

**Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.**  
Annual Report to the Congregation  
Sunday, June 1, 2008

Current Membership: 414

**Board of Directors** (through June 30, 2008)

Jan Skinner, President; G.K. Rowe, Vice President; Lloyd Orr, Treasurer;  
Chris Haynes, Secretary; Jason Hill, Past President

*At Large:* David Cox, Steve Dillon, Karen Jewell, Chris Judge, Deanna Lahre, Amy Taylor,  
Shari Woodbury

**Ministers**           The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and the Reverend Bill Breeden

**Minister Emerita** The Reverend Barbara Carlson

**Contents:**

	<b>Page</b>
Minutes of June 3, 2007, Annual Congregational Meeting	2
Minutes of December 9, 2007, Congregational Meeting	6
Minutes of April 20, 2008, Special Congregational Meeting	11
25% Sunday Plate Candidates for 08-09	12 (green)
Nominating Committee Report	16 (pink)
Operating Budget for 2008-09	17 (yellow) (distributed separately)
<i>Other Reports:</i>	
President	20
On Governance, by Jan Skinner	20
Vice President	22
Ministers' Report	23
Church Administrator	25
Director of Religious Education	26
Adult Religious Education	27
Campus Ministry	28
Celebrations Committee	28
Greeter & Welcomer Committee	29
Library Committee	29
Membership Committee	29
Social Justice Steering Committee	30
Social Justice Funds Committee	
Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	
Friends of Prisoners Task Force	
Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change	
Habitat for Humanity Task Force	
International Outreach Task Force	
Katrina Relief Task Force	
Rainbow Rights Task Force	
Task Force for a Just Peace	
Special Purposes Fund	38
Sunday Services Committee	38

**Congregational Meeting Minutes June 3, 2007**  
**12:30 pm in the Meeting Room**

Contents:

Welcome, chalice lighting  
Introduce Parliamentarian  
Establish a quorum  
VOTE: Approval of April 22, 2007 Special Congregational Minutes  
VOTE: Approval of motion for Board to approve minutes of June 3, 2007  
Congregational Meeting  
Committee Reports:  
    Shaping our Future Together Committee  
    Sabbatical Committee  
    Governance Committee  
VOTE: 25% Plate recipient for FY 2007-2008  
VOTE: Continue Green Sanctuary Accreditation Process  
VOTE: Slate of Candidates (brought by nominating committee)  
VOTE: Approve FY 2007-2008 Operating Budget  
VOTE: Suggested reorganization of Social Justice Grant Funding  
Awards  
Thank You to Retiring Board Members  
Ministers' Remarks  
Adjourn to Picnic

\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome, Chalice Lighting

Jason Hill, the president of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.  
Jason Hill invited Rev. Bill Breeden and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin to the pulpit for the chalice lighting.  
The ministers invited Chris Clothier, our out-going Board past-president, to light the chalice.

Introduce Parliamentarian

Jason Hill introduced Guy Loftman as parliamentarian.

Establish a quorum

Dorothy Sowell, with the assistance of Jan Skinner, Bobbi Lahre, and Chris Clothier, established the quorum. 117 members signed in for the meeting. 40 members were needed for a quorum.

VOTE: Approval of April 22, 2007 Special Congregational Minutes

MOTION: Steve Dillon moved that we approve the minutes as submitted.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jack King

VOTE: passed unanimously

VOTE: Approval of motion for Board to approve minutes of June 3, 2007

Congregational Meeting

MOTION: Lloyd Orr moved that the Board be allowed to approve the minutes from this meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve Dillon

VOTE: passed unanimously

Committee Reports:

Shaping our Future Together Committee (SOFT)

Melinda Swenson reported that this committee has no chair and is working as a committee of the whole. The SOFT Committee is using the process of Appreciative Inquiry to identify provocative proposals which the congregation may choose as long-range goals.

#### Sabbatical Committee

Andrew Appel reported that our church did not receive the Lilly Grant which would have supplemented our finances during Rev. Macklin's sabbatical, August 1<sup>st</sup> through mid-December. Andrew Appel explained that the Sabbatical Committee was not relying on the Lilly Grant. Rev. Barbara Child will provide pulpit service as well as Adult Religious Education service. The proposed annual budget has an increase in time and wages for the Campus Ministry Coordinator while Rev. Macklin is gone. The annual budget also reflects an increase in the replenishment rate of sabbatical funds in preparation for Rev. Breeden's sabbatical opportunity in 2009.

#### Governance Committee

Jan Skinner reported that the Governance Committee is looking at our current governance structure and at models of governance for large churches. The Governance Committee will bring a recommendation to the congregation at next year's Congregational Meeting.

#### VOTE: 25% Plate recipient for FY 2007-2008

Three groups were on the ballot: Bloomington Area Birth Services, Martha's House, and Sycamore Land Trust Environmental Education Program.

Jan Skinner, Bobbi Lahre, Chris Clothier, and Karen Jewel distributed ballots.

Rev. Breeden, Rev. Macklin, and Chris Clothier counted the ballots.

The first vote was not a clear majority, so there was a second vote between Martha's House and Sycamore Land Trust Environmental Education Program.

**Martha's House** was voted the 25% Plate recipient for FY 2007-2008. Iris Kiesling thanked everyone for their support of Martha's House.

#### VOTE: Continue Green Sanctuary Accreditation Process

Marcia Veldman presented a historical summary of the Green Sanctuary Task Force's work.

MOTION: Marcia Veldman presented this motion on behalf of the Green Sanctuary Task Force: We, as members of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, having completed our Green Sanctuary Action Plan, authorize the Green Sanctuary Committee in coordination with the Church Administration to submit an application to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth requesting that they accredit our church as a Green Sanctuary,

1. Understand that the action-plan we have completed is a beginning of the Church's work to integrate environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and environmental justice in our church community, our personal lives, and our wider communities, and

2. Plan to continue the work that needs to be done, until Earth herself is once again a healthy Sanctuary for all.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Iris Kiesling

VOTE: passed unanimously

Jan Skinner and Patricia Coleman will accept the church's accreditation at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly.

#### VOTE: Slate of Candidates (brought by nominating committee)

MOTION: Since the slate of candidates was not published in the Prologue 10 days before the Congregational Meeting, John Crosby moved that we suspend the rules of normal operation in bylaw 5.8 for the purposes of this meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ruellen Fessenbecker

Guy Loftman, parliamentarian, noted that if no one objects then we don't have to suspend the bylaws. Candidates were posted 5 days before the meeting. John Crosby objected so we continued with the vote.

VOTE: passed unanimously

Jason Hill read the list of nominees. Iris Kiesling requested that the nominees stand. Guy Loftman, parliamentarian, noted that we needed to ask for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION: Guy Loftman moved that we accept the slate by acclamation.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jack King

VOTE: passed with 1 abstention, Shari Woodbury

GK Rowe had been omitted as Vice President on the slate of nominees.

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved that we approve the slate of nominees as completed with GK Rowe as Vice President.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Elizabeth Lion

VOTE: passed unanimously

VOTE: Approve FY 2007-2008 Operating Budget

Lloyd Orr presented the proposed budget.

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved that we approve the budget as presented.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob DeVoe

Jan Skinner called the question since there was no discussion.

VOTE: passed unanimously

Lee Strickholm, as a member of the Finance Committee, introduced a motion from the floor.

MOTION: Lee Strickholm moved that we approve that the following additions to the 2007-08 expenditure budget may be authorized by the Board to the extent that revenues become available to cover them by June 29, 2007 (the revenues will be added to the revenue budget)

Aesthetics	\$100
Conference Support	\$500
1% added to salaried employee compensation	<u>\$2,426</u>
	\$3,026

2<sup>nd</sup>: Libby DeVoe

Lloyd Orr explained that the budget needed to be balanced because of our low reserves. Jason Hill asked about pro-rating for each fund if we didn't get the full amount. Phil Cooper and Libby DeVoe agreed with pro-rating.

Lee Strickholm and Libby DeVoe accepted pro-rating as a friendly amendment: to pro-rate expenditure budget according to revenue income

VOTE: passed unanimously

VOTE: Suggested reorganization of Social Justice Grant Funding

Jackie Hall, chair of the Social Justice Steering Committee (SJSC), presented a historical summary of the Social Justice Funds that had been established through the Capital Campaign. Deb Hutton, new voluntary chair of the Special Purposes Fund (SPF), spoke on behalf of the SPF Committee as co-proposers of this reorganization.

