



Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.

Annual Report to the Congregation Sunday, June 4, 2023

Current Membership: 555

Certified Membership: 550

Board of Directors, 2022-2023

Abby Gitlitz, President

Stuart Yoak, Vice President (July-Dec 2022)

Jane McLeod, Vice President (as of Jan 2023; At-large July - Dec 2022)

Regina DiLavore, Secretary

Rich Slabach, Treasurer

Linda Pickle, At-large

Drew Schrader, At-large

Mary Craig, At-large (as of Jan 2023)

Monthly Board meeting minutes are posted here: uubloomington.org/about-us/board-of-directors

Ministers

The Reverend Constance Grant, Interim Lead Minister

The Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Minister of Story and Ritual

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Congregational Meeting** Minutes

June 12, 2022



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Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Minister of Story and Ritual Report

Opening

President Stuart Yoak called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

Reverends Macklin and Leite lit the chalice and delivered the opening words.

Vice President Abby Gitlitz provided guidelines for the meeting.

President Yoak introduced Parliamentarian Steve Dillon and Board Secretary Steven Gilbert.

Ministerial Reports

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin summarized events over the past year, especially commending the NEST committee for its work in keeping the congregation safe. She ended by leading the congregation in an imaginary champaign toast to salute both the past and the future of UUCB.

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite expressed appreciation for Rev. Macklin's service and discussed what it means to be a minister of story and ritual. She directed particular thanks to the congregation, and to those in the congregation who assisted in the Covid memorial project. (See Attachment 1).

Reverend Michele Grove delivered a video message with encouraging words about the direction of Religious Education reform at UUCB. Rev. Macklin then introduced RE Coordinator Stephanie Kimball, who reviewed the key accomplishments of Religious Education this year in Adult Religious Education, Sunday morning programming, communications, and planning for program growth and development.

Interim Minister Search

Committee Chair Drew Schrader reviewed the procedures and progress of the Interim Search Committee which culminated in the hiring of a new Interim minister. That minister, Rev. Constance Grant, appeared on video to express her anticipation of a successful two-year tenure at UUCB.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Planned Giving

Committee Chair Ann Kamman reviewed the Planned Giving committee membership and options for planned giving. She then closed by reporting that the committee plans for an event in August to thank members of the Legacy Circle, and also plans for the development of a planned giving web page within the large church website.

Green Building Report

Task Force Chair Molly O'Donnell reported that the church covered 93% of its own energy usage from 1918-21 and ranked 98 out of 100 houses of worship for energy efficiency. In the past year, UUCB received a free energy audit through the Center for Congregations, and replaced two of its oldest HVAC systems with more energy-efficient models.

Special Purposes Fund Report

Andrew Appel reported that special purposes funds were used to purchase air purification system; tents and awnings for outdoor use; two video conference systems; an AV computer rebuild; music compositions through the Sue Swaney Fund; social justice grants; two high efficiency heat pumps for the church; and to cover ministerial moving expenses. Available funds decreased over the past year due to the stock market downturn, but the fund is still healthy.

Meeting Business

Quorum Report

Attendance at this meeting was 140, which well exceeded the 10% participation required by the bylaws.

25% Plate Vote

Abby Gitlitz and Board members collected ballots for votes for the 25% plate recipient for 22-23.

Motion to Approve Minutes

President Yoak moved that the Board be allowed to approve these congregational meeting minutes at a future board meeting. After a general second, the motion was carried by voice vote.

Leadership Cultivation Committee

Motion to Approved Candidates for the Board

After introducing members of the LCC, committee chair Nicole Motz introduced its slate of candidates for the Board as follows:

- Stuart Yoak for re-election to a second term, but with change in role from President to Vice-President
- Abby Gitlitz for re-election to a second term, but with change in role from Vice-President to President
- Regina DiLamore for her first regular term as Secretary.
- Jane McLeod and Drew Schrader for their second regular terms at-large.
- Linda Pickle for her first regular term at-large.

Nicole moved that the congregation approve this slate of candidates for terms beginning July 1, 2023. Deb Hutton seconded. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

Motion to Approve Candidates for the LCC Committee

Nicole moved that the congregation approve the following candidates for the LCC beginning July 1, 2023. Sandy Churchill seconded. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

- Denise Breeden-Ost
- Dalton Gibson
- Carol McCord
- Michael McGregor

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Rich Slabach reviewed the church's current financial condition and projections for the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget. At the moment the church appears to be in good condition, with projected income exceeding projected expenses for the upcoming year by just over \$12K. The congregation will be updated on the budget at its December meeting.

President Yoak moved for the general approval of the projected 2022-23 budget by the congregation, with allowance for the board and ministers to make minor modifications as needed. After a general second, the motion was carried by voice vote without dissent.

Outcome of the Vote on the 25% Plate Recipient

Board Member Linda Pickle announced that the 25% Plate Recipient for 2022-23 will be the Refugee Support Network.

Departing Minister Support Committee

President Yoak moved that the congregation approve the appointment of a Departing Minister Support Committee for Rev. Macklin consisting of Frank Diaz, Nicole Motz and Matt Zink. After a general second, the motion was approved by voice vote.

President's and Vice-President's Report

President Yoak and Vice-President Abby Gitlitz reviewed significant events and accomplishments of the past year and paid tribute to the many people who made the successes of the year possible.

Release from the Ministerial Call

President Yoak and Vice-President Gitlitz led the congregation in the recitation of a ritual release of Rev. Macklin from her ministerial obligations to UUCB after June 30. Rev. Macklin reminded the congregation that she would be absent for two to three years as is normal for a departing minister.

Adjournment

President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

UU Church of Bloomington 2021-22 Spoken Annual Report Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Minister of Story and Ritual

As we draw near the end of this congregational year and the end of Reverend Mary Ann Macklin's ministry with us, I would like to open by offering my appreciation for all that Mary Ann has brought to our community—her insights, her compassion, AND her playfulness have seen us through many years, both good ones and challenging ones, with energy and hopefulness. Mary Ann, your collegiality and support through all that we have experienced have brought me to this moment with deep gratitude and also with renewed awe for the opportunity to be present with this amazing and resilient congregation we have served together for 14 years. Thank you.

This past year has been a time of discovery for me and for all of us as we have learned together what, exactly, a “Minister of Story and Ritual” might be. I have to tell you, I have had several colleagues and congregations express envy at my title, and of the role that it uniquely identifies. I have appreciated the challenge of living into this emerging ministry focused on stories, imagery, and ritual, and look forward to the continued unfolding of this role in the interim time we will be entering together soon.

I have promised brevity in my report due to the fullness of our agenda, so although I have been honored to create and offer many stories, rituals and multigenerational services this year, along with increasing pastoral connections, I will touch on only a few things today.

We started the year considering the theme of Possibility through an exploration of the life cycle of the butterfly. We were in the midst of a time of constantly needing to respond to change, and appreciated thinking of that work as an embodiment of digging into the muddy puddle of possibility, needed for the emergence of something new.

Between November and May, we worked together to create a ritual space of witness and memory through our Covid memorial installation. By making a physical installation documenting the enormity of the pandemic's effects, our congregation offered a sacred space for acknowledging this incredibly painful, disruptive and difficult thing that has been happening in our world. Thank you to the many of you who made the installation possible through your work and your witnessing, and to everyone for generously sharing this sacred space for several months. It was a powerful experience for many in this community and beyond.

Mary Ann and I have also done ongoing work to deepen our understanding of our ritual practice of Land Acknowledgement, and I am continuing to think hard about how to make it more meaningful and less performative as we continue that practice.

Finally, it was a highlight of my year to work with our Coming of Age group of tenth graders, who gathered after a year's delay due to Covid. You may remember their particularly heartfelt and thoughtful remarks at the coming of age service in April. Thank you to all the mentors who made that possible.

And so we have begun this journey of discovery, of an official Ministry of Story and Ritual. When I wrote it that way, it seemed to me a little bit like it could belong in the world of Harry Potter.

And I hope that is a sign that we will find ways to make a little magic together in the years to come.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Congregational Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2022



CALL TO ORDER

CHALICE LIGHTING AND OPENING WORDS

INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

MINISTERS' REPORTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORTS

MEETING BUSINESS

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

TREASURER'S REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CLOSING WORDS

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by Regina DiLamore, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Modified Slide Deck
- B. Interim Lead Minister Report
- C. Minister of Story and Ritual Report
- D. Religious Education Report
- E. Transition Report
- F. Treasurer's Report
- G. Financial Deck
- H. Board Report

You can view this report with all attachments on our website, here:

<https://www.uubloomington.org/about-us/board-of-directors/congregational-meeting-minutes/>

Call to Order

President Abby Gitlitz called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Chalice lighting and Opening Words

Stuart Yoak lit the chalice as Reverend Connie Grant led the congregation in the opening words.

Introduction of Parliamentarian

President Gitlitz introduced the Parliamentarian Steve Dillon.

Ministers' Reports

Reverend Connie Grant provided the Interim Lead Minister report, discussing the transitional ministry, development of a staffing plan and importance of the Interim Lead minister in helping the congregation determine their identity. See Attachment B.

Rev. Emily Leite reviewed her activities as Minister of Story and Ritual, including sharing the history of the UUCB land acknowledgement, seminar on how to service UUCB members online, and a conference on moving Social Justice Forward. See Attachment C.

Religious Education Reports

Stephanie Kimball reviewed the status of the religious education program including the status of classes, plans for updating Article UU Bylaws in 2023 and other planned activities for 2023. See Attachment D.

Meeting Business

Quorum Report

Board Member Linda Pickle reported 75 attendees, exceeding the 56, or 10%, of the total membership required to conduct business.

Motion to Approve Minutes

President Yoak moved that the Board be allowed to approve these congregational meeting minutes at a future board meeting. The motion was seconded by David Keppel and approved by the congregation in a show of hands.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Social Justice Fund Committee

Denise Ogren summarized four grants totaling \$3,240 that were awarded to move the mission of UU forward. (Attachment A slide 8)

Transition Update

Reverend Grant and President Gitlitz provided an update on the transition timeline. The first year of the transition revolves around reflection and spiritual preparation. The second transitional year will revolve around heart storming or brainstorming, the hopes for the church. See Attachment E.

- **January 2023:** Members can provide their thoughts about previous minister departures and church life.
- **March 2023:** Members submit up to three names for the search committee considering how well they work with others, who can look out for all members (including children), activity level in the church, responsible leadership, awareness and trust.
- **Spring 2023:** Board will create a short list of names from all the candidates. The Board will call candidates to develop a slate of seven members for presentation in the June Congregational meeting. Formation of the search committee through a retreat, clarification and assignment of responsibilities, and survey. The search committee will be separate from the Board.
- **Fall 2023:** Workshop *Beyond Categorical Thinking*, Cottage Meetings, Focus Groups
- **December 2023:** Congregational Record Development
- **January 2024:** New Ministers express interest
- **Q1-2, 2024:** Search committee observes candidates preaching
- **2024 Q2:** Minister is selected, preaches at UUCB and congregation votes.

Member Questions About Transition

Joan Caulton:

Question: Is there a directory of current members of the church?

Response: President Gitlitz indicated one would be made available.

David Keppel

Question: Will the search committee be allowed to talk with the congregation about what they want in a new minister?

Response: President Gitlitz said yes, this communication is imperative. The committee will need this information. However, when deliberating about applicants, the information will be sealed.

Debbie Fish:

Question: Suggested providing photos in church directory

Response: President Gitlitz asked that members ensure that the profile in the database is public to the church, opt in and provide a photo. The Lucy booth will be set up to assist members. Staff will also provide information on the website.

Martha Dogan:

Question: Please explain the meaning of cottage meeting and transition team.

Response: President Gitlitz clarified that the transition team sets up transition team activities and times. The team is geared towards helping the Congregation go through the transition in a way that helps us know the church better.

Avram Primack:

Question: Can we have a Lucy Booth to help members?

Response: Yes, we will set it up moving forward.

Lee Meyers:

Question: How do candidates match up with the church?

Response: Candidate profiles and church profiles are developed and available through the minister's search on the UUA website.

Joan Caulton:

Question: Do we have to post a salary?

Response: Typically, we will have a salary range, but the minimum salary is posted.

Rich Janda:

Question: Is David Pyle's presentation from 2-3 years ago available?

Response: Yes, it is available on the UUA website. Inviting David Pyle back to provide an updated version was discussed.

Lynn Struve:

Question: Can members attend when candidates are preaching at the pulpit within six hours of Bloomington?

Response: No, the congregation will not be informed about candidates preaching in the pulpit. The top candidate will come to UUCB and preach, and the congregation will vote. All activities will be confidential until this point.

David Keppel:

Question: What happens if the congregation is ambivalent about the candidate?

Response: Typically, the vote is overwhelmingly positive. There may be a few negative votes. The congregation typically trusts in the process of the search committee.

Leadership Cultivation Report

President Gitlitz announced that there will be a leadership conversation on January 21, 2023, for UUCB members interested in leadership roles. President Gitlitz described the difference between mid-term appointments and elections. The following mid-term changes were announced:

- Stuart Yoak is stepping down as Vice President, Jane McLeod will change roles from Board Member at-large to Vice President
- Doltan Gibson has not been able to serve on the LLC, Nicole Motz will fill the role
- Doris Wittenberg will fill a vacant role on the Special Purposes Fund for 18 months.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rich Slabach offered thanks to the Finance Committee and reviewed proposed revisions to the 2022-2023 budget that shifts funds from one expense to another. These changes may be seen in Attachments F and G.

Motion to Approve the Revised Budget

Rich Janda moved for approval of the changes to the budget. The motion was seconded by Charlie Pickle and was approved by the congregation in a show of hands.

Board of Director's Report

President Abby Gitlitz reviewed significant events and accomplishments of the past six months. The written report is included as Attachment H.

Closing Words

Rev. Grant gave the closing words.

Adjournment

After a motion, Vice President Jane McLeod adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

UUCB Leadership Cultivation Committee

The Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) works to develop leadership capacity in our congregation; nominates members for elected leadership positions on the Board, the Special Purposes Fund (SPF), and the LCC; and suggests leaders for other positions as requested.

LCC members in 2022–23 are: Denise Breeden-Ost (chair), Michael McGregor (secretary), Abby Gitlitz, Carol McCord, Nicole Motz, Anabel Watson (ex officio), and Rev. Connie Grant (ex officio).

