



Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.

Annual Report to the Congregation Sunday, June 7, 2020

Current Membership: 556

Certified Membership: 527

Board of Directors, 2019-2020 Stuart Yoak (President), Abby Gitlitz (Vice President), Rich Slabach (Treasurer), Steven Gilbert (Secretary), Julia Lawson (At-Large), Jane McLeod (At-Large), Drew Schrader (At-Large)

Ministers

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister
The Reverend Emily Leite, Minister of Religious Education

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Congregational Meeting** Minutes

June 9, 2019



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Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Senior Minister's Report
- B. Slide Presentation
- C. Proposed Budget 2019-2020
- D. Budget Discussion

Call to Order

Michelle Cook called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Introduction of Parliamentarian Steve Dillon

Chalice lighting and Opening Words

Reverends Mary Ann Macklin, Scott McNeill, and Emily Manvel Leite lit the chalice and provided the opening words.

Senior & Associate Ministers' Report

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin gave the senior minister's report (Attachment A) followed by a report from associate minister Scott McNeill (Page 16-19 in the 2019 Annual Report)

Updates

Planned Giving Report

Libby Devoe provided an update on planned giving, reporting that over the last six months Legacy Circle membership increased by 10% to 88 members. Bylaw changes have added flexibility in use of planned giving funds, allowing for such expenditures as grounds improvement, skylights, new carpets and sewer repair work. She urged members to consider making a gift, identifying modes of giving on Slide 5 Attachment B.

Green Buildings and Grounds

Molly O'Donnell summarized progress that has been made on the repair and upgrading of our buildings and grounds, which she summarized in slides 7-10 Attachment B. This year, the solar panels produced 84% of the electricity used by the church. Molly is currently looking into the cost and practicality of a geothermal installation.

Right Relations Committee

Amy Makice reviewed the membership and activities of the RRC summarized in slides 12-14 Attachment B, urging members to use the RCC as needed to resolve difficulties.

RE Vision Team

Adrienne Summerlot reviewed the work of the RE Vision Team, primarily touching upon activities of the Vision Team as reported on page 25 of the 2019 Annual Report.

Quorum Report

Stuart Yoak announced that 122 members were present at the meeting, which considerably exceeded the 55 members (10%) needed to ensure a quorum.

Motion for Approval of Minutes

Michelle Cook called for a motion to permit the Board of Directors to approve these June 2019 congregational meeting minutes at a future board meeting. Kathy Sideli made a motion to that effect, seconded by Abby Gitlitz. The motion carried.

Special Purposes Fund Report

Helmut Henschel provided the special purposes fund report, summarized in slides 19-21 Attachment B. Helmut noted that the SPF committee controls and may distribute up to four percent of endowment funds in any given year, while it may distribute the general funds at its discretion. While the SPF committee invests the operational funds, only the board decides how to use these funds.

Leadership Cultivation Committee Report

Deb Hutton presented a report on membership and activities of the Leadership Cultivation Committee (slides 23-24 Attachment B) and the slate of candidates selected by the LCC for Board and SPF positions open in 2019-20 (slides 25-26 Attachment B).

Motion to Approve Candidates for Board and SPF

Michelle Cook called for a motion to approve the slate of candidates proposed by the LCC for Board and SPF positions for 2019-20 (slides 25-26 Attachment B). Harv Hegarty so moved, with Ed Robertson seconding. The motion carried.

Board Report

Michelle Cook presented the report from the board, summarized on slides 29-36 Attachment B. Her presentation included a special plea to those present either to make a pledge, to increase their existing pledge or to make a special one-time pledge in order to

reach the \$670K upper budget goal set by the Board. Board members distributed special pledge cards to those present at the meeting for this purpose.

Treasurer's Report and Motion to Approved 2019-2020 Budget

Ed Robbins proposed the budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year (Attachment C). After a brief introduction to the budget changes (Attachment B, slides 38-39 and items in Attachment D), he called for a motion: to approve the presented budgets and allow the Board to make adjustments to the budget, depending on the level of committed pledges received as of June 30, 2019 - the end of this fiscal year (slide 40, Attachment B). Deb Hutton so moved, with Steve Dillon seconding. The motion carried with no discussion.

Special Services Award Recipients

Reverends Macklin, McNeill and Leite presented special service awards to Ruellen Fessenbecker; to Amy Crozier and her sons, Robert and Charlie Crozier-Hocker; and to Debbie Fish for their outstanding service contributions to the church.

Announcement of 25% Sunday Plate Recipient

Julie Lawson announced that the 25% Sunday Plate Recipient for the 2019-2020 fiscal year will be Volunteers in Medicine.

Minister's Closing Words

Reverends Macklin, McNeill, and Leite provided closing words and extinguished the chalice.

Adjournment

Kathy Sideli moved for adjournment and Doug Cauble seconded. The motion carried. Michelle Cook adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Congregational Meeting** Minutes

December 8, 2019



<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	<u>6</u>
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Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

Reports attached:

- A. Senior Ministers Report
- B. Associate Minister's Report
- C. Reverend Leite's Report

Call to Order

President Stuart Yoak called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Introductions and Chalice Lighting

President Yoak introduced Guy Loftman as Parliamentarian.

Board Member Sharon Wiseman lit the Chalice.

Ministers' Reports

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin delivered a brief report (Attachment A) focused primarily upon the need for the church to raise funds to pay off the church mortgage in 2021. To that effect, she distributed cards soliciting commitments from meeting attendees to make pledges in 2020 that are equal to or greater than their 2019 pledges. Board members collected the cards during and after the meeting.

Reverend Scott McNeill delivered the associate minister's report (Attachment B), encouraging congregants to consider participating in the next Regional UU conference in Rockford, Illinois.

Reverend Emily Leite delivered a report (Attachment C) in which she expressed joy at the opportunity to fill in at the pulpit while Rev. Macklin was on sabbatical. She also expressed deep thanks to the staff and others for their support during this period.

Committee Reports

The Planned Giving Committee (Melinda Swenson); Green Buildings and Grounds Committee (Molly O'Donnell); Right Relations Committee (Amy Makice); and Social Justice Grants Committee (Denise Ogren, with input from Dan Wiseman) provided brief reports on their activities.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Slabach provided the treasurer's reports showing that the church is in good financial condition as of October 30, relative to past performance. Data is available in past board reports.

Quorum Report

Currently there are 547 members of the congregation with 10% attendance required to conduct business (55 members). The 87 members attending this meeting exceeded this minimum requirement.

Motion to Approve Minutes

Stuart Yoak called for a motion to allow the Board to approve the December 2019 congregational meeting minutes at a future UUCB Board meeting. The congregation approved a motion and second to that effect with no dissent.

Board of Director's Report

President Stuart Yoak provided the Board report, which specifically addressed efforts to upgrade the software and technology of the church; recognized the Special Purposes Funds Committee and its new member and chair, Andrew Appel; and praised the senior church staff members for their contributions to the church, especially in weekly staff meetings, and especially while Rev. Macklin was away.

Stuart then introduced Abby Gitlitz to elaborate upon the launch of an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) initiative, similar to one conducted successfully 12 years ago. Abby identified the members of the AI committee, and said that this initiative in the coming year would include interviews with every member of the congregation, with the goal of determining what the church is doing well, and what ambitions members may have for the church in the future.

Dismantling White Supremacy initiative

Reverend Emily Leite reported on the activities of the Dismantling White Supremacy (DSW) Working Group. DWS is part of a UUA-supported initiative begun this year to identify ways in which white supremacy is reflected in educational materials and processes used in RE, with the goal of removing such unintended messages. Rev. Leite identified several changes that RE has made as a result of this group's studies. Based on DSW criteria, they conclude that UUCB must continue its efforts to eliminate messages of white supremacy both in RE and in its general operation.

Closing words and Adjournment

Rev. Macklin provided brief closing words.

After a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

UUCB Leadership Cultivation Committee

The Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) cultivates leadership within the congregation throughout the year by learning about members' skills and describing UUCB governance roles in Leadership Conversations, by planning leadership skill workshops open to all members, and by reviewing/updating the scope and requirements of select leadership positions within UUCB. The LCC identifies and nominates members to elected positions on the Board of Directors, LCC, and Special Purposes Fund Committee (SPF), as well as recommending members for non-elected committees, on request.

In 2019-2020 (with group activities cut short by the pandemic), the LCC hosted three Leadership Conversations, one leadership skills workshop, reviewed and documented the position descriptions and terms of office for all elected positions in the UUCB Bylaws, worked to identify two additional members for the Right Relations Committee, worked with Rev. Macklin to update the process to fill elected positions, and identified candidates for election to 11 of the 14 positions of UUCB leadership at the June 7, 2020 Congregational Meeting.

Slate for Nomination to Elected Positions at June 7, 2020 Congregational meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STUART YOAK [as President, Board of Directors; 2-year term #1]:

My wife and I joined UUCB in 2011. Currently, I serve as President of the Board of Directors (appointed), on the Leadership Cultivation Committee, as a Welcomer, and teacher of a UU history class. I have been a member of the Special Projects Funds and Stewardship committees. Previously, as 30-year members of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, I served as Board President and chaired the adult education and ministerial internship committees.

ABBY GITLITZ [as Vice President, Board of Directors; 2-year term #1]:

A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, I grew up at UUCB. I became a member in 1988 to serve on the Board as high school liaison. Since then, I have served on the Board as At Large Member, Secretary, and currently as Vice President (appointed). I have also been a member of ministerial search and stewardship committees and as a middle school OWL facilitator. I look forward to envisioning what the future holds for this vibrant, loving congregation.

STEVEN GILBERT [for Secretary, Board of Directors; 2-year term #2]:

I joined UUCB ten years ago, and have been Board Secretary for three years (one as a replacement and two in my own right). In addition to meeting my Board responsibilities, I have at various times conducted Chalice Circles, served the winter shelter, helped out with setting up special events, and conducted Exploring UU classes. I greet monthly on Sunday mornings, host and participate in fellowship dinners, and regularly walk with the Wednesday Walkers.

JULIA KARIN LAWSON [for At Large Member, Board of Directors; 2-year term #2]:

Since John and I returned to Bloomington in 2002, I have happily been a choir member. We joined the church a year or two later. I chaired the Bazaar committee from about 2005 until 2015. I was a Coming of Age mentor three times and co-chair with John of the Grounds Committee for several years. I'm a long time Java Crew member and enjoy cooking up dinners for the UU Goods and Services Auction.

JANE McLEOD [for At Large Member, Board of Directors; 2-year term #1]:

I have attended UUCB since about 2000. An active choir member since then, I have also served as an RE teacher, Coming of Age mentor, chair of the Cookie Walk, and—most recently—as At-Large Board Member (appointed) for 2019-20. Outside of UUCB, I served for three years on the Planning Committee for the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly as Adult Programming Coordinator.

DREW SCHRADER [as At Large Member, Board of Directors; 2-year term #1]:

My wife and I joined UUCB shortly after moving to Bloomington in 2002. I have served on various task forces and committees, most notably as Co-Chair for the Stewardship Committee for 8 years. In 2013-2014, I served as At Large Board Member and on the Interim Search Committee that brought Rev Watkins, and am currently appointed to the Board. I have also been an RE facilitator for YRUU and YUUMs, recently training as an OWL facilitator.

SPECIAL PURPOSES FUND COMMITTEE

ANDREW APPEL [for Member, Special Purposes Funds Committee (SPF); 3-year term]:

I first attended this congregation in the summer of 2001. I started singing with the choir that fall and 'signed the book' the following spring. Starting with the 2002-2003 fiscal year, I served for 6 years as Board Treasurer. I was also on the inaugural Planned Giving Committee and served as both member and chair of the Special Purposes Fund previously (and currently appointed). In addition, I enjoyed being an RE teacher and coffee hour volunteer.

RUTH AYDT [for Member, Special Purposes Fund Committee (SPF); 3-year term]:

Since joining UUCB in 2011, I have worked on Race and Criminal Justice issues, served on the Stewardship Committee, and participated in Chalice Circles, among other activities. I am proud of UUCB congregants' ongoing efforts to grow as individuals, as a congregation, and beyond. If elected to serve on the SPF Committee, I will do my best to ensure that our financial resources are honored and directed to support UUCB's mission in alignment with UU values.

LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION COMMITTEE

PAT BRANTLINGER [for Member, Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC); 3-year term]:

I grew up in a Unitarian household in Indianapolis, whose head of household was my grandmother, who had been ordained as a Universalist minister in 1920. My wife and I started coming to UUCB on arrival to Bloomington in 1968, but then got busy with raising kids and our academic careers. I rejoined UUCB in 2012 and since then have been a Board member, Coming of Age mentor, RE teacher, member of four Chalice Circles, and current LCC member (appointed).

BETH HOLLINGSWORTH [for Member, Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC); 3-year term]:

Tom and I joined the UU Church of Muncie in 1983, where I served on various committees, including Board President. We moved to Bloomington and joined UUCB in 1993. I have been a member of several committees and, together with Mary Blizzard, started the Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Program. In 2008, we became “Snow Birds,” spending 6 months/year in Florida, where I have been active on a variety of UU Church of Sarasota committees.

NICOLE MOTZ [for Member, Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC); 3-year term]:

In 2017, curiosity led me to visit the UUCB with a friend, and soon I became a member. Since then I have volunteered regularly as a greeter and joined the Greeting and Welcoming Committee. I am a choir member, a Chalice Circle facilitator, and enjoy helping the Green Grounds Team in spring and summer. I also participate on the Habitat for Humanity Task Force and the UU Women Build team.

FULL BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS FOR UUCB YEAR 2020-2021:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Yoak, President
Abby Gitlitz, Vice President
Steven Gilbert, Secretary
Rich Slabach, Treasurer
Julia Karin Lawson, At Large
Jane McLeod, At Large
Drew Schrader, At Large

SPECIAL PURPOSES FUND (SPF)

Andrew Appel
Ruth Ayd
Harlan Lewis

LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION (LCC)

Pat Brantlinger
Beth Hollingsworth
Nicole Motz
Dan Wiseman

Compiled by: Deb Hutton, LCC Chair, 2019-2020

Board of Directors Annual Report 2019-20

This past year presented our beloved Church – this congregation of members, friends, ministers, and staff – with serious and significant challenges. And, in each instance we have come together with a commitment to the values we hold dear and demonstrated the creative energy necessary to advance the vision of this church - *Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World* – to meet these challenges.

As you know, we started this calendar year with the negotiated resignation of our Associate Minister, Scott McNeill. This came as a surprise to many of you; however, your faith in the process, in the Board and the support they received from the UUA, and your support of our staff and ministers meant that, as a congregation, we are more deeply committed to moving forward together.

We envisioned a spring of reflection and reconnection as together we examined what the next steps for this church would be going forward. Instead, we were confronted with the realities of a global pandemic, which shuttered our physical doors and spurred us to learn how to reflect and reconnect in a different way.

Currently, as we confront the local, national, and world-wide challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our church is developing new and effective ways to build an even stronger community and advance our mission of *Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World*.