There was much discussion which included:

--Large Grant Fund B requiring congregational vote

--complications with two committees involved  
--clarification ... grant content to SJSC, then SJSC recommendation to SPF; proposal for Fund B to congregation, then back to SPF  
--more money for social justice projects in the long run  
--better management of money with this plan  
--Leonard Lundin Memorial Fund stipulations

MOTION: Claire Robertson moved that we approve the suggested reorganization of Social Justice Grant Funding --

The members of the Social Justice Steering Committee and the Special Purposes Fund Committee (SPF) recommend the following changes in the funds currently under their authority:

1. Merge "Building Social Justice Fund C" (currently a T account) with SPF's "Lundin Social Justice Endowment," the resulting fund to be named "The Lundin Social Justice Endowment Fund."
2. Transfer "Building Social Justice Fund A" and "Building Social Justice Fund B" (currently T accounts) to SPF, where they will be renamed "Social Justice Small Grant Fund A" and "Social Justice Large Grant Fund B."
3. The income that has accrued to date in the existing SPF Lundin Endowment Income Fund will be transferred to the new Social Justice Large Grant Fund B.
4. Future income from the newly formed Lundin Social Justice Endowment Fund will be divided evenly between the new Social Justice Small Grant Fund A and Social Justice Large Grant Fund B.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve Dillon

VOTE: passed unanimously

#### Awards

Rev. Breeden and Rev. Macklin presented Outstanding Service Awards to --  
Steve Krahnke and Dan Lodge-Rigal as music directors for the Woody Guthrie Musical.  
Anne Haynes and Carol Parks as organizers for Chalice Circles.

#### Thank You to Retiring Board Members

Jason Hill thanked retiring Board members Chris Clothier, Past President, Dorothy Sowell, Secretary, and Dick Hiatt, member-at-large.

#### Ministers' Remarks

Rev. Breeden and Rev. Macklin offered closing words. Rev. Macklin also reminded us that Stefan Jonasson, Large Church Consultant, would be here in February and that the Large Church Conference would be in Louisville, KY in March.

#### Adjourn to Picnic

MOTION: Steve Dillon moved that the meeting be adjourned.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Guy Loftman

VOTE: passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. Everyone was invited to the congregational picnic provided by the Sabbatical Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Sowell  
Secretary

# Congregational Meeting Minutes      December 9, 2007

Approved as Submitted: Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington  
Congregational Meeting Minutes

## Contents:

Welcome, Call to Order  
Chalice Lighting and Opening Words  
Parliamentarian introduced  
Quorum report  
MOTION: future approval of minutes  
Treasurer's Summary  
Reports  
Sharing Our Future Together  
Courtyard Committee -  
Governance  
Social Justice Grant for Habitat  
Habitat Interfaith Build update on project and how receiving the grant impacts the project - future plans  
SJ Funds short report about the SJ Funds and how Grants work  
MOTION to congregation about the \$4,000 grant being awarded to the Habitat Task Force  
Sabbatical Committee  
MOTION to approve the process of Sabbatical for Rev. Bill Breeden  
Delegates to Heartland District meeting and UUA  
Personal Communications  
Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM  
Upcoming dates of interest

## Welcome, Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM by President Jan Skinner

## Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Chalice lighting by Walt Owens. Opening Words by Rev. Bill Breeden.

## Parliamentarian introduced

Guy Loftman was introduced as Parliamentarian by Jan Skinner

## Quorum report

The secretary, Chris Haynes, reported 65 members were in attendance, satisfying the quorum requirement of at least 41 members.

## MOTION: future approval of minutes

Allow the Board of Directors to approve minutes from this meeting at a future board meeting.

Moved by Chris Haynes, Secretary, second by Jack King

VOTE: approved unanimously

## Treasurer's Summary

1. Revenues and expenditures are on track for fiscal 07-08. Revenues are slightly above a pro-rata expectation and expenditures are about \$16,000 below pro-rata expectations.
2. There is a substantial surplus from the fiscal 06-07 budget. This provides for a much needed increase in reserves from about \$3,700 to more than \$23,000.

3. Perhaps there should be an increase in promotion of the Sunday plate collection. This would provide better support for both the social justice cause selected by the congregation, and the budget. The social justice 25% from Sunday Plate has not "paid for itself" as we had hoped. A "non-pledge" memo on checks assures the contribution will not go towards one's pledge.  
-- Lloyd Orr

## **Reports**

### Sharing Our Future Together

Thomas Nelson-Laird summarized the work of the Sharing Our Future Together (SOFT) taskforce. Their approach is "appreciative inquiry", emphasizing appreciation rather than criticism. This generates and documents warm feelings about the church, and suggests directions for action. See attached report.

### Courtyard Committee -

Cindy Port summarized work of the Courtyard Design Committee. A three dimensional model on display in foyer after the meeting.

As suggested by Ed Robertson it was agreed that an interim report before June would be provided. There are too many unknowns to offer a cost estimate at this time.

Feedback encouraged from all, including the anesthetics committee.

See attached report.

### Governance

Jan Skinner reported on work of the Governance Task Force. Carol reports membership today is 407. One goal is to enable the board to deal with big issues, rather than detail.

The board and other interested parties will meet with the UUA large church consultant, Stefan Jonasson, on February 1-3, at the church.

A special congregational meeting may be held in April to approve a change in board size, in time for the nominating committee to make recommendations.

Rev. Bill Breeden reports that in discussion with Rev. Mary Ann Macklin they believe the envisioned changes will help them a great deal.

See attached report.

### Social Justice Grant for Habitat

Habitat Interfaith Build update on project and how receiving the grant impacts the project - future plans

Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird reported about \$9,200 has been raised. Eight other churches are involved, with a combined commitment of over \$20,000. We are in a financial leadership role and may be able to begin a build in the fall (rather than later).

### SJ Funds short report about the SJ Funds and how Grants work

John Woodcock and Stefanie Estell reported on the Social Justice Funds committee granting process. Recommendations are passed on to the Special Purposes Fund. There was a unanimous vote in support of the Habitat Task force proposal. There is a huge need for low income housing, and a great show of support for Habitat work by those attending the congregational meeting.

### Motion to congregation about the \$4,000 grant being awarded to the Habitat Task Force

Moved that the Special Purposes Fund grant \$4,000 to the Habitat Task Force in support of the proposed build.

There was discussion of sensitivity to environmental impact in Habitat For Humanity builds.

Moved by Deb Hutton, second by David Cox

Vote: passed, with 1 nay and 2 abstentions

### Sabbatical Committee

planning for Rev. Bill Breeden's sabbatical

Jason Hill reported for the Sabbatical Committee on planning for Rev. Bill Breeden's upcoming sabbatical. A Lilly Grant application will be made.

### MOTION to approve the process of Sabbatical for Rev. Bill Breeden

The congregation re-affirms support for the Lilly Grant proposal for funds to support the upcoming sabbatical of Rev. Bill Breeden.

Moved by Jason Hill, second by Karen Jewell

VOTE: approved unanimously

### Delegates to Heartland District meeting and UUA

Iris Kiesling announced the upcoming April 4th and 5th Heartland District meeting and General Assembly (GA) in Ft. Lauderdale, June 26th-30th.

Eight delegates, plus ministers, are eligible to attend the District meeting. Those interested in being a delegate should contact Iris know as soon as possible. The district office wants to know delegate names by mid-January so they can be kept informed of plans.

A panel discussion in a forum on January 6th will make choice of social justice issues to be supported by our congregation at General Assembly.

The congregation will support delegates as funds permit.

### Personal Communications

Ray Rust observed that the wayside pulpit was not legible from the street. Rev. Breeden indicated that there were city code limitations (but larger type may be possible).

### Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

### Upcoming dates of interest

December 16, 2007: Rev. Mary Ann Macklin returns from sabbatical

Feb. 1-3, 2008: Large Church Consultant, Rev. Stefan Jonasson, at UUCB

March 2, 2008: Talent Auction - Public invited. Consider what you will be donating

Mar. 13-16, 2008: Large Church Conference, Louisville, KY

## **Governance Task Force**

### **Report to the Congregation – December 9, 2007**

#### **Exploring Policy Governance**

As a church grows, its governance structure must adapt in order to promote the mission of the congregation. Since Fall 2006, our Governance Task Force has met to investigate the possibility of our church using policy governance as a management structure to achieve the following goals:

- Clear lines of accountability
- Simple, efficient management structure
- Improved communication

Policy governance is used by many larger churches. Our membership has hovered around 400 since late 2006; the Unitarian Universalist Association considers a church with more than 400 members to be a "large congregation." The increased activity level of a larger membership means that our Board has been spending more time on administrative procedures and requests that could more easily be

handled by authorized staff. The way we currently manage our church business is that of a smaller congregation. It is time to plan sensibly for our future.