In the Fall of 2022, we held two Engagement Conversations, in which ten congregants shared their ideas, skills, and interests with LCC hosts. In January 2023, we offered a Leadership Training with Suzanne Fodor, on “Discovering Your Inner Leader.” This workshop was open to all adults and teens in the congregation; seventeen congregants attended, in addition to several members of the LCC. Thanks to Suzanne for continuing to share her expertise!

We recommended several leaders to fill mid-term vacancies this year; with approval of the Board, Doris Wittenburg joined the SPF, Nicole Motz continued on LCC, Mary Craig became an At-Large Board Member, and Jane McLeod became Vice President of the Board.

We will present the following nominations for congregational vote at the June 2023 Congregational Meeting:

- Treasurer: Bill Lonnerberg
- Board Member At-Large: Mary Craig
- Vice President of the Board: Jane McLeod
- Leadership Cultivation Committee: Kathy Sideli, Christy True, Glenda Breeden
- Special Purposes Fund: Doris Wittenberg, Deb Hutton

Much gratitude to Nicole Motz, who stayed on an extra year with LCC when one of our newly elected members was unavailable to serve. Niki provided continuity and wisdom from her past years on the LCC, and her collaborative spirit has helped us build a strong and joyful team.

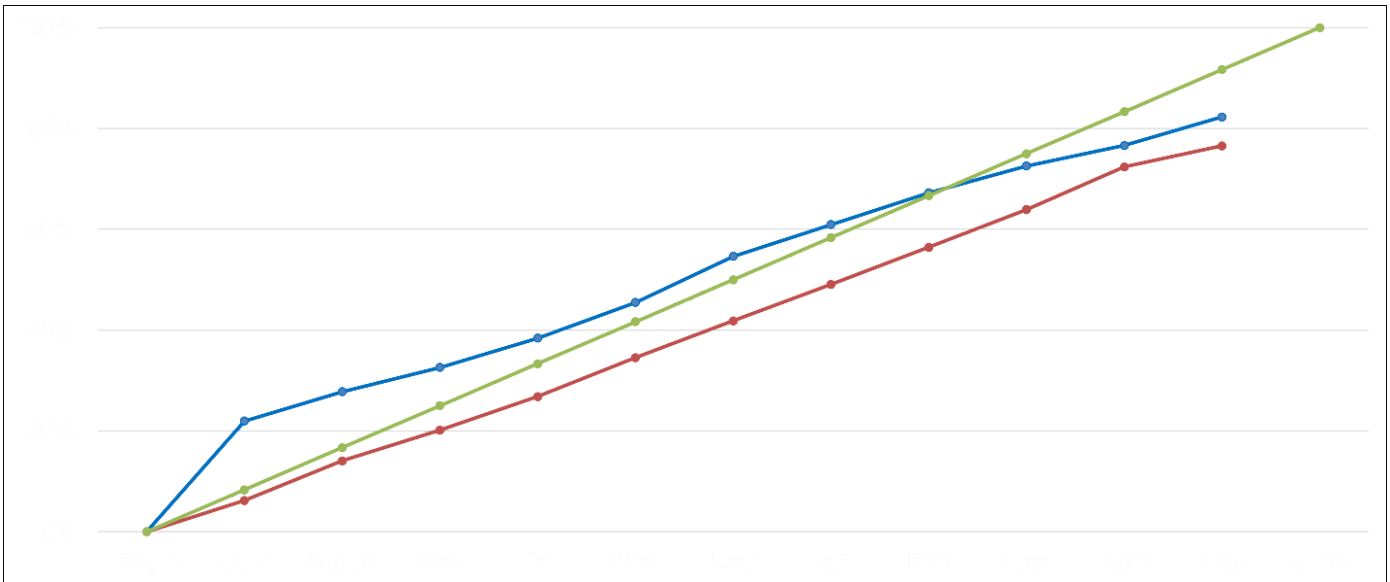
Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Breeden-Ost, LCC Chair

Finance Committee Report with Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Thanks to the members of the Finance Committee for their input and service to the Church. We've had a lot of fun working together. Committee members are:

- Richard Slabach (Treasurer)
- Carolyn Emmert (Secretary)
- Ruth Sanders
- Kitty McIntosh
- Jennifer Diaz
- Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Chief Financial Officer

Before presenting the new budget for your approval, let's review where we stand to date.



This slide shows a trend of income and expenses to May 24, 2023 as a percentage of the budget. The blue line is income; the red line shows the expenses; the green line represents the budgeted income and expenses as if there were no month-to-month variation.

As the chart shows, income got off to a great start in July with many people paying their pledges for the entire year. In February of this year income dropped below “normal.” That last little uptick in the income line is the result of moving \$30,000 from our Operating Reserve Available fund. We had budgeted \$50,000 and may need to use the remaining \$20,000 before this fiscal year ends.

We started this fiscal year with \$168,340 in the Operating Reserve Available fund. With the \$30,000 withdrawal, it ended at \$143,600. That number becomes important for the 2023-24 fiscal year budget.

Expenses started and remained below the green normal line and, fortunately, below the income line.

See Attachment 1 for the Budget vs Actual detail from the current year.

This is a summary of the 2022-23 Budget v Actual detail to May 24, 2023.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington			
Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2022-23			
July 2022 - May 24, 2023			
	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Income			
Pledges	654,292	557,454	85.20%
Sunday Plate	20,000	27,504	137.52%
Fund Raisers	27,000	9,334	34.57%
Miscellaneous	26,500	15,740	59.40%
Operating Reserve	50,000	30,000	60.00%
Total Income	777,792	640,032	82.29%
Expenses			
Campus Ministry	1,000	0	0.00%
Child Care	13,995	5,672	40.53%
Committees	19,761	8,446	42.74%
Denominational	43,263	41,504	95.93%
Ministry	238,874	172,546	72.23%
Music	48,277	39,278	81.36%
Office	211,725	153,643	72.57%
Plant	95,846	88,697	92.54%
Religious Education	90,782	74,807	82.40%
Total Expenses	763,523	584,593	76.57%
Net Income	14,269	55,439	

There were some inflated expectations in some income areas – notably in the Miscellaneous section (Facilities Use Fees, & Investment Income) and in the Fund Raisers (Grocery Cards). Note in the Fund Raisers amount, the money from this spring’s Auction is not yet included in income.

There were major increases in parts of the Pledge totals (New Pledges and Prior Year Pledges) that made up for the short falls previously mentioned.

On the Expense side for the current year, Child Care and Committee expenses were again over estimated. We think we have a better handle on those expenses this year.

Within the Plant expenses, Building Maintenance & Insurance are both over budget. Savings in Building Maintenance have been identified for next year. We are hoping that Insurance costs will not increase as dramatically as they did at the beginning of this year.

Now to the proposed 2023-2024 budget. I’ve included the proposed 2023-24 Budget detail as Attachment 2 for those of you who want to dig deep.

This is a summary of the 2022-23 Budget compared to the 2023-2024 Budget.

Unitarian Universalist 2023-24 Budget Summary

Income	FY2022-23	FY2023-24
Pledges	654,292	559,000
Sunday Plate	20,000	25,000
Fund Raisers	27,000	20,000
Miscellaneous	26,500	14,000
Operating Reserve	50,000	100,000
Total Income	777,792	718,000

Expenses	FY2022-23	FY2023-24
Campus Ministry	1,000	0
Child Care	13,995	0
Committees	19,761	7,100
Denominational	43,263	25,865
Ministry	238,874	181,170
Music	48,277	47,966
Office	211,725	239,887
Plant	95,846	99,295
Religious Education	90,782	115,110
Total Expense	763,523	716,393

Net	14,269	1,607
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As of the preparation of this report, the church had received about 532,000 in Pledges for 2023-24. Based on the trends from this year, we increased our expectations of income from New Pledges that come in after the current pledge drive ends as well as pledges received that were meant for prior years. That resulted in a total Pledge budget of 559,000.

We've reduced the Fund Raiser and Miscellaneous numbers to what we think are more reasonable numbers.

With those adjustments and the Pledge numbers to date we will be about \$100,000 short of our budgeted expenses for this next year. We propose pulling \$100,000 from our Operating Reserve Available fund. That fund has a current balance of \$137,600. We may need to pull up to an additional \$20,000 of that to meet our current year needs. That would leave only \$17,600 in our Operating Reserve Available fund if we use all of the budgeted \$100,000. We'll only use that money when (& if) it's needed. We anticipate earnings to the available fund of around \$5,000. Obviously, we can't keep doing this.

On the Expense side for 2023-24, we are eliminating Campus Ministry. Child Care expenses will be part of the Religious Education budget.

The big reduction in Committees is due to moving \$10,000 from Chalice Circles to Ministry. That amount is a stipend for the Chalice Circle Lead. We also made some minor cuts to various other committees after receiving their estimates.

In the past we have consistently paid our UUA Annual Program Fund assessment. We've been told we are one of the shining stars in this regard. The 2023-24 assessment was \$44,729. We're only budgeting for half that amount.

There were major changes in our Ministry budgets for this year. We had a number of expenses to fill in for the month of July, 2023, in the current year budget after MAM's departure and prior to Rev Grant's arrival. We are also eliminating the position of Minister of Story & Ritual.

The Office budget now includes a full year of expenses for the position of Technology Coordinator. There were additional increases for miscellaneous Office Expenses and Worship Supplies.

The Plant budget is seeing about a 4% increase with most of that as increases for Building Maintenance and Insurance.

I move that we accept the 2023-24 Budget as proposed for this next fiscal year.

Rich Slabach

Special Purposes Fund

The Special Purposes Fund (SPF) Committee for the 2022-2023 fiscal year started with Andrew Appel (Chair), Rich Slabach (UUCB Treasurer), Ruth Aydt, Ed Long, and Linda Pickle (Board At-Large). Ed Long had to step down when he and his wife relocated. Doris Wittenburg joined the committee in December 2022 in Ed's place. Many thanks to Ed, especially for his knowledge of how other UU congregations handled financial matters.

During this fiscal year SPF has received memorial donations in the name of John Woodcock, Al Strickholm, Barbara Spencer Edmonds, Sylvia King and Anne Haynes. Funds were approved to commission an original musical composition (Swaney Composition fund), for Rev. Grant's moving expenses and the fall Social Justice Task Force grants (Lundin SJ Fund).

SPF started this fiscal year with \$462,093 (endowment plus available). This was down from \$524,292 at the start of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Annual reports are due before the end of the fiscal year but at the end of the fiscal third quarter total SPF assets were \$456,910. During this fiscal year we closed our account with R. W. Baird (formerly Hilliard Lyons) and opened a Vanguard brokerage account to manage fossil-fuel-divested funds. SPXE, a fossil-fuel-divested S&P 500 index fund, was sold as its total assets under management were too small to remain viable. The First Trust NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index Fund (QCLN) was chosen in its place. 9% of total SPF funds are now invested in specifically fossil-fuel free funds. Thanks to Molly O'Donnell and David Keppel for their inputs on choosing the new fund. With the closing of the Baird account stock gifts to the church will now be cleared through the Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County located on S. College Ave.

MINISTERS and STAFF

Interim Senior Minister's Report

The Reverend Constance Grant

As you well know, you are a church in transition! This has been a year of laying the groundwork for your search for your next settled lead minister. In the coming year, the focus will shift toward the search itself. The fundamental questions have been and continue to be, Who are you as a congregation, and Who do you want to be?

These are some of the developmental tasks of this transitional time:

- Reviewing how the Congregation has been shaped and formed; encouraging and hearing all of the stories about the Congregation's past, as the foundation upon which the present rests; and embracing the rich variety that makes up the Congregation.
- Reviewing the membership needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership; providing opportunity for individuals and the Congregation to examine the types of leadership needed for new leaders to emerge, and for seasoned leaders to recommit or to refocus their gifts.
- Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction; clarifying the faith community's identity and core values; working to develop, update, and revitalize mission and vision statements; and reviewing strategic and tactical plans including stewardship and the financial health of the congregation.
- Discovering and revitalizing all the association, interfaith, and community relationships a congregation builds outside of itself; and re-assessing old links and considering new ones.
- Developing congregational and pastoral profiles that position the congregation for its next ministry, including a healthy and honest assessment of the other focus points so that the congregation can turn its energy toward proactive decision-making for the future.

As your lead minister, my role is to provide:

- Spiritual leadership,
- Historical and theological perspective,
- Assistance with setting and implementing the Congregation's mission,
- Guidance in navigating through the work of the interim period,
- Oversight of the Congregation's programs,
- Leadership of the staff team, and
- Administration of the Congregation's business operations in collaborative partnership with lay leaders and staff.

As a congregation, your role is to:

- Live out your mission and vision,
- Demonstrate effective leadership,
- Engage in the work of the interim period,
- Be open to change,

- Broaden the meaning of community, and
- Communicate issues or concerns in a forthright and respectful manner through established communication channels.

Goals for this year of interim ministry, developed by your Board of Directors, have included staff restructuring and review of bylaws and policies.

In order to effectively meet the needs of the congregation, these staffing reconfigurations were made by your Interim Lead Minister as head of staff, in collaboration with your Board of Directors:

Deciding not to hire an assistant minister at this time

Recasting of Church Administrator to Director of Administration

Reframing two part-time office assistant positions to Communications Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, both with increased hours

Hiring a full-time Technology Coordinator

Eliminating the position of Minister of Story and Ritual

A review of your bylaws and policies is underway, with Mary Craig, Steve Dillon, Steve Gilbert, and Stuart Yoak making up a Governance Review working group. They plan to make recommendations to the Board for bylaw revisions to be presented to the congregation in time for a vote in October, 2023.

This year, opportunities for your reflection and preparation for the ministerial search, as developed with your Transition Team (Andrew Appel, Alan Backler, Ruth Aydt, Deb Fish, Sarah Kopper, Kelly Rockhill, and Kathy Sideli) have included:

Reflections on UUCB History

This was an opportunity for congregants to share recollections of (and feelings about) congregational events over the past seven decades, including events that may have been challenging or difficult, as well as those that were happy. In just a few weeks, dozens of individuals added close to 200 individual comments and memorabilia to the timeline. While the comments were mostly distributed across the 1980s to the present, the decades that attracted the most comments were the 2000s and 2010s. And over 60% of those were distributed across three categories—ministers, music and religious education.

The comments about our **ministers** included mentions of Reverends Bill Murry, Laurel Hallman, Bruce Johnson, Barbara Carlson, Mary Ann Macklin, Bill Breeden, Emily Marvel Leite, Barbara Child, Doug Wadkins, Scott McNeil, Dave Clements, and Connie Grant. From the comments it was clear that each had left their mark on the church, with most having done so in a very positive way.

