



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.

## Annual Report to the Congregation

### Sunday, June 7, 2015

Current Membership: 479

Certified Membership: 468

#### Board of Directors

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

**Ministers** The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister, and the Reverend Douglas Wadkins, Interim Minister

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Minutes of June 8, 2014, Annual Congregational Meeting	2
Minutes of December 14, 2014, Congregational Meeting	7
Leadership Cultivation Committee Report	15
2015-16 Budget Proposal	16
Other Reports	
Board of Directors	17
Senior Minister	17
Interim Minister	22
Church Administrator	23
Music Director	24
Connections Coordinator	24
Religious Education	25
Adult Religious Education	27
Caring Committee	28
Chalice Circles Small Group Ministry	28
Children's Religious Education Support Team	29
Greeter and Welcomer Committee	29
Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar	29
Planned Giving	30
<b>Social Justice Circle: Task Force Reports (alphabetical)</b>	30
Special Purposes Fund	39
Women's Alliance	40
Reports submitted after deadline	
Denominational Affairs Committee	40
Leadership Cultivation Committee	41
Membership Committee	42
Members of UU Church Bloomington as of May 29, 2015	43

# Congregational Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2014

## Contents

- I. **CALL TO ORDER 4:08 KATHLEEN SIDELI**
- II. **CHALICE LIGHTING REVEREND MACKLIN**
- III. **EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT REVEREND MACKLIN**
- IV. **INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN**
  - A. **PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE MARGIE SCHRADER**
  - B. **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE MARY BOUTAIN, DREW SCHRADER**
- V. **SPECIAL PURPOSES FUND REPORT CHRIS HAYNES**
- VI. **QUORUM REPORT DEB HUTTON, DREW SCHRADER, DOUG CAUBLE**
- VII. **MOTION: FOR BOARD TO APPROVE CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES AT FUTURE MEETING**
- VIII. **VOTE ON 25% RECIPIENT CONGREGATION**
- IX. **MOTION: APPROVE LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION SLATE FOR BOARD KELLY ROCKHILL**
- X. **UPDATE ON FESTIVITIES RELATED TO REVEREND BREEDEN'S RETIREMENT REVEREND EMILY MANVIL LEITE**
- XI. **BOARD REPORT**
  - A. **BOARD PRIORITIES 2013-14 KATHLEEN SIDELI**
  - B. **MINISTERIAL TRANSITION UPDATE VON WELCH**
  - C. **BYLAW CHANGES. \_**
- XII. **TREASURER'S REPORT AND MOTION TO APPROVE 2014-15 BUDGET ARZETTA HULTS-LOSENSKY**
- XIII. **RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS KATHLEEN SIDELI**
- XIV. **SPECIAL SERVICES AWARD RECIPIENTS REVEREND MACKLIN**
- XV. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF 25% SUNDAY PLATE RECIPIENT DEB HUTTON, DREW SCHRADER, DOUG CAUBLE**
- XVI. **VOTE ON EMERITUS MINISTER STATUS FOR REVEREND BREEDEN KATHLEEN SIDELI**
- XVII. **RECOGNITION OF MINISTERIAL TEAM**
- XVIII. **MINISTER'S CLOSING WORDS REVEREND BREEDEN**
- XIX. **MOTION TO ADJOURN 5:37**

Submitted by Abby Gitlitz, Secretary

## I. Call to order 4:08

Kathleen Sidel

## II. Chalice Lighting Reverend Macklin

Chalice lit by Glenda and Bill Breeden

## III. Executive Minister's Report

Reverend Macklin

Reverend Macklin pointed out that this is the end of our fiscal year and it is a time of looking back and looking forward as well. Please refer to the Annual Report to the Congregation for a full report on the church's activities in 2013-14.

She underscored some of the things that the church would be doing in the future:

Multicultural competency trainings will be done by the Mid America Region. The UUCB will participate in these trainings.

She has been asked to be a teaching pastor for the Meadville Lombard Seminary. She will have an intern for the next three years, but for the first year the intern will work in Indy and for the next two the intern will be in Bloomington. She is looking forward to having a chance to share her knowledge.

Due to the Affordable Care Act we have to make some significant changes to our staff's health plans. Arzetta, Carol Marks and John Lawson have put in a monumental numbers of hours working on these changes.

Innovative Circles is a new program being instituted by the UUA, and the UUCB has been asked to participate.

The program looks at multi-site ministries, including satellite churches, large/small church partnering, etc.

Shari Woodbury will participate in this program with Reverend Macklin on behalf of the congregation.

Chalice lighters is a regional program that can help provide grants for our church to do innovative things. Amy Taylor will be our representative on this program.

Last year we instituted a Musical Artist in Residence/Assistant program. This person helps Sue Swaney with the music programs of the church. In 2013-14 Colleen Haas was our assistant and brought more percussion to the music of the church. She was not able to do as much in the spring as she would have liked for personal reasons and so will return to do more in the fall. Our Assistant for the 2014-15 year will be Janiece Jaffee. John Summerlot will be working on emergency procedures within the congregation.

Green Spaces capital campaign comes to an end on 6/30/2014 so it is important for any outstanding pledges to be submitted by then. We were fortunate that a number of members of the congregation loaned the church money since the projects were frontloaded more than two years ago. By collecting the outstanding pledges, the church will be able to pay them back.

#### **IV. Introduction of Parliamentarian**

Guy Loftman served as parliamentarian.

##### **A. Planned Giving Committee                      Margie Schrader**

The Planned Giving Committee is very pleased at the generous response to date. Twenty-two planned giving commitments have been made. The committee continues to contact congregants to ask them to consider the church in their planned giving. Members who commit to the church will have their names recognized if so desired.

##### **B. Stewardship Update                                      Mary Boutain, Drew Schrader**

The church is in the midst of a three-year plan to raise the budget of the church to provide fair and sustainable compensation for all the ministers and staff. For the 2014-15 fiscal year the individual pledges have increased in total dollar amount when compared to last year at this time. However the total number of pledges has decreased (from 333 down to 305). This means that the church will not be able to have as robust a budget for the upcoming year as we had hoped. The financial team has done a remarkable job crafting a budget that falls within our financial abilities. Members and friends who are still interested in pledging are encouraged to do so.

#### **V. Special Purposes Fund Report                      Chris Haynes**

The Special Purposed Fund (SPF) committee manages the church's endowment and other non-operational funds. At the end of the last quarter the church received a large anonymous donation that will double the size of the endowment (due to administrative issues, it will not be deposited into the SPF funds until the next quarter). See the Annual Report for more detailed information that breaks down the end-of-quarter total of \$165,204.95.

#### **VI. Quorum Report                      Deb Hutton, Drew Schrader, Doug Cauble**

We have 98 members signed in for the meeting, which is well more than the 10% needed for a quorum.

#### **VII. *Motion: For board to approve congregational minutes at future meeting***

Harlan Lewis so moved.

Amy Taylor seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **VIII. *Vote on 25% Recipient*                                      Congregation**

The president instructed the congregation to mark their vote on the slips provided between just two organizations—Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington and Suzie's Place. The representative from Templeton's Healthy Snack Food Program withdrew their submission during the morning service since she was so moved by the needs of the other two organizations that are not federally funded programs as Templeton's is. However, the congregation will be able to support the Templeton program in innovative ways unrelated to the 25% allocation.

#### **IX. *Motion: Approve Leadership Cultivation Slate for board*                      Kelly Rockhill**

The Leadership Cultivation committee put forth the following leadership slate for consideration. Details about the candidates are listed in the annual report on p 17:

Kathleen Sideli, President (for a second term)

Ann LeDuc, Secretary

Pat Brantlinger, board member at large  
Michelle Cook, LCC  
Harv Hegarty, LCC  
Kim Deckard, SPF

The motion to accept all the candidates was approved unanimously.

A correction to the annual report: This year there will not be an adult from the congregation going to the Midwest Leadership School.

**X. Update on festivities related to Reverend Breeden's retirement**  
**Manvel Leite**

**Reverend Emily**

The church has been celebrating Reverend Breeden over the last few months. The Committee has asked the congregation to share stories about him for a "Bill Book" in remembrance of his time here. We have also made a focus on social justice projects a large part of these celebrations. He will be preaching for the last time on June 15 (Gospel Sunday) but will be present at the service on June 22. There will also be a church-wide picnic at Bryan Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by the Splash of the Sacred at the Bryan Park pool.

**XI. Board Report**

**A. Board Priorities 2013-14**

**Kathleen Sideli**

President Sideli summarized the Board Report, which is included in the Annual Report. The board continued to focus much of its attention in the past year on achieving fair and sustainable compensation for the ministers and the staff, after having made great headway the previous year. They focused on the church's overall fiscal health during the transition, assisted Reverend Breeden regarding his upcoming transition, set up the process that culminated in the hiring of an interim minister, and supported the staff and ministerial team during last year's sabbaticals. The board met with many facilitators and experts during the year (events also open to members of the congregation). The board is already planning for the upcoming challenges which will include initiating a search for our next called minister.

**B. Ministerial Transition Update**

**Von Welch**

We have contracted with Interim minister Douglas Wadkins who will begin work at UUCB in August. He is an experienced called minister and has also had previous experience as an interim minister. He comes highly recommended by the UUA Transitions Office and prior congregants. Now the board is moving forward on developing and implementing a plan to bring a called minister here in 2016. This will include attending a search committee orientation workshop at General Assembly in June.

**C. Bylaw changes.**

The board recommended that the bylaws be changed to alter Reverend Macklin's official title from "Executive Minister" to "Senior Minister" to align it with common usage across UU congregations nationally. The specific changes are to change "Executive Minister" to "Senior Minister" in Sections 4.1, 4.9, and 4.10, and to change "executive limitations" to "senior minister limitations" in Section 4.11. These changes will not result in any change in duties or practices.

Julie Lawson so motioned.

Pat Brantlinger seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to update the postal address of the UUA in section 13 to "24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210" to reflect their recent move.

Iris Kiesling so motioned.

Allison Chopra seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**XII. Treasurer's Report and motion to approve 2014-15 budget**

**Arzetta Hults-Losensky**

Proposed budgets and a pie chart that showed the breakdown of expenses by category is included in the slides appended to these minutes. The two budgets reflect high and low scenarios based on a high and low projected pledge income. The motion is to allow the board to accept whichever of these two budgets fits the amount of revenue that comes in from outstanding pledges in the coming days.

Stuart Yoak so moved.  
Harv Hegarty seconded.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

**XIII. Recognition of Retiring Leaders and Board Members Kathleen Sideli**

Sideli thanked Abby Gitlitz for returning to the board to serve as secretary during this last complicated year. She thanked Drew Schrader for serving on the board the past two years where he brought new energy to a variety of projects, including special websites for Stewardship and the Interim Minister. She also thanked Kelly Rockhill for her behind-the-scenes work on Leadership Cultivation which is such an important group of people who scope out potential leaders in the church for future positions. She acknowledged Tom Nelson-Laird, also stepping down from LCC, and Lloyd Orr for his work on the Special Purposes Fund, both of whom were in El Salvador as part of the Habitat building project.

**XIV. Special Services Award Recipients Reverend Macklin**

Reverend Macklin explained that she wanted to bestow a special service award to Marlin Howard, who managed to get involved with numerous activities in the past year despite only recently joining the congregation—Java Crew, helping Doris Wittenberger with memorial events and joining the Caring Committee. She called it “The Hit the Ground Running Award.” She read a special statement, honoring Glenda Breeden for an astounding career in our church not only as the minister’s wife but for so many other activities that excited her passion, including being a worship associate, quilt making for the prisoners, volunteering at the homeless shelter and many other things. She received a loud standing ovation. Reverend Macklin indicated that Glenda plans to continue attending services after Bill’s retirement so we should honor his ‘ministry of absence’ by refraining from asking her about him and just allowing her to be herself among us, along with her daughter and the family. She then gave a special award to the YRUU Facilitators - For keeping our youth excited and interested in this church, for being mentors and forces in the teens’ lives.

**XV. Announcement of 25% Sunday Plate Recipient Deb Hutton, Drew Schrader, Doug Cauble**

Suzie’s Place will be the 25% Sunday plate recipient for 2014-15.

**XVI. Vote on Emeritus Minister Status for Reverend Breeden Deb Hutton**

Deb Hutton read a resolution created by the Minister Emeritus Working Group (see attachment) which confers upon Reverend Bill Breeden the title of Emeritus Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. Only 50% of retiring UU ministers are invited to have emeritus status. It is a special covenant they enter with the church and with the new minister(s).  
The Minister Emeritus Working Group (Deb Hutton, Jack King, Clark Miller) so moved.  
Steve Lessmann seconded.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

**XVII. Recognition of Ministerial Team**

The Board read a special tribute to recognize the end of an era with the retirement of Reverend Breeden. They wanted to point out the outstanding work of our co-ministry, which began when Reverend Carlson was still our called minister, and then continued over a period of more than a dozen years. They acknowledged others as part of their unique ministerial team—including Reverend Leite, Reverend Burnett and Reverend Child. See attached for the full text.

**XVIII. Minister’s Closing Words Reverend Breeden**

**XIX. Motion to Adjourn 5:37**

Bob Flynn so moved.  
Jan Skinner seconded.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 8, 2014**  
**RESOLUTION TO CONFER EMERITUS STATUS**  
**ON THE REVEREND BILL BREEDEN**

Whereas:

The Reverend Bill Breeden is retiring from the position of Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana.

He has served this congregation long and well.

His years of leadership and service have contributed to a period of unprecedented growth in membership. He has affirmed, loved, and respected us.