The Governance Task Force's goal is to create a preliminary structure of what we think will work for our church by February 2008, so that we have a place to start our conversation with large church consultant Rev. Stefan Jonasson when he visits our congregation February 2-3. In the meantime, we will invite input from **focus groups**, committees and conversations with congregation members. We anticipate a completed plan to present to the congregation at a special meeting in the spring of 2008.

### **Results of Our Discussions**

Policy Governance is a system of organization that asks the Board of Directors to be a policy making, visioning and planning entity. The Management Team, staff and program council implement policies and plans as set by the Board.

Major planned outcomes for our work:

1. The Board of Directors will function under policy governance. The board will set policy and do both short and long-term planning for the church. Another task of the board will be programs of the church and monitoring of the Management Team.
2. The Management Team will consist of co-ministers and church administrator who will implement policy guidelines set by the Board relating to the management of the church.
3. A Program Council will operate within policy guidelines and procedures set by the Board to create church programming and facilitate communication and collaboration among the committees and task forces of the church. Members of the Program Council will be chosen from the lay leadership.

Please contact Jan Skinner at [pres@uubloomington.org](mailto:pres@uubloomington.org) with comments or questions.

--Jan Skinner, John Crosby, Diane Gregory, Chris Judge, Lloyd Orr, Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Rev. Bill Breeden, Church Administrator Carol Marks

## **Courtyard Design Committee December 3, 2007**

### Background

A Playground Taskforce began in October 2004 at an Religious Education (RE) Committee retreat to respond to an interest in improving the playground for the children.

The Taskforce immediately realized that no plan had ever been made that coordinated the multiple uses of the courtyard, which represents the congregation's major useable outdoor space both on Sundays and during the week.

The Playground Taskforce became the Courtyard Taskforce which set about identifying major stakeholders with a specific interest in the space to elicit their needs and ideas. This group included members of following: the RE Committee and parents of young children, the Building Oversight Committee, CUUPs, young adults and members without children. The task force also talked to the grounds committee, the memorial garden stewards, and anyone else they could think of. At that time the Building Oversight Committee let us know that the windows in the west façade of Fellowship Hall need to be replaced and they asked us to incorporate replacement of those windows into our design.

Through these discussions and weekly meetings, the Courtyard Task Force arrived at the following Guiding Design Criteria and Principles:

- Bring all generations together in community
- Provide a strong sense of arrival and entry
- Design a flexible and multipurpose space
- Create a fun and safe place for kids to play
- Ensure accessibility for all
- Create an inviting green space
- Improve energy efficiency of building
- Result should be easy to maintain

This task force also came up with several possible plans and ideas for the space. However, this initial group was very large and it was decided that in order to complete a drawn design proposal, a smaller group was needed. In the Fall of 2005, a smaller Courtyard Design Committee began to meet to come up with a design proposal that would incorporate the larger group's ideas and adhere to the design criteria and principles stated above.

In April 2006 the Board of Directors gave us approval to seek Congregational input in developing a vision and a plan for the space in order to meet the Church's needs.

### Current Status

The Courtyard Design Committee came up with a preliminary design that we have shared with the 'stakeholder' committees listed below; in addition we have held several open question and comment sessions. The design has been well received and has been endorsed in principle by the committees and groups to which it was presented. From these presentations, we also received many helpful questions and comments. We are now at the point where an architect is needed in order to respond to these questions, further develop schematics and drawings, and create a cost estimate. We are pleased that Steve Miller, the architect who worked with us on our last two building projects, is interested in working with us again. Two weeks ago, the courtyard committee met with Mr. Miller and several architects, builders and contractors from our congregation to discuss the project. Finally, the Special Purposes Fund Committee recently granted the Courtyard Committee a small lump sum to pay Mr. Miller for preliminary design work on the project.

We anticipate that we will come back to the Congregational meeting in June with an architect's drawing and a firmer cost estimate. The congregation will have a chance to vote on starting a capital campaign at that time. The Courtyard Design Committee continues to welcome questions and comments from the Congregation.

### Committees and Groups consulted:

RE Committee  
 Building and Grounds  
 Building Oversight Committee  
 Green Sanctuary Task Force  
 Women's Alliance  
 Board of Directors  
 Church Staff  
 Memorial Garden folks  
 Choir  
 General Congregation

Courtyard Design Committee Members: Cindy Port, Chair , Deborah Hutton, Cynthia Port, Tom Gregory, Matthew Quilter

# Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2008

## Contents:

MOTION to allow the Board of Directors to approve minutes from this meeting at a future board meeting.

MOTION to approve \$3,500 to custodial services for remainder of FY 07-08.

Quorum report

MOTION to approve policy governance model for UUCB including changes in bylaws previously distributed.

MOTION: to adjourn

**Call to order** by Jan Skinner, President, at 5:34 PM

**Chalice Lighting and Reading** by Rev. Mary Ann Macklin

**Introduce Parliamentarian Guy Loftman and adopt agenda** -- Jan Skinner

MOTION to allow the Board of Directors to approve minutes from this meeting at a future board meeting.

Moved by Steve Dillon, second by Jack King

VOTE: approved unanimously

MOTION to approve \$3,500 to custodial services for remainder of FY 07-08.

We are over budget for Custodial services because of increased church programming. We have been averaging \$1525 per month so far this year and we are budgeted for \$1243 per month. We currently only have funds (\$2722) to barely cover March and April. The total line is 14922.00.

We need the required congregational approval for \$3500. The Board cannot fix this since it is such a large amount, and the June congregational meeting is too late.

—Carol Marks

Moved by Steve Dillon, second by Andrea Murray

VOTE: approved unanimously

Quorum report

There are 76 members in attendance, with 41 required for a quorum.

-- Chris Haynes, Secretary

MOTION to approve policy governance model for UUCB including changes in bylaws previously distributed.

Moved by Steve Dillon, second by Connie Loftman

The previously distributed proposed bylaws changes are attached.

Jan Skinner, President, presented perspectives on the need for a governance policy model as our church grows into the large church size.

Concern was expressed about having a one-year term board position for youth who may be interested in board service.

Motion to amend: by Harlan Lewis, second by Jean Knowlton

Section 4.2 Amendment: Terms of Office. There shall be an additional board member with a one-year term which shall be available to a member between 18 and 30 years of age. If no member is available to serve, the term shall be held open until the following year.

Vote on amendment: defeated by voice vote.

The amendment motivation will be considered in future deliberation of bylaws changes.

VOTE on motion: approved, with one abstention by Harlan Lewis, and none opposed.

MOTION: to adjourn

Moved by Steve Dillon, second by Ruellen Fessenbecker

VOTE: approved unanimously. **The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM**

25% letter from SJ Funds cmte here  
**And on ff 3 pp**

**p. 2 of sj funds ltr**





# Nominating Committee Report – May 2008

## Board of Directors 2008-09

Slate of Nominations for UU Board, May 2008 election

\* indicates new nominee

### Board of Directors

Position	Nominee
President	G.K. Rowe
Vice President	Andrea Murray*
Treasurer	John Lawson*
Secretary	Chris Haynes
At Large	David Cox Amy Taylor Shari Woodbury

### Nominating Committee (This committee also includes the Vice President)

Nominee	Term
Harold Ogren	06 - 09
Harriet Pfister	07 - 10
Beckie Wagner*	08 - 11
Jan Skinner*	08 - 11

### Special Purposes Trust Fund (This committee also includes the President and Treasurer)

Nominee	Term
Deb Hutton	06 – 09
Susan Bookout	07 - 10
Tom Hollingsworth*	08 - 11



oper budget p. 2

**oper budget page 3**

## **President's Report 2007-2008**

What a successful year the UU Church of Bloomington has had. Congratulations to **all** members and friends who helped make this a great year.

I want to personally thank all the committees, task forces and the remarkable staff who worked so diligently this year. Please read the reports to learn how much has been accomplished.

Serving as president has been so rewarding. We did keep busy attending meetings and learning so much. In addition to three monthly meetings for the Board, the president serves on Finance and on Special Purposes. I chaired the Governance TF for two plus years. Thanks to your approval, the new policy governance will become effective on July 1, 2008. A seven person Board will do visioning and planning. The activities of the church will be lead by a Program Team, representing all the committees and the third component is the Management Team consisting of the two senior ministers and the church administrator. Thanks for your trust as we proceed.