Memories of the **music** program cited a number of our accompanists over the years—Mark Bellasai, Sally Todd, Nicholas Dold, Molly Doran and Ray Fellman with exuberant shout outs to Sue Swaney, our longtime choir director. Favorite musical events included the Heartland String Band, Holy Rock Gospel, Bob Marley

musical, Holy Breath, Lorax musical, Bohemian Rhapsody and the annual trips of the choir to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility on MLK day.

The **religious education program** left enduring memories among both its instructors and its recipients. Among the most favorite memories were YRUU sleepovers and workshops along with lifelong appreciation for AYS (About Your Sexuality) and its successor program, OWL (Our Whole Lives). While the religious education program had its ups and downs over the decades, there was appreciation expressed for many components, including the Coming of Age program as well as other innovative activities, particularly during the pandemic.

The rest of the comments centered on Sunday Services, Congregational Life, Social Justice, the Environment, Theological Pluralism, Administration, and Membership.

Special memories of **Sunday services** included multi-generational services, equinox services, land acknowledgments, family worship, storytelling and special ministerial sermons.

Key **social justice** moments mentioned were the civil rights activities, anti-war demonstrations, Welcoming Congregation activities, a focus on Reproductive Rights and Marriage Equality.

Environmental activities that were key to church members included the launch of the Green Spaces initiative, including the Green Sanctuary Task Force. The changing landscape of the church and its carbon neutral efforts is a testament to the success of these efforts.

Members mentioned the church's theological **pluralism** in areas including Earth Kin/CUUPS, Buddhist lessons, Passover Seder and the Humanist / Freethinkers gatherings.

Memorable moments in **congregational life** included coffee houses, Wednesday walkers, the labyrinth walk, the Mummers Play, the annual Bazaar, the work of the Caring Committee, the multiple challenges posed by the pandemic, the COVID memorial project, as well as appreciation for weddings and memorial services.

Administration highlights included folding paper prologues, parking for football games, locking church doors, caring for the old farmhouse, engaging in plans for the new sanctuary, working with administrator Carol Marks and participating in board work among other moments.

Membership memories underscored how happy individuals were to discover UUCB as the church where they finally felt like they belonged.

“Can You Say It in Six?” with prompts related to the theme of “Rekindling Our Flame,” was held on April 1st. Approximately 50 people participated in this activity. Responses to these prompts included:

A first (or an early) experience at UU Church of Bloomington that illuminates my memory

Felt like coming home
Bill and Mary Ann singing ‘Reverent Bluejeans’
Bazaar, crafts, baking, food, community, friends
Sunday school in the Union building
Rev. Barbara’s elegant, thoughtful, powerful presence
Religious education, front porch, COVID packets

An experience in which I felt the glow of connection

Watching children play in the courtyard
Lighting the Christmas Eve candles
Chalice Circles, listening, thinking
Teaching religious education to little kids
Giant origami cranes hanging from ceiling
Singing in the car choir together

Something or someone that ignites inspiration for me

Seeing lay people lead the congregation
Ray's fine ferocious fingers flying! Flying!
Listening to choir share their gift
The willingness of volunteers for work projects
Rev. Breeden challenged me to grow
Jill Courtney and her musical soul
Connie sermons: wry, pertinent, deep, questioning

Something or someone at UUCB that/who has provided a spark of knowledge or wisdom for me

The song Earth, Courage, Calm Abiding
Rev. Bill Breeden prisoners
Molly teaches us to have hope
Mary Ann supporting me -- death of friend
Cookie Lynch stands forever tall, wise
Conversations with people I don't know

An experience that has filled me with the warmth of community

Pandemic slideshow: all those beloved smiles
UU choir trips to corrections center
Listening to the church choir led by Sue Swaney
Chalice Circle sharing and listening together
Teaching religious education at all ages
Bill, Mary Ann, Emily, Melinda, Sharon Y
Dia de los muertos altar Sunday

A social justice or service project that has lit, or continues to light, a fire for me

The 4th Trimester project lights my fire
Green Sanctuary fighting for climate justice
Gathering at the local courthouse protesting wars
Fighting for women's rights and bodies
Getting everyone to step into immigrant shoes
KAP (Kids with Absent Parents) continues to feed my spirit

As part of UUCB, I can shine my light in the following way(s)

Social service being my loving reason
Making new people feel welcome here
Volunteer, Listen, Love, Question, Curiosity, Share
By showing up whenever I can

Holding space for community, spiritual deepening
Listen, talk, bake, teach, help

A way this community has offered warmth and caring for me

Delicious meals after I had surgery
Listening, support, friendship, laughs, common causes
Hugs from many people I haven't seen since COVID
Personal contacts when I was grieving
Checking in when times are tough
Laugh, cry and hugs for me

A way I have offered warmth and caring for someone else or to others in the community

Playing and sharing stories with preschoolers
Meals and serving at memorial services
Helping new people to feel included
Listening with all my heart/soul
Being there to support, not preach
Teaching English to Afghani refugees Atterbury

What guiding principle illuminates this community?

Inherent worth and dignity, every person
Everyone welcomed – no exceptions
Learning and questioning and working together
Service to ourselves and others
Compassion in action here and abroad
Showing up with our willing selves

What makes this community special to me

It welcomes me as I am
The focus on social justice action
The warmth & friendliness from members and friends
This church walks the talk daily
Caring, liberal, freedom to think
No rigid ideology, freedom to thin

How does this community contribute to the depth of my life?

Chances to practice being better person
Seeking meaning in life, without dogma
Offering new paths of spiritual inspiration
Humanists allow me indulgence, existential thoughts
Camaraderie, bonding, love, acceptance, caring, curiosity
Thoughtful sermons, deep listening, social action

What are the most important ways UUCB lights a torch for the local community and larger world?

Seeing a need; going in deep
Speaks on subjects other groups don't

Acceptance of diverse ideas and people
Providing examples of faith in action
Social justice task forces and prison work
Acceptance for all, open mind, love

Who are we at our best or most luminous?

UUs who help when community needs them
Compassionate, humble, and open to learn
Open minds, open hearts, honest discourse
Joyful, energized, fierce, resilient, curious, loving
Loving, compassionate, engaged seekers for justice
Opening young minds through religious education

What keeps us united around the campfire of this community?

The power of communal social justice
Acceptance, loyalty, love, truth, forgiveness, peace
Listening to each other with respect
The many controversial subjects we address
Commitment to a better world
The desire for justice and sanity

A hope I have for UUCB to be a light for the larger community

Joyous outreach. Growth, music, ritual, dance?
Connections with other faiths and groups
Teaching our kids values without dogma
Demonstrate good conflict toward better understanding
Becoming synonymous with compassion and justice
To offer more activities larger community

As a congregation, how do we want to be together?

Uncomfortable & comforting & valuing relationships
Friendly, accepting, helping and working together
Spiritually fun learning in environment
Kindness and patience good starting point
Joyful, loving, helpful, compassionate
Many spaces and opportunities for connection

How can this community shine even brighter?

Be willing to make more noise
Attracting young families, share collective wisdom
Provide aid and help whenever needed
Talks open to community at large
Value heart as much as head
Resist dogma. Covenant kindness. Practice trust.

You will soon endorse your Ministerial Search Committee, and they will begin the work of searching for your next settled Lead Minister, in earnest. I will support them and you in this process. They will be

working toward presenting a candidate to you for your vote next spring, with the potential for that minister to begin work with you in August, 2024.

A review of highlights of the ministerial search process:

Spring, 2023 - Search Committee is chosen

Late Summer to early Fall, 2023 - Congregational survey

Fall, 2023 - Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop presented through the UUA

Fall, 2023 - Cottage meetings and focus groups for congregational input

December, 2023 - Congregational record posted on the UUA MinistrySearch webpage for potential ministers to view

January, 2024 - Potential ministers indicate interest through MinistrySearch

January-February, 2024 - Interview process between potential ministers and Search Committee by phone/video, narrowed down to 3-4 “pre-candidates” by mutual selection

February-March, 2024 – Pre-candidates (usually 3-4) each come to Bloomington for a weekend with the Search Committee

March, 2024 - Search Committee selects a candidate—and hopefully reaches a meeting of the minds and hearts with a candidate who also selects the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington as their potential congregation

April, 2024 - Search Committee announces candidate to the congregation

End April, 2024 – “Candidating Week”: Candidate preaches two sermons and has many meetings with congregants in various configurations. On the second Sunday, members of the congregation vote whether to call the candidate as your next settled lead/senior minister.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming year.

In faith and hope,
Connie

Reverend Connie Grant
Interim Lead Minister

Minister of Story and Ritual's Annual Report

The Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

This report is difficult to write this year, knowing I am leaving you soon. And yet I write with gratitude for the many connections we have made, the experiences we have shared, and the good work we have done together.

I am grateful for the continuing opportunity to share stories with you most Sundays. The ministry of story is one I have appreciated all my life, first as a listener and then as a storyteller and a listener since I began working for UU congregations in 1986. I believe in the transformative power of stories. I've learned that they open up in different ways to different listeners, depending upon what that listener's experience and need is at that moment. It has been a joy to seek out meaningful tales and to share them with you. Thank you for being my story friends over the past seventeen and a half years. I hope you never lose your love of stories.

Here is a part of my story this year: extensive learning and leadership in four areas.

First, I explored ways to do hybrid worship more effectively, attending a conference with Marcia McFee and Jason Moore in the fall, and then attending a second workshop with Jason Moore through the Center for Congregations. Many members of the staff attended this second workshop, and we have had several fruitful conversations about how to best serve people who join us both online and in person. We have implemented some helpful changes in our worship services. I am hopeful that this work will continue and that UUCB will become one of the rare UU congregations which effectively welcome people online and then provide meaningful ways for them to deepen their involvement and become active members from afar as we did during the pandemic.

Second, I continued to explore ways for our congregation to come into more just relationship with the First Nations peoples whose ancestral lands we dwell upon, and also with those indigenous people, of whatever tribe, who live here today. I have offered some of what I have learned in monthly Land Acknowledgements that dug more deeply into the history and present reality of indigenous peoples in the United States. I have also stayed in touch with the First Nations Center at Indiana University. I've offered our assistance with their projects and publicized their events to the congregation. This still-emerging connection is one that I hope others in the congregation will continue to explore.

Third, I attended the Liberal Religious Educators Association meeting in Birmingham, Alabama with Stephanie Kimball, and the two of us were profoundly moved by our experiences there--most particularly our visit to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Through that experience, I came to understand the pervasiveness of anti-Black racism in ways that went far beyond my previous book learning--to feel it in my body and soul. We returned yearning to become more active in combating the systems that perpetuate the deep inequality of experience in our country. Stephanie and I have brought that work to the staff by facilitating staff engagement with materials in the 21 Day Racial Justice Challenge and now, by working our way through "Do the Work"--a workbook by W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz--together. This work is creating thoughtful and helpful conversations among staff members. Stephanie and I are also co-leading a small group of people from our congregation to visit the Legacy Museum and National Memorial next week, after having dug deeply into some of our local Indiana history of lynching and the pervasive presence of the KKK. I hope that this will be just the beginning of something much bigger: the congregation recommitting itself to the ideals

of the 8th UU principle and taking action together to accountably dismantle racism in ourselves and our institutions.

Finally, I was grateful to dig deeply into integrative work around aging through co-creating and co-facilitating a class built around *The Inner Work of Age* by Connie Zweig. This tender, essential exploration of what it means to become most fully yourself as you age was just the beginning of a congregational exploration of possibilities for ritual and meaning-making around aging. The group is continuing with co-facilitator Stephanie Kimball.

While I was grateful to learn new things and to be able to work on these important projects, I also appreciated the constants—the things that we have done together year after year—that hold me steady. I enjoyed continued conversations and pastoral work with many of you as individuals, and I'm deeply grateful for your trust. I wrote Prologue columns and appreciated your thoughtful responses to my writing. I was honored to work on services with Scott Russell Sanders, Gladys DeVane, Reverend Forrest Gilmore, the Story Troupe and the Worship Associates as well as with Reverend Connie and staff members Stephanie, Anabel, and Sue. On special Sundays, we shared new iterations of the services I have developed over the years. We came together for our Water Communion and for our Celebration and Remembrance service remembering congregants who have died. We gathered construction paper fruits of gratitude, and we collected gifts for local agencies in our Procession of Giving. We celebrated the Solstices and Equinoxes and Earth Day. We blessed our community through our Flower Communion. The year was full and the rhythm of these seasons together was familiar and good.

And yet, we are ending this year together knowing that this shared season of our life is coming to an end. My position has been eliminated and I will be leaving on June 30th. I am so very sad to be leaving AND I want to remind you that this congregation is here because of the presence and commitment of all of you--it will not disappear or become unrecognizable as itself when I leave, just as it didn't become totally different when Reverend Mary Ann left us last year. This will remain a vibrant place to worship, learn, play, and serve together focused upon Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, and Changing the World.

I wish for you all the best in this coming time of change--a time of loss, but also a time filled with possibility for us all.

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite
Minister of Story and Ritual

Music Director's Annual Report

The choir worked very hard this year! We joined with four other church choirs to perform Faure's beautiful Requiem in November. We will likely do more of these collaborative performances. Then we performed it again, by ourselves, for the congregation in December, with a wonderful orchestra.

Also in November, we premiered a beautiful new piece: Water Medley for Dan Willard by Shawn Kirchner.

On Christmas Eve, we had a robust string orchestra with the choir, and we sang - among other things - the Ukrainian Carol of the Bells.

Carrie Newcomer provided her very special music around Valentine's Day.

On April Fool's Day, Steve Krahnke and Dan Lodge-Rigal organized a spectacular concert with a rock band, special singers, and the adult and children's choirs. And the UU Boomwhackers made an appearance in the service the next day.

We are preparing to send Reverend Emily off with her favorite music (Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth," string band reels for a maypole dance, and of course, "What a Wonderful World.")

We memorialized beloved choir members John Woodcock, Ann and David McIntosh, and Anne Haynes. And a new commission is in the works for John Lawson, a choral jazz piece by Monika Herzig.

Our Children's Choir, directed by Jill Courtney, provided many wonderful performances.

As always, we were blessed by Ray's beautiful artistry. And while he was doing a gig for three months, Kim Carballo, Mary Allen Lynch, Beverly McGahey, and Keaton Springfield ably stepped in. In particular, Kim performed over two months' worth of service music by women and BIPOC composers.

As always, making music for and with this congregation is so meaningful. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity!

