA, My Sister's Closet, and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in addition to supporting our delegates to the annual UUA General Assembly. We traditionally collect gifts for Middle Way House at our December meeting.

The new board for the 2016-2017 year: Ann Kamman, President; Julie Cauble, Vice President; Ann Watzel, Treasurer; Denise Ogren and Claire Robertson, Co-Secretaries.

We have created interesting and informative 30-minute programs for each month (even throughout the summer) and invite all interested women of the church to join us on the first Thursday of each month. UU women who are looking for fellowship and available to get away at lunch once a month should come to the next Women's Alliance meeting!

Respectfully submitted, Ann Kamman, President

**Members of the
Unitarian
Universalist
Church of
Bloomington,
Indiana
as of June 9, 2016
464 certified members
481 current members**

Debbie Acito
Thomas Albright
Judy Allensworth
Bob Althausen
Judy Andrews
Jana Anna
Andrew Appel
Charlotte Appel
Jan Armstrong
Carol Arnold
Paul Arnold
Stephen Arnold
Pat Aungst
Marianne Aurich
Ruth Aydt
Peggy Bachman
Alan Backler
Barbara Backler
Janice Bagwell
Maya Baird
Rhonda Baird
Edrice Baker
Tim Ballard
Bill Baus
Andy Beargie
Anna Beauchamp
Dan Beauregard
Caroline Beebe
Sheri Benham
Judy Bennett
Mary Bent
Barb Berggoetz
Judy Berkshire
Lauren Bernofsky
Maureen Biggers
Amanda Biggs
Jason Blankenship
Jennifer Blankenship
Kathy Boone
Mary Boutain
Linda Boyle
Pat Brantlinger
Darrell Breeden
Glenda Breeden
Rev. Bill Breeden
Denise Breeden-Ost
Cynthia Bretheim
Clark Brittain
Lauren Bryant
Scott Burgins
Louray Cain
Danny Callison
Patty Callison

Beverly Camden
Laura Campbell
Jonna Capio
Roy Capio
Elof Carlson
Nedra Carlson
Lori Carmichael-Howell
Blaine Carrell
Jack Cassidy
Karen Cassidy
Doug Cauble
Julie Cauble
Joan Caulton
Jon Chaffin
Allison Chopra
Chris Chopra
Fred Churchill
Sandra Churchill
Tamara Ciszczon
Sandra Clothier
Patricia Coleman
Craig Coley
Bill Conley
Mary Jo Conley
Jessie Cook
Phil Cooper
Ruth Ann Cooper
Bill Corcoran
Amy Cornell
Jill Courtney
David Cox
Dave Crane
John Crosby
Marjorie Crosby
Amy Crozier
Kathleen Cruikshank
Eve Cusack
George Cusack
Maryann Cusack
Sam Cusack
Earon Davis
Jessica Davis
Bret Davis Earheart
Deborah DeChurch
Kim Deckard
Beverly DeFord
Michael DeFord
Bradford Demarest
Gladys DeVane
Bob DeVoe
Libby DeVoe
Jim Dietz
Emma DiLavore
Philip DiLavore
Regina DiLavore
Courtney Diles
Stephen Dillon
Martha Dogan
Sandra Dolby
Olivia Dorfman
Peter Dorfman
Abby Downey
Jim Downey
Mike Drescher
Rita Drescher
Christine Earheart
Mayan Earheart

Ron Ellis
Jonathan Elmer
Carolyn Emmert
David Emmert
Georgia Emmert
Judith Epp
Stephanie Estell
Ray Fellman
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Lucy Fischman
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*Many thanks to Arzetta
Hults-Losensky, Office
Volunteer, for her help in
producing this report.
--cm 6/9/2016*