A rewarding part of the president's responsibilities is the participation in the Exploring UU classes and being a witness to new members signing the membership book. How exciting to meet the new members and to watch their participation as the church grows.

It has truly been an honor to serve with excellent board members and hard-working staff. Thank you for allowing me to be your president for 2007-2008. My good wishes to the new board and GK Rowe as he assumes the presidency in July.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Skinner  
Board President

## **On Governance by Jan Skinner Special Congregational Meeting – April 20, 2008**

Policy governance has been on the minds of the UU Church of Bloomington Board for several years. Former presidents Anne Haynes and Chris Clothier recognized the need. President Jason Hill appointed a Task Force in late 2006. The July 07 Board retreat reviewed where the UUCB was in terms of membership, goals, programming and governance. Then, we determined we were on target for all areas except governance. Our growth in membership and programs is beyond the "pastoral" and "program" level. At the Dec. 2007 congregational meeting, members received an initial report detailing some of the ideas of the TF. Members: Lloyd Orr, Chris Judge, Jan Skinner, and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin were joined by church administrator, Carol Marks, Rev. Bill Breeden, John Crosby, Diane Gregory and Chris Haynes. (PLEASE STAND)

Churches of different sizes need to be organized differently. By using average total Sunday attendance (including children and volunteer staff), as a measurement, four distinct size categories have been identified. The largest two are "program size church", from about 250-400, and "large size church", above 400

Program size churches (where we are now) typically have large (dozen or more) detail-oriented boards, with most individual board members having liaison responsibility with certain committees, and a council of committee chairs. The board works closely with the council, which is often led by the vice-president.

We have been such a church in size and organization since approximately the time our co-ministry began. This organization works well until the upper end of this size range is reached, at which point it becomes awkward. The board then becomes overwhelmed with details, and does not have time to look at larger issues and formulate policy to guide an increasingly large paid and volunteer staff. Also, as the number of committees grows, the council becomes too large for effective coordination of church programming.

The research on church governance clearly indicates that growth into the large church size is greatly facilitated by adopting a "policy governance" structure. This structure typically has a small board of about seven members, a Program Team, and a Management Team. The board monitors the "pulse" of the church, visions possibilities, and sets policies that guide church activities, rather than being concerned with coordination and management issues. Lead ministers take increasing responsibility for strategic planning and leadership of the paid and volunteer staff. The Program Team, lead by the Management Team, and with members representing groups of committees (and other church groups), is the primary means for coordinating church activities.

This proposal gives power as well as responsibility to the staff. Within executive limitations, the staff will have the power to make decisions on daily activities.

The proposed by-laws changes provide the structural change that will enable our transition to policy governance. Full realization of policy style governance, and other governance changes suitable for a large church, requires several years.

The TF has met for two years to review how other churches moved to policy governance and if that is the best for us at this time.

We invited Rev. Stefan Jonasson, UUA, for 3 days in February 08 to discuss large church governance with the Governance TF, church staff, past – presidents and the entire congregation. Stefan complimented us on our moving forward.

Nine persons attended the Large Church Conference in Louisville in Feb. Our church size of 405 was among the smallest yet our programs compared with churches of larger size—except in governance.

John Crosby took the lead on the few changes in the bylaws that would allow us to restructure. A copy was printed in the March 31 Prologue.

Diane Gregory led two informational sessions, March 23 and April 13 on the recommendations and proposed bylaws. Several of you participated and asked meaningful questions.

As the stewardship theme stated, "Now is the time". The TF, including staff, is of that same opinion. Now is the time to take the first step and approve the recommendation of the TF and bylaws and move forward to a policy governance model. Note that this is **not** the last step. We ask for your trust and understanding as we go slowly over the next few years to conclude this model.

At this time, we invite your questions and comments.

Carver's says "The intent of Policy Governance® is to give operational definition to "leadership" as it applies in the specific context of a governing board".

## Vice President's Report 2007-2008

It goes without saying that we are all very busy and that this has been a very productive time for our church. On any given day or evening of the week one can walk into the church and find several active committees meeting and working to better serve our church and community. It is comforting to know that there are so many people working for a better tomorrow.

My journey through the past year as Vice President has been educational, enlightening, rewarding and active. Through this year I have attended regular monthly meetings as follows:

- Presidents Meetings
- Executive Board of Directors Meetings
- Board of Directors Meetings
- Nominating Meetings
- Finance Committee Meetings

In addition, I have participated in the following programs, workshops and meetings:

- Board Retreat
- Governance Task Force Meetings
- Board Members Meeting with Rev. Jonasson
- Shaping Our Future Together
- Membership: Exploring UU Classes
- Membership Book signing
- Connections Sub-Council
- Elder Care Workshop
- Getting Involved Fair
- Stewardship
- Church Directory

The Board of Directors' mission this year revolved around three main themes: Governance, Membership Journey and Communication. As the Chair to the Council, I was responsible for coordinating two Council meetings as follows:

- September 12, 2007 Council Meeting  
*This meeting took place after the Board Retreat and provided an opportunity to share some of the experiences and outcomes from the Board with the Council. Administrator, Carol Marks and Rev. Breeden discussed church budgets, administration and tools for leading an effective meeting. Each person in attendance was asked to share "what brought us here" or what inspired them to be a leader in the church.*
- January 23, 2007 Council Meeting  
*The primary focus of this meeting is to review the process for submitting a budget for each committee, facilitated by Treasurer, Lloyd Orr. In addition, reports were given by Chairs and/or Co-Chair from Shaping Our Future Together, Stewardship and Connections.*

I appreciate the opportunity to serve this church and have benefited greatly from the skills and talents available to me within this community through countless programs and individuals.

Respectfully,  
GK Rowe

Vice President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

## **Annual Report from the Ministers**

**May 2008**

### **Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Bill Breedon**

“Seeking the Spirit, Building Our Community, Changing the World” These words summarize the mission of our Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. We are honored to be a part of this community and value your trusted confidence in our ministerial leadership.

The 2007-08 church year was an affirmation of the wisdom of co-ministry. Reverend Macklin went on sabbatical leave from August to mid-December, and the church program did not miss a step. Due to the efforts of our lay leadership, the amazing efficiency of our staff and the gift of Reverend Barbara Child’s presence in our community, we were able to celebrate the sabbatical rather than merely endure it.

Our Exploring UU Class continues to be a conduit to membership and is at capacity nearly every time it is offered. We appreciate the efforts of our Membership Committee and Connections Sub-Council for helping us and challenging us to create new ways for the congregational membership journey to deepen. The Chalice Circles provide a way for persons to get better acquainted and establish deeper connections with others in the congregation. We have been very pleased with those who have stepped up to be facilitators of these groups, and will continue the program in the coming year. *A very big thank you to all volunteers, from teachers and groundskeepers to greeters and organizers, you help us celebrate, communicate, educate and collaborate in order to seek the spirit, build our community and change the world.* Kudos, friends, kudos.

Our Religious Education (RE) department continues to grow steadily. We could not ask for more able leadership than that provided by our Director of Religious Education Cindy Port, and our Minister of Religious Education Reverend Emily Leite. Their competence, as well as the joyful way in which they meet their responsibilities, provides an atmosphere of safety and fun that makes religious education a meaningful experience for children and adults alike. The support staff, Adrienne Summerlot and Addie Hirschten, in RE cannot be praised enough. They are committed to the mission of this congregation, and they simply make things happen.

The music in this church continues to be a hallmark of our congregational community. Music Director Susan Swaney has grown our choir from eight to more than sixty members. The music selections for our worship services are deeply appreciated by our co-ministry; the music offered transforms the worship experience beyond words. And of course, our pianist Sally Todd offers a grace and talent for which we are continually grateful. We very much appreciate the extensive collaborative working relationship afforded by both Susan, Sally, the choir and all musicians as part of our ministry.

Church Administrator Carol Marks continues to provide excellent administrative leadership for this congregation with attention to detail, creative problem solving and a healthy sense of humor; her assistant Aimee Osmundsen has become fully acclimated to the position and has become an integral part of the day to day workings of the office.

Our child care providers also do excellent work and continue to provide safe competent care for our small children. Finally, we want to give thanks for Tom Yeiser and his excellence in managing the sound in our services. He makes us to be heard not in green pastures, but in the pews and we appreciate it. This congregation is to be commended for its commitment to provide fair compensation for all its employees.