Susan Swaney
Director of Music and Honorary Music Minister

Director of Administration's Annual Report

What a year for changes and opportunities! I came to UUCB in the middle of December and have learned so much in these short 5 months! I could not have done it without the support and guidance of so many wonderful staff members and volunteers! The highlights of my short time here with UUCB are as follows:

- I appreciate the work and relied upon the assistance of our Administrative Assistant, Monica Overman, our Communications Coordinator, Mandy Skinner, Lead Interim Minister, Reverend Connie Grant, our custodian Jeff Stone, our Treasurer, Rich Slabach, and all of our other staff members as well. In addition to the contracted custodial help from Eryn Cusak and John Smith.
- Warm thank yous go out to all the welcoming emails, drop ins, and phone calls I've received since being here from the wonderful congregation members that make up UUCB.
- The transition to the new database has gone well and it is working wonderfully for us.
- Scheduling of events within the church has no end in sight and members seem to be loving and enjoying being back. It seems like COVID might be a thing of the past, finally.
- We've had some ongoing and completed building maintenance. Ongoing includes maintenance of the furnaces for The Meeting Room/Fellowship Hall. Big thank you to Steve Pollitt for interior blemishes he's fixed as well as the exterior painting of the concrete steps. Another huge thank you to Dick Stumpner and Molly O'Donnell for their hard work on switching UUCB from HFI to Commercial Services as well as fixing leaks throughout the building.
- Organized rental of scissor lift to change out window insert, which I also got to participate in the removal and new insert of, along with the help of Hans Kelson, Emily Manvel Leite and Anabel Watson.

Thank you all! And finally a thank you to all members, staff, board and committee chairs who have supported the church and its many endeavors and to whom make it possible to continue forward.

Amanda Waye
Director of Administration

Connections Coordinator's Annual Report

It has been a pleasure deeply participating in the intricate web of life that connects the community at UUCB since my start date in May of last year (2022). It is rewarding to know that my work strives to strengthen this community. Building thriving connections and helping to nurture welcoming and diverse environments where individuals, from long-time congregants to visitors, feel comfortable and inspired are pursuits that bring me much fulfillment. I am incredibly grateful, too, to this community for welcoming me with such kindness, openness, trust, and collaboration. I likewise extend my thanks to Ann LeDuc, my predecessor, for a thorough and supportive training period.

The work of this position would not be possible without the collective participation of this church's congregants. I am continuously inspired by the dedicated leaders of our Board, social justice task forces, church activity and volunteer groups, and committees with whom I work to help newcomers plug in. Connections classes, New to UU and Exploring UUCB, are made vastly richer and more engaging with the generous time and energy of volunteer facilitators and guest presenters—this year, we spearheaded the inclusion of a social justice task force presentation in each monthly New to UU class and a presentation by the Stewardship Team during Exploring UUCB, which occurs quarterly. As well, community connections are deeply nurtured by those volunteers rising early week after week to greet at the door, light our brilliant candles, and brew the coffee that brings such joy to the sleep-deprived and those seeking social connection. A big Thank You to All for this beautiful synergy.

Overview of 2022-2023 Connections Activities

- Offered and organized three sessions of Exploring UUCB, a 4 hour two-part course (Zoom and in-person)
- Facilitated and organized New to UU monthly class, including new implementation of Social Justice Task Force guest presenters
- Held membership book signings, implemented new “Covenanting Ceremonies,” and coordinated the joining of 18 new members and 8 others who previously joined via Zoom
- Communicated regularly in-person and via email, Zoom, and phonecall with the larger congregation regarding involvement, membership, and related matters
- Assisted newcomers and new members in cultivating meaningful engagement
- Maintained membership records in UUCB's database, the UU World, the Membership Book, and general files
- Reinstated UUCB's Young Adult Ministry activities including lunches, general communications and promoting, and upcoming projects
- Acted as staff participant and coordinator for the Leadership Cultivation Committee
- Coordinated and maintained online weekly registrations for Java Crew, Greeters, and Flame Keepers groups
- Led the Membership Anniversary Call Team
- Regrouped or coordinated with various church groups: UU Gardeners, UUCB Gamers, UU Singles, Rainbow Rights (Spencer Pride fest), among others
- Assisted with larger congregational reviews/certification
- Maintained and updated documents on courses, activities, and general information
- Organized the Meadowood luncheon
- Held individual appointments with congregants to discuss involvement, programming, and membership, including follow-up from Member Questionnaire

- Provided assistance to congregants on use of Church Center
- Delivered readings, offered a tap dance performance, and played other roles in Sunday worship services
- Initiated planning for the Welcoming Team
- Coordinated and served on Team Tend (summer, fall), including technical support
- Maintained virtual worship attendance data (summer, fall)

Position Overview

The Connections Coordinator position is a 24 hour per week commitment that grows connections within the UUCB community through connecting congregants with activities, resources, and each other. The Connections Coordinator, among other endeavors, also discusses with, accompanies, and orients folks through journeys of meaningful self-discovery as they seek to embrace the UU tradition through membership and exploratory courses.

Serving Committees, Groups, and Teams

This position consistently supports the Greeters, Java Crew, and Flame Keepers, with assistance to additional groups as needed. The position also leads the Membership Anniversary Call Team, regularly serves on the Leadership Cultivation Committee, and, as of this year, leads UUCB's Young Adult Ministry activities, with assistance from Hans Kelson. Earlier in the fiscal year, this position served on and provided coordination for Team Tend. Leadership by the Connections Coordinator of the upcoming Welcoming Team is underway.

Membership

Throughout the year our congregation has continued to welcome newcomers and new members. We have welcomed a total of 18 new members since the start of the fiscal year. 8 additional members who joined remotely in prior years were celebrated at Membership Book Signings. Our total membership is currently 555.

General Engagement

It is the sharing of ownership in our activities that creates a thriving, welcoming, and increasingly interconnected community. Participating in the church groups and registrations located on UUCB's Church Center platform allows all active congregants to be informed of upcoming events, classes, volunteer opportunities, and ensure inclusion in desired mailing lists. This is also where the online directory—with profiles maintained individually by congregants—is housed. Those looking for deepened connection to and engagement within our community are invited to browse our registrations page (uucb.churchcenter.com/registrations) and/or reach out to me at connect@uubloomington.org to schedule a Connections Chat and/or request resources and information on church engagement, membership, and/or volunteer opportunities.

I am truly grateful to be sharing and growing in community with you all. I look forward to staying connected.

Anabel Watson
Connections Coordinator

Lifespan Religious Education

This has been an exciting year of experimentation, observation, learning and growth in religious education. The disruption of the pandemic continues to be felt especially in our children's and youth's attendance and in the availability of adult volunteers, but things are clearly still evolving. We are not going back to the way things were, but we are moving forward to continue to meet the needs of today and new tomorrows.

I like to think of religious education as *the place where we keep the questions alive*. Questions about who we are and where we came from, individually and in the larger Unitarian Universalist community. Questions about meaning and purpose, justice, and a right path – or paths – forward. Questions about our own spiritual journeys, the wounds we need to heal, and the truths still untold. Our troubled society desperately needs these spaces for quiet reflection, earnest seeking, and fundamental questions.

And so we see these changing and unsettling times with a spirit of adventure and curiosity. Who are we called to be now? What skills and knowledge do we need to equip ourselves with in order to answer that call? How can we support each other in discovering and developing the necessary knowledge and skills?

It is a joy and an honor to be involved in this quest as your Director of Lifespan Religious Education. At this moment, it is also a time of sadness and loss. The termination of Rev. Emily's role as Minister of Story and Ritual will be a great loss to our community as a whole and to religious education. Even though Emily has not been directly involved in religious ed for the last couple years, she has served as a tremendous resource and support. I will miss her deeply, both personally and professionally.

However, we are fortunate that Emily's grace extends even into this time of her departure. She has been generous in passing along materials and resources she developed for Coming of Age, and sharing her deep knowledge of Spirit Play. So, while I am not and will never be our beloved Emily, there will be continuity of programming for Coming of Age as well as Spirit Play, despite her departure. All youth who are entering 9th or 10th grade are invited to participate in Coming of Age next year, and now is the time to sign up. Also, as of now, there are a few spots left in our Spirit Play training on Friday, June 9.

Religious Education for Adults

Looking back over this past year, I see several themes emerging relevant to adult religious education:

There is a strong interest in the congregation for programs focused on spiritual deepening. This year one group of adults made a significant commitment of their time and energy for spiritual development, meeting twice a month from October to May with Denise Breeden-Ost and Angi Sullivan. Another cohort began exploring together what it means to become an elder, in a new course called the Inner Work of Age, based on Connie Zweig's book of the same name. Six months ago I asked Rev. Emily to co-lead that pilot project with me, knowing that the journey to elderhood called for the sort of thoughtful ritual that Emily is so adept at creating. Fortunately, an amazing cohort of participants signed on as well, and though we are going to miss Emily's presence, we will continue our exploratory work with the hope of creating an ongoing Adult Religious Education offering as well as a ritual to honor this important life transition.

There is also a strong and growing commitment to the important work of dismantling white supremacy. Last Fall, Ruth Aydt and Martha Oakly led a multi-week discussion of the report, Widening the Circle of Concern which challenged us to consider what people of color say about their experiences of racism in Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the country. This spring, many people have engaged with the 21 Day

Challenge for racial Equity; in March, we heard a presentation on the history of lynching, followed by a tour of the *Unmasked* exhibit on lynching at IU. There is a group of parents interested in supporting each other in their efforts to raise anti-racist children. Our staff is working together to raise our own awareness of race and racism, to challenge white supremacy in our personal and professional lives. By the time this report is released, a group of us will have journeyed together to Montgomery, Alabama to tour the Legacy Museum and several sites significant to the historical fight for racial equality in the United States.

The Legacy Museum tells the story of the experience of Black Americans, clearly and powerfully connecting the dots between the realities of chattel slavery, Jim Crow, lynching, and the mass incarceration. Reverend Emily and I had visited there in October as part of the LREDA Fall Conference, and both came away wishing to share this powerful experience with others, in hopes of spurring ourselves and this congregation to deliberate and meaningful action to end white supremacy. The idea is that this will not be a one-time event, but part of a much larger project to fulfill the commitment this congregation made in adopting the 8th Principle in 2020.

Several discussions on the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws revealed a deep hunger for conversation around what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. What does it mean to be part of a living tradition? What binds together a non-creedal religion? What does “religion” mean in the context of Unitarian Universalism? How do we handle the vast differences in our definitions of our faith – and what do we do with words like “faith” and “church” and “prayer” that so many UUs are uncomfortable with? We will continue to hold space for these questions to remain open, along with our minds and hearts.

Many in our congregation are interested in the spiritual and intellectual underpinnings of our social justice work. If we fail to examine our motivations for our social justice efforts, look critically at our assumptions and approaches, and ensure that we are developing and centering the voices of those we wish to help, then we are likely to do more harm than good. Likewise, if we learn about areas of injustice but fail to act, then we’re doing little to bring about the change we yearn for.

This is one reason that religious education is partnering with many of our social justice task forces. For example, this year we have coordinated with the Reproductive Justice Task Force to train three additional OWL facilitators. The task force recently voted to fund training for three more facilitators in the coming months. We’re looking to diversify our team, so if you identify as anything other than cis white female you are especially encouraged to apply.

Finally, many people have expressed an interest in participating in an adult OWL class. OWL, or Our Whole Lives, is a lifespan sexuality education program developed jointly by educators from Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ traditions. Here at UUCB, we have a long history of offering OWL to elementary and middle school children, but with the addition of an adult course it will truly be a lifespan program. Thanks to Abby Gitlitz and Matt Stonecipher for stepping up to make this happen!

Next year we will continue to build on these areas of interest: spiritual development, anti-oppression work, UU identity, theology and history, social justice, and the application of UU values in all aspects of our lives. Look for details and schedules sometime in August.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

During nearly two years apart due to Covid-19, children and families adopted new routines for Sunday mornings, and returning to church on a regular basis has been a challenge for many. At the same time, adults’ availability for volunteering has shifted, making it impossible to offer the same level of children and youth

programming as we used to, even where there is demand. To me, this mainly means we need to rethink what we are offering and how we are offering it. For instance, religious education for children does not need to be limited to Sunday mornings. Next year we will experiment with additional “short courses” at other times, to see if that is something that might work better with busy family schedules. We’re also working on building up our Youth Library, to provide a safe space for resources helpful to teens as well as children as they navigate the challenging social, political, and economic landscapes in which they are coming of age.

Meanwhile, we will continue to offer Sunday morning programs for children. Our Spirit Play class for 4-6 year olds has grown considerably over the past ten months, offering a gentle structure for children to learn about Unitarian Universalist values and traditions through stories and exploration. In Kids’ Club, our 7-12 year olds have built connections with each other and their teachers while exploring what it means to be part of the UUCB community.

This year we have also experimented with ways to support children and families in worship services as well as in Community Hour. People of all ages tend to gain more from worship services when they understand what we are doing together and why! We’ll continue to develop age-appropriate explanations and tools, in hopes that people of all ages will feel comfortable and nourished through participation in our worship services. We have also experimented with providing puzzles and other activities at a central table in Community Hour so that people of all ages have a variety of ways to engage in fellowship after the service.

In 2022-23 we offered OWL for 7th and 8th graders and also for 5th & 6th graders. We are now “caught up” from the pandemic’s disruption of these programs, so next year we will begin our regular cycle in which elementary OWL classes (K-1 and 4-5) will be offered in alternate years with the middle school class (7-8).

This year we also saw renewed interest among our middle and high school youth for restarting a youth group. Historically, youth group and all the related youth programming – regional cons, Youth Caucus at General Assembly, Youth Leadership School, and more – have been significant life experiences for the teen participants. We currently have a wonderful group of enthusiastic youth, and I dearly hope that we will be able to provide this rich and rewarding opportunity for them to grow their connection with our church and the larger UU community. However, at the moment we have no one on board to lead this group next year. Please contact me if you would like to talk about whether youth advising might be a good fit for you.

Professional Development

As a religious educator, I am deeply committed to my own lifelong learning as well as that of the congregation. This year, my growth as a religious educator has centered around interactions with colleagues in the Heartland Cluster of our Mid-America region, participation in a Wellspring program for religious professionals, completion of the Philosophy of Education Renaissance Module, and attendance at the LREDA Fall Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition, my independent reading and study has mainly focused on racism and anti-oppression work, neurodiversity, UU history and theology, and young adult literature.

Plans for next year

I am particularly excited about three new initiatives starting up soon in religious education.