The ministers and Board together decided that now was not the time to begin the search for an interim or new minister. We need to take time to evaluate what our church needs will be as we grow and change.

We are deeply grateful that during these past few months, Reverend Emily Manvel Leite has agreed to increase her hours from part-time to full-time to assist with worship services and pastoral care. Rev. Macklin is working with Rev. Leite and the Board to develop a new and expanded ministerial position that officially will begin on July 1, 2020 as Rev. Leite takes up the position as our Minister of Religious Education and Congregational Life. Watch for more details about this new position and the work Rev. Leite will be doing in the year ahead.

In addition, Rev. Macklin has assembled a robust ministerial team from ministers who know the needs of this congregation and already have deep connections with congregants. Rev. Barbara Carlson, Rev. Barbara Childs, and Rev. Bill Breeden now provide pastoral care, work with small group ministry, and assist the social justice task forces of the church.

In keeping with our values and with the full approval of the board, our Senior Minister asked all of our full-time and part-time staff to continue their work in the safety of their homes, and promised the church would continue their full pay and benefits.

And, the results have been truly out of this world.

- Outstanding quality and variety sermons from the pulpit,
- Creative and beautiful musical offerings,
- And, the technological wizardry which brings the faces and voices of our congregation into the service, has brought us together in ways never before imagined.

And, as a congregation, we have responded with increasing numbers of people streaming each Sunday, with generous online collection plate giving, and with heartfelt comments and “thumbs up” emojis during the service.

Under Rev. Macklin’s leadership, with the amazing help from all of our staff and the participation of congregational members and task forces, the church has directly reached out to those members and friends who due to age or isolation are most vulnerable and we continue to keep in touch with them through this difficult time.

And, even during this uncertain time, our congregation continues to grow. With the help of Ann LeDuc, our Connections Coordinator and Virtual Zoom Master, we have welcomed two groups of new members to our congregation.

There are uncertainties going forward. We do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we know that this congregation is strong, resilient, and engaged in our world.

Thanks again to all of you who make this church a vibrant and powerful force that will lead us and our community forward as we seek the spirit, build community, and change the world.

Members of the Board of Directors

Stuart Yoak, President | Abby Gitlitz, Vice President | Steven Gilbert, Secretary | Rich Slabach, Treasurer
Julie Lawson, At-Large Member | Jane McLeod, At-Large Member | Drew Schrader, At-Large Member

Proposed Changes to Bylaws for June 2020

Explanation: The following changes to the Church Bylaws were approved by the Board in April for submission to the Congregation in June, 2020 for its approval. The purpose of the changes were (a) to clarify when an interim appointment of a board member by the Board to fill a vacancy must be submitted for approval to the Congregation; and (b) to clarify that the term of such an interim appointment will not preclude the appointee from subsequently serving two (for officers) or three (for at-large members) full terms in their own right; and (c) to clarify existing practices.

Original Wording:

4.2 Terms of Office. The three Board members at large serve two-year terms. No Board member may serve for more than six consecutive years. Each member of the Board shall serve for the designated term or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

4.3 Election. Directors shall be elected by the Members of the Church at each Spring Meeting and shall take office on the July 1 after the Spring Meeting.

4.4 Vacancies. Vacancies among the non-Officer Members of the Board of Directors caused by death, resignation or other reasons between the Spring Meetings of the Church shall be filled by the Board until the

next Spring Meeting. Directors who are absent at three consecutive regularly scheduled board meetings shall forfeit their membership upon majority vote of the Board of Directors.

5.2 Election of Officers. During even numbered years, President and Secretary shall be elected. During odd numbered years, Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected.

5.3 Term of Office. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are eligible to serve two consecutive two-year terms in their respective offices.

5.4 Vacancies. Vacancies in Office caused by death, resignation or otherwise between Spring Meetings of the Church shall be filled by the Board, until the next Spring Meeting of the Church, subject to concurrence by any intervening Congregational Meeting.

New Wording:

4.2 Terms of Office. Three at-large Board Members are elected by the congregation for two-year terms. No at-large Board Member may serve for more than six consecutive years, except that a partial term resulting from an interim appointment to the Board to fill a vacancy shall not count as part of the six-year term limit. Each at-large member of the Board shall serve for the designated term or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

4.3 Election. At-large directors shall be elected by registered church members at the appropriate spring congregational meeting and shall take office on the subsequent July 1.

4.4 Vacancies. A vacancy in an at-large position caused by death, resignation or dismissal prior to completion of the regular two-year term shall be filled through Board appointment. This interim appointment must be submitted to the congregation for approval at the first subsequent congregational meeting. At the normal end of the interim term, the interim appointee may stand for election for the first of up to three two-year terms of their own. Directors who are absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled board meetings shall forfeit their membership upon majority vote of the Board.

5.2 Term of Office. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected by the congregation for two-year terms. No officer may serve for more than four consecutive years, except that a partial term resulting from an interim appointment to fill a vacancy shall not count as part of the four-year term limit. Each officer shall serve for the designated term or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

5.3 Election of Officers. Board officers shall be elected by registered church members at the appropriate spring congregational meeting and shall take office on the subsequent July 1. The President and Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years, and the Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years whenever possible.

5.4 Vacancies. A vacancy in an office caused by death, resignation or dismissal prior to completion of the regular two-year term shall be filled through Board appointment. This interim appointment must be submitted to the congregation for approval at the first subsequent congregational meeting. At the normal end of the interim term, the interim appointee may stand for election to that office for the first of up to two two-year terms of their own. Officers who are absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled board meetings shall forfeit their membership upon majority vote of the Board.

MINISTERS and STAFF

Senior Minister's Report

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

In this church year, July 2019 through June 2020, I believe we are experiencing the greatest amount of challenge and change occurring within a year, at least in my eighteen years of ministry in serving this congregation. In August I announced that I would need to utilize part of my upcoming sabbatical earlier than expected for time away in September, October and November. In February, a negotiated resignation was reached with our Associate Minister, Reverend Scott McNeill; please see Board Report to the Congregation in this packet for details. Needless to say, this transition was a stressful process for many members of our staff, lay leadership and congregation. As a result, consultants suggested we not start any new congregational projects or make any changes for the next year, 2020-2021, in order to heal and resettle into a sense of normalcy.

Enter COVID-19.

So here we are, preparing for our first virtual congregational meeting. I am writing this report at home instead of my office. Our livestream ministry is the virtual manner in which this congregation currently gathers for Sunday worship. Our ministers and staff work from home. And we, as a congregation, gather for meetings, from Chalice Circles and Task Forces to Committees and Board, via a Zoom platform. We are experiencing loss and vulnerability on many levels, and we each cope in different ways at different times. Our world has changed and may never quite be the same. Our vision remains, however. *Seeking the Spirit. Building Community. Changing the World.* And I say Steady as She Goes.

For some good news, I am pleased to inform you that our congregation recently received news that we were approved for a Connect Through Tech Grant from the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Inc. (the "Center"). This grant will support investments in technology that will aid in your congregation staying connected during the COVID-19 challenges. Von Welch led the grant writing team of Ann LeDuc, Drew Schrader and Ned Joyner. They worked diligently and quickly to meet the grant deadline. Our sincere thanks to all.

Since early April, I have in contact with other Unitarian Universalist lead ministers as well as Mid-America Regional staff to learn from and share with others the impact COVID-19 is having on congregational life. Numerous documents have been created, depending on the location of the congregation individual state guidelines. On Thursday, May 14th, a message was sent to Unitarian Universalist congregational leaders from the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Reverend Doctor Susan Frederick Gray (who, by the way, preached here during her campaign and is also a molecular biologist) that stated in part:

Over the past several weeks, the UUA has consulted with multiple public health officials in order to update the guidance we provided on March 12 recommending congregations stop gathering in person.

Based on advice from experts, we continue to recommend that congregations not gather in person. We also recommend that congregations begin planning for virtual operations for the next year (through May 2021).

Take a moment to breathe. I know this is significant.

See full message of Reverend Doctor Susan Frederick Gray at the end of my report.

Personally and professionally, I agree with this recommendation. Of course, the UUA serves congregations, it does not dictate what we can and cannot do. I applaud the courageous stance of this recommendation and also feel relief that such a clear recommendation was named. Our Board of Directors also agree with the spirit of this recommendation and “plan for virtual operations for this year, through May 2021”. The Board will continue to meet monthly with ministers to assess and reassess the timing, models and mode of reopening. Details of plans for moving forward this year will be explored with staff, lay leaders and through congregational input.

Granted, within the last several weeks, many businesses in the Bloomington area are attempting to return to business-as-usual as part of the Indiana Government’s reopening of Indiana phased approach. At UUCB we have the good fortune to not be in the category of needing to open our doors in order to continue with key components of our ministry. We are successfully facilitating various virtual forms of worship, religious education, administrative operations, committee meetings, task force meetings, Chalice Circles, coffee hour, gaming group, building care, social justice work and other gatherings. We had our first major fundraiser, Talent Auction, which exceeded expectations. We are about to engage in our first virtual congregational meeting. Overall, perhaps our wisdom will lead us to be one of the last organizations in our area, not the first, to return to our building and previous mode of operations. As we consider things, we must allow our congregational vision of Seeking the Spirit, Building Community and Changing the World to lead us, by keeping our spiritual needs and values in the forefront, and not let our decision be dictated by a societal model that is driven by the needs of capitalism rather than our covenantal needs.

Before the statement of the UUA was released, I, along with many of my colleagues were exploring options for the future of our congregational life, based in large part on the recommendations of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. These options include the option to wait to return to our building completely until there is a vaccine OR to begin a phased approach similar to those suggested by the Indiana Governor, and myriad of options in between. There are many questions to help guide decision making: What is best for our people? What is safest? What puts us in the best financial position? What will keep us in step with the society around us? In addition, the UUA has also created a list of more detailed questions and concerns to be considered on their web-site.

However, in addition to these resources some issues pertaining to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington and the community we serve should be soberly considered:

Given that a large part of our church population or their households is in a high-risk group, is returning before a vaccine even practical?

Considering that a large part of our leadership and their households, including some ministers, staff, board, and key volunteers, are in a high-risk group, thus making this difficult or even impossible to implement.

Is creating a model in which some folks are able to return and a large group is not, the best way to serve our community?

Is creating any type of two-tier system, where parts of the church life would need to happen both in-person and online, a drain on volunteer energy and resources that it decreases our effectiveness?

Does any return plan put pressure on ministers, staff, and volunteers in key positions to return before it would be advisable? Does it pressure people to hide medical concerns or ignore them?

In my latest report to the Board I outlined a document which discusses two possible courses of action: waiting until there is a viable and time tested vaccine for the return to the building OR a cautious phased approach to an earlier return, and outline the steps of what the second could look like. Again, our Board is opting to see the UUA Recommendation as a guideline; however, it will reassess the situation monthly at their regularly scheduled meetings.

I will say that some UU churches are declaring that they will not return to full operations in their building until a viable and time tested vaccine is available. Given the health concerns, ethical concerns, and the great number of unknowns in this situation, this is a viable option for UUCB, and will be part of the monthly consideration.

Needless to say, we have some decisions ahead as a congregation. Meanwhile, UUCB continues on track with a proposed 2020-2021 budget that will be a temporary guide as we enter the summer and autumn season. However, I have suggested that a newly revised budget, based on income and expenses experienced, be presented at the December congregational meeting to be approved by the congregation.

Through staff and lay leaders, the outreach to congregational members and friends from the onset of COVID-19 has been exemplary and caring. The support of the congregation continues to be encouraging. At this time, since conditions do not favor hiring an Interim Minister, we are reconfiguring our ministry for 2020-2021 and have already secured the ongoing help from Reverend Barbara Carlson (pastoral care), Reverend Bill Breeden (social justice and preaching), Reverend Barbara Child (Chalice Circles and adult education class), the expansion of Reverend Emily Manvel Leite's ministerial responsibilities, as well as guests in our pulpit prominently this summer and periodically in the rest of the fiscal year.

Our message and presence, albeit virtually, will be important as we go forward during these times which we know are uncertain; that's why I didn't say "these uncertain times." ☺

Lastly, my gratitude to so many people who continue to serve, support and enrich the ministry of this congregation. Our Board. Our Staff. Our Lay Leaders. Our Volunteers. Our Musicians. Our Everybody. Our Everybody. We know that connection is vital to the human spirit and we will continue to do so as a congregational body. We know that community and a sense of belonging brings our hearts, souls and minds together so we will continue established and new ways of connecting. We know that a full spirit and sense of belonging results in a profound caring for the world around us, so we will reach out. Seeking the Spirit. Building Community. Changing the World.

For this reason, this year's Special Services Award goes to Everyone, the members and friends of this congregation. Everyone. Everyone who cares about and serves this congregation.

There will be a Special Services Award attachment in our next Prologue, properly signed, which you can print out, add your name(s), and hopefully display in a place of prominence. And, hey, take a creative photo of you or you all to send it in for our slideshow at the end of the worship service for Summer Solstice.

Lastly, in deepest gratitude to our staff, lay leaders, congregation members and friends who help keep the good ship, UUCB, afloat with steadfast perseverance, work on needed course corrections, and love. Yes, love.

In Peace and Love,

MAM

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Special Announcement
Unitarian Universalist Association

May 2020

Essential and Virtual: Updated Guidance for Gathering

As states around the country begin to loosen guidelines and take actions to reopen, even as COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to climb, we have received many questions from congregations about returning to in-person gatherings.

Over the past several weeks, the UUA has consulted with multiple public health officials in order to update the guidance we provided on March 12 recommending congregations stop gathering in person.

Based on advice from experts, we continue to recommend that congregations not gather in person. We also recommend that congregations begin planning for virtual operations for the next year (through May 2021).

Take a moment to breathe. I know this is significant.

While there is much public conversation about “reopening,” the reality is public health officials consistently predict a long trajectory for this pandemic. A majority of our congregational members, leaders, and staff members are in high-risk categories. Our care for the well-being and safety of our members and staff must be a priority in this pandemic.

This pandemic teaches us that our actions directly impact the health and well-being of our neighbors.

Additionally, religious gatherings are considered highly contagious events. The acts of singing, the familiarity of people across households, the multigenerational community of children, youth, adults, and seniors—the things that make our congregations so special—also create more risk for spreading the virus.

Given that so much uncertainty and risk remain, anticipating a year of virtual operations allows for more creative long-term planning, while still being flexible if conditions change significantly. We recognize that with time, and depending on the specific conditions and recommendations of local public health officials, small in-person groups of people and limited staff activities onsite may become possible while wearing masks, observing social distancing guidelines, and following diligent cleaning practices.

In making our recommendations, we are guided by science and our deepest held values. This pandemic teaches us that our actions directly impact the health and well-being of our neighbors and so it is imperative that we make choices that keep our congregations and larger community safer. As COVID-19 disproportionately impacts people with disabilities, Black people, Indigenous communities, Latinx people, the elderly, and essential workers, a majority of whom are women and women of color, religious communities have a moral responsibility to do all we can to reduce risks for those already at such high risk.