His prophetic witness on issues of war and non-violence, criminal justice, poverty, hunger, gender equality, and human rights has raised consciousness and inspired effective action in both church and community. He has ministered tirelessly with the homeless and the imprisoned.

His passionate preaching has provided generous measures of wisdom, humor, and get-up-and-get-going motivation.

His love of music and his exuberant performances have enriched our lives.

His pastoral care has helped many come through times of transition, loss, and stress with wholeness restored.

His energy and hands-on work have helped implement the renewal and greening of the church's buildings and campus.

Therefore be it resolved:

that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington confers upon the Reverend Bill Breeden the title of Minister Emeritus and grants to him all the rights and privileges thereof.

*So moved by the Minister Emeritus Working Group.*

**UUCB Ministerial Team**  
**The End of an Era**  
**June 8, 2014**

ABBY

We have understandably been celebrating Reverend Breeden's ministry and have granted him emeritus status so that he can remain connected with our congregation in future years.

DREW

The board wanted to take this opportunity to also recognize the end of an extraordinary shared ministry that began over a dozen years ago when Reverend Barbara Carlson brought Reverend Macklin and Reverend Breeden into a co-ministry team relationship. When Reverend Carlson retired in 2005, Reverend Macklin and Reverend Breeden continued the co-ministry concept.

KATHY

In many ways one might say they represented a 'yin and yang' ministry. One explanation of yin and yang suggests "complementary (rather than opposing) forces that interact to form a dynamic system in which the



whole is greater than the assembled parts. “ That is a wonderful description for these unique individuals who have led our church, graced our pulpit, ministered to our needs and brought leadership to the community around us, in notably different but equally profound ways.

VON

We have benefited from how they have partnered together to serve us, discovering in themselves ways of being that each of them brought out in the other. And we never compared one with the other since we accepted them for who they were. Don Quixote once pronounced that “all comparisons are odious.” We were more likely to compare them to their own standards—comparing Reverend Macklin’s annual science sermon to a previous one, or comparing Reverend Breeden’s latest anti-war sermon to one in the past. They were always setting new standards of their own making—yet never making us feel there was a competition between them.

ARZETTA

What a gift their ministry has been for our church. And as team players they made it look easy to embrace other ministers in their work—incorporating Reverend Leite as the religious education minister and during sabbaticals, Reverend Burnett and later Reverend Child. We have all benefitted from the bounty of the combination of these diverse talents.

DOUG

We know how complex it must have been for them to fine tune their thoughts and activities to ensure that we received what we needed. There is no flow chart or operations plan that could have made that easy to do. It took their dedication to their work, their love of the church and their commitment to each other to make a team ministry work.

DEB

While we have been focusing on the departure of Reverend Breeden from the everyday life of the church, we also know we will continue to prosper from the ongoing work of Reverend Macklin and Reverend Leite. Yet today we recognize that we are losing the synergies of this close-knit team. So, please join us at this historic moment in our congregation’s history to show our appreciation to our co-ministers for their amazing efforts over the years.



## **Congregational Meeting Minutes December 14, 2014**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

<b>Introduction of Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Jack King</b>
<b>Chalice lighting</b>	<b>Ministry Team</b>
<b>Introduction of Board</b>	<b>Kathleen Sideli</b>

### **UPDATES**

<b>Green Spaces Campaign</b>	<b>Andrew Appel</b>
<b>Stewardship Report</b>	<b>Drew Schrader and Mary Boutain</b>
<b>Planned Giving</b>	<b>Libby Devoe and Clarke Miller</b>
<b>Leadership Cultivation</b>	<b>Allison Chopra</b>
<b>Special Purposes Fund</b>	<b>Chris Haynes</b>

### **Ministry Team**

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister  
Reverend Doug Wadkins, Interim Minister  
Reverend Emily Manvel-Leite, Minister of Religious Education

### **QUORUM REPORT**

<b>Motion for board to approve congregational minutes at a future board meeting</b>	
<b>Social Justice Grants Announcement</b>	<b>Millie Jackson</b>

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **Bylaw Changes (with vote)**

Motion: New Section 2.4: Membership requirement for Board, SPF, LCC

Motion: New Section 2.5: Requirement for Fiscal Management

Motion: Section 4.8: Budget Variations as Percentage of Line Item

Motion: Clarification of Sections 7.1 and 7.2 Regarding Donations and the SPF

Motion: Section 7.4: Special Purposes Fund Committee Term Limit

Motion: Section 7.5: Update of SPF Record Keeping and Reporting

Motion: Update of Index by Board Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Arzetta Hults-Losensky**

## **Ministerial Search Committee Process**

**Kathleen Sideli and Board**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Submitted by Ann LeDuc, Secretary

## **Call to Order**

Call to order by Kathleen Sideli, President, at 4:03 pm

## **Introduction of Parliamentarian**

**Jack King**

## **Chalice lighting**

**Ministry Team**

## **Introduction of Board**

**Kathleen Sideli**

Kathleen Sideli – President

Von Welch – Vice President

Ann LeDuc – Secretary

Arzetta Hults Losensky - Treasurer

Doug Cauble – At Large

Pat Brantlinger – At Large

Deb Hutton – At Large

## **Updates**

### **Green Spaces Campaign Andrew Appel**

It has been three and a half years since the work of the Green Spaces Initiative began. The campaign began with slightly over \$800K in pledges. Currently \$60K in pledges have not been paid; and as a result, \$60K of loans are still due to be paid to congregants. Congregants who issued the loans have been very generous in dealing with the shortfall.

In addition to the updates, improvements and repairs that were part of the Green Spaces Initiative, a percentage of the green spaces funds were set aside as contributions to church going forward. These include funds for social justice, future growth and green maintenance. Some of this money was used to help make the church's new metal roof possible.

### **Stewardship Report Drew Schrader and Mary Boutain**

The final pledge total for this year's stewardship campaign is \$518K. This is an increase over last year and just shy of our goal of \$520k. We should be proud of this year's pledge total, especially during this time of ministerial transition and since last year was a stewardship campaign with a significant increase in pledge totals.

A small subset of the Stewardship Committee meets regularly. They call themselves the Stewardship steering "posse."

### **Planned Giving Libby Devoe and Clarke Miller**

Increasingly, members are including the church in their estate plans. The Planned Giving Committee hosted the first annual luncheon for those including the church in their estate plans. Each month, a few congregation members are contacted by the Planned Giving Committee and asked to include the church in their estate planning.

## **Leadership Cultivation      Allison Chopra**

One of the key tasks of the Leadership Cultivation committee is to find candidates for the Board, Special Purpose Fund (SPF) committee, and Leadership Cultivation committee. Committee member terms will be ending on the Board for Von Welch, Arzetta Hults-Losensky, Doug Cauble and Deb Hutton; on SPF for Joann Wilhelm; and on Leadership Cultivation for Allison Chopra. Carol McCord will also be stepping down from Leadership Cultivation at her request. Leadership Cultivation is requesting that members on the Board and on SPF with terms ending remain as incumbents during this time of ministerial transition. The Leadership Cultivation committee will be recruiting two new members for next year.

## **Special Purposes Fund      Chris Haynes**

The Special Purposes Fund (SPF) committee has embarked on a thorough review of the church's investments. An independent advisor has been hired as a consultant. The review includes considering fossil fuel divestment, return on investment, examining risk and reviewing operational considerations. In early 2015, SPF will host a town hall meeting to discuss findings and to gain input from congregants regarding the possibility of fossil fuel divestment.

## **Ministry Team**

### **Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister**

We have had a few large changes since our last Congregational meeting, including the retirement of Reverend Breeden and the departure of Reverend Barbara Carlson.

The MidAmerica Regional Assembly will be April 17-19 in Naperville IL. Everyone will be at the same location this year, unlike last year. This year's title is "The 'New' in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism."

Reverend Macklin has been involved in Multi-site Ministry Learning Circles. Multi-site Ministry is a way to reach out and support smaller groups and individuals in Indiana that may lack the resources of a larger congregation. Multi-site Ministry can be a way to grow a congregation without additional infrastructure, such as buildings and parking lots.

Dori Davenport, UUA regional staff, will be at UUCB on February 7<sup>th</sup> to speak on "Building a Culture of Generosity." This will include exploring generosity as a spiritual practice. We will invite congregations from around the area for this event.

UUA Moderator, Jim Key, will be here on February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to host a workshop, meet with lay leadership, and to preach. The Moderator position is the highest volunteer position and the chief governance officer for the UUA. The moderator chairs the UUA Board of Trustees, facilitates the plenary (business) sessions at General Assembly, serves as an important interface with congregations, and consults with the UUA President in developing a common vision for the Association. The moderator also consults regularly with leaders and administrative committees at the national, regional, and district levels.

In October several lay leaders and staff attended an Intercultural Competency workshop in Louisville. We will host an Intercultural Competency workshop here this coming Spring.

Reverend Macklin is a teaching pastor to a student minister, Natalie Spriggs-Trobridge. The student minister is currently in Indianapolis. Next year she will be at UUCB 20 hours a week, working with the ministry team.

Reverend Macklin will continue to educate herself about what it means to be a teaching pastor.

Some of you many have noticed that Reverend Macklin is wearing her black minister's robe throughout the week. The robe symbolizes her religious leadership and identity while in the building and reminds her to be in a place of deep listening. When she removes the robe at the end of the day, it is a physical reminder to leave her work at church and not take it home with her.

### **Reverend Doug Wadkins, Interim Minister**

Interim Ministry Focal points consist of heritage, leadership, connections, mission and future. At this point in the interim ministry, the story of our heritage has been the main focal point. "Leadership" looks at leadership in the congregation and staff, including how to foster leadership and work well together. "Connections" is about sustaining relationships. "Mission" delves into what difference we want this congregation to make in the world. This will be the topic of an all congregation workshop on January 31<sup>st</sup>, "Our Living Faith". "Future" includes work to prepare for the new minister.

### **Reverend Emily Manvel-Leite, Minister of Religious Education**

The RE Staff and lay leaders have participated in several educational programs offered by the Center for Congregations. Our children's and youth religious education classes are near the end of their Fall term. Our Preschool Children are exploring the world they live in, ways to be within it, and ways to be within it with one another. Kindergarten through second grade children are discovering the roots of our faith through tales of Unitarian Universalist principles and sources.

Third through sixth grade children are "Exploring Our Sources" from a historical perspective.

Through March, our seventh and eighth graders will be participating in the "Our Whole Lives," human sexuality education program.

### **Quorum Report**

67 members signed in for the meeting. 52 were necessary to have a quorum.

### **Motion for board to approve congregational minutes at a future board meeting**

Motion by John Summerlot.

Seconded by Harv Haggerty.

Vote: approved unanimously.

### **Social Justice Grants Announcement      Millie Jackson**

Social Justice awarded \$5335 to five groups.

Projects included:

Reproductive Justice Snack Brigade: \$400

Homelessness Task Force Interfaith Winter Shelter: \$1675

Rainbow Rights Task Force PRISM Youth Project: \$2500

Elder Focus Task Force Books/Course Project: \$260

Habitat for Humanity Task Force Elderly/Disabled Housing Project: \$500

A grant request from the Just Peace Task Force was passed to SPF for additional funding options.

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Bylaw Changes (with vote)      Von Welch**

Official bylaws of the church are available online at: <http://www.uubloomington.org/uucb/govt/bylaws.pdf>

Bylaw changes originate with the Board. The Board makes a motion for a bylaw change. The proposed changes are a collection of changes that will help to bring the bylaws up-to-date and clean up procedural issues. Printed versions of the bylaw changes are available for review and were also announced in the November Prologue.

#### **Motion: New Section 2.4: Membership requirement for Board, SPF, LCC**

Currently we have no stated requirement to be a church member to serve on the Board of Directors, Special Purposes Fund Committee, or Leadership Cultivation Committee.

Motion is to add a new section as follows:

2.4 Requirement for leadership positions. Membership is required to serve on the Board of Directors, Special Purposes Fund Committee, and Leadership Cultivation Committee.

Spelling change: Special Purpose Fund committee instead of Special Purposes Fund.

NOTE: Due to an opposing statement is section 7.1 of the bylaws, the spelling change noted above will not be instated.

Membership is previously defined in section 2 of the bylaws.

It is implied that church membership is not required in order to serve on any other committee.

Vote: approved unanimously.

#### **Motion: New Section 2.5: Requirement for Fiscal Management**

We currently have no requirement for management of funds or fiscal decision making.

Motion is to add a new section as follows:

2.5 Requirement for fiscal management. Management of significant funds or the making of significant fiscal decisions shall be by authorized Members or Employees only.

Andrew Appel: Since "significant" is not defined, is it really meaningful?

Von Welch: the new statement expresses the intent, but leaves it open as to what constitutes a significant financial decision.

David Keppel: "Authorized" also seems to be ambiguous. How do people become authorized?

Von Welch: Authorized is not defined.

David: So it is really a way of adding a yield to anyone thinking of making a financial transaction.

Chris Haynes: I think it is given that the Senior Minister is the authorizer.

Amy Taylor: Does this apply to only cases when we are asking people to invest?

Von Welch: This is not limited to investments.

David Keppel: The real value is educational, that anyone coming near sums of money is warned in advance that the commitment of that money requires authorization.

Harv Haggerty: Makes it clear that if the amount is significant, they need to seek authorization.

Mary Ann: It gives a little more ability for the authorities to have a say in financial transactions.

Vote: One abstention  
Ayes carried the vote.

#### **Motion: Section 4.8: Budget Variations as Percentage of Line Item**

Budget variations used to be "10% or \$1,000, whichever is greater" and was amended to \$3,000 at 12-12-2010 congregational meeting. Our understanding is that this was done at the time as an increase. Since we now have line items in the budget that exceed \$100,000, \$3000 is once again a small amount. We propose making this a maximum of \$3,000 or 5%.