1. First, a plan is underway to restructure religious education staff so that childcare workers are integrated with the rest of the children/youth religious education programming. This will allow for each employee to have more hours, with varied tasks, working as a team instead of as individuals. Work hours will be on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, so the position can mesh well with school or other work if needed. These new staff positions will offer opportunities for professional growth and leadership development, and will enable us to introduce additional programs such as Parents' Night Out and Sunday morning story times.
2. The second initiative is the start of an Indigenous Studies Working Group. I would like to meet regularly with others who are interested in deepening our knowledge of the history as well as present-day situation of the people on whose ancestral homeland our church was built. It is very important to me and to many others that our regular land acknowledgement be the *beginning* of our commitment to understanding our past and seeking justice, not the end. If you would like to join me in this study, please be in touch.
3. Third, as I explore the possibilities of creating a comprehensive youth empowerment program, I am looking for people with a special interest in the mental and spiritual health of youth and children. Young people today carry an enormous burden as they face numerous existential challenges: climate change, gun violence, racism, homophobia, high costs of college and housing, widespread misinformation, and more. Unitarian Universalism can provide the solid ground of community in this world of shifting uncertainty, but only if we are able to address these very real areas of concern and offer equally real support. If you are a teacher, therapist, coach, parent, or youth – or just have an interest in helping to build a youth empowerment program, please be in touch.

I hope that each person in our congregation will consider how you might be involved in religious education this coming year. Perhaps you'd like to participate in a program, or facilitate one. There are positions open for teaching children and youth on Sunday mornings, and also for youth advisors. I would love to talk with you to help find your best fit, and to hear what sort of experiences you are looking for in your religious education journey.

Summary of Religious Education Programs and Events, 2022-23

Programs

- Sunday morning children's programming: Spirit Play (ages 4-6), Kids' Club (ages 7-12) and childcare (ages 0-3).
- OWL for 7th & 8th graders (facilitated by Abby Gitlitz, Matt Stonecipher, and Pat Slabach)
- OWL for 5th & 6th graders (facilitated by Pat Slabach and Eve Cusack)
- Bloomingtots Story Time (facilitated by Sarah Johnson, Christine Bannister, and other parents)
- Mindful Motion (facilitated by Kelly Rockhill)
- Inner Work of Age (co-facilitated by Stephanie Kimball and Emily Manvel Leite)
- Listening In (facilitated by Denise Breeden-Ost and Angi Sullivan)
- A Journey through UU History (facilitated by Stuart Yoak)
- The Pursuit of Happiness (facilitated by Brian O'Donnell)
- Saving Us: Responding to Climate Change (facilitated by Molly O'Donnell)
- Widening the Circle of Concern (facilitated by Ruth Aydt and Martha Oakley)
- Youth Group (facilitated by Martha Oakley, Avram Primack, Kelly Rockhill, and Stephanie Kimball)

Events

- Hosted two Religious Education Fairs introducing the congregation to religious education offerings in the fall and in the spring
- Dementia Awareness workshop with an invited speaker
- Hosted a presentation on the history of lynching, and organized a field trip to *Unmasked*
- Planned, organized, and supervised children's activities for Pledge Day
- Easter canned food drive and hunt
- Group trip to the Legacy Museum (5/29 - 6/2)
- Fall and Spring Religious Education Fairs offering opportunities for congregants to learn what programs were available, meet facilitators, review materials, and sign up
- Guest at Your Table brunch and fundraiser
- Article II Town Hall
- Article II discussion: comparison of current and proposed versions

Other accomplishments

- Coordinated with Reproductive Justice Task Force to train 3 additional OWL facilitators
- Experimented with ways to support children and families in worship services as well as in Community Hour
- Moved the children's library, oversaw the online cataloging, labeling, and organization of all the materials
- Hosted Guest at Your Table
- Created a prototype "Inner Work of Age" course
- Completed the Philosophy of Education Renaissance Module

Stephanie Kimball

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Technology Coordinator's Annual Report

The position of Technology Coordinator was created early this calendar year, to address the growing and changing needs of our congregation. Since I've only been here for half a year, I find it appropriate to only write a half-page annual report. :)

In this new world, we rely much more on technology such as live streaming to perform our ministry. To make this sustainable, I have been revamping our live stream setup to be easier to use. When this effort is complete, I will be training more folks to run our live stream and sound system. You may see new faces in the booth at the back of the meeting room in the not-too-distant future!

I'm also working hard to improve the staff computer system, including our network system. Having one person on staff to take responsibility for computer upkeep has been great, and I'm excited to continue improving our system as we go forward.

My largest ongoing project has been replacing our aging website. Mandy and I have been working together on this, with guidance from Rev. Grant. The new website is nearing completion, and should be published very soon!

I'm very excited for the future, and grateful for the opportunity to serve my congregation in this new capacity. This work is truly where I find my calling right now, and it is wonderful to be here full-time.

In gratitude,
Hans Kelson
Technology Coordinator

COMMITTEES, GROUPS, and TASK FORCES

Book Table

A revival of the UUCB Booktable Committee began on Sept. 18, 2022, after a hiatus of 30 months during the pandemic. Since that date, The Booktable opened (or will) on 33 Sundays out of 42 (as of June 25, 2023); it now opens after the 10:15-11:15 service every Sunday.

The mission is to (1) greet newcomers and provide information about introductory Unitarian Universalist books and brochures, (2) offer books that promote UU Principles and Purposes which are recommended by the ministers, reflect current congregational interests, and support congregational or local authors and musicians, (3) offer books for UU Adult Religious Education courses, and (4) provide an opportunity for congregants to recycle and purchase used books and audiovisual materials.

The Booktable supported the book sale at the annual UU Holiday Bazaar 2022 by providing used book donations and assistance with set-up, sales, and tear-down. Proceeds from weekly sales and donations were used for purchasing new materials for the Booktable, and for the UUCB Library. The Booktable is a self-sustaining committee.

The volunteer Booktable crew members during 2022-2023 were Anne Clark (8 times), Mike and Rita Drescher (8), Carolyn Emmert (1), Diane Gregory (2), Marlin Howard (2), Stephen Pock (3), and Glee Noble. If you are interested in helping with the Booktable, please contact [Glee Noble](#).

Caring Committee

Our UU Caring Committee continues to meet monthly to discuss caring concerns in our church community. Our main areas of service are helping with meals, transportation and memorial receptions. Meal Train is mainly provided on a short-term basis for folks returning home from the hospital, critical illness or another medical issue where meals are needed. The Happy Meals are for helping new parents! Transportation usually is needed for medical appointments. Referrals are made through the main church office where the minister and the chair of the UU Caring Committee will be contacted.

Caring for our church community is ongoing through ALL your volunteer efforts who help deliver our services. We also have the members of our UU Caring Committee who organize our mission of caring with not only these above services but personal calls and visits. We coordinate with our Pastoral Care Associates who expand the Caring Committee mission with more one-one connections. We also coordinate with our health team led by Melinda Swenson for especially the health concerns area. We are SO grateful for our volunteers, UU Caring Committee members and our health team plus our minister and staff to carry out our mission of "caring for one another."

Submitted by Sharon Yarber, Chair

Chalice Circles

The Chalice Circle program is an extension of the ministry that provides church members with a small group that meets 1 or 2 times a month for deep listening. Chalice circles help members get to know each other, stay connected with the larger church, learn deep listening skills, and increase their self-knowledge. Members report that participation in a chalice circle is satisfying and helps them feel more connected to the church and to each other. The groups also participate in service projects each year.

The program served 45 participants in 5 groups. 2 of the groups met via Zoom and 3 met in person. Service projects this year were limited to service to the church. Community service will likely resume next year as the community continues to open up more post-pandemic.

The executive team (Alan Backler, Jan Armstrong, Steve Pock, Ruellen Fessenbecker), in addition to overseeing the program, also reorganized the archives of Chalice Circle materials, reducing the paper storage considerably. Much of the material that the program uses is now in Google docs.

Under the guidance of Rev. Barbara Child, the executive team also clarified their role in the church as an extension of the ministry.

Submitted by Ruellen Fessenbecker

Earth Kin

Earth Kin is UUCB's Earth-centered spirituality group. Rhiannon Snow* took over Earth Kin leadership from its previous long-time leader in November 2021. Since then, Earth Kin has held six Druidic ceremonies at the traditional Celtic cross-quarter points celebrating seasonal transitions: Imbolc (1/29/22 and 2/4/23), Beltane (4/30/22 and 5/6/23), Lughnasadh (7/30/22), and Samhain (10/29/22).

Earth Kin ceremonies are intended to foster spiritual connection with the Earth by attending to seasonal changes and marking the parallel metaphors between human lives and the natural world. At Imbolc we celebrated the first stirrings of spring and connected with healing energies. At Beltane, we reveled in the literal fertility of the land and the metaphorical fertility of new endeavors. At Lughnasadh we delighted in the abundance of the season in the fields and in our lives, expressing gratitude for both. At Samhain we remembered and honored our beloveds who have passed, and marked the northern hemisphere's transition to the dark and fallow time of year.

The source of the rituals has been the Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids (which is based in the UK and of which I am a member). I modify them to suit our local environmental context and the needs of the community. Rituals this past year have averaged about 16 attendees each. I have received positive feedback that the rituals are affecting and meaningful to attendees.

* I'm a member of the church, but you won't see this name on the list of members. I use an alias because Earth Kin-related documents are public, and the broader culture still holds prejudice against practitioners of pagan spirituality.

Fellowship Dinners

Fellowship Dinners met in October, November, January, February, March and April. Although numbers fluctuated, we had roughly 24-28 participants this year.

Contact: Kathy Gilbert

Green Grounds Task Force

The Green Grounds Group (Ann Kamman, Georgia Emmert, Mike Dresher, Bill Lonnerberg) met frequently in summer 2022 for grounds care – mostly watering, mulching, weeding. We also made an effort to clear the driveway to the parking lot so it could be repaved. We worked to clear paths and sidewalks in addition to the driveways. Summer 2022 we planted a second Pecan tree and another Redbud at the front entrance. We focused on removing invasive plants and spring 2023 began planting several native trees and shrubs donated from individuals in the congregation (Gray Dogwood, Chokecherry, Chokeberry, Hawthorn, Redbud, Spicebush, Buttonbush, and Persimmon). We were able to get a change in staff policy so that trained individuals on the Green Grounds could administer herbicide to the invasive plants. Ann made a “self guided walking tour” which shows off our beautiful grounds.

Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar

The Bazaar was held in person in December of 2022 for the first time since the pandemic. Visitors and members alike commented enthusiastically on the joy in resuming the in-person bazaar.

Approximately, \$19,000 was raised:

- 9,000 to the general fund
- 3,000 to women's alliance
- 7,000 to the task forces

Dozens of members and friends were involved in baking, staffing tables, creating crafts for sale, donating books and white elephants, and making and serving soup, bread, and lasagna.

In addition, the other goals of the Bazaar were achieved: the church put its best face to the public and brought people to the church that might not otherwise have come, and members and friends collaborated on a project that allowed them to feel more connected to the church, meet new people, and have an enjoyable time.

Submitted by Ruellen Fessenbecker

Humanist Forum and Freethinkers

The Humanist Forum and Freethinkers have met every Sunday over the past year. Our meetings take place in room 208, starting at approximately 11:30 AM after the service. We conclude our discussions at around 1 PM. We typically alternate between the Humanist group and the Freethinkers group each week. Currently, we have a mailing list consisting of approximately 90 members, and we would be delighted to include your name! We have an average attendance of about 20 individuals, with some participating via Zoom.

The Humanist group selects topics about three times a year. They can be found on the UUB website under "getting involved" -> "humanist and freethinkers." On the other hand, the Freethinkers group engages in more spontaneous discussions, exploring current topics chosen during the meeting itself.

Throughout the past year the topic title and the person introducing the topic are given below:

2022

- May 15: "Why am I still here?" by Ann Watzel
- May 29: "What can we expect from the new Webb Telescope?" by Harold Ogren
- June 12: Topic selection and potluck
- June 26: "Social Implications of Conocimiento" by Jason Michalek
- July 10: "Demolition and promotion of emotions in politics and culture" by Rich Janda
- July 24: "How can we teach about bigotry and tribalism?" by Sandy Dolby
- August 7: "Why a theist embraces the basic tenets of Humanism?" by Jon Chaffin
- August 21: "The Atheist's wager" by Dexter Edge
- September 4: "Seventh generation governance" by David Keppel
- September 18: "Banning Books in Schools from Florida to Indiana" by Carolyn Emmert
- October 2: Topic selection and potluck
- October 16: "Unwrapping the Russian Enigma" by Rich Janda
- October 30: "Christian Nationalism as our Greatest Threat" by Kevin Craig
- November 13: "History of the Covenanters in Bloomington" by David Parkhurst
- November 27: "Why are Humans Religious?" by Dexter Edge
- December 11: "Revisiting Social Darwinism" by Jon Chaffin
- December 25: "Timothy Snyder's Politics of Eternity" by Jason Michálek

2023

- January 8: Topic selection and potluck
- January 22: "Unpacking Behavior Change" by Mary Yoke
- February 5: "Quilts" by Sandy Dolby
- March 5: "Non-Human Animals" by Richard Janda
- March 19: "Thought Terminating Clichés" by Jason Michálek
- April 2: "Against Humanism" by Dexter Edge
- April 16: "Chatbot: Pandora's Box or Golden Fleece" by Harold Ogren
- April 30: "Braver Angels / Angry Politics" by Miles Eddy & David Keppel
- May 14: "Psychedelic Mushrooms" by Robert Shull
- May 28: "Transgenderism: Rowling's Writings" by Sandy Dolby

Poetry on First Mondays

The Poetry on First Mondays group has met regularly on the morning of the first Monday of the month during the past year to share favorite poems with each other. We post the titles and authors of those we discuss at each meeting and send out announcements of upcoming meetings each month through the UUCB Church Center site. Our group is always open to new members.

Facilitator: Linda Pickle

Wednesday Walkers

Every Wednesday morning weather permitting at 10 am (Fall, Winter, Spring) or 9 am (Summer) a group of UUs has met to take a one hour walk at various Bloomington parks or trails. Emails were sent out on Monday indicating the location of the walk. During inclement weather we have walked at 11 am in the College Mall. There are 32 people on the mailing list but the average number of walkers is between 4 and 15. Denise Ogren organizes the walks when in town. Otherwise it was organized by Kathy Gilbert.