As our Church membership has grown so has our budget. It comes with the territory of becoming a large church. We are not only growing in size but in ministry. We have members involved in social justice work throughout the community. Community Kitchen, Monroe County United Ministries, Middle Way House, the Monroe County Jail, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, Terre Haute Federal Prison, Martha's House and many more places too numerous to mention are the recipients of this congregation's concern to make this world a better place. The UU Church has become one the leading voices in this community for social justice and for that we are very thankful. Our Social Justice leaders and volunteers are indeed helping to change the world.

The Women's Alliance continues to be a vibrant group that supports the ministry of this church in many ways, and the ministry team is very thankful for their unflagging enthusiasm. We also want to highlight the great year we had in campus ministry under the leadership of Campus Ministry Coordinator Susan Blake. From retreats to weekly worship opportunities on campus, our liberal religious voice continues to be offered throughout the generations.

Several lay leaders accompanied Reverend Macklin to the Large Church Conference at Louisville, KY, and returned with ideas about how to sustain our growth and our community at the same time. We will have representatives at the UU General Assembly in June. It may help us recognize our potential for ministry if we keep in mind that we are in the top 10% of churches in America in terms of membership and attendance on Sunday! Amazing isn't. We are more than we think we are!

A congregation that plays together stays together! And play we did at the second annual church retreat in Brown County. More than seventy adults and children celebrated the beauty of the earth and the life of our community together. We hope this event continues to grow. Again, thank you to the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change for sponsoring this earth celebrational all congregational intergenerational UU Retreat, and for the many ways they are helping us to seek the spirit, build community, and create a better world.

Lastly, thank you to our Board, its President, Jan Skinner, Treasurer Lloyd Orr, Secretary Chris Haynes, VP GK Rowe, members and all past members and leadership of our congregation. We are embarking on new adventures in governance and congregational organization. We've had visits from consultants such as Reverend Jonasson this past February and ongoing help from Reverend Child with our inspiring Appreciative Inquiry team and process, which has brought many voices to the future visioning of our congregational community. Many folks throughout the years have helped us reach this part of our journey. We look forward to everyone's insights, patience, sense of humor, challenge and goodwill as we enter our new year of congregational life on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2008-2009 year. Ours is not a perfect community. We sometimes stumble along the way, but that is part of the human venture, and we deeply appreciate all of you, with your imperfections and perfections, confusions and clarities, who laugh and cry with us along the way. Let us continue to seek the spirit, build community and change the world, and may that journey be one of reverence as we share the joys and sorrows of life together.

Warmly,  
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin  
Reverend Bill Breeden

# Church Administrator's Annual Report 2007-08

## Changes During the Past Year

Added **professional web mastering** for the church website in November 2007. This has been very successful, even though it stretched the office budget a bit.

Purchased **new copier** for the office. (The old one lasted a miraculous 8 years.)

Dealt with **break-in and theft of church property** in January 2008. Repairs were taken care of in a fairly timely manner despite delays by the insurance company, and research continues on additional low-cost security measures.

Upgraded all computer software to **Office 2007 Suite**.

## Church Administrator Continuing Education

I attended the UUA's Large Church Conference in Louisville in March; helped plan and participated in two core staff retreats; am mentoring for the next two years a candidate for the Association of UU Administrators' (AUUA) Certification Program; will attend AUUA Professional Days preceding General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale this June.

## Goals for 2008-09:

- Upgrade equipment as needed
- Repair Wi-Fi connection for building
- Respond to needs of task forces and committees
- Monitor building maintenance and cleaning
- Work toward web-based database
- Protect church property by putting additional security measures in place
- Adapt and grow with new governance structure, as a member of the Management Team

## An Attitude of Gratitude:

I am very thankful for the following wonderful people who make my job a pleasure:

Aimee Osmundsen, our awesome Office Assistant since 2006, who works with a cheerful heart and lightning speed.

The doughty Prologue folding and labeling crew, includ8ng but not limited to Marjorie Crosby, Karen Cassidy and her sister, Karla Kunoff, Jean Knowlton, Sylvia King. Thanks also to the Emergency Prologue Back-up Team: Jack King and Hugo Kunoff. There are doughnuts in their future.

I also appreciate the extra helpfulness of Martha Sattinger, Martha Nord, Dave Nord, and all the enthusiastic chairs and members of committees and task forces in our dynamic and growing congregation.

And I give thanks daily for getting to work with the best church staff and ministers in the business.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol E. Marks  
Your Church Administrator since 1992.

# Religious Education

## Annual Report May 2008

### Curriculum

Preschool- We are Many, We are One  
K-1<sup>st</sup> Picture Book World Religions, Web of Life  
2nd-6<sup>th</sup> (9 am) Spirit of Adventure  
2-3<sup>rd</sup> (11:15 am) UU Superheroes and Superheroes Bible People  
4th-6<sup>th</sup> (11:15 am) Why do Bad Things Happen? Traditions with a Wink  
7th-9<sup>th</sup> How Can I Know What to Believe? UU Action

### January Intersession

A major highlight this year was the success of the 5 week intersession based on the UU Family Values curriculum written by Rev. Emily Manvel Leite. Children signed up for classes based on interest and could choose between cooking, crafts, drama, outdoors and creative writing. Attendance and enthusiasm for this program was high and we will offer it again next year.

### Social Justice Projects

As always, a major theme in our Religious Education program is to work for social justice.

#### *Volunteer and Fundraising Projects*

Summer Read to Feed Program	\$504
Help for Iraqi Refugees Yard Sale	\$330
YUUMS Bake Sale	\$250
Trick or Treat for UNICEF	\$115
2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Popcorn Sale for MCUM	\$95
Procession of Giving	
-Money collected for UUSC	\$1226
-105 gifts for local people in need	\$1600 (estimated value of gifts)
MCUM Holiday Collection	\$73
YUUMS Spring Bake Sale	\$111
Snack bags for children at Shalom Center	\$200
YUUMS Homeward Bound 5k	\$190
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade food collection	\$25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,719</b>

### Highlights

- Our monthly Family Worship services continue to be well attended.
- *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) sexuality education program was offered to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- YRUU (High School) has been active; they developed and led a Sunday morning worship service in March.
- Our nursery population has increased, childcare is full of toddlers and twos on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Port, Director of Religious Education

## Adult Religious Education 2007-08

Committee Members: Bob DeVoe, Chair; Glee Noble, Rob Hongen, Kevin Woodruff, Hugo Kunoff; Ministerial Liaison: Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, Board Liaison: Karen Jewell

Meetings: The Committee met in July, September, November, December, February, and March; its final meeting will be in June. Our principal activities were

- a) Soliciting, selecting, monitoring and evaluating courses covering a wide range of topics of interest to UU members.
- b) Choosing and running film shows of movies with spiritual and social justice content.

### **ALL of the following Fall 2007/Spring 2008 courses listed and the spiritual film series took place (Summer 2008 courses have not yet started)**

Fall 2007 Classes (deadline for submissions was August 1)

- 1) Writing About Your Life: How to Get Started (or Get Unstuck); facilitated by John Woodcock (1 session)
- 2) Engaging Our Theological Diversity; facilitated by Rev. Barbara Child (5 sessions)
- 3) Christopher Hitchen's *God is not Great*; Facilitated by Hugo Kunoff (2 sessions)
- 4) The Flipside of Godspeak: Theism As Constructed Reality; facilitated by John Crosby (3 sessions)
- 5) The UU Principles: What For, and What Next; facilitated by Rev. Barbara Child (5 sessions)
- 6) Intergenerational Chalice Making Workshop; facilitated by Emily Manvel Leite and Cindy Port (3 sessions)

Spring 2008 Classes (deadline for submissions was December 12)

- 1) Buddhism, Meditation, and You You; facilitated by Dorian Kondas (5 sessions)
- 2) Building Your Own Theology; facilitated by Rev. Barbara Child (6 sessions)
- 3) Neighboring Faiths Series; facilitated by Karen Jewell and Kevin Woodruff (1 session so far)
- 4) Planting and Pruning Flowering Shrubs; facilitated by Allan Paton (1 session)
- 5) Living Simply With children; facilitated by Rev. Emily Manvel Leite (4 sessions)
- 6) A Year to Live; facilitated by Rev. Mary Ann Macklin (1 session)
- 7) Going Deeper; facilitated by Cherry Merritt-Darriau (4 sessions)
- 8) The Closing of the Western Mind; facilitated by Bob DeVoe (5 sessions)
- 9) Spring Forums: 9/11 - Pressing for the Truth; facilitated by Byron Bangert and Chris Haynes (4 sessions)

Summer 2008 Classes (deadline for submissions was April 25)

- 1) The Bhagavad Gita: exploring the Essence of Hinduism; facilitated by Chris Haynes
- 2) Creating a "Permanent Culture": An Introduction; facilitated by Rhonda Baird
- 3) Yoga from the Ages (For all Ages); facilitated by Derek Tambo

Spiritual Film Series Potluck pitch-in dinners are followed by film and discussion. The permit to show films, paid for by the ARE Committee, can be use by other church groups.