Motion is to add text to Section 4.8 as follows:

4.8 Budget. The budget is proposed by the Board and established by the Congregation at the annual Spring meeting, or at subsequent special congregational meeting prior to the start of the fiscal year. During the fiscal year total expenditures projected to exceed the budget by more than 5% must be approved by the Congregation. Congregational approval also is required for an expenditure in any budget line that is projected to exceed the budgeted amount by more than 5% or \$3000, whichever is greater. Any mid-year changes to the annual budget may be made at the Fall congregational meeting or at a special congregational meeting. In addition, Board approval is required for all overages on budget lines. Variant limit is \$3000. With the larger line item on the budget, this has caused \$3000 variant to not be enough. Now 5% or \$3000, whichever is greater.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

#### **Motion: Clarification of Sections 7.1 and 7.2 Regarding Donations and the SPF**

Section 7.1 states "Unless otherwise required by the terms of a testamentary bequest or memorial contribution..." which seems to exclude other gifts.

We propose changing this to be any "gift" for clarity. The revised clause would exclude pledges and gifts with designations.

Motion (part 1) to change text as follows:

7.1 Creation of the Fund. There shall be maintained a fund for religious, charitable, educational and civic purposes, which shall be known as the Special Purposes Fund of the Church. The fund is to be administered separately from the other financial affairs and property of the Church for the purposes and in the manner here provided.

Unless otherwise required by the terms of a ~~testamentary bequest or memorial contribution~~ gift whereby money or property has been received by the Church, the Board of Directors shall cause the care, management and allocation or expenditure of assets so received to vest in the elected committee members of the Special Purposes Fund (SPF).

#### **7.2 Purposes of the Fund**

The last sentence of 7.2 is unclear and seems to specify that the Church Board directs use of SPF funds, which contradicts other statements in 7.3. We propose removing this sentence.

Additionally correct a typo in 7.2: "...may not be used..."

This change clarifies that gifts go through SPF when not designated.

Motion by the Board to change text as follows:

7.2 Purposes of the Fund. The Fund shall be used solely for the purposes here specified, as determined from time to time by the SPF Committee administering the Fund. Unless otherwise specified in a gift, the income and principal of the Fund may not be used to pay operating expenses of the Church, including interest on

indebtedness of the Church, but may in the discretion of the SPF Committee be spent for capital assets, including the retirement of the principal of indebtedness incurred for new or existing assets, and for amenities and auxiliary purposes of the Church, including contributions for denominational, charitable, educational, and social service purposes outside of the Church. ~~Within these parameters, general or limited purpose contributions may be made, accepted, and used for purposes specified by the Church Board.~~

Lloyd Orr proposed an amendment- substitution of a new sentence for the second sentence in 7.2.

New sentence reads: "Within these parameters gifts are accepted by SPF and used for general or donor specified purposes."

7.2 with Lloyd Orr's proposed change reads:

7.2 Purposes of the Fund. The Fund shall be used solely for the purposes here specified, as determined from time to time by the SPF Committee administering the Fund. Unless otherwise specified in a gift, the income and principal of the Fund may not be used to pay operating expenses of the Church, including interest on indebtedness of the Church, but may in the discretion of the SPF Committee be spent for capital assets, including the retirement of the principal of indebtedness incurred for new or existing assets, and for amenities and auxiliary purposes of the Church, including contributions for denominational, charitable, educational, and social service purposes outside of the Church. ~~Within these parameters, general or limited purpose contributions may be made, accepted, and used for purposes specified by the Church Board.~~ Within these parameters gifts are accepted by SPF and used for general or donor specified purposes.

Chris Haynes: Lloyd Orr consulted with the SPF committee in advance of the congregational meeting.

Motion by Lloyd Orr: To add the new sentence, "Within these parameters gifts are accepted by SPF and used for general or donor specified purposes."

Seconded by Harv Haggerty.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Chris Haynes: If funds are given for an immediate operational purpose they do not go through SPF.

The church now has two endowments. One specifically supports operational expenses of the church.

If someone has a specific wish for a donation, it may be designated or be designated for the minister to decide on its use. If not specified, it will go to the SPF committee.

Vote to approve the amended motion: Approved unanimously.

#### **Motion: Section 7.4: Special Purposes Fund Committee Term Limit**

While Board members and Leadership Cultivation Committee members have limits on repeated terms, the Special Purposes Fund Committee has no limits currently. This change implements a two-term limit with not more than three consecutive two year terms. This is an effort to insure fresh perspectives on the committee.

Motion is to add text as follows:

7.4 Selection and Organization of the Committee. The members of the SPF Committee shall be five in number; three elected by the Members of the Church, one member of the Board of Directors of the Church elected by the Board, and the Treasurer of the Church. Thereafter one member of the committee shall be elected each year for a three-year term, with their terms overlapping. Members may not be elected to more than two consecutive three-year terms. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by the Board of Directors of the Church for the remainder of the term. Each new Board shall elect the SPF Committee member to be chosen by it from among its members at its initial meeting.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

#### **Motion: Section 7.5: Update of SPF Record Keeping and Reporting**

Keeping minutes in the Church office is no longer standard procedure for the SPF Committee, they are kept electronically. We propose to not keep them in the Church office, but instead make them available on request. Currently the SPF Committee is required to only report annually. In practice, the SPF Committee reports twice a year to the board (which is in line with the Board's monitoring policies), which seems like good practice and we propose to require this in the bylaws.

As result of technology grant, we have a unified UUCB Google Drive. The UUCB Google Drive is used by many church committees and task forces. Each group has its own folder, but UUCB is the owner.

There are several benefits to the unified Google Drive. Enables committees and task forces to maintain materials spanning turn over in committee personnel. Replaces paper archives; materials available directly from committees by asking.

7.5 Records of the Fund. The Committee shall keep accurate minutes of their meetings, ~~including a record of the summons and notice of each meeting. These minutes shall be kept in permanent form in the office of the Church~~ which will be made available to any member of the Church on request. The Committee shall also prepare a permanent record of contributions and any tribute or memorial designations by donors, for preservation in the Church office. They shall render reports of income, expenditures, and assets of the Fund to the Church Corporation not less often than at each Spring Annual Meeting of the Church and to the Board of Directors at least twice per year.

Richard LeDuc: Should we codify how we maintain records?

Von Welch: Committee needs to provide them upon request

Harv Haggerty: We need backups, concerned that the financial worth of the church might be lost if there is no backup.

Kathleen Sideli: We need to address in the future how the SPF records are being kept, in relation to technology and backups.

Vote: approved unanimously.

### **Motion: Update of Index by Board Secretary**

The Index on pages 12-13 is out of date. Since the index is not normative, rather than specify all the changes in detail, we propose to authorize the secretary of the board to update the index using their judgment.

Motion: The Secretary of the Board is authorized to update the Index for the bylaws at their discretion.

Vote: approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report Arzetta Hulst-Losensky**

The Power Point slide shows a summary of our revenue and expenses from July 1st through November 30th of this fiscal year. For the first five months of our fiscal year our income was just over \$243K. The expenses for this same period, ending November 30th, were just over \$240K. The operating cash position of the church is sufficient to meet our current obligations. Although the net income is about \$15,000 below the last three-year averages for November.

The monthly budget reports are posted to the church database under "Messages." Paper copies are available in Room 204 and posted on the bulletin board at the courtyard entrance.

As a result of our new solar panels, our electric bill in June of this year was \$38 and \$37 in July.

Our pledges not only pay the monthly expenses, but also support our vision.

Seeking the Spirit ... our wonderful ministers and the staff.

Building Community and Changing the World ... Our many social justice task forces, the Hunger task force, Habitat, Just Peace, and Elder Focus task forces, just to name a few, certainly work to build the community and change the world. Think of all those folks who participated in the Climate Change march in New York City earlier this year or those that went to El Salvador to help build a house with Habitat for Humanity. The Building and Grounds committee (Molly O'Donnell, Dick Stumpner, and Rhonda Baird) work to help keep our building and grounds Green, often behind the scenes.

An internal audit was conducted by the Finance committee during calendar year 2014.

The Finance committee is contacting professional CPA companies to conduct an external audit in February 2015.

### **Ministerial Search Committee Process Kathleen Sideli and Board**

John Summerlot has been very helpful in keeping the large timeline poster up to date.

This past summer, board members attended two workshops on ministerial transition.

In October, board members contacted six other congregations in transition to learn from their experiences; and held a retreat to plan the search process, facilitated by Rev. Wadkins.

In mid-November, the board met with Rev. Keith Kron, our Ministerial Search Representative, to obtain more input on the process.

### **Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Formation Overview**

January '15: More information will be made available via the Prologue, at [search.uubloomington.org](http://search.uubloomington.org), and in a Town Hall meeting on January 25th after 2nd service.

February '15: The congregation will nominate trusted members for consideration as MSC members.

March - May '15: Board will analyze nominations, confirm nominee willingness to serve, and assemble slate for MSC.

June '15: Congregation will elect MSC.

Ministerial Search Committee job description is available at: <http://search.uubloomington.org/home/msc>  
The MSC will work for about a year.

#### Ministerial Search Committee Process

July '15: MSC retreat with Keith Kron, MSR.

Summer '15- Spring '16:

- Prepare packet describing UUCB.
- Select pre-candidates from applicants.
- Visit neutral pulpits to experience pre-candidates
- Select single candidate for congregation.
- Spring '16: Candidate visits UUCB for a week.
- Congregation votes on calling candidate.

Fall '16: New minister joins our Ministry Team.

According to the UUA, there are on average 50 ministerial searches a year.

Only about 6 of those are searches for a second minister.

MSCs are generally about 7 members. The UUA is recommending an MSC of 5.

David Keppel: Is there a way of making substitutes for search committee members that become unavailable during the search?

Kathleen Sideli: It would depend on what point the committee is at in the process.

Question from the congregation: What if the Candidate doesn't get 90% approval?

Kathleen Sideli: We start over. Some say you should totally redo the search. You could bring a second forth, if you had a clear second. You would get a second interim minister if the search would be redone.

Question from the congregation: I think it would be important to take out the word race.

Kathleen Sideli: We will take it under advisement.

Question from the congregation: What will the new minister's title be?

Kathleen Sideli: Because of lack of funds, we will not have two senior ministers. Assistant ministers are typically hired, instead of called. Associate minister would report to the senior minister. Rev. Macklin is now the senior minister. The senior minister works with the search committee, insuring that the senior minister approves of the candidate.

Traditional co-ministers leave together. It will not be a traditional co-minister.

Must be a member of the church in order to be on the search committee.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Amy Taylor: to adjourn.

Seconded by John Summerlot.

Vote: approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.



# Leadership Cultivation Committee Report, May 2015

A key task for the Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) each year is to provide a slate of candidates at the Spring Congregational Meeting to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors, Special Purposes Fund Committee, and Leadership Cultivation Committee. We work all year to cultivate leaders and form this slate to ensure they are both qualified and represent good representation of the congregation.

This year we have the following members reaching the end of their current elected terms: Von Welch, Board Vice President; Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Board Treasurer; Doug Cauble and Deb Hutton, Board Directors At-Large; Joanne Wilhelm, Special Purpose Funds Committee; and Allison Chopra, Leadership Cultivation Committee. With the exception of Allison Chopra and Michelle Cook of the Leadership Cultivation Committee, these incumbents are all eligible and able to serve again. Given our congregation's current state of transition, we on the LCC believe our congregation is best served by re-electing these incumbents, leaving just the LCC positions to be filled.

## The nominees for Leadership Cultivation are:

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

## The nominees for Board of Directors are

Von Welch, Vice President (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017)  
Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Treasurer (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017)  
Doug Cauble, Member at Large (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017)  
Deb Hutton, Member at Large (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017)

## The nominee for Special Purposes Fund is

Joanne Wilhelm (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018)

Allison Chopra [allison.chopra@mac.com](mailto:allison.chopra@mac.com), Carol McCord [camccord@indiana.edu](mailto:camccord@indiana.edu), Michelle Cook [mc586788@yahoo.com](mailto:mc586788@yahoo.com), Harv Hegarty [hagerty@indiana.edu](mailto:hagerty@indiana.edu), and Von Welch [von@vwelch.com](mailto:von@vwelch.com).