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance was founded in 1959 to manage the annual fundraising bazaar, help build fellowship, and give service and financial support to the church and community projects, as voted upon by the membership. This year's officers were Doris Wittenburg, President; Kathy Gilbert, Secretary; Judith Kelly, Treasurer; and Sharon Wiseman and Michele McCaffrey, Program Co-Chairs.

We meet the first Thursday of the month at 11:30 am, bringing our lunches and sharing desserts provided by Alliance members. We met by Zoom link until the June meeting, where we began hybrid access. We had quite a variety of very interesting speakers or special activities each month:

- Speaker Ody Ekwonwa, MPH, CHES, Extension Educator – Health and Human Sciences and Purdue Extension – Monroe County . Topic: “Train Your Brain: Nutrition, Neurobics and Notable Ways to Keep Your Brain Healthy“ Focused on understanding dementia, the warning signs, benefits of early detection and diagnosis, and steps to better overall brain health.
- 2022 General Assembly report. Among the presenters were Stuart Yoak, Barb Backler, Iris Kiesling, and Madison Colquette.
- Outdoor in-person picnic moved Indoors due to threatening weather.
- Kathleen Gilbert did an impromptu photo presentation of her trip to Norway.
- Presentation by Lisa Black, Assistant Professor of History and Native American and Indigenous Studies at Indiana University and the author of *Picturing Indians: Native Americans in Film* (2020). Talked of her current work on *How to Get Away with Murder: A Transnational History of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women*.
- UU Reproductive Justice Task Force members served as presenters.
- Tea Party. During the tea, we honored Lorraine Hawking, who was celebrating her 100th birthday.
- Travel, with members talking about their travels and memories of their favorite trips over the years.
- Presentation by Jessica Marchbank from All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center.
- Celebrated National Library Week by bringing our favorite books to share.
- Deb Fish and Mary Goetze from the UU Hope for Prisoners task force shared stories of frustration and hope of incarcerated persons and their families and an update on the planning for a new local jail.

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting. Please consider joining our group!

Doris Wittenburg, President

SOCIAL JUSTICE Annual Report



Social Justice permeates all programming at the UU Church of Bloomington – [worship](#), [religious education](#), [fellowship](#), and special groups like [Chalice Circles](#) and the [choir](#). Social Justice Task Forces are formed when a number of people wish to work together around a specific social justice area.

Our congregation is very active in many areas of social justice. All have worked hard, in new ways – leadership in some have changed. Long time task force leader Mary Blizzard has stepped back from leadership on the Hunger Task Force as has Martha Oakley from Racial Justice. Both continue in other roles advocating in their areas of ways to help Change the World.

Green Sanctuary Task Force



The [Green Sanctuary Task Force](#) (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. Contact: Marcia Veldman

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.

Energy Report/Energy Star rating

In 2015 UUCB signed on to Interfaith Power and Light's Paris Pledge. This pledge commits us to working towards a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2050. While we have already met our interim goal of a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the harder steps are ahead.

To add to the challenge, in August of 2022 we signed an accelerated version of the pledge, committing to be carbon neutral by 2040, not because we have a specific plan, but because it is what needs to be done to avert catastrophic climate change.

Following are some highlights of how we are moving in the direction of net zero by 2040:

- From Mid-May 2022 to Mid-May 2023 about \$3,300 was saved due to solar energy production, for a total of \$43,435 saved since May of 2013.
- Current electricity from grid + natural gas was 26% of 2010 usage, a 74% reduction.
- Our goal is to replace natural gas with electricity throughout the building.
- In September 2022 two highly efficient all-electric air-source heat pump systems replaced the two oldest conventional gas-heat and electric-air conditioning systems (in two Pre-K classrooms and the nursery & infants rooms). These were paid for with a \$5,000 matching grant we received from Faith in Place and Special Purposes Funds “Paris Pledge” funds invested after the 2017 Solar Sprint.
- Five zones (of nine original) use natural gas heat, to be replaced with heat pumps as funds allow.
- Our church received EnergyStar Certification for buildings of worship for the ninth time, with a score of 94 (on a scale of 100) in October 2022.

Spring and Fall Clothing Swap

Spring and fall clothing swaps were held, working to reduce the purchases of new clothing which contribute to climate change.

Hosted a Faith in Place Virtual Keynote

Faith in Place (three state IPL group including Indiana) held an event for Green Teams in the region. The GSTF hosted the keynote, Katherine Hayhoe, virtually which was well attended, including people from 6 Earth Care congregations.

Saving Us

Molly O’Donnell facilitated a series of classes through religious education that focused on climate change. This has led to the launch of a Zero in Bloomington group.

Current Revolution

The GSTF hosted a screening of three short films, Current Revolution, which show the possibility of a just transition to a clean energy economy where the well-being of workers and frontline community members is valued.

GSTF Members Active in Other Environmental Groups

GSTF members are active with Earth Care Bloomington, Faith in Place (formerly Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light), Citizens’ Climate Lobby, and Center for Sustainable Living.

Habitat for Humanity Task Force



The [Habitat for Humanity Task Force](#) strives to educate the congregation about housing needs of Monroe County, including the purpose and accomplishments of Habitat for Humanity and other related housing groups. The congregation can contribute in many ways to help provide decent affordable housing in Monroe County.

Contact: Barb Berggoetz

The Habitat Task Force during 2022-23 had a primary focus of reinvigorating some fundraising projects and building activities, as UU and the local Habitat chapter moved out of COVID19 restrictions. Habitat, which

suspended volunteer building for about 1 ½ years, except for the Women Build in fall 2020, started to accept build volunteers again in May 2021.

Habitat Task Force members are: Barb Berggoetz, chair, members Kathleen Chmelewski, Christine Banister, Jackie Hall, Mary Blizzard, Kathy Sideli, Brian and Pearl Springfield, Dian Robbins, Laura Hannam, Sandy Davoren, Richard Stumpner and Licia Weber. Several new UUsers have voiced an interest in joining and/or volunteering and other UUsers typically participate in builds, fundraisers and contributing money. The task force usually meets after the service at 11:15 a.m. on the first Sunday of most months at UU.

Objectives/funds: Educate the congregation about local housing needs, including the purpose and accomplishments of Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County and other housing-related groups; support Habitat by providing volunteers, food and raising money for builds and its needs, including equipment. As of May 2023, we had \$7,693 in our church account.

During the 2022-23 year, the task force's activities included:

- **Contribution to 2022 Women Build:** We donated \$2,000 to help sponsor two Women Build homes, the last ones in Habitat's Trail View neighborhood. We also sponsored a 38-member Women Build team, along with the Bloomington Community Glass Center, which raised nearly \$19,000, a new record for our WB team. The money was raised by individual builders, donated by UU members sponsoring builders and earned by fundraisers. The co-leaders of the team were Barb Berggoetz, Abby Gitlitz and Anne Branum, associated with the glass center.
- **Chili/soup take-home fundraiser:** For the second year, we sponsored an online chili/soup fundraiser on in March, and after services, by offering many types of chili and soup, made by task force members and UU supporters. We earned \$1,333.
- **Social Justice Moment in March 2022:** Barb Berggoetz spoke about the Women Build and introduced Carson and LaTasha Hall, who are working to earn a Habitat home. They spoke about the benefits of being in Habitat's program for their family of five children. We also hosted a table for three Sundays in March after the services to help educate people about Habitat's activities and encourage people to sign up to build and participate in our task force. We also created a bulletin board at the social justice table to highlight our accomplishments and interest people in joining our activities.
- **Habitat build:** We supplied five UU volunteers to work on two houses in March of 2022, as part of Habitat's regular building program. We are planning to recruit small groups of five or more builders for about three builds this summer and fall.
- **UU 25% Sunday Plate Fund:** Our proposal was among the top three groups for the second year chosen for a congregational vote on June 4. We proposed spending funds to pay for home building expenses, including energy-saving equipment and supplies, for 10 homes being built in Osage Place, Habitat's new neighborhood, in 2023-24. As part of our proposal, the task force committed to doubling the amount the congregation donates, in order to increase the impact of UU's funds. (The winner was not chosen at the time this report was submitted.)
- **UU Holiday Bazaar:** We participated in the Holiday Bazaar again, which was back in person at UU. We sold handmade crafts donated by individual task force members and other UUsers in December 2022. As a group, we made soup and cookies-in-a-jar and bird seed feeders and three themed gift baskets. We earned \$773.

- **UU Social Justice grant:** We applied for and received a \$930 grant for Habitat for Humanity to build to improve the parking lot at the ReStore by repainting the parking lines and buying a ladder for construction sites.
- **IU football parking:** We supplied four task force members to oversee parking and collect fees at the UU lot for one of the IU football games. Other task forces supplied members to collect fees. We each earned \$1,138 for this effort.
- **More Than Houses event:** About 10 task force members and other UU supporters attended Habitat's annual fundraising event at Switchyard Park for the community in November. Those who attended made individual contributions to support Habitat's general operating expenses.
- **Future plans:** We are planning a new fundraiser for September, which will be online and Sunday sales of casseroles, quiches, soups, breads, etc. using summer garden vegetables. We also are considering working with RE youth to construct small building projects, such as a bird house, window flower hanger, to sell or donate to Habitat. This may develop into a larger small builds projects as a fundraiser.

Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force



The [Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force](#) (HFOHN), also known as the Hunger Task Force, engages in projects to reduce hunger in our community: monthly College Square (Walnut Grove) Pantry, Christmas baskets for MCUM, Bountyful Sunday Food Drives, staffing Shalom breakfast once a month.

Contact: Mary Blizzard retiring, Dee Morris & Lynn Struve. 12 members - 12 active.

Ongoing Projects

- **Little Free Pantry:** Located next to Needmore Coffee on Pete Ellis Drive. This has been an ongoing successful project. A task force committee oversees the maintenance and distributes approximately 120 lbs of food/week
- **Shalom Hot Breakfasts:** Two hot breakfasts / month (1st and 3rd Mondays), preparation and financial support.
- **Community Kitchen:** Two shifts per month, two volunteers per shift
- **Grocery Cards to Needy Congregants:** \$100/individual and \$150/family. Need is determined by the UU Caring Committee
- **MCUM Holiday Food Baskets:** An annual giant food drive in November
- **Fireman's Food Drive:** A successful community outreach program. The food is used to support our ongoing projects.

Special Projects

- **Food Drive:** A special food drive was held in September, Ramen noodles for MCUM
- **Food Aid:** It was determined that a KAP family was in need of food on a monthly basis.
- **Project with RE:** We made a meal (egg fritattas) for Shalom with the RE kids, November 20
- **Foster Closet:** A \$110 donation to Foster Closet for meals for needy families
- **The UU Living Our Values Fair:** We participated on January 22, 2023.
- **Other Task Force Support:** i.e. cookies for Repro Rights, chili for Habitat, books for Hope for Prisoners, clothing to Homelessness

FUNDRAISING 22-23

- **Garage sale:** Saturday, Oct.1
- **IU Football Parking:** Saturday, September 17th.
- **Time for Change** held November 21 & 22.
- **The UU Holiday Bazaar:** December 2nd and 3rd
- **Cupcake Sale:** May 14, overwhelmingly successful

Potential FUNDRAISERS

- Restaurant fundraisers
- A pizza lunch after a church service

POTENTIAL NEW PROJECTS

- Families that find themselves taking in unexpected children; school counselors as contact people
- A project with a Chalice Circle
- Intercongregational Support for Shalom
- September UU Habitat build: we will provide lunch
- Each One Feed One: Assist with MCUM's biggest annual food drive.

New Co-chairs – Dee Morris and Lynn Struve

Homelessness Task Force



The [Homelessness Task Force](#) works with agencies in Monroe County to provide services and support to people experiencing homelessness, to develop strategies dealing with issues related to homelessness including hunger and unemployment, and to end homelessness.

Contact: Alan Backler and Marlin Howard

This past year, the taskforce engaged in the following activities:

- Prepare breakfasts on a regular basis in the kitchen at Shalom Community Center. Serve on committees at Shalom.
- Gather food and clothing from UUCB members at the church, everyday, that is distributed to Shalom Community Center and to the Hunger Task Force for use in their programs.
- Worked with the RE Director, Stephanie Kimball, to do a session on homelessness for the students in the elementary school RE program. We introduced the children to the story “I am a Bear” presented by Rev. Emily. It is a story about a homeless bear. We conducted a lesson on the story with the children. Students were encouraged to have their families donate clothing and other items to the Shalom Community Center.
- Planning a benefit concert to support the breakfast activities at Shalom. The concert will be held in June, 2023 and feature Rev. Bill Breeden and fellow musicians.
- We met with Mary Morgan of United Way, who introduced us to Heading Home for South Central Indiana, an organization focused on housing security. We are considering volunteering for the organization, beginning in the fall.



Hope for Prisoners Task Force

The [Hope for Prisoners Task Force](#) (HFPTF) works on projects based on recognizing the humanity of those in prison and their families. The goal of this task force is to serve and advocate for individuals during incarceration and their return to this community, and also their families and support systems, with a major effort to support KAP, Kids with Absent Parents. Contacts: Deb Fish and Mary Goetze

- We have connected with approximately 20 incarcerated persons via either the GTL prison email system or through written letters. Money has been put on their accounts that allows them to purchase news feeds, podcasts, music and hygiene products through their tablets.
- We continue to maintain connections to groups outside of UUCB like: IDOC WATCH, New Leaf New Life, NAACP, Amethyst House (men and women), Abolition Coalition, Care Not Cages.
- Four members of this task force regularly attend local city and county meetings to stay abreast of what is happening in the planning for a new jail/justice center. We often speak at these meetings to advocate for more treatment options that could lead to fewer people being incarcerated.
- We have hosted a panel discussion on current available services for prevention and recovery and how to expand those.
- In addition, we are part of a group made up of several organizations that desire to form a larger coalition to have a broader and stronger impact.

HFPTF received a Social Justice Grant of \$1,000 to be used to put on an art exhibit displaying the works of three incarcerated persons: Phillip Stroud & David Runyon (UUCB members) and Birt Ford. Phillip's visual art will be featured and the poetry of all three will be shared. On the final night of the exhibit there will be a performance of their poetry. We are working with Resilience Theatre to produce "Songs of a Caged Bird."

The collection of books for our incarcerated sisters began with the donation of 75 books to the project from the unsold books at the 2022 UUCB Bazaar. Book donations continued to be received until late April 2023 and will resume once the overworked staff at the Rockville Correctional Facility - a maximum-security prison for women - is able to process the 450 books they have received from us so far and are ready to accept more donations to the chaplain's library. (This is an officially approved but atypical arrangement not allowed, apparently, in most prisons and **should not be publicized** as it could jeopardize the ongoing use of the chaplain's library by the women.) An additional 250 books are awaiting delivery. Marcia Hart leads this effort.