September 8: *Khatchaturian*

October 10: *Rent*

November 10: *Joyeux Noel* (Merry Christmas)

January 12: *Jean de Florette*

February 9: *Casablanca*

March 8: *The Battle of Algiers*

## **Campus Ministry**

The 2007-08 school year started quickly when Susan Blake, the Campus Ministry Coordinator, organized the campus group's participation in Indiana University's Culture Fest and Faith Fest (for which, in order to participate, we rejoined the Campus Religious Leaders' Association). Susan kept the group busy with a mix of reflective, arts, and social activities through the year. Group activities included weekly on-campus meetings, regular Sunday lunches, the holiday church lock-in (to provide Bazaar security), building a compost bin for the church's use, and being featured in the *Indiana Daily Student's* Weekend section on February 28 ("Unitarian Universalism opens its doors to everyone: Faith and community strong on and off campus"). The group, which involves about 20-30 undergraduates, graduate students, and post-docs through different activities, is developing its own leadership skills, has recently elected a social justice chair and an activities chair, and looks forward to joining in with community social justice projects next year. The other committee members (Adam Leite and Bob Port) and I appreciate the church's support and Susan Blake's good work, which were especially valuable during Rev. Macklin's sabbatical. Submitted by Katie Peebles, Chair

## **Celebrations Committee**

This is the fifth year the Celebrations Committee has functioned and been funded.

The three Celebrations Committee events are Ramadan Celebration, Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Celebration of the Diversity of Music.

These three events were scheduled, planned and organized. The participation of the members of the church to plan and implement each event was outstanding. Help was asked for and the individual and group tasks were carried out with skill and warmth.

Ramadan Celebration had more than 300 people (UU and Muslim) in attendance. Thanksgiving dinner was a great success as well with 87 in attendance (20 international students) with a massive preparation of food. Leftovers were given to the attendees and also sent to help feed the needy.

The Diversity of Music, with the public invited, had the church filled to overflowing! We almost ran out of chairs for seating!

The Celebrations Committee has been dissolved. From here on, Ramadan Celebration will be coordinated by Erin Hollinden, Thanksgiving Dinner by Deanna Lahre, and the Diversity of Music Concert is seeking leadership. These three events have become threads in our tapestry of church events. The new and present chairs will add to and enhance what was begun and carried forward.

Elizabeth M. Lion and Karen Cassidy  
Co-Chairs for the Celebrations Committee

## Greeter and Welcomer Committee

**2007-08 Members:** Chris Clothier, Mark Day, Libby DeVoe, Lee Strickholm, Jean Umiker-Sebeok, and Anna Wiley, who were recently joined by Karen Cassidy and Ann Watzel. We thank retiring members, Lee Strickholm, Jean Umiker-Sebeok and Mark Day for their years of committee service. No chair has been identified for 08-09.

**Accomplishments:** The committee recruits, trains and schedules greeters and newcomer welcomers for Sunday services and notifies the office of the month's schedule. Each month one member of the committee draws from the list of trained volunteers to fill the 40-50 greeter and welcomer posts required that month. . During 2007, 460 greeter/welcomer posts were filled by 105 volunteers. We are especially grateful to those volunteers who have made a standing commitment to a regular shift one Sunday per month.

We conducted two formal training sessions during the year and supplemented that with on-the-job training on an individual basis. We have compiled an instruction manual for trainees.

**Concerns:** We need a process for recruiting potential greeters that is more systematic than the ad hoc personal contacts now in use. It would be valuable to identify a cadre of "super welcomers" who would receive in-depth training and regularly staff the Welcome Table. We need to coordinate more effectively with Membership to share information about visitors and newcomers.

## Library Committee

Marjorie Crosby, Ann McIntosh, and Roberta Watson serve on the U.U. Library Committee. The library contains books with information that could support and guide those wishing to know more about the history and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

New books are purchased with funds set aside for the library budget. Library users and possible donors can check the library boxes on the bottom shelf to determine current holdings.

One box contains an alphabetical listing by author; another box contains alphabetical listings by the title of the book. Information about new library books is published in The Prologue.

A continuing and pressing problem is one of very overdue books that have been checked out by members and visitors. ---Submitted by Ann R. McIntosh

## Membership Committee

Members: Marjorie Crosby, Libby DeVoe (chair), Jackie Hall, Cyndi Nelson, Dale Nelson, Laura Smith, and for part of the year, Nancy Richman and Tim Slack.

Accomplishments:

- Welcomed 35 new members between June 2007 and May 2008
  - Conducted Membership Book signings on the third Sunday of odd months.
  - Collected and published new member biographies in the *Prologue*, displayed photos and biographies in the Commons and archived them in an album in the Fuchs Library.
  - Purchased and gave the *UU Pocket Guide* to each new member household.
  - Arranged recognition of new members in Sunday services.
- Conducted six Exploring UU classes for 70 newcomers.

- Organized the reception for Long Time and New Member Recognition in February.
- Partnering with the Shaping our Future Together Committee October and the Sabbatical Committee in February, hosted all-church potlucks to recognize new members and provide a forum for discussion of significant church issues.
- Telephoned church visitors every week to welcome them and answer questions about the congregation.
- Created Guest Registry card to replace newsletter sign up sheet.
- Will host annual New Member Picnic at Bryan Park in June. This family-friendly event gives new members an opportunity to interact with the UU Board, Staff and Ministers.
- Studied national research related to the membership journey and discussed specific applications in our congregation.
- Suggested elements for job description for professional Membership Integration Coordinator.

Challenges:

- Ensuring new members are integrated into the life of the church.

## **Social Justice Steering Committee**

The Social Justice programming has been very active this year – see the task force reports for more details. This year a several task forces broadened their scope and took on new tasks and names MCUM task force became Feed Our Hungry Neighbors, the Alternative to the Death Penalty folks became Friends of Prisoners and took on support of several new programs. The Civil Marriage Task Force became the Rainbow Rights Task Force. New task forces are Katrina Relief and International Outreach. The Children’s Task Force disbanded, but some of their projects were taken up by other task forces

The Social Justice Coordinating Circle is made up of representatives from each task force and any other church group that would like to participate. The Circle was chaired this year again by Martha Nord. They met three times this past year to hear updates on what each group is doing, to talk about how to best coordinate and publicize and support the social justice work of the church, to schedule the monthly social justice moments in the services and the use of the social justice bulletin board by each Task Force, and to support each other in their work.

The Social Justice Steering Committee is a small group that meets as needed and takes care of ongoing operational matters associated with Social Justice. The major accomplishments of the year have been to fine tune the growing social justice organization and to work with the SJ Funds Committee for a funding proposal for the Social Justice Grants. The Social Justice Funds Committee is a sub committee of the steering committee and administers the SJ Grants and the Sunday Plate collection for a community organization or project. Sunday forums continue to be held between the services when the library is available. Common Ground is published monthly and our bulletin board and table always are filled with Social Justice news and activities.

*Jackie Hall,  
chair SJ Steering Committee*

Below are reports from the various social justice task forces, liaisons and committees:

## Social Justice Funds Committee

**Fall Social Justice Grants program:** We received two proposals:

1. UU Habitat for Humanity Task Force requested \$4000 to help them reach their goal of support for the upcoming Habitat interfaith build. (The task force had originally applied for support in the fall of 2006, at which time the Board had asked them to reapply in 2007.)

2. The newly formed UU Friends of Prisoners Task force requested \$500 to cover transportation expenses for the church choir's prison visits (two this year) in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, since the prisons were not able to contribute as they had in previous years.

Both proposals were funded, the larger Habitat proposal following a vote at the December congregational meeting.

**Spring award of Sunday Plate funds:** In March from seven applicants we selected proposals of the following organizations to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 2008 congregational meeting

1. Middle Way House Emergency Shelter
2. People and Animals Learning Services, Inc. (PALS)
3. Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County, Inc.