If elected, the resulting 2015-16 groups will be as follows:

### 2015-16 Board

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

### 2015-16 Special Purposes Fund

Chris Haynes  
Joanne Wilhelm  
Stuart Yoak

### 2015-16 Leadership Cultivation Committee

Harv Hegarty  
Sheri Benham  
Danny Callison  
Matt Stonecipher

## Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Indiana			
Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget			6/7/2015
	2014-15	2015-16	
	Budget	Budget	
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Committed and New Pledges &amp; Grants</b>	520,000	<b>550,000</b>	Includes new and anticipated pledges
<b>Sunday Plate</b>	28,000	<b>28,000</b>	
<b>Investment Income</b>	2,500	<b>2,500</b>	
<b>Interest</b>	50	<b>50</b>	
<b>Bazaar</b>	10,000	<b>10,000</b>	
<b>Kroger-Marsh Fund</b>	7,000	<b>7,000</b>	
<b>Auction</b>	11,000	<b>11,000</b>	
<b>Building Use Fees</b>	6,100	<b>6,100</b>	
<b>Other Fundraising</b>	6,000	<b>2,000</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	4,000	<b>6,000</b>	misc contributions and gifts
<b>Prior Year Operating Extra</b>		<b>10,000</b>	
<b>Prior Year Pledges</b>	10,000	<b>20,000</b>	cash basis - prior year pledge payments to current year
<b>Total Income</b>	604,650	<b>652,650</b>	
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Outreach &amp; Campus Ministry</b>	1,000	<b>4,660</b>	
<b>Ministry</b>	189,685	<b>208,747</b>	
<b>Music</b>	38,598	<b>40,528</b>	
<b>Office</b>	110,203	<b>115,873</b>	
<b>Childcare</b>	11,915	<b>12,541</b>	2015-16 \$10.00 per hour
<b>Religious Education</b>	79,887	<b>82,381</b>	
<b>Committees &amp; Programs</b>	12,442	<b>13,268</b>	
<b>Denominational</b>	46,450	<b>44,742</b>	
<b>Physical Plant</b>	120,075	<b>120,513</b>	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>610,255</b>	<b>643,253</b>	

## **Board of Directors Annual Report, 2014-15**

During the past year the board took important steps in the ministerial transition. In July, as a culmination of the board's efforts from the previous year, Interim Minister Douglas Wadkins began his two-year term to help us understand our congregation's needs for the future. The board also researched and implemented a process for selecting a ministerial search committee, the most visible elements being the solicitation of nominations from the congregation and the recent announcement of the seven-member committee. The committee's year-long task to bring an associate minister for our congregation to consider in the spring of 2016 will commence after the congregational meeting in June. The board has also continued to focus on the fiscal health of the church. This included overseeing the end of the Green Spaces campaign that almost reached its goal so was resolved through a grant from the Special Purposes Fund. The board also worked closely with the Stewardship Campaign to continue our progress to provide fair and sustainability compensation for the staff as well as the ministers. The generosity of our members in time and treasure continues to drive our mission of Seeking the Spirit, Building Community and Changing the World.

--Kathleen Sideli, President, Board of Directors



## **Ministers and Staff**

### **Senior Minister's Report The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin May 2015**

Last summer a two-year interim period of transition began for this congregation. Interim minister Douglas Wadkins arrived in August to assist the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington on this journey. As Senior Minister I have kept the board apprised of important congregational operations through assuring the completion of monthly monitoring reports according to board policies.

<http://www.uubloomington.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2014-12-01-BoardPolicies.pdf>

I also work with staff and lay leaders to assure a mission-led focus as we move through this time of transition. Our vision/mission is Seeking the Spirit. Building Community. Changing the World. Below is a summation of representative endeavors from 2014-2015. Please note that not all activities/issues are included; if I tried to capture everything, this report would turn into booklet. The responses below are based on end statements provided by the board in accordance with our mission/vision.

### ***Seeking the Spirit***

**We have a meaningful liberal religious experience which includes:**

#### **1. A rich diverse worship life**

We continue to be in a process of discernment regarding the use of technology to enrich the worship experience. We project words to hymns up front so congregation members and folks who are live-streaming have easier access. We have experimented with the use of images, videos and audio during worship and enjoy the less intrusive use of wall space to project upon, as opposed to a cumbersome screen. Each year, our Worship Artist in Residence brings new and diverse styles to our worship. This year, Janiece Jaffe has brought jazz, chanting and meditative exercises to our worship. We also have used movement meditation and times of quiet and music. We welcomed Reverend Wadkins who has brought his own unique voice and style to our pulpit. He has also collaborated with our Music Director, Susan Swaney, to create special music Sundays such as Omaha Beach and a hymn review worship service.

We have increased age diversity and experience in worship. Our Children's Choir continues to add their voice to Sunday Worship as well as our Solstice and Equinox Services. Reverend Leite has worked to increase youth voices in our Sunday worship. During our Time for All Ages, we've had several dramatic presentations which have included our children as participants. We continue to receive wonderful feedback for our youth services (which involves all three ministers in helping the youth craft the service) as well as Coming of Age.

Our monthly themes have helped us connect within worship on a deeper level as well as with other aspects of our congregation (Chalice Circles) and other Unitarian Universalist congregations who are using the same theme.

We've had a rock band this year as well as a variety of instrumentalists and singing groups to enhance our summer worship topics. We've enjoyed special music and strive to integrate our music with each Sunday's focus. Our pianist and choir remain open to last-minute changes in liturgy to respond to occurrences within the congregation and world.

We continue to create space for Social Justice Moments each month and address social justice issues from the pulpit. The children's hymn sing affords the children the opportunity to shape the content of services by selecting hymns.

We remain grateful for all the lay leaders and volunteers who make our Sunday Worship Service experience doable. From Ushers and Greeters to Worship Associates and Choir Members (and many others); it does take a village to make Sundays effective. We also appreciate the between service volunteers: book-table, coffee-making, coffee-selling, grocery-card sales and so many more.

Lastly, thanks to our Custodian Jeff Stone who creates some of the most amazing visual lines with the Sunday sanctuary setting and keeps our building welcoming to all!

## **2. Compassionate pastoral care**

We have a caregiver network in this congregation which includes our Caring Committee, our Elder Focus Task Force, our Choir, Religious Education, our Chalice Circles and our staff. Our Connections Coordinator has devoted more time this year to Caring Committee issues and needs. This year we successfully launched a support meeting for those who are caregivers in their own homes and lives---an increasing need in our society. The development of the 'youth helping elders with technology' program has offered its own brand of pastoral care in our community.

Other congregations learn from us in terms of our ongoing care for all ages. Our worship services offer pastoral moments from our Pastoral Prayer to our Candles for Joys and Sorrows. We also offer End of Life panels and workshops for people not only in our congregation but within the Bloomington community.

Many lay members offer pastoral care to one another simply as a means of being in community.

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

From children through elders, we have ongoing opportunities for spiritual growth. We now have three weekly opportunities for meditation: Monday Noon Shambhala Meditation, Wednesday evening Conscious Contact (Insight Meditation) and Thursday Chanting Meditation. We also have an ongoing Saturday Tai Chi class. Our Exploring UU classes offer Spiritual growth for grown-ups as do our Adult Spirit Play classes and other adult religious education classes.

At most meetings within the congregation, it is customary to light a chalice and have a check-in as 'religious practice' to remember why we are gathering. Our Chalice Circles offer a space to practice and learn about deep listening: this year our Chalice Circles process has been enhanced through the use of monthly themes. Chalice Circles also offer spiritual growth through opportunities for leadership (facilitators) and community action (service projects). In addition, many consider their volunteer work in social justice (ie Winter Shelter) to be part of their ongoing spiritual growth.

Our Humanist and Freethinkers offer intellectual growth through stimulating conversation and topic-oriented discussions.

Senior Minister and Minister of Religious Education are participating in a year-long training for Group Spiritual Direction through the MidAmerica UU Region.

Our Social Justice Task Forces continue to offer ongoing opportunities for spiritual growth through their community action such as: homeless shelter, green sanctuary task force outreach, elder focus task force sub-committee on affordable housing, habitat for humanity builds, peace and justice advocacy through demonstrations (BlackLivesMatter) to legislative work (RFRA).

#### **4. Knowledge of denominational and congregational history and traditions**

As part of our Interim process we have been collecting stories from congregation members regarding our congregational history and traditions. Our K-2 Spirit Play classes are working with our vision statement. We have added a class on Unitarian Universalist History for our Exploring UU experience.

We now have a new web-site which will include a brand new history of our congregation as well as the history of Unitarian Universalism, as created by Elof Carlson! Elof has also been a source of history columns for our newsletter. Also thanks for many hours offered by our Church Administrator in editing and formatting.

We continue the many traditions of this congregation (ie Flower Communion, El Dia De Los Muertos, Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service and Procession of Gifts, etc). We continue to offer the 4pm Away in the Manger Service (now livestreamed) as well as our 7pm Christmas Eve service. We dropped the 9pm service due to previous year's low attendance and did not hear a complaint. Next year we may tweak the Water Communion Ceremony. We hope to also reclaim the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Worship and maintain our Inter-Faith MLK service.

#### ***Building Community***

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

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

Throughout our congregation, we have folks of exceptional talent and gifts, who offer their time and resources in furtherance of our vision. From Social Justice and Religious Education to our Choir and other groups, the willingness to be generous is well noted. A few examples: 1) Members and friends often offer their professional musical talents free of charge. 2) This year we honored Renee Reed's ten years of effort and energy in helping to make our soul food dinner evening a success. 3) Our Fourth Friday Fellowships rely on the resources and talents of our members 4) We had a coffee house which donated time and talents to raise money for Winter Shelter. 5) Our Green Sanctuary Task Force, in addition to ALL they do, support our Interfaith Community of Environmental Youth (ICEY). 6) Our choir members volunteered an evening to participate in Black History Month with local African American congregation. 7) Our Grounds Crew and volunteers devote a Saturday morning to improving grounds. 8) Our Sunday volunteers from Coffee Makers to Worship Associates to Greeters/Ushers to Booktable Keepers, help create a meaningful and safe experience for all. Through art and images in worship and in our building, we try to create an atmosphere which reflects the diversity of our world.

##### **2. We actively encourage shared ministry and lay leadership.**

Our Ministers responded to the call from our UUA Moderator Jim Key to go to Selma, Alabama, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bloody Sunday and all the marches which led to the passing of the Voting Rights Bill. They also honored the UU martyrs (Reverend James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo) who died 50 years ago for this cause. The ministers also honored and celebrated the civil rights achievements within our congregation and Bloomington during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day services and the Selma Sunday services. Ministers and lay leaders also responded by participating in marches and demonstrations for BlackLivesMatter, and are committed to continuing to share the ministry in this cause.

We actively encourage continuing education for lay leaders and staff through the Center for Congregations as well as MidAmerica Regional and national Unitarian Universalist conferences and trainings. Our Leadership Cultivation Committee is exploring new strategies and techniques for training (possible new data base). Our Continuing Connections Team, made up of a diverse lay leaders, youth and staff, is developing a strategy to keep youth connected to our congregational community.

We continue to have a monthly meeting of the A-Team which is composed of lay leaders and staff in order to keep communications and activities woven well together. This year our A-Team and staff collaborated to help manifest a new web-site which is now operating! Many hours have been put forth into this effort.

Our Connections Coordinator Judy Bennett strives to interview each new member and see what areas of interest they have within the congregation. She also stays abreast of activities and opportunities to connect members and friends within the congregation, including the Getting Involved Fair to more subtle efforts by simply making one on one connections. Her retirement will occur at the end of June, and we recognize her many gifts which she brought to this position.

Our Senior Minister is sharing her ministerial experience by mentoring a nearby minister who is seeking final fellowship as well as supervising a ministerial intern.

Our Religious Education teachers, facilitators and staff continue to offer their expertise, education and energy to our Sunday classes and other events.

### **3. We responsibly manage our staff, resources, and facilities.**

Between our Senior Minister and Church Administrator, we strive to manage these areas to the best of our abilities. We make our facilities available to many organizations outside of our congregation to align with our ongoing mission. Again, we appreciate the care offered by our custodian for our building and we have managed in his absences due to illness and injury with little interruption. We are indebted to Molly O'Donnell for all of her amazing work with Building and Grounds and her co-chairs (Dick Stumpner: Building) (Rhonda Baird: Grounds); they not only help us physically keep things going but also do so in a sustainable way for our planet! We instituted new quarterly walkthroughs of the building with these folks to insure we keep abreast of new maintenance and building needs. Kudos also to Arzetta Hulls Losensky and John Lawson for their updating five to twenty year plans for building maintenance.

Our Usher program, thanks to John Summerlot, helps keep our facility safe for Sunday Worship Services, and John has helped us develop new emergency management plans which have been sorely needed for many years. And we all, staff and volunteers, strive to maintain a sense of humor during times of adversity.

We continue to acknowledge the small efforts of staff which make a difference. For example, our childcare staff helps prevent mold from spreading in our religious education wing by helping with the dehumidifier; also Kitty McIntosh, RE Assistant, lends her accounting skills to enhance accounting needs within religious education.

We all strive to manage staff compassionately and joyously without micromanaging. We also strive to support our staff who work tirelessly for the good of this congregation; we utilize regional and local support in these efforts.

Senior Minister maintains ongoing communication and goodwill with our neighbors on Fee Lane.

## ***Changing the World***

### **We are leaders in our community and world.**

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

We strive to create a system in which we can respond quickly to social justice needs and equality for all people. Kudos to Jackie Hall, our Social Justice Chair, as well as our Social Justice Funds Chair Millie Jackson, for helping to maintain a sustainable program amidst changing conditions

In terms of responding quickly, during the recent Religious Freedom Restoration Act, our ministers, staff and lay leaders responded on Facebook and also attended key meetings strategizing how to go forward. We also incorporated this issue into our Sunday worship service, which we often do with something so timely. Of note, this is not always easy due to much which is already planned for Sunday services. Sometimes content of music and reflections need to change to accommodate different foci. Our ministers also responded to an immediate call to respond to Ferguson and engaged in a BlackLivesMatter die-in. While this did go on Facebook, many more congregation members would have participated had they known about it. So we are exploring Twitter and other avenues for immediate calls for justice.

Our music continues to provide music with a social justice voice (ie Omaha Beach. Somali piece for Commitment Sunday, etc).

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

Our Social Justice Task Forces are a key force in this area. To that end, our Social Justice Bulletin Board underwent improvements; now visitors can more readily see all the areas in which we are making a difference. Our Facebook presence has also been a key in this area. Our Interim Minister met with all Social Justice Task Forces individually to affirm their efforts and encourage collaboration.

Our staff visited Monroe County United Ministries in order to hone our abilities to help those who are experiencing the harsh effects of poverty, some of whom are members and friends of our congregation.