KAP continues to serve 20 children from 10 households offering two gatherings each month. Trinity Church offers lunch one time per month and the Boys and Girls Club hosts KAP most other times. Last summer 13 children attended a 4 day camp at Rancho Framasa in Brown County made possible by a grant from Trinity Church. Most volunteers who lead the children's program are UUCB members. They are joined by several IU students during the school year.

International Outreach Task Force (IOTF)



The [International Outreach Task Force](#) (IOTF) aims to expand and improve cross-cultural and international understanding through hands-on involvement with projects fulfilling local needs in developing countries. Currently three projects are in Kenya.

Contacts: Claire Robertson and Jason Blankenship

IOTF this year welcomed back, briefly, the Blankenship family, who are still helping a bit, however. And we have 2 new young families who are becoming active, and who will go to Kenya with us in 2024. And we have gathered used clothing to take to Spurgeon's School on this year's family trip in August. We are working on raising more funds as there is a significant shortfall this year. The annual summer sale is happening now and we hope that there will be more participation tomorrow than the sparse participation on the first day. We put up posters, had an ad in Bloom Magazine, and have emailed lists about it. For whatever reason turnout was sparse both days so we are contemplating selling online, reluctantly, since we like involving the congregation. (One reason was that our champion Facebooker was abroad and could not broadcast news of the sale.) So, we made less than usual from the sale, about \$1700 versus over \$2000. All contributions welcome! The Kenyan AIDS orphans need us and are well worth the involvement! The shortfall overall is about \$6000, due partly to COVID...

Just Peace Task Force



The [Just Peace Task Force](#) works to promote peace and justice in the world, recognizing the essential role of grassroots organizing in creating a consensus for a new foreign and military policy. Contact: David Keppel

2022-3 was a bad year for peace. Russia's February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine violated the norms in Europe since 1945 and certainly since 1991 and shocked public opinion. Although Ukraine was not yet a member of NATO and NATO was not yet at war with Russia, the brink moved closer, and Washington and Moscow engaged in a proxy war. The United States provided Kyiv with billions of dollars of high tech weapons, which gave Kyiv the ability to inflict humiliating losses on Russian forces. Russia warned it might resort to nuclear weapons.

Renewed militarism sapped public will for arms control. Congress passed record military budgets in excess of President Biden's requests, and effective military spending approaches a trillion dollars a year. Russia suspended cooperation in verifying nuclear arms control treaties. Biden's Nuclear Posture Review came as a bitter disappointment to the arms control community.

The peace movement sees an increasingly urgent task. Without nuclear arms control, unfortunate incidents risk becoming an unimaginable catastrophe.

- The Just Peace Task Force sponsors an important event on Courthouse Square to mark the (August 6 and 9) anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We urge supporters to turn out this year.
- We also have made requests for virtual or in person meetings with Senators Young and Braun and Congresswoman Houchin. We urge Rep. Houchin to cosponsor [H. Res. 77](#): "Embracing the goals and

provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” The resolution endorses as first steps the provisions of the Back from the Brink program:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the President’s sole authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking the nuclear weapons of the United States off hair-trigger alert; and
- canceling the plan to replace the nuclear arsenal of the United States with modernized, enhanced weapons.

The Just Peace Task Force collaborates with Bloomington Peace Action Coalition and several national groups: the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament, and Common Security; Massachusetts Peace Action; and the Back from the Brink coalition. We need your help.

For further information, please contact: David Keppel, keppel@sbcglobal.net, (812) 569-3588

Racial Justice Task Force



The [Racial Justice Task Force](#) (1) works to dismantle racism in ourselves and our institutions through education and action and (2) supports and engages in activities led by BIPOC groups. Contact: Ruth Aydt

The task force mailing list, with 110 members, continues to be an information hub for sharing announcements about racial justice issues and events. Task force funds, received from football parking and the UUCB annual allocation, are spent based on member consensus in response to requests or proposals shared at meetings or online.

Highlights this year:

- Worked with the [Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance Faith for Racial Equity \(BMA-F4RE\) on their Racially Restricted Covenants](#) in Bloomington project. In addition to the published materials, the group makes presentations online and to faith communities about the work and its ongoing implications.
- Facilitated, in conjunction with DRE Stephanie Kimball, a Fall Adult RE class based on “Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change.” Readings from the book were supplemented with other materials, allowing new participants to join who had not participated in the Spring 2022 class.
- Hosted a community-wide event “African American History in Monroe County, a presentation by local historian Elizabeth Mitchell” in late October. This was held in our meeting room, live-streamed, and [available online on Vimeo](#). Task force members welcomed attendees and served refreshments after the presentation.
- Provided financial and volunteer support for Resilience Productions’ performances of *Remarkable Women* at the Monroe County History Center in March. The task force is honored to be able to support and promote the important and amazing work of Resilience Productions.
- Collected non-perishable goods from UUCB members for tornado relief in Rolling Fork, MS. The donations were taken to Second Baptist Church, who packed trucks and drove to Mississippi to deliver the donations.

- Attended women’s luncheon held at Bethel AME Church, with women from other Bloomington faith communities. Task Force member, Elizabeth Mitchell, gave her presentation on African American History in Monroe County and spoke of her new Monroe County African American Cultural Trail project.
- Partnered with the Hope for Prisoners Task Force to support their June exhibit, *Songs of a Caged Bird*, featuring written and visual art from three incarcerated men, two of whom are members of UUCB. This is appropriate use of our funds as more than 60% of those incarcerated in the US are persons of color; our task force acknowledges the effects of unequal justice and recommends “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander if you would like to learn more.

Task Force co-chair, Martha Oakley, resigned in late March due to increased travel and work commitments. Martha’s dedication to helping under-served students at IU is commendable, even as it takes her away from her Task Force leadership role. Martha’s insights and patient teaching have been greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Rainbow Rights Task Force



The [Rainbow Rights Task Force](#) seeks to revive, document, and advance the knowledge, concerns, and rights of the LGBTQIA+ individuals, communities, and causes. Building upon our congregations commitment to the 8th principle's journeying to dismantle racism and other oppressions, this task force acknowledges the spectrum of identities that reside beneath the systematic injustices experienced by marginalized persons, and we commit ourselves to journey in advocating for spiritual wholeness in relation to gender and sexuality.

Our three core values are:

1. **Creating** safe spaces to explore and listen about querying identities
2. **Sharing** alliances that connect us to other spaces
3. **Branching** into the community to promote collective action

Ongoing Work:

- **Legislative action:** At several points in the year, the task force coordinated efforts to voice opposition to anti-trans legislation. Moving forward, members of the force are collectively brainstorming actions that can create more protections for trans individuals in Bloomington and the state of Indiana, including more legislative action and possibly joining rallies locally and in Indianapolis. The integrated messaging during services has also created more trans visibility and empathy in the congregation.
- **Queer visibility:** Thanks to the work of Jay Sissom, we’ve spread symbolic identifiers of lesser known queer identities through pins with our church name on the back. These build the community that our church can reach by giving community members ways to self identify while also reminding them of our communal support.

Outreach/Fundraising:

- **Spencer Pride 2022:** In October of 2022, we distributed the buttons mentioned above while also forging community connections in Spencer and sharing resources that connect the community to our ongoing work

- **Developing community:** In connection with the programming at Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, the task force has coordinated increased attendance at their monthly Queer Socials at The Hub
- **Football parking:** In coordination with Religious Education, we facilitated football parking that welcomed football attendees into the space of our lot while also generating proceeds.

Refugee and Immigration Support and Education (RISE) Task Force



The Refugee and Immigrant Support and Education (RISE) Task Force welcomes people from other countries and reaches out to support folks new to our community and form friendships. Contacts: Barb Backler and Cindy Mosca

We’ve had a busy year. The RISE task force has been delighted to be sponsoring the Fakherduin family since December 2021. The goal is to offer friendship and support and help the family get on their feet. We have provided the family with lots of necessities with our RISE budget. Besides this several of our church members who are on the “Fakherduin team” have provided hours and hours of their time, helping them connect with agencies in the community, taking them to doctors’ and dentists’ appointments, collecting food at Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, tutoring, taking the children to fun places like Switchyard Park, Wonderlab and visiting the Fakherduin home on numerous occasions and becoming good friends. The committee feels lucky to know this family and recognize what they will be contributing to our community as time goes by and they become more stable and independent. Those who know the family have grown very fond of them and we wanted other members of the church to meet them and get acquainted. With the award of over \$500 from a social justice grant, we held a pizza party after church on December 11th at the church. We played corn hole and decorated Christmas ornaments for refugee families, then enjoyed pizza and apple cider and finally Deb Fish introduced each family member and described each child’s personality and interests. Mohammad then spoke eloquently about how much he appreciated our church and all those who have supported the family. The event ended with a report at the end by Pete Lenzen, chair of the board of the Refugee Support Network, emphasizing how many immigrants are entering Bloomington, thanking the church for the 25% of the plate offerings and inviting everyone to do his or her part in making newcomers to our community feel welcomed and offering suggestions of what folks can do to help all immigrants and asylum seekers get on their feet and begin to feel like they are a part of the community.

RISE applied for the 25% of the Sunday morning offering plate to support the Refugee Support Network (RSN) and we were awarded the funds. As of the end of March RSN was presented with \$6791, and there will be one more payment at the end of June. Many thanks to members of our Congregation for the generous donations to the offering plate. This will provide much needed support to our new refugees with healthcare, food, clothing, education expenses, household goods and fees for licenses and legal work. Last year RSN served 53 refugee families and already this year there are 11 new families from South America and Afghanistan who have come to Bloomington to find a safe and welcoming home.

RISE also nominated Pete Lenzen, the chair of the board of RSN, to be the Be More Award winner for the City of Bloomington this spring. He received the award and \$1000 for the RSN organization. The final paragraph of the nomination paper stated:

I have heard Pete say that serving as a volunteer for RSN is the most meaningful work he has ever done which might explain why he is willing to work 50 – 60 hours a week. He often sees clients on the weekends because that’s the only time they’re available. He spent 6 hours on Christmas Eve in the

emergency ward with a family whose baby was in distress. Pete is continuously driving families to doctors' and dentist appointments, grocery stores, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, United Ministries. Besides being the driver, he is often the babysitter, amusing the little ones while the mother goes in for an appointment, and frequently providing a meal from Burger King after an appointment to sweeten the trauma that some appointments cause. If a client needs a stove fixed, or a doorbell installed, or bunk beds moved from a donor's house, Pete is the person that is there to help. Most importantly, Pete is a friend to all the immigrants. They know they can count on him and turn to him when they're struggling. He is someone they can trust. As he puts it, "We are not 'saving' clients; we are an ally and a coach." His goal and RSN's goal is always to help the client move toward independence and eventual citizenship. Sylvia McNair has worked closely with Pete and the refugees for the past few years. She said, "He has the *heart of a servant* like no one I've ever met."

Social Justice groups were asked to participate in the Rekindling Our Flame party at church on April 1st. This was a wonderful opportunity to emphasize the "E" in our RISE task force, "E" standing for Education. We want everyone to know what a refugee is. Article 1 of the 1951 Convention defines a refugee as someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it." More than that we want our church members to experience what it is like to be a refugee. By becoming friends with refugees one can understand a little better what it's like. By reading books by and about refugees one can begin to experience the challenges and frustrations. We are inviting church members to read the books we have purchased and write reflections to share with other church members. We have a great start. Please join us in reading and sharing your reflections. Michele McCaffrey will make the books available Sunday mornings during coffee hour.

Books about Refugees

Recommended by Bloomingtonians

- ***Refugee* by Alan Gratz.** This book is about three kids who are escaping their home countries to get to safety during three different time periods. - Romy Wright, 6th Grade
- ***Nowhere Boy* by Katherine Marsh.** One thing that appealed to me was how life-changing the experience was for the main character. He had lost his sense of self and by helping Ahmed, his life had purpose and he gained so much confidence. - Dara Bode (*Beth Backler*)
- ***The Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri.** The author exposes the frequent lack of understanding and compassion of Western governments in dealing with asylum seekers. - Janeth Welch
- ***Solito* by Javier Zamora.** A memoir by a guy who walked to and entered the U.S. as an immigrant alone at age 9. The best book I have read in ages. - Susan Swaney
- ***The Devil's Highway* by Albert Luis Urrea** – The true story of a perilous journey from Mexico across the border to the U.S. Believing that a better life can be found in the U.S. hundreds of immigrants face danger and hardship to enter a land they believe will save their families. - Cindy Mosca

We'll be providing lots of transportation this summer to camps and summer school and doctors' appointments. If you have a day a week when you'd be available for an hour, please let me know you'd be willing to help. (bbackler@gmail.com)

Reproductive Justice Task Force



The [Reproductive Justice Task Force](#) (RJTF) mobilizes around the concept of reproductive justice as “the right to bodily autonomy, to have children or not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.” We educate, advocate, and connect within the church and with outside community partners to support and advance reproductive justice for all. Contacts: Nan McKinley and Cindy Lonnerberg

Ongoing Work

- **Legislative liaison:** A member monitors relevant bills during legislative sessions and reports out to the task force weekly with “action items” (e.g. phone calls, letters, testimony, committee watch/observation, rallies, etc).
- **City/County Council** - supportive presence and public comments @ meetings for Planned Parenthood (PP) and All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center (AOPRC) grant submissions.
- **Local Planned Parenthood(PP):** Escort service now run by PP, in line with national guidelines. We recruit and make small contributions in support of this service.
- **All Options Pregnancy Resource Center:**
 - Promote volunteering such as peer counselors and Talkline support
 - Virtual diaper drive at the UU
 - Annual Hoosier Abortion Fund drive at the UU
 - promote the Practical Support Network-provides rides and other support to women seeking abortions
- **UU 4th Trimester Team-** trains volunteers who provide up to 1 yr postpartum support to members and friends of the UU community
- **Monitor the implementation and work of the state’s Maternal Mortality Review** Committee, mandated by 2018’s Public Law 48.
- We are now **monitoring and informing task force members of ‘Don’t Say Gay’** and gender-affirming health care legislation as it evolves in the statehouse. This affects trans youth and the school system.