Public health officials are clear. There will need to be multiple weeks of reduction in infections, adequate testing, sufficient personal protective equipment available, contact tracing programs, and perhaps a vaccine before it will be safe for many of our congregations to fully gather in person again.

All this said, **our ministries are essential services.** I am moved by congregations who are increasing their services and generosity to the larger community during this pandemic. I am inspired by those who are keeping their “virtual” doors open. Many congregations have committed to keeping their services widely accessible and available to new people and visitors, while also creating more opportunities for virtual small groups to tend to the social, spiritual, emotional, and material needs of their members.

We hope that a vaccine or an effective treatment will be found soon to change this timeline. In the meantime, being able to plan the longer horizon of virtual services offers an opportunity to be creative in planning for life-giving, essential ministry across physical distance.

Our detailed [UUA Guidelines on Gathering In Person as COVID-19 Subsides](#) include specific questions for congregations to ask to determine risk assessment and readiness plans before

beginning any moves to gather in person. We will continue to update them as more information becomes available. As always, we encourage you to reach out to [UUA regional staff](#) if you need support in your planning.

I continue to hold you, your community, and all of our people in my heart and in my prayers. I know adjusting to this new reality is heartbreaking. I also believe congregations who continue to lean into their mission and life-saving ministry will find ways to thrive in this time. Ministry is so deeply needed. As is moral leadership rooted in community care and in science. May we keep offering this to our communities.

Yours in love and gratitude,
Susan

Reverend Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray
President, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Care for our Congregations

Recognizing the increasing need for pastoral care (including for leaders!) and trained pastoral care leaders, here is a new course from the UUA Leadership Institute: [Spiritual Care Training for Congregational Leaders](#)

Care for our Communities

[Register to join UUs in rallying with the Poor People's Campaign](#) at the online June 20 Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington! Gather with thousands of people of faith in demanding officials enact a platform for ALL the people, and learn how to organize for systemic changes in your community.

It is hard to remember all the wonderful music we made together before the COVID plague descended upon us. I do know that we were blessed with beautiful piano music from staff pianist Ray Fellman, as well as our amazing substitutes Kim Carballo, Beverly McGahey, and Keaton Springfield. Jill Courtney again led our Children's Choir through the year and even into the Virtual choir era, bless her. Our choir rose to the challenge of a huge variety of music in many styles, as always. Many wonderful guest musicians graced our services, especially after we went to livestream only. I can't thank you all enough!

The bright spot has been that we continue to commission new choral pieces in memory of our departed choir members. So far we have commissioned Lauren Bernofsky's "Hope Is the Thing With Feathers" in memory of Sandy Taylor, Sarah Flint's "Earth, Courage, Calm Abiding" in memory of Cherry Merritt-Darriau, Keaton Springfield's "Be Strong, Be Faithful, Be Beautiful" in memory of Herb Kiesling, Aaron Travers's choral tango "Weave In, My Hardy Life" in memory of Dan Quilter (to be premiered virtually this summer), and we are participating in a consortium for a large piece by Melissa Dunphy called "Votes for Women" in memory of Ray Murray and Bill Lynch. I am looking for just the right projects to commemorate Dan Willard, Jannifer Cockrell, Pep Sobrer, and John Lawson (if I am forgetting somebody, my sincere apologies - the list is on my desk at the church).

As always, it is an honor to continue to serve this wonderful congregation, to work with our superb staff, and to have the choir as my extended family. We will come through this difficult time stronger, I hope. I so look forward to making music with and for you again.

Love,
Susan Swaney

Church Administrator's Annual Report

A Year of Change and Challenge

This year our congregation has proved resilient in many ways as we have been challenged by the negotiated resignation of our Associate Minister and adjustments to congregational systems resulting from that, and the onslaught of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the decision-making needed to protect the health of our congregation and community.

Facilities Use

In normal times, we schedule an average of 20 of our own meetings each week in addition to two Sunday services, and we also provide space for weekly support groups of many kinds, weekly rehearsals for two community choirs, and occasional recitals. Because of our needing to close our building in mid-March due to COVID-19, most of our meetings have moved to online meeting platforms like Zoom, and our non-church building users have had to also figure out ways to be together virtually. Our Sunday service is now livestreamed once at 10:15 a.m. each week, and an archived video is available online within a few hours.

Office Assistants and Their Support

We deeply appreciate our Office Assistants, Monica Overman (since 2012) and Mandy Skinner (since 2018), who continue to provide friendly and knowledgeable support, schedule online meetings, provide editing for our various publications and website, take care of pledge bookkeeping, and provide a variety of backup administrative services. All three of us have been working from our homes since March 13, 2020. Our office hours remain Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are reachable by email: Carol Marks, admin(at)uubloomington.org and Monica Overman and Mandy Skinner, office(at)uubloomington.org.

Areas of Administrative Activity

included my supervision of all six of these support staff members:

Jeff Stone, Custodian

Monica Overman and Mandy Skinner, Office Assistants

Jessica Bailey, Bookkeeper

Ned Joyner and Andy Beargie, Multimedia Specialists

And many stalwart office volunteers.

Other Related Activities

- Provide support to the Building Oversight Committee in hiring contractors for repairs and maintenance
- Schedule and un-schedule church and non-church use of the Facilities
- Oversee and edit publications, website and Facebook
- Review accounting and produce budget reports monthly
- Update Pledge records
- Oversee Kitchen, Library and Archives activities
- Assist the Bazaar Committee, the Auction Committee, and Stewardship

Church Administration Beyond Bloomington

In Spokane in June 2019, I was elected for two more years to serve as Vice President of the Association of UU Administrators (AUUA), the professional organization for UU administrators throughout North America. I have been a member of this organization since 1993. This year I attended nine online AUUA board meetings, supported the planning of programming of our now completely online 2020 Professional Days meetings, and attended several other related online meetings including the AUUA's ministerial advisory group, UU professional association leadership group, and several from the UUA's Office of Church Staff Finances concerning COVID-19 response and resources. I have served on the AUUA's Good Offices Team since January 2019, assisting other church administrators who are having difficulties in their work. I will be unavailable June 15-17 as I attend a number of online gatherings associated with AUUA's 2020 Professional Days.

This has been a difficult year for our congregation, and we will continue to be challenged in the coming months, but I am impressed by the resilience and love expressed through it all by the ministers, staff, leaders, and members of our congregation.

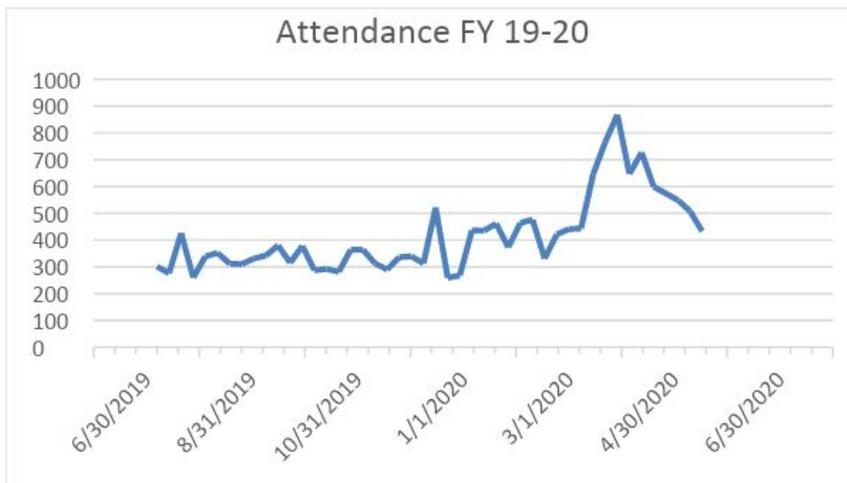
Carol Marks, your Church Administrator since May 1992
May 14, 2020

Connections Coordinator Annual Report

This year brought with it many changes and challenges. The first nine months of the year consisted of normal connections activities. The last three months have necessitated quite a few new functions for my position. (see lists of continuing and new activities below)

Throughout the year we continued to welcome newcomers and new members into our congregation. We have welcomed a total of 41 new members since this time last year, bringing us to a total of 551 members.

In 2019 we saw a drop in overall worship service attendance, followed by a marked resurgence in the first three months of 2020. As a result of the pandemic, starting March 15 our worship services have been offered via livestream and recorded video only. During this time, the number of people attending our worship services has grown, with more than 500 watching live on some Sundays and hundreds (400+) watching the recorded video of each service.



Connections Activities (pre-March 2020)

Welcoming Newcomers

- Facilitation of the New to UU (formerly First Steps) classes once a month
- Organization of the Exploring Unitarian Universalism classes throughout the year
- Organization of the Getting Involved Fairs in February and August
- Welcome people who are new to the church
- Wear the “Ask Me” sash on Sunday mornings
- Maintenance of multiple brochures regarding the church
- Maintenance of the on-line Connections questionnaire, and follow-up as needed, to help connect newcomers to the church
- Host membership ceremonies

Supporting Our Congregation

- Organize Young Adult and Campus Ministry efforts
- Organize lunches for UU members who live at Bell Trace and Meadowood
- Serve the Annual Goods and Services Auction Committee
- Maintain membership and attendance data
- Conduct an annual review of the membership roll

- Contact members during the month of their membership anniversary
- Work with ministers and Lay Leaders to create on-line Surveys
- Serve the Leadership Cultivation Committee
- Serve the Caring Committee
- Recruit volunteers for many activities and events
- Serve as the staff point person for Java Crew, Greeters and Welcomers, and Flame Keepers
- Obtained Level 2 Alzheimer's Friendly Location certification through the Alzheimer's Resource Service
- Display feather flags on the church grounds to reflect our values
- Provide outreach at community events such as the IU Student Involvement Fair and multiple Pride events
- Create Facebook posts and events
- Support organization of new groups such as the Hikers, Families with Young Children, and Gardeners

Campus Ministry

Last fall, I, along with a couple volunteers, represented the church at a booth at the IU Student Involvement fair. This was not only a great opportunity to let the campus community know about our church, but also to teach young adults about Unitarian Universalism in general.

Additionally, I organized Young Adult Conversations and Lunch Out events. These events were held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for Young Adults ages 18-35. Young Adult Conversations were held at the church, and Lunch Out was held at various nearby restaurants. These events were made possible by a generous donation to the Young Adult and Campus Ministry program.

New activities beginning March 13, 2020

- Set up PayPal account to receive church offering and donations
- Set up five Zoom accounts and created Zoom meeting scheduling procedure
- Provided Zoom technical support to congregation members
- Created Caring Questionnaire and processes to help keep us connected during the pandemic
- Created and hosted Virtual Coffee Hour
- Moved "New to UU" and "Exploring Unitarian Universalism" classes to Zoom
- Worked with the Auction committee to create the online auction
- Created online forms to take the place of paper forms (guest card, petition to fundraise, etc)
- Made weekly calls to connect with congregation members
- Held the first ever Zoom membership ceremony with seven participants
- Worked with the Car Parade committee to organize a car parade
- Created Virtual Office Hour event for weekly connections
- Worked to help create a list of possible participants for a grief support group
- Created new ways to connect with our Young Adults
- Worked with the Board to organize the Spring Congregational Meeting
- Served on a committee to apply for a technology grant from the Center for Congregations

Ann LeDuc

Connections Coordinator

Religious Education Annual Report

Minister of Religious Education: Reverend Emily Manvel Leite
Director of Religious Education: Adrienne Summerlot
Religious Education Assistant: Stephanie Kimball

Religious Education Team Staffing Changes

We had several staff changes this year. Kitty McIntosh, our religious education assistant for the past several years, left the position in August for another job. Dalton Gibson served in this role from August 2019-March 2020. Stephanie Kimball was hired and joined the RE Team in the assistant role beginning March 2020. In May 2020, the board realigned the RE Staff structure. Emily, our Minister of Religious Education, has taken up additional ministerial roles upon the resignation of our Associate Minister. Among other responsibilities, Emily has become Adrienne's supervisor.

Religious Education Program Population

During the 2019-2020 year, registration was slower and reflective of not having a focused registration drive during coffee hour in August. We have 84 children and youth registered in the religious education program and worked with over 50 volunteer teachers. We welcomed a handful of new families, at least 1 per class, into the program. We continued to have guests and visiting children each week until shutdown and the DRE emails those who have visited 3 or more times to encourage them to register.

Summary of Religious Education Programming

June & July 2019

Last summer, we offered different options for children and youth, including some new choices. We prioritized opportunities to be with friends, make new connections, learn, grow, and consider participating together as a family. For the first time in our Sunday program, we explicitly invited adults to participate, choosing the same thing or something different than a child or youth they brought along. Adults without children and youth were also invited.

9:15am - Early Risers Breakfast Club (Preschool-Adults)

Cooking has always been a beloved class option in religious education. Through this offering we were able to educate our congregation about sustainable cooking and eating lower on the food chain, which helps us to put our Unitarian Universalist promises of Yearning to Learn and Value the Earth into action. We felt this was a wonderful way to lean into our June theme of Hospitality and July's theme of Grace, as we know food brings folks together. Additional goals for this offering were to foster community and encourage more people to attend the first service. It cost approximately \$100 per Sunday for supplies and required about 4 volunteers in addition to the RE staff to run smoothly.

11:15am - Spirit Play for All Ages (Preschool-Adults)

Our Spirit Play classroom is a cherished space that many of our children and youth experienced when they were younger and have several who have welcomed the opportunity to revisit. Through offering Spirit Play during the 11:15am service, we encouraged children and adults to find community and connect with the power of stories. The preschoolers were especially engaged when older children, teens, and adults joined them to hear the story in their classroom.

11:15am - Makerspace (Kindergarten-Adults)

Makerspace encourages us to draw on our Unitarian Universalist promises of Yearning to Learn and Believing in Our Ideas. We offered it as we engaged with our June theme of Hospitality, as we made things to be used in our wider community and July's theme of Grace, as we investigated ways to find a bit of grace in our everyday life.

Our goals for offering Makerspace during the 11:15 am service were to connect people and to hold space for creative exploration and to create a safe place to experiment and to challenge ourselves to think critically, problem solve and discover new ways to do things.

August 2019 - Stream of Possibilities

Our August Intersession was focused on welcoming the children into the co-creation of the Water Communion service this year. The children enjoyed singing facilitated by Jill Courtney, movement led by Joe Grimme, musical components facilitated by Colleen Haas, as well as, set creation and artistic projects celebrating water. The Water Communion service created by Adrienne and Reverend Mary Ann was well received. Children and families and the rest of the congregation appreciated the children's involvement and contributions. Reverend Emily supported the preschool program and childcare through August so Adrienne and new RE Assistant Dalton Gibson could focus on the Water Communion. Our preschool children enjoyed hearing water-themed stories and exploring water activities in their regular Spirit Play class.