Our 25% Sunday Plate this year went to Susie's Place, which has increased our congregation's awareness of childhood sexual abuse issues in Monroe County. Staff created two opportunities for trainings to prevent child abuse, Stewards of Children, to deepen our efforts.

Interim Minister attended a training on dementia and brought that back to the staff for a mini-training. Senior Minister, along with her Intern, attended a daylong workshop on Mental Illness within congregations; brought back resources.

Members of our Habitat for Humanity Task Force went to El Salvador this past summer. Through video and a worship service they were able to share their experiences and insights about mutuality while working with people beyond US borders. What an inspiration!

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

Our youth have been attending and hosting conferences with other congregations. Our Board visited our sister congregation in Columbus, Indiana. Our Church Administrator and our Connections Coordinator mentor other staff in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Our Minister of Religious Education has become a Spirit Play Trainer for other congregations. Our ministers and our religious education folks attend, host and facilitate professional cluster meetings. Ministers and lay leaders often attend Monroe County Religious Leaders meetings.

Our high school and PRISM youth helped with the Winter Shelter. Recently, our Just Peace Task Force, engaged with other community leaders, to speak with Senator Joe Donnelly's main Foreign Policy staff person. Our Elder Focus Task Force Housing group has been in touch with a variety of institutions and individuals throughout Bloomington (including IU) regarding fair housing for elders in Bloomington.

At various times when we have hosted Regional Staff (Dori Davenport; Generosity Workshop) (Lisa Presley: Intercultural Competency) we readily host members of other congregations who attend. Also Senior Minister has participated in a year-long multi-site webinar training through UUA, albeit with minimal insights gained; however, a recent Regional Assembly workshop improved the insights in this area.

We were represented at the Homeless Memorial Service this year.

Our Reproductive Rights Task Force is involved with supporting the new All Options Pregnancy Center which opened in early May!

We continue to be a presence on the Courthouse Square when called upon by my conscience or other members of the Bloomington community.

We had a booth at the first ever Bloomington Gay Pride event last summer and we continue to support Spencer Pride.

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

Senior minister is vice president of our Heartland UUMA chapter, and is responsible for programming for clergy. Board Member Doug Cauble is now vice president of our MidAmerica region; we are glad he is representing us and we can remain knowledgeable of the regional developments.

We were able to schedule a visit with UUA Moderator Jim Key, in February, which created important connections, despite the snow. Staff and lay leaders attended MidAmerica Region Conference and Pre-Conferences in mid-April. Church Administrator led a workshop there as well. There will be attendance by staff and lay leadership this year at General Assembly. Also, we encourage connections via livestream for events at General Assembly by those of us remaining in Bloomington. (ie Ware Lecture this year by Cornell West) Senior Minister also scheduled Jim Key to meet with district ministers at meeting next fall.

Senior Minister is now also a part of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee group for ministers, which includes key contacts and communications regarding their work and how congregation's can carry forward their efforts. Senior Minister did cancel one scheduled visit by UUSC representative this year simply because our congregational plate was full.

### **5. We help heal the earth.**

Minister of Religious Education accompanied a group Interfaith Climate Environmental Youth for three days of lobbying in Washington, DC. By collaborating with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) they were able to make great gains in an efficient way. Last fall many of our congregation members and friends rode a bus to New York for the National March on Climate Change; a few vans went as well! Ministers blessed them in the Parking Lot! This year, we as a congregation, have learned about Habits and Hobbits and Rabbits of the month. Our solar panels continue to provide energy resulting in considerable drop

in utility bills. One of our Chalice Circles, along with Grounds guidance, created a beautiful low impact path to the office entrance of our building from the bypass. New signage has helped with thermostat usage and maintenance. We have a new Butterfly Garden which we plan to expand; the sustainable qualities of the garden were presented in a program at a Women's Alliance Meeting.

We continue to appreciate the efforts of and guidance from the Green Sanctuary Task Force in this area of healing the earth. We look forward to another Earth Day Service and Fair. We applaud the Green Sanctuary Task Force's decision to take a break this summer and allow their energies to replenish. Great modeling for all!

**NOTE:** Again, with a congregation as active as this one, I dare say this is but a portion of happenings from the year. However, I do believe this report offers a solid representation of our congregation's efforts to align with our vision and mission. Peace out, Mary Ann

### **FINAL NOTE**

Of note, overall, a focus during this interim period has been to engage the Interim Minister's denoted tasks in a congregation during this time of transition; I appreciate the support of our Interim Minister the Reverend Douglas Wadkins, our staff, lay leadership and members and friends as we go forward Seeking Spirit, Building Community and Changing the World.

## **The Reverend Dr. Douglas Wadkins, Interim Minister**

**Below I will reflect briefly on this year's work utilizing the focus points of interim ministry:**

### *1. The congregation has claimed and honored its past*

I began my time with you by engaging in an initial interview process with leaders in the congregation and staff. The focus of these interview encouraged the sharing of stories about the congregation. It was a wonderful opportunity to jump start my understandings of UUCB. My early services/sermons included sharing some of the themes I heard in these interviews. We also held a workshop with the congregation to share stories and glean themes for later mission-clarification work, and deepen my own understanding of UUCB congregational identity. The more significant experiences of this exploring has happened over the year through the many stories you have shared, it has shaped what is important for me to explore with you as a congregation. Many of the services, the pastoral care visits and the rites of passage have given us a chance to honor and enter into these themes.

*and engaged and acknowledged its griefs and conflicts.*

I believe in the larger perspective of this year there has been some important, natural exploration of the grief of the change in the retirement of Bill Breeden and the ending the powerful shared ministry and working partnership between Mary Ann and Bill. In services, work with the staff and lay leaders and in individual sessions there has been meaningful opportunity to explore these components of grief.

### *2. The congregation recognizes its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges.*

Throughout our first year together, in all of our work to date it is clear that the congregation has a healthy self-identity. You are in touch with your strengths and aware of quite a few of your challenges as well. For the future, both in the my work throughout the weeks with the ministers, staff and lay leaders, and with many of you in worship, I will seek to find more ways to lift up what I am hearing from you and ask you to discern if this understanding of your identity is consistent with your own perceptions. The key exploration in preparing you for the coming year is to compare the understanding of who you are with your mission and your hopes for the future.

3. *The congregation has a clear understanding of the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and has successfully navigated the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition.*

↑  
This year the congregation has been engaged in the expected exploring of new patterns of leadership, generally the sense of regard for these systems and for the leadership inclusive of lay, clergy and staff is quite healthy and well-utilized. For the past few months I have been working with the staff using strength-based assessments and working specifically with the senior minister around the discernment of her future vision for the senior minister role.

4. *The congregation makes appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources.*

↑  
While there are the occasional and predictable grumblings about UUA that seem to be a part of UU life in most congregations, this congregation remains strong in its utilization of regional and UUA resources. In addition, you regularly serves as a resource to the larger movement. Our future focus will include helping you connect newer leaders with these resources, and help you all and especially the leaders of the congregation plan for what sort of role they will have in the region for the future.

5. *The congregation is in proud possession of a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepared for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.*

↑ You are already a zesty bunch. I look forward to focusing some of that energy in thinking about your vision. This year I have been working strategically with the stewardship team in invigorating a year-round focus on stewardship, generosity and the spiritual implications of finances, while expanding our focus to include addressing stewardship with differing giving styles and constituencies within the congregation and beyond. We are seeking to make better use of healthy stewardship practices with the robust live-streaming audience that Sunday services regularly receives. Next year, in addition to working with the search team, I will be asking you to bring clarity to your vision for the future and strategize with you about how to work with your new minister and your ministry team.

It has been most gratifying, engaging and meaningful first year. Thank you for your warm welcome and hard work with me. I look forward to year two!

## **Church Administrator's Annual Report, 2014-15**

INTERIM MINISTRY - Successfully met the administrative challenges of integrating Reverend Breeden's retirement as well as the hiring of the Reverend Dr. Douglas Wadkins, our interim minister.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS – Experienced continued gratitude for the work of our Office Assistants Monica Overman and Jason Haworth. Monica was hired in summer 2012, and Jason was hired in July 2013. It is helpful to have longevity in these positions. Also thankful for the willing assistance of volunteers: Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, our Treasurer, Taylor Albright, Rick and Lois Holl, Peggy Yood, Pat Aungst, Anne Haynes, and others who help us from time to time in the office.

NEW WEBSITE – Launched on April 30, 2015, after over two years of concerted effort by staff, lay leadership, and the Communications Team led by Past Congregational President GK Rowe, the newly-designed site can be easily edited, and is updated several times a week. Same address, new look: [www.uubloomington.org](http://www.uubloomington.org). We hope it will be relentlessly useful to current members as well as newcomers.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Appreciate the detailed and thorough leadership and assistance of Molly O'Donnell, Rhonda Baird, and Dick Stumpner in caring for the ongoing maintenance of our building and grounds.

CONTINUING EDUCATION –

In November 2014, attended a workshop on fundraising sponsored by the Center for Congregations, in Indianapolis.

In April 2015, at the MidAmerica Regional Meeting in Naperville, co-led a workshop on church administration, with Congregational Administrator Kirsten Eckart-Smith of UU Fort Wayne. Topics covered included Risk Management, New Technologies for Communication, and Facilities Use. Kirsten and I may finally get an administrators' cluster gathering to happen this fall in Indianapolis, a goal we have long cherished.

Continue to participate with other core staff in Reverend Wadkins's work with us on our staff strengths inventory. I work with a remarkable staff team.

Will attend professional days of the Association of UU Administrators in Columbus, Ohio, preceding UUA General Assembly in June 2016. I am beginning my fourth year of service on the AUUA Certification Review Board, helping evaluate submissions of administrators who are seeking formal certification.

Looking forward to the changes and new experiences of the coming year.

In faith,

Carol Marks, Church Administrator

## **Music Director's Annual Report, 2014-15**

Janiece Jaffe was our Worship Artist in Residence this year, and she contributed so many wonderful elements to our music program – a chanting class, choir and congregational circle-singing, beautiful performances with her kaleidoscopic voice of many colors, musical meditations, and a special service about musical/spiritual improvisation with guest Sonja Rasmussen. Our former Worship Artist in Residence, Colleen Haas, also joined us for several special musical moments.

Musical highlights for the choir this year included the very moving and difficult, "What Do You Think I Fought For at Omaha Beach" by Melissa Dunphy for Veteran's Day, Mend the Sky by Jake Runestad, Rheinberger's Stabat Mater with strings, collaborating with our talented youth for Commitment Sunday, and a fun Christmas Eve with Ray Fellman. And it's so nice to have an interim minister who can step into the tenor section whenever we need him! Thank you Douglas Wadkins.

I am so grateful to Jill Courtney, who continues as our Children's Choir Director. She is such a skilled and gracious professional, and our children are very lucky to get to work with her.

Pianist Molly Doran continued to grace us from the piano bench.

I continue to enjoy the choir every week, as I have for over 20 years now. And we have some exciting plans for next year! Stay tuned.

In gratitude for the opportunity to do this work,  
Susan Swaney, Music Director

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR July 2014-June 2015**

I was hired in early 2009 to join the staff as Membership Coordinator, and have had the good fortune to be given the freedom to develop that position as I proposed ideas to make us a church which seems welcoming to newcomers, and where new members are invited to participate and follow their interests and passions. I could not have done this without the support I have received from the Ministers and staff. I have learned much along the way. The only complaint I had was I did not like my title, and that was fixed this year when it was changed to Connections Coordinator.

Over the past year I have:

- Continued Exploring UU and First Steps classes for newcomers.
- Introduced Fellowship Hour Hosts in the coffee hour to help welcome

- Conducted Membership Book signing ritual every 2 months
- Helped new members make meaningful contacts
- Staff liaison to Caring Committee
- Member Ex Officio to Membership Committee
- Staff liaison to Garage Sale and Auction.
- Contacted members yearly as a recognition of their anniversary date and check-in
- Posted articles for "Our Folks in Print".
- Created memes for Sunday services to post to Facebook and website.

I am now retiring, but will be staying in Bloomington and will be part of the congregation. I am thankful for the trust that was placed in me, and wish Shari Woodbury the very best as she takes over this position.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Bennett

Connections Coordinator

## **2014-15 Religious Education Report**

Minister of Religious Education: Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

Director of Religious Education: Adrienne Summerlot

Religious Education Assistants: Kitty McIntosh & Miranda Sanders

### **CURRICULUM 2014-2015**

#### **Summer 2014-CircUUs (June & July 2014)**

Adrienne Summerlot worked closely with long time circus education specialist Ann Dorwin to create a unique program for our children in kindergarten-8th grade to learn circus skills and connect to the Unitarian Universalist Promises. The summer program culminated with over 25 children performing in a spectacular Circus of the Spirit on August 2<sup>nd</sup> that showcased the work the children and volunteers put in to learning new skills. Our Interim Minister Reverend Douglas Wadkins arrived on a small bicycle in good spirits and introduced himself to the audience. Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Wadkins emceed the circus.

#### **August 2014 Intersession**

For the first time, we offered an August four-week intersession with children in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade choosing to investigate the monthly congregational theme, "creativity", via art, outdoors or photography. We were fortunate to welcome a different artist each week to share their passion and introduce a new art medium. Many children in our program travel over the summer and attend different schools thus having different school year end and start times, this intersession presented an opportunity for friends to reconnect and attend a class based on their interests. This was very successful and we will plan to continue to offer an August Intersession.

#### **2014-2015 School Year (September 2014-May 2015)**

##### **Preschool: World of Wonder**

This class explored Unitarian Universalist (UU) Identity and Sources: the preschoolers learned our Unitarian Universalist principles in language appropriate for children through hearing stories and wondering about them together. "Wondering" is a process of asking open-ended questions to deepen each person's understanding of a story on their own terms. They also learned stories from science and world religions.