Our funds are generated from:

Football parking; February Siding With Love bake sale; Annual UUCB \$300 grant to the task force; \$100 Speaker’s fee from the Women’s Alliance

Donations we made this year:

- **Hoosier Abortion Fund** fundraiser - donation of \$2000 by the task force plus donations by UU’s brings our total to \$2700. The event is ongoing through May.
- **All Options (AO) Diaper Program** - Diaper Drive is in October w/donations by the congregation and friends to the AO diaper website. Diapers and related products may also be dropped off at All Options.
- **UU Our Whole Lives** program-we donated \$500 to support training for leaders.
- **Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard** - Diaper funds requested, and we donated \$500
- **Middle Way House-** we donated \$500 to provide menstrual products to residents.

— **Ending balance is \$218** —

Submitted by: Nan McKinley & Cindy Lonnerberg, Co-chairs May 21, 2023

Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC)

Fall Social Justice Grants

In October 2022, SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were recommended and awarded:

- **Hope for Prisoners Task Force** -- submitted by Debbie Fish: \$1000 for Songs of a Caged Bird
- **RISE Task Force** – submitted by Barbara Backler: \$558 for Meet the Fakherduin Family Party
- **Habitat Task Force** – submitted by Barb Berggoetz : \$930 to refurbish the ReStore's parking lot and purchase a ladder
- **Team First Book Monroe County** -- submitted by Carolyn Emmert : \$750 to award grants to schools and programs with low income children to purchase books for children to own and take home.

Spring 25% Sunday Plate Fund

In March 2023, SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2023-June 2024. SJFC selected these three to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 2023 congregational meeting. SJFC is using multiple avenues to educate the congregation about these agencies including tabling a display between services throughout May.

- **Farm to Family Fund** which buys leftover produce, eggs and dairy from area farmers for distribution to neighbors in need via the local social service agencies. Nominated by Marcia Veldman, Green Sanctuary Task Force
- **Habitat for Humanity** to pay for essential costs for 10 homes for water heaters, plumbing fixtures, and insulation. Nominated by Barb Berggoetz.
- **All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center** to support pregnancy counseling, talk-line, abortion support, contraceptives, diapers, and menstruation products. Nominated by Pat Slabach.

In May, Denise Ogren gave a report to the congregation at the Sunday service outlining what this committee does. Also she posted on the Social Justice bulletin board a list of all the recipients of the 10% and 25% plate funds since 2003 (totaling \$142,780) and most of the social justice grants since 1999 (totaling over \$40,000).

Funds Committee: Denise Ogren, Steve Mascari, Sarah Kopper, Sandy Davoren, Scott Sanders

Advisor: Jackie Hall

Sunday Social Justice Film Series

Program suspended due to pandemic.

Members of the UU Church of Bloomington

Members on June 2, 2023

555 members

Quorum for meeting = 56

Debbie Acito

Julia Adams O'Donnell

Ruth Albright

Thomas Albright

Benjamin Ale-Ebrahim

Judith Allensworth

Robert Althausen

Lisa Amsler

Terry Amsler

Andrew Appel

Charlotte Appel

Robert Appelman

Jan Armstrong

Carol Arnold

Paul Arnold

Stephen Arnold

Callen Aster

Pat Aungst

Marianne Aurich

Ruth Aydt

Alan Backler

Barbara Backler

Janice Bagwell

Carolyn Bailey

Rhonda Baird

Maya Baird

Tim Ballard

Christine Banister

Paul Banister

Bill Baus

Andy Beargie

Anna Beauchamp

Elizabeth Beauregard

Avery Beck

Amy Beck

Jim Beck

Sheri Benham

Judy Bennett

Mary Bent

Barb Berggoetz

Judy Berkshire

Lauren Bernofsky

Maureen Biggers Reilly

Jason Blankenship

Mary Blizzard

Kathy Boone

Mary Boutain

Linda Boyle

Bill Boyles

Cindy Brandes

Pat Brantlinger

Darrell Breeden

Glenda Breeden

Bill Breeden

Denise Breeden-Ost

Cynthia Brethem

Clark Brittain

Debbie Brown

Lauren Bryant

Paula Bunde

John Bunde

Scott Burgins

Louray Cain

Danny Callison

Patty Callison

Laura Campbell

Kimberly Carballo

Elof Carlson

Nedra Carlson

Barbara Carlson

Dora Carter

Karen Cassidy

Doug Cauble

Julie Cauble

Joan Caulton

Jon Chaffin

Larry Cherniak

Kathleen Chmelewski

Allison Chopra

Chris Chopra

Sandra Churchill

Joanna Cichocka

Anne Clark

Corrin Clarkson

Sandra Clothier

Patricia Coleman

Craig Coley

Madison Colquette

Bill Conley

Mary Jo Conley

Ann Connors

Michelle Cook

Jessie Cook

Anastacia Corbit-Clarkson

Bill Corcoran

Amy Cornell

Jill Courtney

Amy Cox

Jeanie Cox

Nathaniel Cox-Thurmond

Heather Craig

Mary Craig

Dave Crane

Juliana Crespo

Jordon Criss

John Crosby

Amy Crozier

Kathleen Cruikshank

Eve Cusack

Sam Cusack

George Cusack	Judith Epp	Robinson Gonyea
Malcolm Dalglish	Taylor Erickson	Jane Goodman
William Daniels	Stephanie Estell	Diane Gregory
Earon Davis	Ray Fellman	Tom Gregory
Jeff Davis	Olaya Fernández Gayol	Shannon Grimme
Jessica Davis	Ruellen Fessenbecker	Joe Grimme
Murray Davis	Debbie Fish	Colleen Haas
Dennis Davoren	Penny Fisher	Cathy Haggerty
Sandy Davoren	Patsy Flint	Linda Hall
Orion Day	Sarah Flint	Jacqueline Hall
Deborah DeChurch	Kathy Floyd	Christopher Hanna
Marie Deer	Bob Flynn	Jack Harlow
Beverly DeFord	Mara Flynn	Patricia Harris
Gladys DeVane	Arnold Fodor	David Hart
Elizabeth DeVoe	Suzanne Fodor	Marcia Hart
Frank Diaz	Martha Foster	Brian Hathaway
Jim Dietz	Eddie Franklin	Clarence Hawking
Emma DiLavore	Sue Fratianni	Lorraine Hawking
Philip DiLavore	Laurette Frazier	Christopher Haynes
Regina DiLavore	Sandra Freund	William Hegarty
David Dilcher	David Frew	Helmut Hentschel
Stephen Dillon	LindaGrace Frost	Sandra Hernshaw
Martha Dogan	Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer	Emily Hewitt
Sandra Dolby	Luis Fuentes-Rohwer	Cathy Hiatt
Abby Downey	Chadrick Fulks	Richard Hiatt
Jim Downey	Megan Garner-Ballard	Perry Hodges
Mike Drescher	Janessa Gerber	Scott Hogsed
Rita Drescher	Lukas Dalton Gibson	Carol Holding
Cindy Duffy	Allen Gifford	Lois Holl
Tom Duffy	JaneAnn Gifford	Erin Hollinden
Miles Eddy	Kathleen Gilbert	Tom Hollingsworth
Dexter Edge	Steven Gilbert	Beth Hollingsworth
Brandi Edwards	Kevin Gill	Amy Holmes
Laurie Elliott	Lynne Gilliatt	Joan Hongen
Kate Ellis	Forrest Gilmore	Robert Hongen
Ron Ellis	Abby Gitlitz	Steve Host
Carolyn Emmert	Heather Glass	Marlin Howard
David Emmert	Molly Gleeson	Malea Hudson
Georgia Emmert	Mary Goetze	Arzetta Hulst-Losensky

Linda Hunt	Sarah Kopper	Darja Malcolm-Clarke
Jeffrey Huntsman	Neil Kopper	Jessica Marchbank
Deborah Hutton	Alan Kosinski	Allan Martell
Christoph Irmischer	Steven Krahnke	Nicole Martins
Millie Jackson	Laura Kress	Steve Mascari
Julie James	Aleisha Kropf	Laura Mattingly
Tracy James	Thomas Kuhn	Michele McCaffrey
Richard Janda	Betty Laird	Tom McCaffrey
Jerry Jesseph	Cathy Larson	Dennis McCarty
Laura Jesseph	Maria Latham	Carol McCord
Sarah Johnson	Joan Lauer	Sheila McDermott-Sipe
Valerie Jones	Julia Lawson	Ann McEndarfer
Ned Joyner	Gretchen Laymon	Ed McEndarfer
Gayle Judd	Abe Leite	Beverly McGahey
Viola Kadish	Adam Leite	Celeste McGregor
Ann Kamman	Jonathan Leite	Michael McGregor
Linda Kaplan	Veronica Lenard	Sally McGuire
Kathy Kardynalski	Steve Lessmann	Kitty McIntosh
Renate Kasak	Harlan Lewis	Nan McKinley
Hannah Kasak-Gliboff	Angela Lexmond	Anne McLaughlin
Keith Kelly	Christine Linnemeier	Jane McLeod
Susan Kelly	Richard Linnemeier	Sylvia McNair
Judith Kelly	Diann Lock	Robert Meitus
Hans Kelson	Ted Lock	Kathrynn Meuser
Victor Kelson	Beth Lodge-Rigal	Lisa Meuser
David Keppel	Dan Lodge-Rigal	Jason Michálek
Iris Kiesling	Connie Loftman	Joan Middendorf
Stephanie Kimball	Guy Loftman	Clarke Miller
Jack King	Bill Lonnberg	Susi Miller
Mindy King	Cindy Lonnberg	Dotty Mitchell
Sarina King Criss	Patricia Lopes	Linda Mjolsnes
Harrison Kirkley	Paul Losensky	Laura Mojonnier
Jamie Kirkley	Barb Lund	Amy Money
Gigi Kirkley	Jim Lynch	Jessie Monroe
Sonny Kirkley	Sandy Lynch	Dee Morris
Judy Klein	Marshall Lynn	Cindy Mosca
Angie Kleptz	Pam MacLaughlin	Eleanor Moss
Philip Knieriemen	Mary Mahern	Nicole Motz
Noretta Koertge	Amy Makice	Andrea Murray

Jeanne Myers	Steve Pock	Larry Ruich
Tera Nance-Knieriemien	Stephen Pollitt	David Runyon
Jennifer Naylor	Cindy Port	Deborah Rush
Shawn Naylor	Diane Port	Emma Rush
Cyndi Nelson	Robert Port	Amira Sabbagh
Dale Nelson	Avram Primack	Sandy Sabbagh
Connie Nelson Laird	Meg Prince	Kim Sackmann
Tom Nelson Laird	Genevieve Pritchard	Eric Sader
Nancy Newton	Vickie Provine	Raymond Sage
Glee Noble	Maire Quilter	Emily Sanders
Martha Nord	Kelly Rauch	Ruth Sanders
Mary Beth O'Brien	Susan Rautio-Dietz	Scott Russell Sanders
Matthew O'Donnell	Kara Reagan	Dinorah Sapp
Molly O'Donnell	Mary Carol Reardon	Christopher Sapp
Brian O'Donnell	Adrian Reed	Martha Sattinger
Martha Oakley	Daniel Reed	Jim Sauer
Denise Ogren	Whryne Reed	Natalia Schau
Harold Ogren	Carol Reimers	Susan Schneider
Crystal Olry	Roger Reimers	Drew Schrader
Kian Eric Orth	Barbara Restle	Margie Schrader
Don Ottinger	Chuck Rhoads	Pat Schrems
Monica Overman	Michael Rhodes	Alysa Schroff
James Overman	Ginny Richey	Peter Schwandt
Judy Owens	Ilona Richey	Barbara Schwegman
Mary Jane Padron	Thayr Richey	Kay Schwemmer
Lindsay Pappas	Madeline Rivera-Gill	Beck Scott
David Parkhurst	Dian Robbins	Margaret Sears
Doris Parlette	Claire Robertson	Stephanie Serriere
David Parsons	Ed Robertson	Sylvia Sheets
Sharon Parsons	Ann Robins	Deirdre Sheets
Elizabeth Peck	Eva Rockhill	Hwamei Shei
Jana Pereau	Cassidy Rockhill	Edwin Shipp
Laura Petersen	Kelly Rockhill	Catherine Shipp
Melinda Pettijohn	Kris Roehling	James Shipp
Harriet Pfister	Victoria Rogers	Margi Showman
Emily Phelps	Richard Roland	Robert Shull
Tom Phelps	Kevin Rottet	Kathleen Sidel
Charlie Pickle	GK Rowe	Samantha Sieloff
Linda Pickle	Barry Rubin	Dennis Sipe

Jay Sissom	Maggie Talmage	Mary Ann Williams
Mandy Skinner	Ellen Tamura	Rebecca Willig
Janice Skinner	Bob Taylor	Dan Wiseman
Richard Slabach	James Thurmond	Sharon Wiseman
Patricia Slabach	Rebecca Timmons	Judy Witt
Roxanne Smith	Ryan Timmons	Lee Witt
Angel Smith	Clarissa Tokash	Doris Wittenburg
Bryan Smith	Allison Tomusk	Yvonne Wittmann
Floyd Smith	James Townsend	Amy Wolf
John Smith	Laura Trout	Ian Woollen
Cara Snyder	Christy True	Brian Wright
Katha Soens	Tracy Turner	Mary Wright
Brian Springfield	Barbara Vance	Sharon Yarber
Pearl Springfield	Thomas Vanderplough	Susan Yeley
Catherine Stafford	Marcia Veldman	Brian Yeley
Mary Stalcup	Elizabeth Venstra	Stuart Yoak
Veda Stanfield	Carol Ver Wiebe	
Jan Steenblik	Jerry Vessels	
Nicki Stewart Ingersoll	Jenny Vessels	
Rob Stewart Ingersoll	Charlotte Wager Miller	
Matthew Stonecipher	Erin Wager Miller	
Nathan Stonecipher	Jim Wager Miller	
Barbara Straube	Betty Wagoner	
Lee Strickholm	Tiffany Walton	
Phillip Stroud	Roberta Watson	
Lynn Struve	William Watt	
Keeva Stucker	Yasuko Watt	
Michael Stucker	Ann Watzel	
Richard Stumpner	Renee Weaver	
Angela Sturdevant	Kevin Weaver	
Adrienne Summerlot	Licia Weber	
John Summerlot	Carol Weingartner	
Claire Sunkel-Spiller	Dixie Welch	
Sean Sunkel-Spiller	Von Welch	
Kathryn Suskie	Janeth Welch	
Susan Swaney	Tracy Whelan	
Curtis Swedran	Erica Whichello	
Melinda Swenson	Gaia White	
Sura Gail Tala	Joanne Wilhelm	