2019-2020 Fall and Spring Terms (September 2019-March 2020)

Spirit Play (preschool and K+/K-2 classes)

Our Spirit Play classrooms continue to provide a place for children to freely explore their own ideas and responses to our Unitarian Universalist Promises (principles) and Sources as introduced through stories from UU history, our own congregation and the world, and children's literature. They enjoy free time to engage with art, science, and spiritual practices, and build a strong community through playing, learning, and negotiating together. This year, Emily trained 6 new teachers in Spirit Play. All of our story baskets were assessed this year for racial diversity, and figures were replaced as needed. The Flaming Chalice lesson was modified to open the possibility that another UU Promise might be emerging for our congregation. This creates the possibility of adding the proposed 8th Principle ("We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountability dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."--yet to be adapted into child-friendly language) in the near future. In addition, Emily created new story baskets to address social justice work and diversity, including *The Little Stream Called to the Sea* (traditional Sufi), *The Subway Sparrow* by Leyla Torres, *Alma and How She Got her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal, *We March* by Shane Evans and *I'm New Here* by Anne Sibley O'Brien.

World of Wonder (Preschool)

Our preschool classes had 2-9 children each Sunday, with more typically attending first service. Religious Education staff agreed in the fall that it would be best to have preschool continue on Religious Exploration Sundays, to provide consistency for the preschoolers and more possibilities for the other children's learning. These weeks are weeks without a story, providing time to play and explore in the classroom, though storybooks are made available for teachers and children to read together. Subs covered each of these exploration weeks, so that regular teachers had their expected days off.

Roots and Wings (Kindergarten and Up at 9:15am, K-2nd grade at 11:15am)

Attendance in our K+ and K-2 class was in the 3-8 child range each Sunday--a very nice-sized group for conversation and exploration. A highlight this year was an opportunity to bring in a multilingual teacher to tell a new story that included speaking English, Spanish, and Polish.

Curiosity Club (3rd -5th grade at 11:15am) utilized lessons written in house by Adrienne Summerlot which bring thematic ministry into the classroom. Kids and teachers love the conversational style of this class, hands on art projects and playfulness like this year's dance party. They also thrived when given the opportunity to learn about Hinduism and mindfulness. Several times we created sacred space for joys and sorrows, forgiveness, and Imbolc.

Jedi Academy (6th-8th grade at 11:15am- Fall 2019) was initially well received even for the non-Star Wars fans as it touches on issues pertinent to middle school aged kids. It has a lovely balance of fun, whimsy and deep discussion. In an effort to make sure we reach kids who may not feel compelled to attend due to the curriculum, and to foster community for the 6th and 7th graders who we had hope would be enrolled in OWL in 2020-2021 school year, we held a purely social and fun Sunday on the last Sunday of each month with our fantastic game gurus, Margie and Drew Schrader.

Adrienne Summerlot and Jamie Kirkley took 6 kids to the regional Middle School Youth retreat at Camp Piomingo in Brandenburg, KY September 29th-30th.

We opted to survey families in December about this age group's preferences for January Intersession and whether they would like to continue the Jedi Academy curriculum or have an opportunity to change. One of the things that had become apparent is there were a significant number of 6th graders and 8th graders and very few 7th graders to bridge the gap. After input from families and youth it was determined to have a more connection and community focused youth empowered model for just 6th-7th graders, and invite the 8th graders to join the youth group. (see youth group for more information)

6th-7th graders (February-March 2020)

Fortunately, two of the volunteer advisors working with this group continued one and welcomed another familiar face to join them. This group chose to focus on sharing their skills for social justice. In the short time they met, they bagged over 200 lbs of food for Back to Basics Pet Food Pantry and hosted a bake sale that raised \$180 dollars from Monroe County Humane Association. They also continued to meet once a month with game gurus Angela Lexmond and Margie Schrader for fun, food, and fellowship.

Youth Group (8th/9th-12th Grade) August-March

This has been a rebuilding year for the youth group, having lost three active seniors that were half of the core membership of the group. It was a very small group in the fall, with only 2-3 youth most Sundays. The challenge of running youth group and Coming of Age simultaneously was significant, since there is only one active member of the youth group who is not doing Coming of Age. RE staff decided not to have youth group on Coming of Age Sundays.

As our Spring Semester started, we re-worked the youth group to meet during second service and to include 8th graders. Staff decided in consultation with the youth advisors to try using a curriculum. The launch of the 8th-12th grade youth group was attended by over a dozen youth to check out an Escape Room themed planning experience. The attendance on following Sundays varied from 5 to 14 youth, and the curriculum drew mixed reviews. A huge frustration was the unreliable internet in the youth room, which has now been resolved.

Special Programs:

Coming of Age Program

Coming of Age this year included seven 9th and 10th grade youth. When COVID hit, the group had finally hit its stride and developed a collective sense of itself as an intergenerational community. That feeling made it possible to complete the program via Zoom meeting, recorded credo statements, and a virtual service. We very much hope to have an in-person celebration of their accomplishments at some future date.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL) for 1st-2nd grade

This six week course was facilitated by John Summerlot and Adrienne Summerlot for 8 energetic children. This curriculum is very outdated and we are awaiting the revised and updated copy from UUA. It currently requires intensive adaption and augmentation which is why the DRE facilitated the course.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL) for 4th & 5th grade

10 kids enrolled in Our Whole Lives for this age group for this eight week course which was facilitated by Matt Stonecipher and Carol McCord. When we offer this again, we have determined the course should be 10 weeks to allow more spaciousness for content.

***An additional section of OWL for 4th-5th grade was planned for March-May, but did not happen this year due to the pandemic.*

January Wintersession 2019 - Side With Love

Adrienne created a wintersession (4 weeks) centered on connecting with our shared values as Unitarian Universalists. We learned about hidden figures who sided with love, brought communities together and created change in our world. A different story was highlighted each Sunday during the Time for All Ages. Our preschool age children went to their familiar Spirit Play classroom to further explore the story in Room 103. Reverend Emily crafted beautiful story baskets for each of the featured stories. Our Kindergarten-7th grade students celebrated prophetic voices of color and deepened their understanding of the stories through cooking, art and music. The congregation learned about Georgia Gilmore, James Weldon Johnson and artists of The Harlem Renaissance. To follow up, religious education hosted a Side With Love Intergenerational Service on February 16th followed for a social justice inspired soup lunch.

Childcare

We hired a new childcare coordinator, Hannah Worton, who oversees the childcare staff and reports directly to the Director of Religious Education. Hannah also provides a consistent adult presence in the room working most Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. This year, we began to offer childcare regularly on Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm with a few goals in mind: 1) make it easier for church groups to schedule meetings and know childcare is available 2) add resource for ministers should they need to meet with someone with a family 3) hold space for busy families and encourage them to practice self care (we have also reserved the meeting room as a quiet space during this time) and families can drop in and utilize childcare. We have consolidated our staff to only a few steady childcare folks but will seek additional staff when needed.

Religious Education Program during COVID-19 (March 2020-Current)

Since the pandemic shut down began, Adrienne has created weekly lessons in consultation with Emily and Stephanie. These are shared via email to registered families and are accessible on our Religious Education webpage to newcomers, visitors and folks of all ages. Adrienne also hosted daily story time with activity ideas for families on Monday-Friday from March-April using her professional facebook page. Adrienne continues to follow and use social media for digital ministry, to foster community connection and share ideas for UUCB. Emily and Adrienne have been in regular communication with RE Families and Teachers; checking in with a

few teachers and families each week. When needed, pastoral and practical follow up are referred to the ministers, Ann LeDuc, and the Caring Committee. Religious Education launched a Postal Pals program in May for intergenerational connection and will continue to offer invitations in the future. We are partnering with a local group of religious educators in a group, Interfaith Friends to develop a caring calendar with activities for families and congregations to engage in social justice work in the Bloomington community to support those most affected by COVID-19. Recently, we put out a survey to families to gain insight into how we might best support parents, as well as provide religious education to children and youth this summer virtually. RE staff, along with the rest of the staff, are being urged to move slowly and thoughtfully as we create new programming for this time. Visioning for the future of religious education during shut down is being explored with the RE Vision Team and the Dismantling White Supremacy working group. Please see their reports to learn more about those activities.

Extra Events and Programs

- Splash of the Sacred Picnic and Pool Party
- Water Communion Intergenerational Service
- Fall Equinox Service
- Religious Exploration Math Day with Malke Rosenfeld
- Celebration of Ancestors
- Age of Reason
- Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service
- Giving Tree
- Procession of Giving
- Winter Solstice Intergenerational Service
- Holiday Sing Along
- Away in a Manger Christmas Eve Service
- All Ages New Year's Eve Celebration
- Side With Love Intergenerational Service & Social Justice Soup Fundraiser
- Religious Exploration - Several guests from within the congregation joined our kids for small group conversation in a "Show and Tell" style around special objects and fond memories.
- Coming of Age Service
- Flower Communion Intergenerational Service
- Interfaith Friends (MLK Event supporting school social workers, COVID Caring Calendar)

Professional Development

Adrienne and Emily attended the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Fall Conference in early November in Baltimore. This professional gathering provided more resources to move forward the anti-racism/anti-oppression work they are currently engaged with, as well as offering opportunities to connect with and be inspired by colleagues from all around the country. They also attended the 4th Annual Monroe County Childhood Conditions Summit on November 19th. They are currently engaged with a program exploring race and racism in ourselves as individuals and in our country (more in Dismantling White Supremacy report below).

Director of Religious Education, Adrienne Summerlot

Adrienne is continuing to serve as the DRE liaison for the Heartland Youth Area Council (high school youth and adults who plan our middle school and high school youth events). She is also serving as co-chair of the

Heartland Chapter of Liberal Religious Educators, working to create opportunities for educators to connect and find professional support. She is also a member of the 8th Principle Learning Community which meets virtually monthly to explore the adoption of the 8th principle in their congregation. She attended the Mid America Regional Assembly in April.

Minister of Religious Education, Emily Manvel Leite

Emily is continuing to serve as a Spirit Play Trainer, helping to train volunteers across the country. She provided significant ministerial coverage during Reverend Mary Ann's sabbatical from September-December, including pastoral care, two additional Sunday Services, and a memorial service. Recently Emily's position has become full time, and she has significantly increased ministerial responsibilities. She has also become Adrienne's supervisor, and they are in the process of creating a new covenant to reflect this new relationship.

Dismantling White Supremacy Working Group

Current Group Members are: Adrienne Summerlot, Emily Manvel Leite, Aleisha Kropf, Martha Oakley, Whyne Reed, Mary Beth O'Brien, and Stephanie Kimball. Kitty McIntosh was a part of the group through March 2020.

In June 2019, DWSWG conducted a physical audit of our space, with special attention to religious education classrooms, the nursery, and childcare. In July 2019, they committed to transforming our program to be more aware of issues around race and oppression and chose to begin this work with religious education teachers and advisors. We intend to work in partnership and determine how to best bring the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression to children, youth and families. Members attended the Fall Teacher Orientation and Planning Session (TOPS) to invite the teachers and advisors to join this work, and the teachers enthusiastically signed on. An online resource was created for teachers, advisors and mentors to engage with this work.

This year, the Dismantling White Supremacy Group:

- Hosted weekly small discussion groups for teachers and youth advisors to explore articles, books, podcasts relating to race.
- Presented a report at the December Congregational Meeting and engaged with individuals during a question and answer time afterwards.
- Purchased 50 copies of the anti-racist children's book *Not My Idea* and distributed them to families and teachers.
- Purchased and distributed copies of several adult books on anti-racism to teachers and interested parents.
- Hosted a "Confronting White Supremacy" event with Jada Bee
- In April 2020, the RE Vision Team committed most of the remaining 2019-2020 Religious Education budget to deepen our anti-racism work over the next four months. We hired Three Sisters Consulting to hold space for us as a working group. Reverend Macklin is joining DWS for some portion of this visioning work.

Religious Education Vision Team

Current Members are: Ruellen Fessenbecke, Amy Makice, Lisa Meuser, Jamie Kirkley, and RE staff.

This year, our RE Vision Team became active in recruiting volunteer teachers again, and had good conversations and recruitment results. This has been much appreciated by RE staff.

They explored ways to bring Relational Cultural Theory and anti-racism work to our congregation and to Religious Education. Amy Makice is now offering a book group. In April 2020, the RE Vision Team chose to commit most of the remaining 2019-2020 Religious Education budget to deepen our anti-racism work by supporting the Dismantling White Supremacy working group in exploring where we are as individuals and how we can transform our program and congregation.

The Vision Team also took time this year to share visioning for our future. Shared ideas included:

- Warm welcoming spaces, friendships blossoming among people of all ages, connections with UU promises that extend outward into the daily lives of children, youth, and families.
- Adults and children learning alongside one another.
- Supporting children and youth in making connections with one another and adults.
- Bringing the language of promises into the awareness of the whole congregation through the time for all ages and/or sermons.
- Strengthening connection of adult members of the community with Religious Education experiences.
- Providing many opportunities for parents and families to connect—both with materials in person and online, and especially with anti-racism/anti-oppression work.

It is the work of upcoming months to re-work this vision and to consider how these things can be manifested during the pandemic. Pressing questions include the timing and content of possible offerings.

COMMITTEES and TASK FORCES

Auction

Because the coronavirus pandemic made it necessary for us to close our building, we moved our Goods and Services Auction at the beginning of May to an entirely online format using Auctria.com. This turned out to be a great program to use, and congregation members and friends participated actively for the entire week the auction was available online. Committee Chair Debbie Fish was thrilled to report that our net income from the auction will be around \$13,000, which exceeds our budgeted goal by \$1,000. Many thanks to the committee for organizing the event, to everyone who donated items, and to all who made bids on those wonderful items. Special thanks to Drew Schrader for his technical expertise with Auctria.com.

Carol Marks, Church Administrator (for the Auction Committee)

Booktable

The Booktable Committee runs the Booktable during the Fellowship Hour every Sunday to:

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

The Booktable supported the book sale at the annual UU Holiday Bazaar 2019 by providing used book donations and assistance with set-up, sales, and tear-down. Proceeds from weekly sales and donations were used for purchasing new materials for the Booktable, and for the UUCB Library. The Booktable is a self-sustaining committee.

The volunteer Booktable crew members during 2019-2020 were Judy Berkshire, Anne Clark, Mike and Rita Drescher, Susan Gulick, Mary Hambly, Marlin Howard, Judy Kelly, Glee Noble, Harold Ogren, Veda Stanfield, and Yasuko Watt. If you are interested in helping with the Booktable, please contact Glee Noble, gleenoble@yahoo.com.

Caring Committee

From July, 2019-March, 2020, our UU Caring Committee continued our caring services to our UU Church Community. We coordinated with our volunteers to provide; transportation, meal delivery, visits, cards and memorial receptions.

Starting in March of 2020, we had to redesign our caring services due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time of “stay in place,” we wanted to make connections with our elders, especially those alone, plus those UUs who have medical issues. The ministers, caring committee and our health team have collaborated to provide consistent contact, mainly by phone, to our UU folks to make sure they have resources for food, medicine, and any other needs. Volunteers also help with this effort. We want to give special thanks to Ann LeDuc for making all this possible by her “connection skills” to reach out and care for those in our church community.