##### **K-2nd: Roots and Wings**

This Spirit Play class also spent the fall wondering about stories connected to UU Identity and Sources and in the spring worked to connect both our UU principles and our sources to our vision statement: "Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World".

##### **3rd -8th Grade: Exploring Our Sources**

Children explored our Unitarian Universalist Sources from a historical perspective (medieval times) to understand what life was like in those times through games, experiments, drama, and arts and crafts.

### **Our Whole Lives for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade- (September-March)**

We had 23 middle school youth in this year's offering of Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive and holistic approach to sexual education. This was the first year using the revised and updated curriculum.

### **7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: (YUUMS): (March-May)**

During this short time, the middle school youth strengthened their group connection by attending Coming of Age Service, visiting Lake Griffy, playing games and having discussion. They also attended a cluster youth conference in Kentucky in September and hosted a mini youth conference in February.

### **9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade (YRUU): High School Youth Group**

Our High School youth group has been active this year, meeting weekly with a wonderful team of advisors: Dan Beauregard, Michelle Cook, and Martha Oakley. They produced a beautiful Youth Sunday service in February, attended two district conferences, and many members (plus two middle schoolers) became involved in the interfaith meetings of youth addressing climate change--some even traveled to Washington D.C. (supported by our Green Sanctuary Task Force, Earth Care, and others) to lobby members of congress around Climate Change issues.

### January Intersession 2015

Continuing our tradition for January, we offered a January intersession on the congregational theme of "Integrity" based upon stories told in the service. The Preschool classes and multi-age (Kindergarten-8th grade) classes (cooking, drama, Spirit Play) explored Integrity through art, science, cooking, video, and dramatic exploration.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NOTES 2014-2015**

### High School Programming

Our Coming of Age program included 6 ninth graders who worked with their wonderful mentors and together enjoyed monthly workshops, attended services, and explored spiritual practices at an overnight. 5 of the youth were able to complete the program and shared something about what they believe right now with the congregation in an inspiring service on April 19.

Our Youth RE Committee and Continuing Connections team have been working diligently to strengthen connections between youth, adults, elders, and children in the congregation. Their ideas are only beginning to come to fruition, but they are excited about the success of such programs as the quarterly Elder Tech workshops, where youth help church elders with their cell phones, tablets, and computers.

### Social Justice in Religious Education

- Hosted a mitten tree at the Family Christmas Eve Service
- Our High School Youth Group partnered with Prism Youth Community to set up for the Winter Shelter a couple of times. They also partnered with youth in other congregations to continue to strengthen the ICEY (Interfaith Community of Environmentalist Youth) group, where several UU youth have leadership roles in addressing climate change through lobbying and hands-on work including weatherization of homes in the community.
- Fourth Friday Fellowship continued to make social justice more accessible with a variety of programming; Hymn Sing, adopting Building & Trades Park, making cookies for the Interfaith Winter Shelter, and showing a screening of the movie "Bully". We worked with Help Feed our Hungry Neighbors and Homelessness Task Forces.
- Guests at Our Table Envelopes and Procession of Giving collected over \$1,900, which was donated to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

## Other:

- Over 70 volunteer teachers dedicated their time and talents to the Religious Education program this past year. 167 children and youth were registered for RE. 12 scholarships were given to cover registration costs for families.
- Childcare continues to be a welcoming pathway for new families. Choir, Exploring UU, Chalice Circles and Adult Religious Education have been utilizing childcare often for programming.
- Kris Roehling, Adrienne Summerlot and John Summerlot attended Our Whole Lives facilitator training in July 2014, adding to our collective group to continue to offer a high quality OWL program here at UU for 1<sup>st</sup> grade-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Other Religious Education Events:
  - Age of Reason Service & Celebration
  - Gift Making Workshop
  - Holiday Sing a Long
  - Soul Food Dinner with Renee Reed, Gumbo Dancing and many other special guests
  - Children and Youth Religious Education Open House in August
  - Children and Youth Religious Education Round Table in January
  - Spiritual practice of Yoga with Sarah Flint
  - Random Acts of Kindness: Ben's Bells with Connie Nelson Laird

This school/fiscal year we had two almost year-long special programs running: OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality education program) for 7th and 8th graders, and Coming of Age for 9th graders. Middle school programming was put on hold during OWL, but high school programming continued alongside Coming of Age. Beyond these, there was a retreat for the middle schoolers in the fall, and YUUMS picked up when OWL ended in the early spring. The YUUMS also hosted an overnight in late February, which included guests from other UU congregations in the region. The high school group (YRUU) had a fair amount of consistency with its core group of 3 or 4 and several more fairly regular attendees, making the average attendance around 8. They have attended two youth CONs and (will have) had two camping overnights. In addition, they have been strengthening ties to PRISM, with whom they've set up the winter shelter and also had an overnight. The youth committee, in conjunction with the Continuing Connections group, has begun to implement a plan to foster stronger ties between our youth and the congregation: creating opportunities for our youth to connect with more adults, programming to encourage conversation and exploration of deeper questions of what it means to be UU, and holding events to keep our youth and graduates connected to the community.



## **Committees and Task Forces**

### **Adult Religious Education Annual Report 2014-15**

Committee Members: Carolyn Emmert, Chair, Bob Taylor, Rob Hongen, Lisa Meuser, Doug Wadkins, staff liaison

Classes offered:

#### **Fall 2014**

Creating a Permanent Culture, Rhonda Baird (Scheduled but did not receive enough students this time; has been offered successfully in the past.)

Philosophy vs. Theology: Friends or Foes, Dale C Nelson

Random Violence and Quick Decisions, Jon Summerlot

Exploring in the Visual Arts, Betty Wagoner

Spiritual Crafting, Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Wendy Bethel, and Adrienne Summerlot

Be Respons-Able, Edgar DeJean

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Family-to-Family Education Program (NAMI), Laura Jessup  
\*Aging and Spirituality, Carol Ver Wiebe, Penny Fisher, Barb Backler, and Bob Taylor  
\*Stories and Spirit Play for Ages 3-103, Connie Loftman, Martha Nord, and Rev. Emily Manvel Leite  
\*Spirit Play for Grown-Ups, Eve Cusack and Rev. Emily Manvel Leite  
\*Sharing Poetry, Bob Taylor  
\*Traditional Taijiquan (Tai Chi), Brian Flaherty and Christy True

### **Winter 2015**

Exploring UU History, Stuart York  
OWL: Sexuality Education for Adults, Stuart York  
Upgrading the Conversation, Barb Backler, Sue Medland  
Plan, Pack, Travel! Linda Pickle  
Conscious Contact, Kris Roehling  
Shambhala Meditation, Sarah Flint  
\*Aging and Spirituality, Carol Ver Wiebe and Penny Fisher  
\*Spirit Play for Grown-Ups, Rev. Emily Manvel Leite  
\*Sharing Poetry, Bob Taylor  
Traditional Taijiquan (Tai Chi), Brian Flaherty

\* = An on-going class that welcomes new participants  
.

## **Caring Committee Annual Report 2014-15**

We have continued to provide services to our church community. Transportation, meal coordination, visits, cards, and memorial services are all part of what the Caring Committee can provide to our members and friends. This year, our meal coordinator Julie Cauble, started the sign-up of Meal Train for better coordination for our volunteers. This past winter we had four memorial receptions to coordinate quickly and both Doris Wittenburg and Marlin Howard managed these very successfully. Ruth Ann Cooper has sent many cards this year. Anna Wiley has arranged transportation for medical appointments. We have made several visits to our folks in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and post surgery follow-up.

Our Caregiver Network Group has continued to meet monthly for supporting each other as they care for others. Early May, we had another successful End of Life Workshop with sixty in attendance led by Rev. Macklin and attorney Jim Whitlach.

Submitted by  
Sharon Yarber, Chair

## **Chalice Circles Small Group Ministry Annual Report 2014-15**

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

This year we formed 11 Chalice Circles with approximately 100 participants, including 20 facilitators. Each facilitator went through training in August, 2014. (Facilitators from Paoli and Lafayette also attended the training). Facilitators attend a monthly Facilitator Circle, under the direction of either Rev. Watkins or Rev. Macklin. These meetings allow facilitators to share experiences and learn from each other.

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

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

Each Circle is responsible for doing social service activities. Many committees within the church have learned to come to Chalice Circles when they need help. In addition, Circles provide services for community agencies. Chalice circles begin in late September or early October of each year, after an awareness and registration period. They end in May of the following year. They begin again in the fall, with new participants in each Circle. The Chalice Circle season ends with a recognition event for facilitators, held in early June.

Jeanette Miller, Alan Backler, Rev, Doug Wadkins, and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin serve on the Chalice Circles Executive committee.

## **Children's Religious Education Support Team Report – 2014-15**

The Children's Religious Education Support Team (CREST), formerly known as the R.E. Committee, supported and assisted with many Religious Education events this year. Events included

Fourth Friday Fellowships, R.E. Open House, R.E. registration, a gift making workshop, the giving tree, and the teacher appreciation ice cream social. Additionally, the team spearheaded a new event, a Valentine's Day Party. The Valentine's Day Party was a great success. Support team members also assisted with teacher recruitment.

A new CREST-teacher liaison program was started in February of this year. This program aims to increase communication between CREST and our wonderful R.E teachers. CREST is looking forward to another year of supporting our amazing Religious Education program and staff.

## **Greeter and Welcomer Committee, 2014-15**

Members: Yonjoo Cho, Craig Coley (incoming chair), Michelle Cook, Libby DeVoe (outgoing chair), Abby Downey, Molly Gleeson, Ann LeDuc

Accomplishments:

- Scheduled 40 or 50 greeters and newcomer welcomers every month.
- Recruited at the Volunteer Fairs.
- Held three orientations for new volunteers.
- Maintained a loyal cadre of 80+ trained greeters and welcomers.
- Created a web-based system that allows greeters and welcomers to sign up for their posts on-line.

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

## **Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar 2014**

The 56th UU Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar had a reasonably good year. The weather cooperated for a change, but the Friday attendance, especially for the lasagna supper was disappointing. We'll have to get more UU diners next year! An auto mishap in the parking lot was a challenge to the normally brisk Saturday afternoon business, but things did pick up after the excitement was over. For the weekend's efforts we were able to net \$11,097.41 of which 20% or \$2,219.48 went to the Women's Alliance as usual. \$8,877.93 was paid into the church's operating budget, a gain of almost \$500 from last year.

The participating UU task force tables estimated taking in about \$5,000.00 collectively to support their various missions.

Volunteer sign-ups were down at the start of the recruitment campaign, but fortunately did go up, although we were not as strong as in recent years. Still, almost 100 people volunteered to work one or more Bazaar shifts, and even more contributed cookies, jellies, persimmon pulp, books, white elephants, pies, soups, and other goodies and treasures. Our co-volunteers were our elders and our children, old and new friends. The vendors did well overall, although some did better than others. All of them, however, expressed genuine fondness for the event and for how they are received by the UU family. They are also some of our best food customers! We like to think that the Bazaar is a very large, involving, engaging, friend-engendering, give-and-get back, fun event, that brings us together and also brings the greater Bloomington community to us. Many thanks to all!  
Your Bazaar Committee

## **Planned Giving Committee 2014-15**

Members: Joan Caulton, Libby DeVoe, Anne Haynes, Clarke Miller

We have visited members of the congregation to encourage them to include the church in their estate plans, and a number have done so. We are deeply grateful to these donors, whom we recognize through the Legacy Circle. The committee hosted an informal thank-you luncheon for Legacy Circle members last Fall, and will do so again this year.

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## **Social Justice Circle**

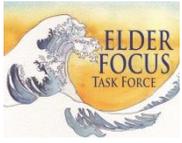
### **Social Justice Annual Report 2014-15**

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

- On Sunday mornings a SJ issue is often a topic and 25% of our Sunday offering is given to a local agency (see SJ Funds report below for details).
- Each month a social justice task force of group is featured. The group does a Social Justice moment during the Sunday worship service (usually the first Sunday of the month), have special information on the Social Justice bulletin board and table.
- UUCB is fortunate to have so many task forces and opportunities for congregants to participate in social justice work. They are, Elder Focus , Green Sanctuary TF on Global Climate Change, Habitat for Humanity, Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors , Homeless, Hope for Prisoners, International Outreach, Just Peace, Rainbow Rights, and Reproductive Justice. Our small group ministries program, Chalice Circles, requires two service projects a year, many of which are SJ in nature. Our Religious Education program features many SJ programs and students participate in SJ projects and fund raising. The 4<sup>th</sup> Friday programming has featured activities and presentations with several task forces. We have a SJ Funds Committee which administers SJ Grants and the selection process for the 25% of Sunday plate recipient.
- Task forces this past year saw changes – the Children’s Task Force retired – thanks to them and all the work they did over several years and with several leaders: Martha Nord, Jennifer Livesay, Laura Petersen and others; the Just Peace and Jobs with Justice combined; and a new task force Reproductive Justice was formed, thanks Melinda Swenson. In the wings is a Black Lives Matter group which is exploring options for moving forward. In the fall there will be a Beloved Conversations group formed and trained for exploring the spiritual and intellectual dimensions of racism in our lives. We will also consider doing a Multi-cultural competency assessment.

- Who Are Our Neighbors Workshop was attended by about 35 people from our congregation and facilitated by Lisa Presley from the UUA regional office.

--Jackie Hall



## The Elder Focus Task Force

The task force's purposes and goals are to reach out to elders in the church and respond to their needs, encourage elders to contribute wisdom to the rest of us and improve later years for all elders. Current areas of focus are: Hearing committee wants to make sure that no one feels isolated because of hearing difficulties; housing subcommittee wants to enhance options in Monroe County for safe, affordable senior housing that supports a quality life.