*The Social Justice Funds Committee  
John Woodcock, Stephanie Estell, Co-Chairs  
Joan Caulton, Bob Taylor, and Jennifer Blankenship*

## Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force

The primary activity of the task force is the MCUM Emergency Food Pantry. Our monthly first Sunday BOUNTY-FULL Sunday food collection has been very successful with a total of 2,149 pounds donated July 2007-May 2008. The children in Religious Education participated in March and we collected 450 pounds that Sunday alone. The 2007 Holiday Food Baskets totaled 41 and 4,100 pounds of food. MCUM reports that we are the only congregation in Bloomington to donate at this level. This amount brings the total for the year to 6,249 pounds. Other Holiday contributions to MCUM include: Mary Blizzard's knitting booth sales, \$1564.00, and the non-pledge plate collection on Christmas Eve, \$1021.27. Other activities of the committee include: Ticket sales for the MCUM annual "Spring into Action" luncheon, and the CROP Walk sign-up. A big thank you to the congregation for your many contributions during the year.

*Beth Hollingsworth  
MCUM Committee of the HFOHN Task Force*

Supporting work of Community Kitchen is another part of the Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force. A dedicated subgroup of the task force works from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at the Community Kitchen helping to assemble take home-meals for supper patrons and after-school snacks for children, as well as preparing salads and vegetable dishes. We welcome fellow potato peelers and sandwich makers to join us. Bring your own sharp knife.

*Libby DeVoe edevoe@indiana.edu or 336-8688.*

## **Friends of Prisoners Task Force**

At least ten members of our task force are volunteering weekly or monthly at the Monroe County Jail (MCJ)—through Crafting Bridges, New Leaf/New Life (NL/NL), Psycho Drama, Writing classes, and other activities. One of our members engaged her chalice group in a very successful book drive—more than 600 books were collected for the waiting room at the jail and for children visiting their incarcerated parents to take home with them. We are planning to add adult books to the MCJ and WVCF libraries, too. We hope to have Congregations Embracing Offenders (CEO) launched soon with our church taking a leading role in a mentoring program for inmates from MCJ. NL/NL has applied for a grant from the UUSP to facilitate CEO—the program was discussed in an SJ forum last fall. With the help of Women’s Alliance, we collected quilt material and money for the P.L.U.S. Program (WCVF) Quilt Project—inmates design and make quilts for social service organizations. Many of our members and friends participated in the National Weekend for Faith in Action against the death penalty in October and purchased and sent gifts to children of death row inmates during the holidays. We are an active thriving group striving to recognize and embrace the humanity of our incarcerated brothers and sisters, and we have some great ideas for future forums, volunteer opportunities, and community outreach programs.

*Glenda Breeden bgbreeden@att.net, 812-829-3431*

## **Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change**

The Green Sanctuary Task Force was very proud to start-off the summer of 2007 with the news that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington had been accredited as a Green Sanctuary. Upon reaching that goal, we promptly held another brainstorming session and came up with a full list of activities, some old and some new, to keep us busy over the course of the year.

Activities that we continued from previous years included our veggie potlucks, clothing swaps, Earth Fair, and the UU Retreat. We hosted five potlucks, all of which were followed by either a movie or a panel discussion. Topics of discussion included: Local Food, Natural History of Indiana, and Climate Change and Water Issues. All events were well attended. Between the Earth Day services, we again hosted the Earth Fair. This year we worked in conjunction with the Earth Kin task force to give away over 150 trees. We also provided information on upcoming GSTF events and had educational materials from local environmental groups. Over the weekend of May 9-10 we hosted our second “All Congregational, Earth Celebrational, Intergenerational, UU Retreat” at Camp Rancho Framasa in Brown County. Over 70 people registered for the retreat and joined us at the camp to celebrate our connection with the Earth.

This past year, we expanded on our distribution of Compact Fluorescent lights (CFLs). In addition to selling the bulbs at the coffee table, we donated one bulb for each of the holiday baskets that were put together by members of our church in December. In January, we took part in a Martin Luther King Jr. day event that involved working with the IU student group, Volunteers in Sustainability, to do a light bulb swap in low-income neighborhoods. We helped finance the CFLs as well as provided support on the day of the event.

Continuing with our work on environmental justice, the GSTF voted to speak out in opposition to Duke Energy’s plan to build a coal gasification plant in Knox County, Indiana. A number of members attended the public field hearing in Bloomington and David Keppel spoke on behalf of the GSTF. We followed up with a letter writing campaign in January in which 55-60 letters were sent from members of our congregation expressing opposition to this plan. We also wrote a letter to the editor in the Herald Times.

In January, we hosted a forum to provide information to our fellow UUs on the two topics up for vote this June for the Study Action Issue. David Keppel spoke on Nuclear Disarmament and Marcia Feldman spoke on Ethical Eating.

Finally, the GSTF hosted the first meeting of a newly formed interfaith group in Bloomington called Earth Care. The group has met three times and has formed working groups to follow through on the action plans. Two of the activities that the GSTF has been active in promoting and carrying out are "Cycle to Service" month and "Cut Your Carbon" workshops. The GSTF is encouraging congregants at our church to bike, walk, bus or carpool to church for a month starting with May 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 25 people have signed up to participate thus far.

The first round of "Cut Your Carbon" workshops took place in February and March. One set of workshops took place at the UU Church and there was one member of the GSTF co-leading each of the workshops. A total of 75 people participated in the first round of workshops and feedback was very positive. We are currently planning the second round of workshops, and they will take place in June and July.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Feldman, member Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change*

### **Habitat For Humanity Task Force**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird continued to serve as co-chairpersons of the Habitat Task Force. Other active members during the past year are: Dorothy Sowell, Joan Caulton, Emily Tenney, Mark Esch-Williams, Bev Freese and Mary Andrus-Overley. The task force meets monthly and also works together for fund-raisers and Habitat-related events.

**ACTION PLAN:** May 2007 through April 2008

Social Justice Problem: Lack of decent, affordable housing in Monroe County.

Goal: Support Habitat for Humanity's efforts to provide decent, affording housing locally and globally.

Objectives: Educate the congregation about housing needs; expand UU volunteerism for Habitat; raise funds for Interfaith Build house, Women's Build and support Habitat with volunteers, food for other builds.

**ACTIVITIES:** The task force's primary goal during the past year was continuing to raise money and help organize an Interfaith Build among faith communities in the Bloomington area. Sponsorship of a house requires \$50,000 in funds, as well as 20-25 volunteers for 12 building days spread over about a three-month period.

As of April, UU and at least seven other churches have pledged nearly that amount and Habitat for Humanity has scheduled the build to begin on July 26, 2008. The other churches that have committed to participate and contribute financially are: Beth Shalom, St. Thomas Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, Friends Meeting, Baha'i Center, First United and First United Methodist.

The UU church signed a commitment letter in March and made an initial contribution of \$1,500. The task force has raised about \$15,600 to contribute to the build, including a \$4,000 UU social justice grant and \$910 in existing church Habitat funds.

Fund-raising activities since last May that the task force planned and carried out were:

- Car wash with YUUMs in May in UU parking lot
- Men celebrating community event on Father's Day between services (providing food and honoring men involved in Habitat)
- Ice cream social during July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks at church parking lot
- Bake sale between services – late October

- Parking cars during IU home football games from September through November
- Prepared and served dinner during Dec. 3 congregational meeting
- Sold holiday donation gifts during Holiday Bazaar and between services allowing people to “purchase” parts of the house in honor of family/friend
- Helped plan and put on musical coffeehouse at Baha’i on Nov. 17 as a joint fund-raiser and social get-together with churches involved in Interfaith Build
- Requested and received \$4,000 social justice grant from UU; \$600 donation from Women’s Alliance and other large and small donations from congregation members
- Requested but did not receive \$7,000 grant from UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, N.Y.
- Requested a \$1,000 grant from Disney Co. for parents and children working together on social justice issues (Connie Nelson-Laird and family) – waiting to receive word

Other activities done by the task force and supporters:

- Habitat Women’s Build – Mary Andrus-Overley chaired a team of primarily UU women in 2007; another primarily UU women’s team will build on May 14, 2008.
- Presented a social justice moment in December with several task force members and other supporters sharing what Habitat means to them; put up bulletin board.
- Planned and participated in Family Worship Service in November about housing and Habitat for Humanity; children and adults built corner pieces for a Habitat home.
- Helped sponsor two tables for the More Than Houses breakfast, Habitat’s large fund-raiser in November
- Submitted regular articles to the Common Ground and Prologue detailing events and information about Habitat’s work and task force activities.
- Several UU Habitat supporters participate in build in fall of 2007.