Submitted by Sharon Yarber, Chair

Chalice Circles

This year has been unusually eventful for Chalice Circles. We had thirteen facilitators leading eleven circles, with a total of approximately 100 participants. As is usual, some groups added or lost participants during the year for various reasons. The facilitators met monthly in their own circles for continuing education and to gain insights from each other. For the first part of the year, all circles met either in the facilitators’ homes or at the church, and all were in Bloomington except for one group meeting in Martinsville. With the resignation of Rev. McNeill mid-year, Rev. Macklin and Rev. Leite discontinued regularly meeting with the facilitators, and Rev. Barbara Child was recruited to join us as ministerial support for the rest of the year. Rev. Child has had experience teaching and working with Chalice Circles in other UU congregations.

Until the COVID-19 pandemic started affecting all church activities in March, meetings were in person, but when the church closed due to the pandemic, we immediately started all our meetings virtually, using Zoom rooms scheduled by the church. This required education for some of our participants, and has been mostly satisfactory, with a few people having difficulties connecting to their circles due to technical issues or poor internet connectivity from their homes, and a few not being able to participate online. This issue has demonstrated a “digital divide,” with access to meetings now being defined by one’s computer/phone equipment and reliable internet access instead of physical access to the church building. Ann LeDuc and the church office staff have helped us greatly by providing technical support where possible.

Thinking that some Circle participants might welcome continuing to meet during June and July under the present conditions of self-isolation, the Executive Committee asked the facilitators if they would be willing to continue facilitating instead of finishing the year at the end of May as is our usual practice. Many are willing to do so, and the Executive Committee has also decided to open empty places in some Circles to others in the church who may also want the connection of small group ministry in the summer months.

Some service projects were accomplished, but after the stay-at-home order it was not possible to do most in-person service projects, so working on the church grounds at a safe social distance is a possibility as the weather warms, and some groups are donating the \$50 allotted to each Chalice Circle to another charitable organization or back to church funds.

We are indebted to the hard work of all our facilitators in making the transition to online meetings, as this has not been easy for some. Facilitation takes a great deal of dedication, but their willingness to go the extra mile this year has been invaluable in making the Chalice Circles year as seamless as possible under these unusual circumstances.

Fellowship Dinners

The Fellowship Dinner group ended the year with 58 members, with participating members ranging from 47 to 58 as people joined and dropped out. We held a total of 25 dinners in the months of October, November, January, and February of 2019/2020. Because of COVID-19 risk, we scheduled and then cancelled seven dinners for March. No dinners were scheduled for April. The dinners ranged in size from six to twelve participants, with five to seven dinners held in the various months. We would like to thank Ann LeDuc for publicizing the Fellowship Dinners in her orientations to new church members. Her efforts helped bring in several new participants this year. We are hopeful that we will be able to begin the dinners again during the 2020/2021 season but we will only do so if it is deemed to be safe and we have enough diners who feel it will be safe.

Respectfully, Kathy Gilbert, facilitator

Green Building and Grounds

BUILDING

Our Building received 2019 EnergyStar Certification, with a score of 96 out of 100 for buildings of worship. We gave a solar tour in September, as part of a nationwide promotion of renewable energy. From May 16, 2019 to May 15, 2020 our solar arrays produced or offset over 90% of our electricity and saved over \$6,000 between **\$2,698.76 in credits** on our bills and amount saved on electricity used directly from the panels through mid-March 2020.* Understandably, since the building is closed, our energy use from the grid was 42% of the same period in 2019. Since the first arrays were installed in mid-May 2013 we have saved over \$29,400.

***We haven't been able to track the PV production since the Internet service was upgraded in March.**

GROUNDS

In the summer of 2019 over 30 volunteers, including a chalice circle, took on maintenance of small areas of the grounds, and many have signed up to do so again in 2020. A site plan with numbered areas to be maintained was created and uploaded to the Green Sanctuary Task Force portion of the church website. With a grant from Special Purposes we hired Gardens by Ana, whose employees from Made Up Mind (former felons) ran our drip irrigation to the evergreen trees during the dry months of summer 2019, weeding while the system runs. The grant will cover a second year of their services in the summer of 2020. Most of the everbearing strawberries wintered over in our garden tower, and a volunteer planted lettuce and herbs in the top and empty pockets. During the COVID-19 building closure our composting cabinet was closed, and members took their organic materials to cabinets outside the Bloomingfoods East or Near West Side stores.

Molly O'Donnell

Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar

The Bazaar was held on Dec 6 and 7. The event was moderately well-attended by church members, friends and the general public. We continue to be an ongoing well-anticipated community event. Over 100 church members and friends were involved in setting up, staffing booths, sorting books and white elephants, serving meals and baking enormous amounts of cookies, pies, and other baked goods of all kinds. The Artisans continue to appreciate the atmosphere and support of the bazaar artisan committee. The artisans are however, concerned about the change in shopping habits of people. More people are shopping online, and less at venues such as the Bazaar. We are meeting these concerns by examining our publicity practices and our jury process.

The Bazaar earned approximately \$10,000 for the general fund and \$2000 for Women's Alliance. The Task forces also earned approx \$8000 for their projects. Other gains for the church are opportunities for members to work together and meet new people. The Bazaar also provides an opportunity for community members to visit the church in a non-threatening way and be introduced to the church.

Rich LeDuc and I are honored to co-chair the Bazaar in 2020 in whatever form it takes.

-Ruellen Fessenbecker

Humanist Forum

During the last year the Humanist Forum met twenty times after church at 12:45 in Room 208. We had two pitch-in dinners to decide our topics, by a vote of those attending. All the topics are posted on the UU website (as well as the topics for the past nine years): [Humanist Forum Topics](#).

The attendance at the forum varies with time of year from eight to forty. New participants are always welcome. The short time span (15 minutes) used by the presenters allows plenty of time for all participant's comments, questions, and resulting discussion."

The normal meeting schedule is every two weeks, alternating with the FreeThinkers. However, this was interrupted by the coronavirus. Since March 22 we have held joint meetings of the Humanist Forum and the Freethinkers via Zoom (thanks to the help of Ann LeDuc). The structure of the Zoom meetings is still under discussion, and so for now topics for each week are no longer being posted on the website.

Anyone who is not getting the email from our group about the Zoom ID is invited to contact [Harold Ogren](#) to get instructions and get added to our email list.

Library

Ralph & Annetta Fuchs Library

The UUCB library committee met monthly until the COVID pandemic closed the church in early March. Committee members are: Ginny Richey, Glee Noble, Michele McCaffrey, Judy Bennett, and Anne Haynes. Ginny took responsibility for our table at the Getting Involved Fair, and for keeping our new additions correctly labeled after cataloguing and creating and filing the catalog cards. Judy assisted with assigning call numbers to new books and checked in borrowed books. We set up a shelving system for our CDs and DVDs.

We bought new racks to better display our collection and we relabeled shelves. Glee, as Chair of the Book Table, whose profits are meant to go towards new library books, helped purchase new books requested by our Ministers and some congregants, and we added a shelf of donated books by UUCB authors, written in the past 20 years. A Library information sheet was included in a Sunday bulletin. Overdue books were tracked and patrons reminded to return them. Some of these books were returned. We accomplished some shelf reading. We recruited three volunteers, and we researched and found some tutorials that can be used to teach volunteers how to shelve books and shelf read, but we were unable to use our volunteers before the church was closed. Unfortunately, we have been unable to deal with library concerns remotely, but will be back on the job when the church reopens. This has been a hard-working committee, and their contributions to making the Library collection usable and welcoming are greatly appreciated!

Submitted by Anne Haynes, Chair

Life Stories Group

Over the last year our mailing list included eleven of us, of which five to nine of us are frequent attenders depending on the time of year, two men, and nine women. We changed to Zoom gatherings this spring due to the virus, and the last meeting was well attended. We meet every Friday of the year to read the writings we bring to the group. As usual, our writings are varied and each participant determines their own methodology.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving continues to seek ways to raise awareness of planned giving in the congregation and encourage everyone to make a will. We regularly contact potential donors in face-to-face visits, and each fall we celebrate our growing ranks of donors with an appreciation luncheon.

Members: Charlotte Appel, Libby DeVoe (chair), Ann Kamman, Harlan Lewis, Linda Pickle, Bob Port

Right Relations

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington share in a Covenant of Right Relations. We agree to exemplify—as best we can—the seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association in how we establish and nurture community together. The Right Relations Committee exists to provide resources to that ongoing process, particularly when situations of conflict arise.

One such resource currently being offered is a book discussion. The focus is on *When Getting Along Is Not Enough: Reconstructing Race in our Lives and Relationships* by Dr. Maureen Walker, a recent guest in our virtual pulpit. Taking place over four Sundays (May 31 through June 21) with Amy Makice facilitating, the goal is to increase awareness and competence in that important area.

Amy Makice, Doris Wittenburg, Jack King

Special Purposes Fund

The Special Purposes Fund (SPF) started the 2020 fiscal year with Chris Haynes as chair. Andrew Appel joined the committee and assumed the position as chair in September. For the first half of the year the

remainder of the committee was Kathy Sideli, Harlan Lewis, Rich Slabach (Treasurer) and Stuart Yoak (Board at large). In January, Stuart was replaced by Julie Lawson.

During this fiscal year, SPF has received memorial donations in the name of Velma Harrison, Lloyd Orr, and Tommie Owens. There were also donations from two estate bequests during this time. Funds were used to commission musical compositions, support attendance at the BLUU Symposium, to provide matching funds to the Homelessness & Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors combined task forces to support seven local food banks and shelters, and to purchase PPE for Habitat employees and volunteers.

SPF started this fiscal year with \$392,568 in assets (endowment plus general) and stood at \$445,361 at the end of the third fiscal quarter. During the March market downturn, value losses in the Vanguard Wellington Fund were partially offset by increases in the Vanguard Short Term and Intermediate Term Bond funds. The Vanguard Wellington Fund Admiral Shares (VWENX) was at a year-to-date high of \$77.06/share on February 12, 202. They fell to \$57.08 (-26% from peak) at the market low of March 23, 2020 and have since rebounded to \$71.14/share (-7.7% from peak).

Andrew Appel, Chair

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance was founded in 1959 to manage the annual fundraising bazaar, help build fellowship, and give service and financial support to the church and community projects, as voted upon by the membership.

This year's officers were Ann Connors, President; Kathy Gilbert, Secretary; Doris Wittenburg, Treasurer; and Sharon Wiseman and Michele McCaffrey, Program Co-Chairs.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and to join the Alliance. We meet the first Thursday of the month for a fun brown bag lunch (with beverages and desserts provided by member volunteer hosts), and an interesting 30-minute presentation by a representative of a local nonprofit or the church, or other speaker. Our funding came from 20% of the net income from the UU Bazaar, and \$20 in annual dues from our over 50 members. With these funds we give back to the community and to the church. This year we gave over \$1,100 to local nonprofits. This included the Habitat for Humanity, Planned Parenthood, MCUM Holiday Basket, Soup Bowl Benefit (Hoosier Hills Food Bank), and UU's Green Sanctuary Task Force. We also provided \$1,000 to help send representatives to the General Assembly, and \$1,300 in annual cash gifts to all church staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Connors, President

SOCIAL JUSTICE Annual Report



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

Our congregation is very active in many areas of social justice. With the pandemic, activities have changed, and in some cases have been delayed. In other areas, particularly with hunger and homelessness, activities have increased substantially. KAP has moved from meeting in person to home delivery of activities helpful for children and their families.

The Third Sunday Social Justice Film series continued with increased attendance. The task forces found many creative fundraising mechanisms to support their activities and continued hosting parking during IU football games.

Several members of the Social Justice Circle pooled their funds and made a \$1500 donation to Shalom Community Center. They also supported creating a *How You Can Help* page on the church's website that is updated regularly. It is especially helpful for sharing ongoing opportunities to donate food and other needed items (such as toiletries, cleaning materials, clothes, etc) to different groups in the community.

3rd Sunday Social Justice Film Series

The second season of the film series continued our efforts to bring task force sponsored documentaries to the congregation and greater Bloomington area. Discussions followed the films, whether with provided study guides or led by the task force sponsor. We also encouraged relevant community group representation when possible.

September

Film: *Reverend Marvin Chandler: Open to the Moment*

Sponsoring TF: Racial Justice

Attendance: 35-40

Film Synopsis: The fascinating story of native Hoosier Reverend Marvin Chandler, whose life not only made a significant impact on Indiana, but on our nation as well. He never stopped sharing his love of music, commitment to justice, and passion for ministry with others. Film was followed by discussion with the filmmakers, including UU Alan Backler.

October

Film: *Get Out!* by Jordan Peele

Sponsoring TF: Racial Justice

Attendance: 15-20

Film Synopsis: In a step away from documentaries, this dark comedy/horror film explores one family's overly accommodating behavior of nervous attempts to deal with their daughter's interracial relationship.

November

Film: *Bag It!*

Sponsoring TF: Green Sanctuary

Attendance: 25-30

Film Synopsis: An average guy makes a resolution to stop using plastic bags at the grocery store. He comes to the conclusion that our consumptive use of plastic has finally caught up to us, and looks at what we can do about it. Today. Right now.

December

Film: *Better Angels: Reuniting America*

Sponsoring Task Force: 3rd Sunday SJ Film Series

Community Partner: Better Angels; a citizens' organization uniting Red and Blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America.

Attendance: 25-30

Film Synopsis: 8 Democratic-leaning voters and 7 Republican-leaning voters move through a Better Angels workshop, from initial skepticism to more profound understanding and empathy.

January

Film: *Mary Bateman Clark: A Woman of Colour and Courage*

Sponsoring TF: Racial Justice Task Force

Attendance: 30-35

Film Synopsis: The story of a slave brought to Indiana in 1815 and her court case to win her release from indentured servitude which went to the IN Supreme Court. The case demonstrated that even during the infancy of Indiana, important issues of justice, equality, and freedom were being debated and resolved.

UU Gladys DeVane is the on-screen narrator for the video. She and the filmmakers, including UU Alan Backler, led a discussion afterward.

February

Film: *The Dhamma Brothers*

Sponsoring TF: Hope for Prisoners

Community Partner: Open Mind Zen Meditation

Attendance: 20-25

Film Synopsis: This film is about human potential and transformation through the practice of meditation in an Alabama maximum security prison. This film has the power to dismantle stereotypes about men behind prison bars, and illustrates a path to freedom available to all.

March

Film: *Briars in the Cottonpatch: The Story of Koinonia Farm*

Sponsoring TF: Habitat and Racial Justice

Attendance: 30-35

Film Synopsis: About the unique Koinonia Farm in Georgia, a small Christian community where whites and blacks chose to live and work together as equals, despite the brutal and frightening consequences. Koinonia faced years of terror, boycotts and intimidation in the years leading up to the tumultuous Civil Rights era. Their

struggle helped plant the seeds for the global work of Habitat for Humanity, The Fuller Center for Housing and Jubilee Partners. Discussion followed on ways local residents can help provide affordable, decent housing and also achieve racial justice and harmony in Monroe County.