Current projects:

- Creating a habit a month to improve the way we support those who can't hear
- Creating a Chalice lesson plan that addresses inclusivity – making sure those who can't hear and all others with disabilities of any kind are included
- Now that we have completed our research on what housing options are available for elders in our community we will be selecting an area to concentrate on and attempting to make a difference in creating housing that deals with what Bill Thomas calls the three plagues of loneliness, helplessness and boredom that “make life intolerable in most of today's long-term care facilities.”
- Hosting a meeting on housing for elders on May 31<sup>st</sup> for the members of the congregation to find out what the housing committee has discovered and to discover what ideas and concerns the members of our church have

Activities this year:

- T.C. Steele Tour and picnic lunch
- Received a grant from Social Justice Funds Committee so we could offer an ARE class, “Exciting Aging” in which we read three books together – Ripening Time, Second Wind and With a Little Help from our Friends
- Created a list of people who want to sell their skills on UU website
- Helped create Caretakers support group along with the Caring Committee
- Offered Family Weaving on Friday afternoons
- Invited the youth group to help elders understand technology three times throughout the year
- Invited Chris Holly to speak to anyone who was interested in finding out about becoming eligible for Medicaid in order to receive long term care
- Invited everyone to our annual Valentines Tea honoring elders
- Created a social network with a list of names and e-mails of folks who are interested in getting together to socialize
- Co-sponsored with the Caring Committee a meeting that dealt with end of life issues with Jim Whitlach and Mary Ann
- Co-sponsored Gen Silent Film with Fair Talk

Barb Backler



## Green Sanctuary Task Force

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

Activities in the recent fiscal year included:

- Participated in the People's Climate March in NYC on September 21, organizing a bus and three vans along with \$7,500 in financial sponsorship. Additionally members helped with the organization of a concurrent local rally.
- Held several talks and screenings including hosting Josh Fox with a showing of Gasland2, hosted Michael Dowd, and showed *Disruption*.
- Developed and are implementing the Habit of the Month program.
- Held the weekly fair trade coffee and chocolate sales, which provides an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to support the work of the GSTF and keep informed of its activities.
- Held a fall and spring clothing swap in Fellowship Hall with both being well attended.
- Hosted the Earth Fair between the Earth Day services, including the purchase and distribution of 400 tree and shrub seedlings.
- Sponsored the Bloomington Community Orchard breakfast.
- Continued energy efficiency updates on the building and the greening of the grounds including additional LED and halogen lighting and Monarch plantings.
- Provided financial support to Citizens' Climate Lobby National (\$500); Citizens' Climate Lobby South Central Indiana (\$300); Healthful Food for All Fund (\$200); and ICEY advocacy training in DC (\$400).

Active member of Citizens' Climate Lobby; Monroe County Energy Challenge; ICEY (Interfaith Coalition of Environmental Youth); Bring Your Bag Bloomington; Earth Care, Bloomington's Interfaith Group for the Environment; Hoosier – Interfaith Power and Light; and Indiana Forest Alliance.

## Habitat for Humanity Task Force



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

### Meetings:

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

### Objectives:

Educate congregation about housing needs including purpose and accomplishments of Habitat; raise money for housing projects, upcoming builds, including annual Women Build; support Habitat by providing volunteers and food for builds and financial support for project, and volunteers for the ReStore.

### Funds:

Approximate current total in Habitat Task Force Account is \$12,500. We have committed \$8,250 of that to fund the Fall Build Day in 2015. Women Build team of 33 raised \$10,130 (including the \$1400 raised at the breakfast) to contribute to 2 homes on the B-line Trail and 1 in El Salvador. This Task Force received a \$500 Social Justice Grant and the Task Force pledged to contribute \$300 of Task Force money to complete the task with Area 10 Agency on Aging (any leftover money from the SJ Grant will be used for future projects). The Task Force spend \$2000 on wish list items for Habitat in December 2014.

### Activities:

July 27, 2014 El Salvador Service – educating congregation about housing issues in El Salvador and sharing our experience doing service

August-October 2014– Parked cars at UU lot during IU home football games with International Outreach Task Force and 1 with Youth from church; earned \$2,258 for the Habitat task force.

November 2014 – Sponsored table of 10 Unitarian Universalists at More Than Houses Breakfast - Habitat's main fund-raiser.

December 2014 – Task force members and other Habitat supporters made craft sold during the Church Bazaar and following 2 Sundays. Earned about \$1,335.

December 2014 – Task Force member accompanied Habitat Employees to purchase \$2000 worth of items from the Habitat wish list for the worksite as well as the ReStore. 2 Appliance Dollies, Reciprocating Saw, Screw Gun, Impact Screw Gun, Ratchet and Socket Set, 2 Cable Cutters, Vice Grips, Metal and Wood Drill Bits, 3-Piece Hex Set, Shelf Brackets, 3 Pairs of Rubber Boots (for our drivers), Winter Gloves, 2 Wooden Dollies

January 2015- Habitat Volunteer work day at the Habitat Warehouse painting- about 7 people volunteered that day.

February 2015- Participated in the Getting Involved Fair

March 2015 – Social Justice Moment giving update of our work we've done and upcoming events/bulletin board

March 2015 – Habitat sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Family Service night educating children and families about the Women Build and doing intergenerational service together preparing for the breakfast, baking and dying eggs.

March 2015 – The Task Force funded with the help of a Social Justice grant and sent 4 Volunteers to work in partnership with Area 10 Agency on Aging to repair/install new stairs for an elderly woman to make them accessible.

April 2015 – Fundraising breakfast on Easter Sunday to raise money to support Women Build- raised about \$1400.

May 2015 – Women Build – 33 women recruited (mostly UU) to help fund and build 2 homes on the B-line. \$10,130 (including the \$1400 raised at the breakfast) was raised.

**Future:**

We have committed to fund a day of a Habitat build in the Fall \$8250 and recruit a team of UU volunteers to build and provide the food for the day.

We have begun discussions with the Green Sanctuary Task Force exploring how Habitat is currently using green building practices and areas where they may consider taking additional steps. From those discussions we will explore how we might best share those ideas with Habitat.

This year we broadened our approach to supporting housing issues by partnering with Area 10 on Agency. We hope to continue to educate our task force and then the congregation about housing organizations and issues in our community and throughout the world to find ways we can offer support as a Task Force. This may include another service trip to El Salvador sometime in the future and more partnerships with other organizations that address housing issues such as Area 10 on Aging.

## Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force



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

### **2014-15 Activities: and Totals:**

**Holiday Basket Food Drive.** (November 2014) Annual food drive for MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry. Individuals and families at the church can donate a "holiday basket" to benefit a local family in need. A basket is actually 2-3 days worth of groceries, which can include the fixings for a holiday meal. In 2014, our congregation donated 75 holiday baskets.

**BountyFull Sunday Food Drive.** We changed our food drive schedule from monthly to twice a year (April and December). December 2014 total: 1011 pounds, April 2015 total: 636 pounds.

**Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar.** (December 2014). HFOHN runs a booth selling hand knit and handmade fiber items (scarves, hats, quilts, etc.). Members and friends of the congregation make these items and donate them to the sale. In 2014, the booth brought in over \$1700, which was donated to MCUM Emergency Services.

**Macaroni and Spaghetti Drive for Shalom Center.** (2014-15). A joint effort with the Homelessness Task Force. Shalom Center has a very low grocery budget and needs organizations to volunteer to donate a single staple food item for the entire year. HFOHN has been collecting both macaroni and spaghetti and meeting our goal of 62 lbs of each per month.

**Walnut Grove Food Pantry:** In March 2015, HFOHN began running a monthly food pantry at Walnuts Grove Apartments in Bloomington. Food from Hoosier Hills Food Bank is delivered to the site and task force members and other volunteers (primarily from the church) set up and run the food pantry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. The pantry has been serving 40-50 families each month so far. We have plans to expand the pantry to twice a month, if we can build a large enough volunteer bank. We also have begun to "buy" (at a low cost) food from HHFB to supplement the foods dropped off by the truck. So far, this has been a great opportunity for us to work directly with people experiencing hunger.

Anne Graham



## Homelessness Task Force Annual Report 2014-15

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

Rev. Bill and Glenda Breeden served as site directors for several years when UUCB was responsible for staffing the shelter. They would be there all night. When Rev. Breeden retired, his twin brother Darrell and his wife Vivian took over, serving in the same roles. They both did an excellent job, providing continuity to the operation of the shelter.

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

- Chalice Circles provided hot meals for guests (40-60 people) on four of the nights that UUCB was responsible for running the overnight shelter.
- We work with the Hunger Taskforce to supply macaroni and spaghetti to Shalom Community Center every week, year round.

- We also collect sleeping bags, rain gear, and tents for distribution to Shalom guests who have no shelter during the months that the winter shelter is closed.
- We worked with Adrienne Summerlot and the Fourth Friday Fellowship to collect travel sized toiletries for Shalom.
- We work with organizers of the Bazaar and Auction to distribute left over articles to agencies serving the needs of the less fortunate in Monroe County.
- Students from the PRISM youth group, which meets at UUCB, volunteered with set up on the nights that UUCB was in charge.

Last fall, the Taskforce, worked with Judy Bennett and Dave Sharp , to organize a coffee house to support of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Several members of UUCB preformed. In addition, Glenda Breeden arranged for a quilt, constructed by prisoners at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, to be auctioned off in a crowd funding campaign in support of IWS.

We have been asked to join an Interfaith Taskforce to prepare and supply food for people experiencing homelessness and poverty, once a month over the summer of 2015. Plans are being developed to get involved in that project.

## Hope for Prisoners Task Force – 2015 Annual Report



The mission of this task force is to work with the community to coordinate and encourage efforts to aid both incarcerated and released people in Monroe County and the State. We partner with New Leaf/New Life on programs to reduce recidivism by helping with housing, job searches, and improving relationships with family. Participants include members of the church and the community.

Members mentor, do addiction counseling, GED tutoring, and assist with life skills. The Read to Me program in which an inmate is recorded reading a book to his child has been expanded to include women inmates at the Monroe County Jail. Through the efforts of the New Leaf/New Life social workers, a grant has been obtained allowing us to obtain a supply of new books through FirstBook.

Several have volunteered regularly at Pages for Prisoners, mailing books and letters to people incarcerated across the Midwest. Member Jack Harlow has been instrumental in inviting speakers to our meetings, including the new county sheriff, representatives from Volunteers for America, and the Monroe County parole office. Member Doris Parlette has lead educational efforts to inform the public on the disastrous effects of the death penalty on budgets and innocent lives.

Quarterly meetings are held at the UU Church at noon on the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October.

Rick and Lois Holl, Coordinators

## International Outreach Task Force



The mission of the International Outreach Task Force (IOTF) is to provide direct financial, material, and/or humanitarian support to a specified international development projects with the aim of bettering lives and building human bridges between people of different cultures. A core intent of the IOTF is to direct our efforts toward supporting smaller scale service/development projects that are tied directly to members of our congregation and/or community. The IOTF will also focus on enhancing the development of cultural awareness, understanding, compassion, and Love in our congregation and greater community. We feel that, by both its inherent nature and our specific intent as a task force, the work of the IOTF supports core principles of Unitarian Universalism including; The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

We have been raising funds for 3 projects in Kenya (two AIDS orphanages/school and a women's agricultural cooperative) as well as occasionally for projects elsewhere, Liberia, Haiti, etc. The principles we have followed for funding, which are recommended in the development literature, include backing locally originated and managed projects, meaning that they are more likely to succeed in the long term and be replicable, resting on locally available technology and expertise, for instance. We prefer to have a local point person for a project on our committee, who helps with the fundraising. In other words, this is about grassroots development and personal commitment.

Our main sources of fund raising are football parking and monthly bake sales between services on Sunday. IOTF is undergoing leadership transition from Jason Blankenship to Claire Robertson. Many thanks to Jason for his long term leadership and commitment.

## **Just Peace Task Force**



In 2014-5, the Just Peace Task Force was active in supporting diplomacy, not war, especially in the Middle East. We also provided endorsement and support to the Black Lives Matter campaign.

In response to Israel's invasion of Gaza, the Just Peace Task Force organized an interfaith vigil on Courthouse Square on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. It was well attended (over a hundred people) and received coverage in The Bloomington Herald Times, WFIU, and WFHB.

We have been especially active in supporting President Obama's effort to find a diplomatic resolution to the nuclear dispute with Iran. Together with our community partners Bloomington Peace Action Coalition and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, we organized a talk at the Monroe County Public Library by former Congressman Lee Hamilton and a forum involving Indiana University professors John Walbridge, Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar, Jim Cason of Friends Committee on National Legislation, and task force chair David Keppel.

We also published extensively on the subject on WFIU, in The New York Times, and The Bloomington Herald Times

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a group of us visited the Indianapolis office of Senator Joe Donnelly and met with his Indiana chief of staff, Hodge Patel.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Rachel Lipsey, Senator Donnelly's top foreign policy aide from the Washington, DC office, met with us in the Church library. Rev. Macklin and Rev. Wadkins attended together with UU and community activists. Ms. Lipsey hopes that Senator Donnelly will be personally available to meet with us before he votes on the final nuclear agreement in the summer.

We continue to welcome and need new members, including and especially those able to carry us beyond our traditional focus on foreign policy and address peace-and-justice as well as solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Campaign.

We welcome Pat Brantlinger and his Jobs with Justice Task Force. After much discussion, we have proposed becoming the Peace with Justice Task Force.