*Barb Berggoetz*

### **International Outreach Task Force**

The IOTF began meeting in January of 2008. In that 4 month window we have made good progress in attracting initial membership and forging relationships with 3 specific international development organizations/ projects. I will describe these briefly below.

1. Giving Back to Africa: This is a Bloomington based not for profit that is working to fund and develop service-based learning and leadership education in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
2. Ndethya wa Nguthethya (Kenyan Water Project): This is a project initiated by congregation member Claire Robertson that is working to fund water development projects in eastern Kenya. Up to the present this has been Claire’s personal project. The IOTF is working with her to build a structure of accountability and transparency concerning the use and transfer of funds that will hopefully strengthen, if not expand, the scope of her/our current and future efforts.
3. Inches International: This is a not for profit organization based out of the University of Indianapolis that is working to generate tuition funds, and collect school books and other school supplies, to support education efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Inches International works in conjunction with Operation Classroom of the United Methodist Church.

The IOTF is currently in the planning stages on 3 prospective fundraising events. Prospective IOTF Dinner Forum, Prospective IOTF Info and Sales Booth at 4<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Fair and Lotus Music Festival, Prospective Main Yearly IOTF Fundraiser:

Current Active Members: Jason Blankenship, Kevin Rottet, Claire Robertson, Jennifer Blankenship, Dave Crane, John Loveland.

The IOTF has already expanded outside the congregation by forging working relationships with both Giving Back to Africa and Inches International. We are working hard to build the foundation at this point. As planned events come to fruition it is hoped that involvement both within the congregation and in the larger community will grow accordingly. However, it should be noted that in our case increasing membership numbers are not a driving factor in the amount of good that can come from the work we do in affiliation with the international services projects we are associated with. The more who want to be involved the better as they bring new ideas, perspectives, experiences, and energy....all are welcome.

*Jason Blankenship*

### **Katrina Relief Task Force**

This Task Force, formed in late March, has had minimal activity so far. We are soliciting volunteers to travel to New Orleans in the week of September 14-20, 2008, to help rebuild homes. This will use the program and facilities of the Little Farms United Church of Christ. Aside from soliciting indications of interest through various newsletters and groups, our only other activity has been to submit a notice for the Common Ground insert in the Prologue. This not only asks for volunteers, but also solicits financial contributions to help support the participation of volunteers with limited funds.

To date we've received 34 still-active expressions of interest (a few possibly representing couples), and we can only accommodate 20 at the Little Farms facilities. We will soon be asking for more information about probable ability to go in September.

*David Parkhurst*

*(Other members are Barbara Backler and Lloyd Orr)*

### **Rainbow Rights Task Force**

Since our last report in May 2007 the Rainbow Rights Task Force, formerly known as the Civil Marriage Is A Civil Right Task Force, has made great strides in educating our congregation as well as the larger community.

#### **On the political front:**

We organized a post card campaign in support of ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act). Each person signed 3 cards (Lugar, Bayh and Hill or the appropriate Congressman). Due to our efforts over 400 postcards were sent. Unfortunately, ENDA still has not been passed into law.

We also conducted a post card campaign in support of national Hate Crimes legislation. Unfortunately, this legislation did not pass into law.

#### **On Fundraising efforts:**

We sold \$155 worth of T-shirts at the Indy PRIDE festival in June. We also gave out many brochures about the church as well as 47 copies of GLBT children's books bibliographies. We raised \$21 at the Spencer PFLAG PRIDE festival after donating \$25 to Spencer PFLAG.

At our annual Valentine's Day fundraiser breakfast we raised \$512. Half the proceeds went to the Interfaith Coalition On Non-Discrimination (ICON) and the other half to Indiana Equality (IE). The Executive Director of ICON and John Clower from IE were at the breakfast to answer questions and encourage members of the congregation to join ICON and IE.

**On participation in the community:**

In addition to participating in community PRIDE events, we organized and co-hosted a film showing of *Inlaws & Outlaws* for ICON. This film weaves together a series of stories from couples and singles, gay and straight. This event was held in conjunction with other churches in the area at the Monroe County Library in Bloomington. This showing was open to the public and advertised extensively.

We joined INTRAA, an organization for the advancement of transgender rights.

Our annual donation to ICON from our fundraiser breakfast pays our congregational membership dues for the year. This year one of our task force members joined the board of ICON.

**On issues affecting the larger congregation:**

We changed our name to Rainbow Rights Task Force to reflect our expanded role in working toward full equality for the GLBTQ community. We updated the church website to reflect our expanded role.

We used our SJ Moments to educate the congregation about ENDA, (Employment Non-Discrimination Act), Gender Issues and Marriage Issues.

In continuing the Welcoming Congregation activities, we conducted SJ Forums on Transgender Issues and Gender/Labeling.

We participated in the Getting Involved Fairs in September and January.

**On Future Plans:**

Under the Welcoming Congregation umbrella, we're planning;

1. an SJ Forum on Marriage vs Civil Unions
2. t-shirt design contest
3. speakers to Women's Alliance, YUMMS, etc.
4. activities with the wider religious community in Bloomington

We will participate in Indy Gay PRIDE and Spencer PRIDE in June. We will also monitor activities at the Indiana Statehouse for LGTBQ legislation.

*Judi Epp*  
*Co-Chair, Civil Marriage Is A Civil Right Task Force*

**Task Force for a Just Peace**

In the past year, the Just Peace Task Force has supported those in the congregation working to end the war in Iraq and to prevent a war on Iran.

Last summer, DRE Cindy Port led a Religious Education project where children explored the human meaning of the Iraq war. They made paper dolls, which were delivered to a representative of Ninth District Congressman Baron Hill, and raised funds by selling their own toys; these funds went to Iraqi refugees.

Members of the task force (Rev. Breeden and David Keppel) were part of a small meeting with Congressman Hill in July. On October 27, many members of the congregation joined a bus trip to Chicago for a demonstration to end the war. The task force co-sponsored a large vigil and rally in Bloomington on March 19, 2008 to mark the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Members of

the task force were involved in all aspects of this event, which drew attendance from many members of the congregation.

Rev. Bill Breeden and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin supported the concerns of the task force with frequent sermons on the war as well as on torture and abuse of detainees. Task force members and other members of the congregation wrote letters published in The Bloomington Herald-Times and The New York Times and aired commentaries on WFIU's "Speak Your Mind."

*David Keppel*

## Special Purposes Fund Committee 2007-08

The Special Purposes Fund (SPF) is the depository for assets donated to the church which may be used for religious, charitable, educational, and civic purposes. The fund is administered by an elected committee separately from the other financial affairs of the church. SPF funds may not normally be used for regular operating expenses. Members of the SPF Committee in 2007-08 were Deb Hutton, Bob Port, and Susan Bookout, with President Jan Skinner and Treasurer Lloyd Orr.

During 2007-08, the SPF Committee authorized expenditures of \$6,370, which helped to provide funding for the Nametag Project, Small Group Ministry leadership training, Prison Ministry work through Social Justice funds, Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build, and income from endowment for Church Groundskeeping.

Donations received since the June 2006 congregational meeting totaled \$6,785.  
Total assets of the Special Purposes Fund as of May 21, 2008, were \$132,998.

Total in Endowments	\$39,347
Total in Designated Funds	\$65,285
Total in Non-designated Funds	<u>\$28,366</u>
Total Assets	\$132,998

(Designated Funds were given in memory of loved ones, to be used for a specific purpose, or were given for other special projects by members of the congregation.)

(Non-designated Funds were given in memory of loved ones or are bequests, without a stipulation that the funds be used for a specific purpose.)

This report compiled by Carol Marks, Church Administrator, May 2008

## Sunday Services Committee

The Sunday Services Committee provided a worship associate for each Sunday service—replenished joys and sorrows candles, assisted the ministers in needs they may have had, etc. We also created three or four lay-led services during the course of the church year that offered a myriad of spiritual/religious perspectives to our diverse congregation. Due to our larger attendance and therefore longer lines to light joys and sorrows candles, we commissioned three new chalices from Barb Lund and two larger tables to accommodate them from Rob Mills so that people could access the candles in a more timely manner. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this vibrant church community.

Committee members: Jason Blankenship, Glenda Breeden, Patricia Coleman, Julia Dadds, Syndee Earheart, Karen Gunderman, Lisa-Marie Napoli, Al Strickholm, Beckie Wagner, Will Watt