April

Film: *The Human Element*

Sponsoring TF: Green Sanctuary

Community Partner: Interfaith Power and Light

Attendance: online (# unknown)

Film Synopsis: With rare compassion and heart, *The Human Element* relays captivating stories from coast-to-coast, inspiring us to reevaluate our relationship with the natural world and look for ways to fix the problem.

End of Life Task Force

The End of Life Task Force (EOLTF) believes that our cultural consciousness needs to change with respect to death, terminal illnesses, aging, grief, and other parts of the end of life, and will work to do so.

Contacts: [Tracy Turner](#) or [Kathy Gilbert](#)

In the past year, the End of Life Task Force has held events addressing end of life concerns, including an August workshop utilizing the Sacred Dying Journal (published by the Sacred Dying Foundation) and UUCB memorial planning documents, facilitated by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and EOLTF co-chair Tracy Turner.

During the annual Celebrating Our Ancestors service in October, we held a quiet, serene space for those who wanted to talk about loved ones who had died, or simply needed a private space to process the feelings the service evoked.

In January, EOLTF co-chair Kathy Gilbert and her daughter, Rebecca J. Gilbert (a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist), held a workshop called “Crafting Grief and Resiliency: Using Hobbies and Crafts in the Healing Process After a Loss.”

We were on the cusp of reassessing our activities and goals as a task force, with guidance from MAM when she returned from her sabbatical, because many of the people who have expressed interest in joining us have a more pastoral role in mind, while our focus has been largely educational. The death of Megory Anderson of the Sacred Dying Foundation last year meant the Vigiling at Life’s End (VALE) group would have to find a new path if anyone new wanted to join, so we were considering ways to merge the groups.

First, the resignation of the associate minister, and soon after, the pandemic stalled that discussion.

To try and meet the moment at hand, we pulled together online resources for the congregation about a number of end of life-related topics particular to this time, including socially distanced memorials, advanced directives, and helping families cope with the coronavirus. We are in conversations with MAM about how to offer what we may offer as a lay ministry, and will continue to evaluate our role as a support to the ministers and the changing needs of the congregation.

Green Sanctuary Task Force



The [Green Sanctuary Task Force](#) (GSTF) promotes mindful, Earth centered living, working to educate and motivate individuals and institutions to take positive steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the understanding that it is our moral imperative to care for the Earth. Contact: [Marcia Veldman](#)

The GSTF continued to be active on several fronts, until the public health emergency suspended many of our activities for the spring and summer. Coffee sales, football parking, and participation in the Holiday Bazaar helped provide funding for our projects and sponsorships to outside organizations. Donations were made to Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (H-IPL) and Farm to Family Fund.

We launched the Earth Keepers composting program at the church, running a pilot that allowed Earth Keepers to more fully develop the concept on the compost exchange. Using funding from the Special Purposes Fund, Green Grounds worked with Gardens by Ana on ground maintenance and watering of trees, continuing to move toward a permaculture model.

We launched the Plastics Task of the Month. In conjunction with that effort, Jana Pereau did a public presentation on plastics reduction at Green Drinks in October, and in November we showed *Bag It* as part of the Social Justice film series.

For MLK day we worked with Earth Care on the Community Energy Fair at the Evangelical Community Church with GSTF members staffing many of the tables.

In November GSTF members launched a local group of Extinction Rebellion.

Also in the fall we hosted another well-attended Clothing Swap.

Our efforts to continue to improve energy efficiency in the building and grounds were rewarded with a 96% Energy Star rating.

Habitat for Humanity Task Force



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

Contacts: [Barb Berggoetz](#) or [Kathleen Chmelewski](#)

The Habitat Task Force was active during 2019-20, with a dual focus: 1) raising funds to co-sponsor a Habitat home within a few years, and 2) increasing the number of UUsers who participate in Habitat Task Force projects. With the advent of COVID-19 and the curtailment of face-to-face fundraising and build projects, we are considering how to best support Habitat in the coming months by virtual fundraising projects, contributing financially to Habitat's immediate needs caused by COVID-19, and other creative measures.

Our Habitat Task Force members are: Barb Berggoetz and Kathleen Chmelewski (co-chairs), Connie Nelson Laird, Nedra Carlson, Jackie Hall, Angela Lexmond, Mary Blizzard, Kathy Sideli, Brian and Pearl Springfield, Dian and Ed Robbins, Tracy James, Dirk and Susan Herr-Hoyman, Laura Hannam, Deb Martin, Sandy

Davoren, Richard Stumpner, and Licia Weber. Others have voiced an interest in joining and/or volunteering for builds and fundraisers and contributing money. The task force meets on the first Sunday of most months, 10:15 to 11:15 am.

Our objectives/funds: Educate the congregation about local housing needs, including the purpose and accomplishments of Habitat and other housing-related groups; support Habitat by providing volunteers, food and raising money for builds and its needs, including equipment. As of May 2020, we had \$12,150 in our account.

During the 2019-20 year:

- We have raised \$12,150 of our \$20,000 goal to co-sponsor a Habitat home in the next few years. The search continues for Bloomington community co-sponsors. The Evangelical Community Church has committed, along with tentative interest from Sherwood Oaks Christian Church (pending leadership approval) and the First United Methodist Church. Inquiries are still out to a variety of potential partners.
- Our TF is considering applying for the SPF Matching Funds program. The proposal means dipping into our build savings to provide PPE masks and hand sanitizer for builders or to help with mortgage payments for homeowners who've lost jobs as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. If the task force approves, we may donate \$1,385 and if awarded matching funds would result in a \$2,770 contribution.
- Donated our annual UU Social Justice grant of \$300 to the Shalom Community Center for their most pressing needs during the coronavirus crisis. Our donation, along with contributions from five other SJ task forces, resulted in a \$1,500 total contribution.
- Our Social Justice Moment presentation during the March 1st service featured photos and messages from six current or future Habitat families. The UU Boomwackers provided a musical performance with hardhats and hammering.
- The Habitat Women Build has been tentatively rescheduled from May 2 to sometime in Aug 2020. Co-leaders Barb Berggoetz and Lauren Bryant have organized a team of 39 UU and other women. As of May 3, our team had raised \$9,740, the most of any team. We remain ready to build as soon as conditions allow. We have received \$800 from several UUs to help team members meet their minimum \$270 donation level.
- We applied for the UU 25% Sunday Plate Fund. While we were not nominated as the recipient this year, we were encouraged to apply again next year.
- Screened *Briars in the Cottonpatch* on Sunday, March 8, as part of the Social Justice Film Series. We co-sponsored the film with the Racial Justice Task Force. Approximately 25 people attended and participated in a post-film conversation about the origins of Habitat for Humanity and its overlap with the civil rights movement.
- Sponsored a Habitat Take-Home Chili sale on February 3, 2020, between services at UU and earned \$429 to put towards our house sponsorship.

- Sold handmade crafts donated by task force members and other UUsers at the UU Holiday Bazaar in December 2019, earning \$1,380. Task force members made decorative Christmas trees and cookie/soup jars.
- Sponsored a Habitat Coffee House, Oct. 18, and earned \$1,055 (including \$225 in Judy Allenworth's jewelry sales) toward house sponsorship.
- Awarded \$500 social justice grant by UU to be used as seed money for fundraising to co-sponsor home. Plan to sponsor fundraising event at UU, such as a coffeehouse, when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Participated in both Getting Involved Fairs.
- Participated in a Habitat build on Saturday, May 18, with 10 volunteers at 905 W. Moravec Way, Bloomington.
- Parked cars for IU football game in August, September and November, making \$2,664 for total task force share.
- Organized two UU tables at Habitat's More Than Houses event in November 2019.
- Increased our task force membership and Facebook postings.
- Participated in the "Because of You" Annual Volunteer Thank-You event, Jan. 2020. Barb Berggoetz was awarded the Community Partner Volunteer of the Year award.
- During 2019, Habitat TF members participated regularly in the monthly Hunger TF food pantry at College Square. This furthers a UU initiative to create cross-currents among task forces.

Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force



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

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 including our work with the food pantry at College Square (Walnut Grove) Apartments, and we were able to add a few new projects/fundraisers as well.

- **Holiday Basket Food Drive, November 2019** - 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 2019, our congregation donated 80% of MCUM's total holiday baskets. UU has consistently been the biggest donator of baskets for this food drive.

- **First Sunday Food Drives** - We returned to our monthly food drives which target a different agency each month: New Hope Family Shelters, Backpack Buddies, Shalom, Wheeler Missions, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Area 10, MCUM, College Square Pantry, and New Leaf New Life. This monthly process not only distributes the food more fairly, but also raises the congregation's awareness of these outside agencies and their needs. With the coming of COVID-19, we were able to successfully continue these food collections by placing bins outside, on the north side of the church, where people can easily drop off their donations and where our volunteers can pick them up daily and distribute appropriately. This is a shining example of how the generosity of this congregation allows us to continue our work.
- **IU Football Parking** - HFOHN raised \$1065.50 this year.
- **UU Cookbooks** - This was a fun fundraiser, as we asked members of the congregation to send us their favorite recipes for the book. The response was overwhelming and we were able to sell all 100 copies to make \$1000.
- **Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar, December 2019** - HFOHN runs a booth selling hand-knitted and handmade fiber items (scarves, hats, quilts, etc.). Members and friends of the congregation make these items and donate them to the sale. In 2019, the booth brought in approximately \$2800, a portion of which was donated to the MCUM Emergency Services. The rest of the money was set aside to acquire food from Hoosier Hills Food Bank to supply the Cottage Square Food Pantry. This has become our biggest fundraiser.
- **College Square Food Pantry** - In March 2015, HFOHN began running a monthly food pantry at Walnut Grove Apartments in Bloomington, later named College Square. Food from Hoosier Hills Food Bank is delivered to the site and task force members and other volunteers from the church set up and run the food pantry on the 3rd Friday of each month. Thanks to our fundraising from the Holiday Bazaar and the SJ Grant Award, we have been able to "buy" (at 18 cents per pound) food from HHFB to supplement the foods dropped off by the HHFB truck. In December, we were able to put together Holiday Food Baskets for pantry goers, which included extra food of canned hams, fresh fruit, granola bars, chocolate, and more. RE had the children decorate grocery sacks for this project and the pantry clients seemed very appreciative.

So far, this has been a great opportunity for us to work directly with people experiencing hunger. It has also been a great opportunity for this task force to expand our work with members and friends of our own congregation who volunteer at the pantry each month. We have been able to host several Chalice Circles who volunteered, several youth from the church, and many others. Without the support of these volunteers, we couldn't sustain this much-needed food pantry. With the start of the coronavirus shutdown, we were still able to have a "pantry" in April and May with the help of the National Guard and a radical change in logistics.

- **Hot Breakfast at Shalom** - This is a continuing program that we began in February of last year. On the second Wednesday of every month, 3 volunteers go to the Shalom Community Center at 6:30 am to prepare and serve a hot breakfast for the clients. Usually they are served a cold breakfast in the form of cereal and pastries, but our volunteers prepare scrambled eggs, Tater Tots, and sausages and serve between 80-100 people. The money for this breakfast comes from the Hunger Task Force budget. Unfortunately, this activity has been postponed until further notice because of the virus.

- **Community Kitchen Help** - We have joined forces with Libby DeVoe to volunteer at the Community Kitchen the third Thursday of every month. Three volunteers give about 2 hours of their time to prepare take away meals for shut-ins. Unfortunately, before this merger was well established, the virus has put this task on hold.
- **The Gourmet Valentine Dinner** - This was a smashing success in February. We not only sold out, but oversold by a few tickets. There was much congregation participation, not only in consuming a superb meal, but also in setup and cleanup. We were able to raise \$1248 from this activity.

Hunger & Homelessness: In March, HFOHN decided to work more closely with the Homelessness Task Force, which now consists of Alan Backler, Marlin Howard, and Mary Blizzard. We found that some of our tasks were overlapping, so we merged in order to support each other, including help with fundraising.

HFOHN is a strong and enthusiastic task force consisting of Iris Kiesling, Cecelia Murphy, Dixie Welch, Jackie Hall, Judy Kelly, Dee Morris, Anne Graham, Lynn Struve, Bettina Hahn, and Mary Blizzard, plus many other dedicated volunteers from the congregation. **And we can't wait to get back to work!**

Submitted by Mary Blizzard

Homelessness Task Force



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

The major activity of the Homelessness Task Force, until this year, was to operate the Interfaith Winter Shelter (IWS) at Wheeler Mission on the second Saturday of each month from November 1 to March 31. Because Wheeler Mission has taken over the total operation of the shelter, many fewer volunteers from the churches, including UUCB, staff the shelter.

The following is a review of our current activities:

For years, the Homelessness Task Force has worked with the Hunger Task Force. This year, as this report will indicate, the two task forces are working much more closely together. We supply coffee, macaroni, and spaghetti to Shalom Community Center every week, year-round. We continue to do this activity, but have expanded the service. In April we provided those types of items for Shalom and New Hope for Families. Since the church is closed, we placed bins near the portico entrance where congregants can leave donations. We collect the items donated every day and take them to the designated agencies for their use. In May, we offered the goods collected to Shalom, Wheeler Mission, and Backpack Buddies. In addition, we work with organizers of the Bazaar and Auction to distribute leftover articles from those events to agencies serving those in need in Monroe County.

Along with four other Social Justice Task Forces, this year we donated our Social Justice funds of \$300 to Shalom Community Center. The total amount, \$1500, will be used to support the Shalom Hunger Relief program.

Together with the Hunger Task Force, we applied to the Special Purposes Fund Committee for a matching grant to support the hunger relief efforts of seven agencies in Monroe County. We were awarded \$1,700 from SPF, which means that we will be donating a total of \$3,400 to those agencies: Shalom Community Center (\$400), Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (\$400), Community Kitchen (\$400), Monroe County United Ministries (\$400), New Hope for Families (\$400), Wheeler Mission (\$400), and Hoosier Hills Food Bank (\$1,000).

This year, the task force planned to focus primarily on volunteer activities for Shalom Community Center, which also includes Friend's Place and Crawford Homes. UU volunteers provide one hot breakfast a month for Shalom and its clients. Our intent was to recruit volunteers to engage in activities such as food services (preparing meals), supervising the Shalom library, sorting clothing and other donations, as well as building repair work, painting, and cleaning. Unfortunately, because of the coronavirus epidemic, those opportunities are very limited, though some people still volunteer.

The coronavirus has also limited the activities of a committee that Homelessness Task Force members Marlin Howard and Alan Backler serve on. This committee is primarily made up of people whose churches had volunteered to operate the Interfaith Winter Shelter. The purpose of the committee was to identify ways in which the Wheeler Mission Shelter could be served and in which the community could be better informed about homelessness.