David Keppel, Chair  
Keppel@sbcglobal.net

## Rainbow Rights Task Force (RRTF)



The Rainbow Rights Task Force continues to advocate and educate in the area of LGBTQ+ concerns.

**Response to queries** like the one from a person who attended here in her youth. She needed help finding a youth group for her step child to attend in the Dayton, OH area as she explored the ramifications of her fluid gender identity.

**Sponsored 24 families** from Positive Link's Gifts of Grace program on the UU church's Giving Tree.

**Followed and informed the congregation** on Religious Freedom Restoration Act during the legislative session.

**Open for Business stickers** were purchased and continue to be distributed as an initial response to the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. This was made possible by a generous donation from Jean Knowlton.

**Active sponsorship of allied community organizations** by hosting periodic FairTalk Board Meetings and cosponsoring some of their special events. We have also become an active sponsor of Bloomington Pride's Prism Youth Community by hosting their Tuesday night meeting and providing a venue for community education events and occasional social events.

**Sponsor and table** at the annual Spencer Pride in June as well as Bloomington Pride Summerfest. Phil Cooper

## Reproductive Justice Task Force



What is *Reproductive Justice*? **The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent the children we have in a safe and healthy environment.**

We promote and maintain an active liberal voice as we educate ourselves and the community, advocate for reproductive justice, and connect with community partners (faith-based, health care-based, and politically-based) to ensure reproductive justice for all women and men. We have several small groups working on "nugget activities" – short-term, tangible projects (summary below). We meet as a whole group quarterly to check in and re-aim our efforts.

- **Snacks for Planned Parenthood patients** on Thursdays (Abortion Clinic day at Bloomington Clinic). Patients waiting for termination procedure (and their families/support folks) are now able to have nutritious snacks and drinks without having to walk through protestors in the PP parking lot. We are collaborating with the First United Church and the Friends Meeting/Quaker congregations.
- We are supporting **Backline**, an international telephone listening line for issues related to pregnancy, parenthood, adoption, abortion, and pregnancy loss. Shelly Dodson, Executive Director and Training Director, is a member of RJTF
- We were hosts for an informational meeting in June 2014 for the **Bloomington All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center**. This proposed resource provides a place for women and men to receive counseling and help with decision-making that is non-judgmental and welcoming to all. The Center also offers referrals, baby supplies, and free pregnancy testing. The All-Options Pregnancy Center, using funds from a private grant, will have its Grand Opening in May 2015. Our RJTF Committee will continue its support and will seek ways to stay involved in this project.
- We hosted a Pregnancy Options Workshop in March 2015 to open discussions among church members and friends regarding our feelings and beliefs about pregnancy choices.

- We continue to plan **film showings and speakers**, including a meeting planned in June 2015 with Planned Parenthood Community Advocates to explore other ways we can support patients and their families.

Respectfully submitted, Melinda Swenson, convener

## **Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC) Annual Report**

### **Fall SJ Grants Campaign**

September 2014, SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were recommended to and approved by Special Purposes Fund Committee:

#### **Elder Focus Task Force Books/Course Project--\$260**

#### **Habitat for Humanity Task Force Disabled Housing Project--\$500**

**Homelessness Task Force Interfaith Winter Shelter--\$1675** NOTE: SJFC requested that Special Purpose Funds Committee explore other funding options for the annual expense of this valuable church project.

#### **Rainbow Rights Task Force PRISM Youth Project--\$2500**

#### **Reproductive Justice Snack Brigade--\$400**

Grant account setup and reimbursement protocols were updated for ease of tracking and oversight. Grant guidelines and SJFC oversight were updated for Fall 2015 Campaign

### **Spring 25% Plate Fund Campaign**

April 2015, SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2015-June 2016. (Susie's Place received the award for 2014-2015 which has amounted to \$7086 in the first 3 quarters.) We received 5 proposals for the following agencies:

1. **CASA nominated by Patrick Brantlinger**
2. **Girls, Inc of Monroe County nominated by Lois Holl**
3. **PRISM Youth Bloomington nominated by Philip Cooper**
4. Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners nominated by Ann Robins
5. Monroe County United Ministries nominated by Diane Gregory

SJFC selected the first three on the above list to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 7, 2015 congregational meeting. SJFC is using multiple avenues to educate the congregation about these agencies including tabling a display between services throughout May.

SJFC Members: Jana Anna, Anna Beauchamp, Millie Jackson & Steve Mascari. Co-Advisors: Jackie Hall and Rev. Doug Wadkins. (Ellen Tamura stepped down from SJFC. Steve will begin co-chairing with Millie after the Spring campaign).

## Special Purposes Fund Annual Report – 04/01/14 to 03/31/15

### Accounts

	Beginning		Distribution	Other		Ending Balance
	Balance	Earnings		Transfers	Deposits	
Endowment	46,125.28	8,041.44	-2,417.82		50,000.00	101,748.90
General	119,079.67	6,074.30	2,417.82		81,640.29	198,589.80
Total	165,204.95	14,115.74			131,640.29	300,338.70

### Investments

Endowment            100% Vanguard Wellington Mutual fund (approximately 2/3 equities, 1/3 bonds)

General                7% Cash  
                              2% Gold  
                              26% Vanguard intermediate term bond fund  
                              25% Vanguard short term bond fund  
                              40% Vanguard Wellington Fund

The general fund component of the large anonymous donation was distributed equally among the Vanguard funds, while the endowment component was added to the Vanguard Wellington Fund. This resulted in some change in the investment profile, most notably reducing by about half the cash and gold percentages.

### Income

325.80 NR Gabe Langdon  
 50.00 NR Gene Lawlis  
 50.00 NR Gabe Langdon  
 31.25 Adjustment-Fund Distribution  
 600.00 i Lundin SJ Small Grant Fund A  
 600.00 i Lundin SJ Large Grant Fund B  
 77,570.73 NR Legacy fund anonymous contribution  
 50,000.00 Anonymous endowment fund contribution  
 287.51 Repro Justice returned grant funds  
 1,000.00 NR Harv Hegarty Fund  
 100.00 NR Carol Shapiro            memorial gift  
 1,025.00 NR Robin Black-Schaffer   memorial gift

### Expense

119.79 UU Church                        grounds endmt income  
 3,812.00 Douglas Wadkins                moving expenses  
 500.00 Amethyst House - for ad in program  
 71.28 Harland Clark check order  
 284.21 i - C Robertson Grounds Income  
           i - Lundin S.J. Large Grant Fund B            3000  
 5,335.00 i - Lundin S.J. Small Grant Fund A            2335  
 500.00 Music for 4/12/15

## **Investment review**

An investment review is ongoing, which includes engagement of a paid advisor. The prospects for fossil fuel divestment, including the UUA Common Endowment Fund, are being investigated in this context. When this review is completed, a Town Hall meeting will be held to share information and views with the congregation.

## **Committee**

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

## **Women's Alliance Annual Report 2014-15**

The Women's Alliance main funding comes from 20% of the net of Bazaar income. Our dues (July 1 to June 30) are \$20 and allow us to be active in our community. Our mission statement calls us to meet for fellowship as well as for church support and community outreach. We seek to improve visibility in our community by this support. This year we made financial contributions to the Soup Bowl, Women's History Month Luncheon, Shalom Center, Girls Inc., and Stepping Stones in addition to supporting our delegates to the annual UUA General Assembly. We traditionally collect gifts for Middle Way House at our December meeting. We updated our ByLaws this year.

The new board for the 2015-2016 year: Ann Kamman, President; Julie Cauble, Vice President; Ann Watzel, Treasurer; Bev McGahey, Secretary.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Kamman, President

## **Denominational Affairs Committee 2014-2015**

Members of the Denominational Affairs Committee are those individuals who have attended the previous years' UUA Regional and the UUA General Assemblies.

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

At this time, the Bloomington Congregation is eligible to send ten member delegates, as well as our ministers and our minister emeritus/a to both these annual Assemblies.

In 2014 the Regional Meetings were held in Bloomington IN and our delegates were Kathleen Sideli, Jackie Hall, Carol Ver Wiebe, Anna Wiley, Carol McCord, Phil Cooper, Doug Cauble, David Keppel, Sandy Dolby, Phil Cooper

The General Assembly 2014 was in Providence RI and was attended by Von Welch, Shari Woodbury, David Keppel, and Patrick Brantlinger.

In 2015 The MidAmerica Regional Assembly took place April 17-19 Naperville, IL. It was attended by Doug Cauble, Julie Cauble, Jackie Hall, Iris Kiesling, Anne DeLuc, and Amy Taylor. Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Church Administrator Carol Marks also attended. Doug Cauble was elected to the Regional Board and is serving as Vice President of the Board until 2017.

The UUA General Assembly is taking place June 24-28, 2015, in Portland OR. Those who have agreed to be our delegates are Doug Cauble, Julie Cauble, and Marlin Howard. We hope that we will have some individuals willing to be delegates by computer and attending electronically. This is available until June 10th and individuals must register. The church will pay the registration.

## **Leadership Cultivation Committee Annual Report, 2014-15**

The Leadership Cultivation Committee met monthly throughout the year. Members are: Allison Chopra, Chair, Michelle Cook, Secretary, Carol McCord; Harv Hegarty; Rev. Macklin, ex officio; and Von Welch, ex officio. Reverend Douglas Wadkins and Judy Bennett also attended frequently throughout the year.

During the year, Carol McCord resigned her position. Michelle Cook has also resigned her position in order to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. Allison Chopra is concluding her 3-year commitment this year. Thus, the LCC has slated three new members to begin 3-year terms beginning on July 1, 2015.

We anticipate our budget to remain the same for next year. This will allow us to send adult members and youth to Leadership School, as well as hold at least two leadership events during the year.

The LCC made a call for nominations via the Prologue in early 2015, however, the initiative was not successful in that the committee did not receive any nominations from the congregation. This was a new initiative for the LCC in a goal of adding transparency to our process. Transparency will continue to be a theme of the work of the LCC.

The second goal the LCC set was implementing a tracking system for future leaders of the congregation. The LCC has discussed this at length and notes can be found in the meeting minutes. This work will continue into the next fiscal year.

The election for these nominees will be held at the Spring Congregational Meeting June 7, 2015, at 4:00 pm, as follows. If elected, all terms begin July 1, 2015.

### **Board (2-year term)**

\*All slated board members are current board members in their respective positions, if elected, will be continuing their responsibilities for an additional term. The LCC felt that with the changes in our ministerial team our congregation would be best served if we kept the current leadership at this time.

Von Welch – Vice-President

Arzetta Hulst-Losensky – Treasurer

Doug Cauble – Director-At-Large

Deb Hutton – Director-At-Large

### **Special Purpose Funds (3-year term)**

Joanne Wilhelm

### **Leadership Cultivation Committee (3-year term)**

Sheri Benham

Danny Callison

Matt Stonecipher

## **Membership Committee 2014-2015**

- Members: Erin Wager Miller (chair), Lucy Fischman, Patsy Flint, Marlin Howard, Steven Gilbert, Jan Armstrong and Judy Bennett, ex officio
- Conducted six Membership Book signings, welcoming 34 new members between June 2013 and May 2014.
- Held bimonthly Exploring UU Classes with 34 people in attendance.
- Continued to publish new member biographies in The Prologue.
- Gave the UU Pocket Guide and welcome packet to each new member household.
- Contacted guests every week to welcome them and answer questions about the church.
- Contacted those who had visited three months earlier to see if they had found a home with us.
- Continued to print a weekly visitor's form in the Order of Service to track guests who have not filled out the yellow guest card.
- Hosted all congregational potluck on Sept 19, 2014.

As a personal note, I'll be stepping down as Membership Chair at the end of this fiscal year. I've enjoyed this position very much. I have loved seeing the church grow and meeting new people. Watching new members become integrated into the community is very rewarding. The Membership Committee does good work. Under new leadership, I know it will continue to be an integral part of the UUCB. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted by,

Erin Wager Miller

Membership Chair



**Members of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church of  
Bloomington, Indiana,  
as of May 29, 2015**

Debbie Acito  
Thomas Albright  
H. Wade Altevogt  
Bob Althaus  
Jean Anderson  
Judy Andrews  
Jana Anna  
Andrew Appel  
Charlotte Appel  
Jan Armstrong  
Carol Arnold  
Paul Arnold  
Stephen Arnold  
Pat Aungst  
Marianne Aurich  
Ruth Ayd  
Peggy Bachman  
Alan Backler  
Barbara Backler  
Janice Bagwell  
Rhonda Baird  
Edrice Baker  
Tim Ballard  
Bill Baus  
Andy Beargie  
Anna Beauchamp  
Dan Beauregard  
Caroline Beebe  
Sheri Benham  
Judy Bennett  
Mary Bent  
Barb Berggoetz  
Judy Berkshire  
Lauren Bernofsky  
Wendy Bethel  
Maureen Biggers  
Amanda Biggs  
Jason Blankenship  
Jennifer Blankenship  
Susan Bookout  
Kathy Boone  
Mary Boutain  
Phyllis Boyd  
Linda Boyle  
Pat Brantlinger  
Darrell Breeden  
Glenda Breeden  
Rev. Bill Breeden  
Denise Breeden-Ost  
Cynthia Bretheim  
Clark Brittain  
Lauren Bryant  
Scott Burgins  
Louray Cain  
Danny Callison  
Patty Callison  
Beverly Camden  
Laura Campbell  
Jonna Capio  
Roy Capio  
Elof Carlson

Nedra Carlson  
Lori Carmichael-Howell  
Blaine Carrell  
Jack Cassidy  
Karen Cassidy  
Doug Cauble  
Julie Cauble  
Joan Caulton  
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