The coronavirus has also limited a video project that some of the task force members were doing with New Hope for Families, in which we were capturing the stories of families who had successfully worked with New Hope and were now in permanent housing. We were working on this project with Sociology Professor Emily Meanwell, and hope to continue it in the fall.

Jim Harvey, Marlin Howard, and Alan Backler serve on the Homelessness Task Force. Jim and Alan serve on committees for the Shalom Community Center. Marlin volunteers at Shalom. Again, we are all limited by the coronavirus.

Submitted by Alan Backler and Marlin Howard, Co-Chairs

Hope for Prisoners Task Force



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

The Hope for Prisoners Task Force works with the community to initiate, coordinate, and encourage efforts to aid both incarcerated and released people, and advocate for their just treatment, at county, state, and national levels.

In conjunction with the Social Justice Film Series and the Open Mind Zen group, the task force sponsored on February 16th the showing of *The Dhamma Brothers*, a documentary which tells a dramatic tale of human

potential and transformation through the practice of Vipassana meditation in an Alabama maximum security prison. The showing was well attended and followed by a lively discussion of inmate needs and the power of meditation for personal transformation in general, and particularly in the context of incarceration.

KAP: Kids with Absent Parents is the major new initiative of the task force. KAP provides programs for children who are separated from a parent and their caregivers. Bi-monthly gatherings include lunch, followed by separate and simultaneous enrichment programs for the children and their caregivers. This is made possible by a pool of over twenty active volunteers and partnership with Girls Inc. of Monroe County, which provides the facility. Typical bi-monthly participation is 12 to 20 kids from up to 12 families. During the pandemic, KAP has helped distribute food, crafts, books, games, and puzzles to caregivers. Those interested in contributing to this program with their time or financial support please contact Mary Goetze at (812) 327-0144, or email kidswithabsentparents@gmail.com.

The task force has been involvement with two other dynamic community initiatives: [Courage to Change](#), which provides transitional housing for sober living, and [MUM: Made Up Mind](#), which assists the development of ex-offenders who have made up their mind to stay out through transitional life training and hands-on work experience, thus breaking the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and incarceration. An essential part of MUM is providing supervised employment for the first few months, providing a variety of services. If you need assistance with such things as lawn care, landscaping, painting, gutter cleaning, car detailing, furniture repair or residential moving, etc., please contact them.

We maintain our involvement with the long-standing [New Leaf - New Life](#) organization, which provides support and volunteer-led programming for inmates in the Monroe County jail, as well as support for released individuals returning to our community through the Transition Support Center (TSC). Opportunities for involvement include financial contributions and volunteer support for jail programming. One such is the Read to Me program in which incarcerated parents read books to their children that are delivered to the child as a CD with accompanying book, with hundreds distributed in the past year. During the pandemic, jail volunteer access has been suspended and TSC closed to clients, but jail services continue via internal communications and some TSC services continue to be offered via entrance contact. For information about other NLNL initiatives and volunteer opportunities, such as jail Bingo, visit their [Volunteer page](#) or contact Chris Haynes at 812-360-0296 or chaynes56@gmail.com.

Submitted by Chris Haynes, Chair

International Outreach Task Force (IOTF)



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

Status of the Kenyan Projects

Our Task Force exists to raise funds for projects in Kenya. Every 2 years we visit the projects to see how things are going. In October 2019, a small group including Judy Kelly and Penny Githens (not a church member) went on a successful but stressful trip. This group had to be reconstituted twice in membership, since several people who confirmed their interest in going then subsequently cancelled their reservations, hence I

invited Penny to go, given her great interest and expertise based on Peace Corps Volunteer experience the 1970s in Kenya, which became invaluable as it turned out.

We found that one of the projects, **the residential orphanage, Msamaria Mwema**, now housing some 36 children, has sufficient problems such that we no longer are going to support it with funds, although we might take clothing to them if the institution survives. The Kenyan government made a new law shutting down all residential orphanages, while the managers/owners are not keeping proper records. The decision to remove funding was arrived at during a meeting in February at UUCB of all interested folk, approximately ten people, including some who had gone on previous trips.

The Spurgeon School for AIDS orphans is doing fine, is well-managed with almost 500 students, and they used the funds brought (about \$8,000 equivalent) immediately to pay staff and to put down a cement floor in the basement of the building where they hold classes, as per a requirement of the city of Nairobi.

The Ndethya wa Ngutethya Women's Group at Kathonzweni, Kenya, has some problems, with reduced attendance and transitions needed in leadership, which had devolved from a group onto one person. Nonetheless, after much discussion, we collectively came up with a plan to upgrade the water system guttering and earn future income through raising and selling chickens and eggs, using the capital we supplied to set up this business, to be run by the younger women in the group. With the advice of Jane Turunga, our on-site manager, and her daughter-in-law, who has a degree in development studies, they have begun setting up the business, but the COVID situation is posing obstacles we hope will be overcome. In the future, we might not be able to provide more funds since the COVID restrictions shut down our fundraising. The next and last (if no one wants to take over the effort) Kenyan trip should be in 2021.

Fundraising

In 2018-19 we had a record fundraising effort through bake sales, donations, separate sales of African stuff and designer scarves, etc., such that we had almost \$8,000 to give to each project. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions closed down our fundraising, no bake sales, no on-site bigger sales, after February 2020. We look forward to resuming our efforts, but do not know when that might happen.

Stay well everyone, and have courage and faith that things will get better in this time of chaos!

Just Peace Task Force



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

In the past year, the Just Peace Task Force labored for a major initiative that was unexpectedly postponed. Around the nation and around the world, municipalities are formally declaring themselves “in alignment” with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. That treaty overwhelmingly passed the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 but was boycotted by the United States and other nuclear nations. The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its global grassroots efforts. (Please watch the ceremony [here](#).)

The Just Peace Task Force consulted national experts and local officials on the draft of the potential resolution, to be adopted by the Bloomington City Council and signed by the Mayor. It calls on the President and Congress to cancel plans to “modernize” the U.S. nuclear arsenal by building “usable” nuclear weapons that, we are convinced, would greatly increase the risk of an omniscidal nuclear war. It also commits the City to implement the treaty by divesting any City funds from stock in nuclear weapons-makers and (when feasible) steering City contracts away from such companies.

After we secured support of City officials for the resolution, its formal consideration was delayed, first by the heated local debate over the Unified Development Ordinance, and then by the crisis of Covid-19. However, we intend to persist, working with our allies in City government, at the first opportunity. At that time, we will need wide support from the Congregation.

We have also been published in The Bloomington Herald-Times and The New York Times, and our members have visited Congressional offices to lobby for peace.

Racial Justice Task Force



The [Racial Justice Task Force](#) joins UU communities across the US, and with faith, arts, and civic organizations around the city and state, to educate, organize, and take action on racial justice issues. Contact: [Martha Foster](#)

The work of the UUCB Racial Justice Task Force has felt a serious impact from the pandemic of 2020. Two major planned projects, as well as additional film screenings, have had to be postponed. However, the Task Force was active prior to and somewhat during the pandemic shutdown, and expects to resume the planned projects when that is possible.

Events and Activities with UU during the 2019-20 year:

- Task Force members organized and served food for a reception for the presentation of *Sentences: From the Pen to the Page* at the Waldron Rose Firebay theater on September 6, 2019.
- Task Force members participated in fall football parking fundraising
- Task Force Chair Martha Foster presented the SJ Moment at a Sunday service in February 2020, tabled at Getting Involved fairs, etc., and offered brochures and sign-up sheets for the Task Force
- Racial Justice Task Force continued to participate in the Third Sunday Social Justice Film Series, including sponsoring several screenings of the work of Dr. Alan Backler and a special Hallowe'en showing of award winning feature film *Get Out*.
- The Task Force held periodic in-person meetings with interested members to plan for future activities, and notified the Task Force email list of 110+ of volunteer opportunities and events of interest, as well as meetings.
- Leaders participated in Social Justice Circles with leadership from other task forces

Collaborative Work with Other Bloomington Organizations:

- Task Force leadership and members continued to work with the Monroe County branch of the NAACP. Martha Foster and Earon Davis, as well as other UUs, attended monthly meetings, the NAACP annual Freedom Fund Banquet at Ivy Tech in October 2019, and the NAACP holiday banquet at the UU Church of Bloomington in December. Martha Foster co-chaired the Freedom Fund Banquet with Debra Vance, and the Task Force provided tickets for 10 or more UU members, board members, and young adults. We also placed a half page ad for the Task Force in the souvenir program for the Freedom Fund Banquet. Earon was recognized as a new Lifetime Member of the organization, joining other UU members in this category.

Martha and Earon attended the NAACP Indiana State Conference, October 25, 2019 in Clark County. Martha accepted a position as an assistant secretary for the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP, in order to help update and digitize membership records and mailing lists. The Task Force actively promotes individual NAACP memberships and provides application forms at the UUCB

- The Task Force organized at least four volunteers and provided funding for the Bloomington Black Lives Matter organization, coordinating with Renee Reed, member of UU Bloomington and Bloomington BLM, to support a drive to provide Easter baskets and other materials for Black families in Bloomington. Volunteers shopped for appropriate items for the baskets and delivered them to Renee Reed, who assembled and distributed the baskets with other volunteers. Many Racial Justice Task Force members expressed regret that they could not participate due to health concerns during the pandemic.

Postponed Projects to be Reinstated when Possible:

- The Racial Justice Task Force had plans underway to organize two events for the spring of 2020, including the presentation at UUCB of Gladys DeVane and Liz Mitchell's production, *Elizabeth, A Woman of Color*, directed by Danielle Bruce. The scheduled March 20 date had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Task Force was also planning a bus tour to an historic Indiana African American agricultural village, Lyles Station, with Elizabeth Mitchell as consultant and tour guide. Our intention is to invite participants from the Second Baptist Church of Bloomington, along with UU members and friends, to experience this tour together. The tour will be rescheduled when possible. The Task Force received a \$500 Social Justice grant to support the event.

May 2020, Martha Foster, Chair, Earon Davis, Co-Chair

Rainbow Rights Task Force



The [Rainbow Rights Task Force](#) seeks to work with and for the congregation in the area of LGBTQ rights and concerns. Contact: [Amy Makice](#)

Refugee and Immigration Support and Education (RISE) Task Force



The Refugee Task Force supports refugees and immigrants living in Bloomington and works cooperatively with efforts of the Interfaith Alliance and the Bloomington Refugee Support Network. Contact: [Deb Fish](#)

When Kris Roehling moved to Indianapolis, Barb Backler stepped up to be a co-chair with Debbie Fish. We accomplished the following:

- Coat drive for immigrants in Indianapolis
- Booth at the campus-community town hall titled “Borders, Bans, and Babies: America’s War on Immigrants” on March 27th
- Participated in monthly meetings of the IJTF (Immigration Justice Task Force) that is made up of people from various churches and other organizations in Bloomington; led by Christie Popp.
- Emailed notes from the IJTF meetings to the UUB listserv
- Hosted movie of the month night on May 19th showing *The Visitor*; raised money through sales of handmade jewelry by Judy Allensworth
- Hosted World Refugee Day event at UUB with BRSN
- Communicated with UU connection in Chicago to help find overnight housing for asylum seekers needing to appear in Chicago court

Submitted by Debbie Fish, co-chair

Reproductive Justice Task Force



*The [Reproductive Justice Task Force \(RJTF\)](#) promotes an active liberal voice to educate ourselves and the community, advocates for reproductive justice, and connects with community partners to ensure reproductive justice for all.
Contacts: [Nan McKinley](#) or [Deborah Meader](#)*

The RJTF mobilizes around the concept of reproductive justice as “*the right to bodily autonomy, to have children or not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.*” We educate, advocate, and connect within the church and with outside community partners to support and advance reproductive justice for all.

Ongoing Work

- Legislative liaison: Liaison monitors anti-choice and pro-family bills during legislative sessions and reports out to the task force with “action items” (e.g. phone calls, letters, testimony, committee watch/observation, rallies, etc).
- Statehouse/City/County Council meetings. Face-to-face meetings with representatives and supportive presence and public comment for PPINK and All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center.
- PPINK:

- o volunteer and support clinic escorts
- o “Snack Stewards” provide snacks/drinks to patients awaiting abortions
- o provide scrub uniform bottoms to the clinic for women in need
- All-Options PRC:
 - o volunteer as peer counselors and talkline support
 - o Virtual diaper drive
 - o Annual Hoosier Abortion Fund drive
 - o promote Practical Support Network, a project that trains volunteers to provide rides and other support to women seeking abortion access
- Monitor the implementation and work of the state’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee, mandated by 2018’s Public Law 48.

Education & Outreach

- Partnered with PPINK for the “Hoosier Days of Action” Statehouse lobbying event Feb 25th.
- Co-sponsored fundraiser to benefit Common Cause Indiana (CCI) with a showing of the documentary film Charlie vs Goliath, followed by speaker Julia Vaughn from CCI, on Sept 22, 2019.
- Legislative letter writing events during the IN legislative session with support from Maternal Advocates Resource Alliance (MARA)

Fundraising/Donations

- Football parking - \$1065.50 raised
- February bake sale - \$975.73 raised
- Hoosier Abortion Fund - donation of \$750 from the Task Force brought our UU team total to \$1092.40 counting the congregation and friends donations.
- Annual UUCB grant to the task force for Snack Stewards - \$300 for food and beverages purchased (plus items donated by congregation)
- All Options (AO) Diaper Drive - donation of \$750 from the task force and open donations by the congregation and friends to the AO diaper website during our fundraiser
- Donation - \$750 to MARA
- Donation - \$750 to Planned Parenthood of Bloomington

Submitted by: Nan McKinley & Deborah Meader, Co-chairs

Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC)

Fall Social Justice Grants

In October 2019, SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were approved:

- Habitat For Humanity, by Barb Berggoetz and Kathleen Chmelewski for fundraising
- Hunger Task Force/Hot breakfast for Shalom, by Mary Blizzard
- Racial Justice Task Force/Tour of Lyles Station, by Martha Foster
- Refugee and Immigration Support and Education Task Force/ World Refugee Day, by Deb Fish

Spring 25% Plate Fund Campaign

In March 2020, SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2020-June 2021.

New guidelines were written which will be available for Fall 2020. A new procedure for educating the congregation about the three nominees via UU website were written.

SJFC Members: Anna Beaucamp, Steve Mascari, Denise Ogren, Advisor: Jackie Hall, Rev. Bill Breeden

Three Nominees Selected for Our 25% of Sunday Plate Fund for 2020-21

The Social Justice Funds Committee, chaired by Denise Ogren, reports that the following three agencies have been nominated to receive our 25% of Sunday Plate Fund for the coming year, beginning July 1.

- **Bloomington Refugee Support Network** (by Deb Fish and Barb Backler)
- **Monroe County United Ministries Compass Early Learning Center** (by Sandi Clothier)
- **Women Writing for (a) Change** (by Lisa Meuser)

See below for details on their fine work. The members in attendance at the online congregational meeting on Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 p.m. will vote to choose one of the three to be our recipient for 2020-21.

Bloomington Refugee Support Network

We are nominating Bloomington Refugee Support Network (BRSN) as one of three organizations vying for our 25% of the Sunday Plate offering for the coming year, because of the positive impact they continue to have in the lives of refugees and immigrants. They are a volunteer 501c3 network of individuals and organizations. Their cadre of 100 volunteers provides services and raises money through donations, small grants and fundraisers. A March 2020 Pew Research Center study indicated that 49% of Hispanic people surveyed said they or someone in their household had taken a pay cut or lost a job because of the COVID-19 outbreak. BRSN has felt that impact via increased requests for help. Share the Plate funds would be used for application fees for asylum, green cards, citizenship, employment authorization and visas. With UUCB voting to become a Sanctuary Church in 2017 and the formation of the RISE SJTF, we have already shown a commitment to the work of BRSN by providing space to co-host last year's World Refugee Day, collecting coats and money for Christmas gifts for families, and using funds to support additional identified needs, most recently paying a

month's rent for a local immigrant family. Providing funds for BRSN would be a perfect way for us to support our marginalized neighbors.

Monroe County United Ministries

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) serves Monroe County's low-income population through its Compass Early Learning Center and Self-Sufficiency Center. Funding from the Sunday Plate Non-pledge Funds will subsidize the average gap between the cost of care and what low-income parents on Compass' fee scale can afford to pay. Compass is a licensed, high-quality, full-time childcare center in Monroe County that targets low-income families by offering a sliding fee scale for parents who are ineligible for or are waiting to receive Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) or On My Way Pre-K vouchers. These programs reimburse childcare for most of the cost of care for eligible children. Typically, more than 90% of Compass' enrollees qualify for CCDF, but the application process can take up to one year. Most of the families applying for the CCDF program cannot afford high-quality care (which costs between \$230 to \$285 per child per week) while their applications process. These families are placed on Compass' sliding fee scale, whereby their weekly costs are determined by family size and income, which ensures families pay no more than 10% of their household income for childcare. The average cost to parents on MCUM's fee scale is \$65 per week.

Women Writing For (a) Change

Women Writing For (a) Change uses the power of writing as a transformational tool to build a sense of internal agency and trust with oneself and others through safe and carefully created circles. Our programs connect people to deeper parts of themselves and to one another, supporting participants as they find deeper clarity in their lives, work, families and relationships, which then guide their contributions to the larger community. We have adapted our practices to a virtual format, helping people form new threads of connection in a time when isolation has become a secondary threat to the well-being of so many. For 16 years, we have provided safe spaces to explore writing as a rehabilitative and community building tool, with voices often unheard and under-served. We will continue to do so, on Zoom and in other creative ways, and eventually, back in our New Wings facility downtown. We rely on grant money and donations. Special Plate funds would support our infrastructure, including our staff and our rent obligation to Middle Way House. Like UUCB, we believe that creative and conscious communities, where every voice is honored, nurtured and celebrated, hold the key to positive transformation in our world. Thank you.

Members of the UU Church of Bloomington

Members on June 5,
2020

556 members

Quorum for meeting =
56

Debbie Acito

Julia Adams

Julie Adams

Ruth Albright

Thomas Albright

Judy Allensworth

Bob Althaus

Lisa Amsler

Terry Amsler

Maureen Anderson

Jana Anna

Andrew Appel

Charlotte Appel

Robert Appelman

Jan Armstrong

Carol Arnold

Paul Arnold

Stephen Arnold

Callen Aster

Pat Aungst

Marianne Aurich

Ruth Ayd

Alan Backler

Barbara Backler

Janice Bagwell

Carolyn Bailey

Maya Baird

Rhonda Baird

Tim Ballard

Bill Baus

Andy Beargie

Anna Beauchamp

Dan Beauregard

Amy Beck

Jim Beck

Caroline Beebe

Sheri Benham

Judy Bennett

Mary Bent

Barb Berggoetz

Judy Berkshire

Lauren Bernofsky

Maureen Biggers Reilly

Jason Blankenship

Mary Blizzard

Kathy Boone

Rebekka Boustani

Mary Boutain

Linda Boyle

Bill Boyles

Cindy Brandes

Pat Brantlinger

Darrell Breeden

Glenda Breeden

Rev. Bill Breeden

Denise Breeden-Ost

Cynthia Bretheim

Clark Brittain

Lauren Bryant

John Bunde

Paula Bunde

Scott Burgins

Louray Cain

Danny Callison

Patty Callison

Laura Campbell

Kim Carballo

Elof Carlson

Nedra Carlson

Rev. Barbara Carlson

Jack Cassidy

Karen Cassidy

Doug Cauble

Julie Cauble

Joan Caulton

Jon Chaffin

Larry Cherniak

Kathleen Chmelewski

Allison Chopra

Chris Chopra

Sandra Churchill

Joanna Cichocka

Sandra Clothier

Patricia Coleman

Craig Coley

Bill Conley

Mary Jo Conley

Ann Connors

Jessie Cook

Michelle Cook

Anastacia
Corbit-Clarkson

Bill Corcoran

Amy Cornell

Jill Courtney

Amy Cox

Jeanie Cox

Nathaniel Cox-Thurmond

Heather Craig

Dave Crane

Juliana Crespo

Jordon Criss

John Crosby

Marjorie Crosby

Amy Crozier

Kathleen Cruikshank

Eve Cusack

George Cusack

Maryann Cusack

Sam Cusack

Malcolm Dalglish

Earon Davis

Jeff Davis

Jessica Davis

Murray Davis

Dennis Davoren	Georgia Emmert	Rev. Forrest Gilmore	William Hegarty
Sandy Davoren	Judith Epp	Gayle Gingrich	Eric Heim
Orion Day	Taylor Erickson	Abby Gitlitz	Joanne Henriot
Deborah DeChurch	Stephanie Estell	Molly Gleeson	Helmut Hentschel
Marie Deer	Ray Fellman	Mary Goetze	Sandra Hernshaw
Beverly DeFord	Ruellen Fessenbecker	Susan Goldberg	Dirk Herr-Hoyman
Courtney DeMeulenaere	Daun Fields	Robinson Gonyea	Susan Herr-Hoyman
Gladys DeVane	Debbie Fish	Jane Goodman	Emily Hewitt
Bob DeVoe	Penny Fisher	Janet Greenblatt	Cathy Hiatt
Libby DeVoe	Patsy Flint	Diane Gregory	Dick Hiatt
Frank Diaz	Sarah Flint	Tom Gregory	Perry Hodges
Jim Dietz	Kathy Floyd	Joe Grimme	Scott Hogsed
Emma DiLamore	Bob Flynn	Shannon Grimme	Carol Holding
Philip DiLamore	Mara Flynn	Douglas Gulick	Lois Holl
Regina DiLamore	Arnold Fodor	Susan Gulick	Richard Holl
David Dilcher	Suzanne Fodor	Colleen Haas	Erin Hollinden
Stephen Dillon	Martha Foster	Cathy Haggerty	Beth Hollingsworth
Martha Dogan	Eddie Franklin	Jacqueline Hall	Tom Hollingsworth
Sandra Dolby	Sue Fratianni	Linda Hall	Amy Holmes
Abby Downey	Laurette Frazier	Ted Hall	Joan Hongen
Jim Downey	Sandra Freund	Christopher Hanna	Robert Hongen
Mike Drescher	LindaGrace Frost	Jack Harlow	Brianna Horne
Rita Drescher	Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer	Pat Harris	Martin Horne
Cindy Duffy	Luis Fuentes-Rohwer	David Hart	Steve Host
Tom Duffy	Meg Garner-Ballard	Marcia Hart	Marlin Howard
Miles Eddy	Janessa Gerber	James Harvey	Arzetta Hulst-Losensky
Brandi Edwards	Lukas Dalton Gibson	Sally Harvey	Linda Hunt
Kate Ellis	Kathleen Gilbert	Clarence Hawking	Jeffrey Huntsman
Ron Ellis	Steven Gilbert	Lorraine Hawking	Deborah Hutton
Carolyn Emmert	Kevin Gill	Anne Haynes	Scott Hyslop
David Emmert	Lynne Gilliatt	Christopher Haynes	Christoph Irmscher

Millie Jackson	Gigi Kirkley	Harlan Lewis	Jessica McCanse
Julie James	Jamie Kirkley	Angela Lexmond	Rev. Dennis McCarty
Tracy James	Sonny Kirkley	Christine Linnemeier	Carol McCord
Richard Janda	Judy Klein	Richard Linnemeier	Sheila McDermott-Sipe
Jerry Jesseph	Angie Kleptz	Diann Lock	Ann McEnderfer
Laura Jesseph	Philip Knieriemen	Ted Lock	Ed McEnderfer
Karen Jewell	Andrew Knust	Beth Lodge-Rigal	Beverly McGahey
Marty Joachim	Anna Knust	Dan Lodge-Rigal	Celeste McGregor
Darlene Jolley	Noretta Koertge	Connie Loftman	Michael McGregor
Valerie Jones	Neil Kopper	Guy Loftman	Sally McGuire
Ned Joyner	Sarah Kopper	Ed Long	Ann McIntosh
Gayle Judd	Alan Kosinski	Bill Lonnerberg	David McIntosh
Viola Kadish	Steven Krahnke	Cindy Lonnerberg	Kitty McIntosh
Ann Kamman	Laura Kress	Patricia Lopes	Nan McKinley
Helen Kane	Aleisha Kropf	Paul Losensky	Anne McLaughlin
Linda Kaplan	Matthew Kuhl	Terry Loucks	Jane McLeod
Kathy Kardynalski	Thomas Kuhn	Barb Lund	Sue Medland
Renate Kasak	Hugo Kunoff	Jim Lynch	Robert Meitus
Hannah Kasak-Gliboff	Karla Kunoff	Sandy Lynch	Julia Merkt
Judy Kelly	Cathy Larson	Pam MacLaughlin	Kathrynn Meuser
Keith Kelly	Joan Lauer	Mary Mahern	Lisa Meuser
Susan Kelly	Naomi Lawlis	Amy Makice	Joan Middendorf
Hans Kelson	Julia Lawson	Carter Makice	Clarke Miller
Victor Kelson	Gretchen Laymon	Darja Malcolm-Clarke	Susi Miller
David Keppel	Ann LeDuc	Cynthia Marion	Dotty Mitchell
Iris Kiesling	Richard LeDuc	Carol Marks	Linda Mjolsnes
Stephanie Kimball	Abe Leite	Nicole Martins	Laura Mojonnier
Jack King	Adam Leite	Steve Mascari	Amy Money
Mindy King	Jonathan Leite	Laura Mattingly	Jessie Monroe
Sylvia King	Veronica Lenard	Michele McCaffrey	Ellie Moss
Sarina King Criss	Steve Lessmann	Tom McCaffrey	Nicole Motz

Andrea Murray	Joanne Passet	Ginny Richey	Peter Schwandt
Tera Nance-Knieriemen	Elizabeth Peck	Ilona Richey	Barbara Schwegman
Jennifer Naylor	Jana Pereau	Thayr Richey	Justin Schwemmer
Shawn Naylor	Laura Petersen	Madeline Rivera-Gill	Margaret Sears
Cyndi Nelson	Melinda Pettijohn	Dian Robbins	Stephanie Serriere
Dale Nelson	Harriet Pfister	Ed Robbins	Deirdre Sheets
Connie Nelson Laird	Deborah Phelps	Claire Robertson	Hwamei Shei
Tom Nelson Laird	Emily Phelps	Ed Robertson	Catherine Shipp
Nancy Newton	Tom Phelps	Ann Robins	Eric Shipp
Glee Noble	Charlie Pickle	Cassidy Rockhill	Margi Showman
Martha Nord	Linda Pickle	Kelly Rockhill	Robert Shull
Mary Beth O'Brien	Stephen Pollitt	Kris Roehling	Kathleen Sideli
Brian O'Donnell	Cindy Port	Victoria Rogers	Dennis Sipe
Matthew O'Donnell	Diane Port	Kevin Rottet	Jay Sissom
Molly O'Donnell	Robert Port	GK Rowe	Janice Skinner
Martha Oakley	Avram Primack	Barry Rubin	Pat Slabach
Denise Ogren	Meg Prince	Linda Ruchala	Richard Slabach
Harold Ogren	Genevieve Pritchard	Larry Ruich	Angel Smith
Crystal Olry	Vickie Provine	Deborah Rush	Bryan Smith
Don Ottinger	Maire Quilter	Emma Rush	Floyd Smith
Jim Overman	Kelly Rauch	Amira Sabbagh	John Smith
Monica Overman	Susan Rautio-Dietz	Kim Sackmann	Roxanne Smith
Judy Owens	Kara Reagan	Kelly Sage	Kathleen Soens
Mary Jane Padron	Mary Reardon	Emily Sanders	Brian Springfield
Amber Panwitz	Adrian Reed	Ruth Sanders	Pearl Springfield
John Pappas	Daniel Reed	Scott Sanders	Catherine Stafford
Lindsay Pappas	Renee Reed	Martha Sattinger	Veda Stanfield
David Parkhurst	Carol Reimers	Jim Sauer	Jan Steenblik
Doris Parlette	Roger Reimers	Susan Schneider	Nicki Stewart Ingersoll
David Parsons	Barbara Restle	Drew Schrader	Rob Stewart Ingersoll
Sharon Parsons	Michael Rhodes	Margie Schrader	Matthew Stonecipher

Nathan Stonecipher	Elizabeth Venstra	John Woodcock
Barbara Straube	Carol Ver Wiebe	Ian Woollen
Al Strickholm	Charlotte Wager Miller	Brian Wright
Lee Strickholm	Erin Wager Miller	Mary Wright
Lynn Struve	Jim Wager Miller	Sharon Yarber
Keeva Stucker	Betty Wagoner	Brian Yeley
Michael Stucker	Tiffany Walton	Susan Yeley
Richard Stumpner	Roberta Watson	Stuart Yoak
Angela Sturdevant	William Watt	
Adrienne Summerlot	Yasuko Watt	
John Summerlot	Ann Watzel	
Claire Sunkel	Kevin Weaver	
Kathryn Suskie	Renee Weaver	
Susan Swaney	Licia Weber	
Melinda Swenson	Carol Weingartner	
Sura Gail Tala	Dixie Welch	
Maggie Talmage	Von Welch	
Ellen Tamura	Tracy Whelan	
Jim Tarnowski	Erica Whichello	
Bob Taylor	Gaia White	
James Thurmond	Joanne Wilhelm	
Rebecca Timmons	Gerald Wilkens	
Ryan Timmons	Mary Ann Williams	
Allison Tomusk	Patricia Winterton	
Richard Torstrick	Dan Wiseman	
Laura Trout	Sharon Wiseman	
Christy True	Judy Witt	
Tracy Turner	Lee Witt	
Barbara Vance	Doris Wittenburg	
Thomas Vanderplough	Yvonne Wittmann	
Marcia Veldman	Amy Wolf	