

***Second Unitarian Church of Omaha***  
***3012 South 119th Street***  
***Omaha, NE 68144***

***(402) 334-0537***  
***info@secondunitarianomaha.org***

***www.secondunitarianomaha.org***



***Annual Report***  
***2008-2009***

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# **Second Unitarian Church of Omaha**

## **Rules for the Annual Meeting**

The Handling of a Motion:

A member makes a motion. ("Member" means voting member of the Church.)

Another member seconds the motion.

The chair states the question on the motion.

Neither the making nor the seconding of a motion places it before the assembly; only the chair can do that (with step 3). When the chair has stated the question, the motion is pending and is open for debate.

Members debate the motion (unless no member claims the floor to do so).

During debate, no one shall speak more than two minutes (unless the assembly declares its desire to waive this rule for a specific speaker). No one is entitled to the floor a second time on the same motion as long as any other member who has not spoken on this motion desires the floor. With the permission of the chair, a non-member may participate in debate (please identify yourself as a non-member when recognized by the chair, so there is no confusion).

The chair asks if there is any further discussion and, if there is not, puts the question to a vote, calling for those in favor, those opposed, and those abstaining.

The chair announces the result of the vote.

During the debate on the motion, a member may call for the "question," which is a request to close debate and proceed to a vote. The chair may observe that the question has been called and ask if there is any objection to closing debate. If there appears to be significant objection, the chair may allow the debate to proceed. If a member wishes to press for closure, she/he may seek recognition and "move the previous question." This is a priority-taking motion, which, if seconded, must be voted on immediately. If it carries by a 2/3 majority, then debate on the previous motion is terminated, and the chair proceeds immediately to put the previous question to a vote. Otherwise, debate on the previous motion continues.

In cases of questions on parliamentary procedure, the chair shall rule. If the ruling is contested, the assembly shall vote on whether or not to uphold.



# **Second Unitarian Church of Omaha**

## **Annual Meeting**

**May 17, 2009**

### **AGENDA**

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Bill Woodhams, Board Chair
2. Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: Pastor Stephen Sinclair, Interim Minister
3. Minutes of May 18, 2008, Annual Meeting: Nancy Amsler
4. Treasurer's Report: Pat Caffrey
5. Nominations and Leadership Development Committee report;  
Presentation of slate of nominees:
  - Board of Trustees
  - Endowment Fund Committee
  - Nominations and Leadership Development Committee
6. Nominations from the floor
7. Elections of each slate of nominees
8. Nominations and elections for delegates to General Assembly
9. Presentation of annual budget for 2009-2010: Bill Woodhams and Stu Burns
10. Discussion and approval of annual budget by congregation
11. Presentation of bylaw revisions: Carol Johnson
12. Discussion and approval of bylaw revisions
13. Closing words: Pastor Sinclair
14. Adjourn



# Minutes of the Annual Meeting Second Unitarian Church of Omaha May 18, 2008

*Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is an inclusive and nurturing religious community engaged in thoughtful pursuit of truth and meaning. Our mission is to grow as a beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.*

**Present:** Mary Ann Powell, Board Chair; Bill Woodhams, Vice Chair; Nancy Amsler, Board Secretary; Additional Board Members: Steve Abraham, Louisa Foster, Tammy Hunter, Gene Kopecky, and Stephanie Peterson.

Rev. Josh Snyder

54 members of the congregation, (47 needed for quorum) and friends; 6 absentee

**Call to Order:** 12:15 pm

**Opening Words:** Rev. Josh Snyder

**Recognition of Volunteers:** Mary Ann and the Board passed out various forms of recognition of the hard work the many volunteers of the church contributed throughout the fiscal year. Mary Ann also recognized the efforts of our minister, Rev. Snyder, and of our DRE, Laura Shennum.

**Minutes:** Clyde Anderson moved and Tom Peterson seconded that the minutes of the May 2007 Annual Meeting be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Received from Pat Caffrey. Pat gave recognition and thanks to JoAnne Draper, Richard Koelling, Tom Peterson, and Don Shennum for their assistance during the Treasurer transition.

**Nominations Committee:**

1. **Election of officers to the Board of Trustees:** Cheri Cody presented the slate of nominees for Members of the Board of Trustees. Those candidates are: Tom Peterson (3 years), Carol Johnson (3 years), Marilyn Krabbe (2 years) and Sue Aschinger (2 years). No nominations from the floor. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Election of members to the Endowment Fund Committee:** Cheri Cody presented the name of Marcia Leise for a 3 year term on the Endowment Fund Committee. No nominations from the floor. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Election of members to the Nominations Committee:** Cheri Cody presented the names of Stephanie Peterson for a 3 year term and Janet Nichols for a 2 year term on the Nominations Committee. No nominations from the floor. 56 yea votes, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

**Approval of Annual Budget:** Gene Kopecky moved to accept the budget as corrected, and Richard Baltaro seconded the motion. 48 yea votes, 1 nay vote and 1 abstention. Motion carried. Volunteers for fundraising: Darrell Draper, Melanie Williams, Al Harrison.

**Nominations and Funding for delegates to General Assembly:** None. Only Rev. Snyder will attend from Second Unitarian.

**By-law Changes:** Proposal to change the name of the Social Justice Committee to the Social Justice Coordinating Council. 56 yea, 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

**Anti-Torture Banner Proposal:** Discussion of a proposal from Caroline True, with support of the Social Justice Coordinating Council, for a banner to be hung from the North outside wall of the church building during the month of June stating our opposition to torture of any kind. Gene Kopecky moved and Steve Abraham seconded the motion to approve the board's authority to receive and approve wording of the banner as presented by the Social Justice Coordinating Council. 35 yea, 4 no, 6 abstention. Motion carried. It was stated by Wendell Nekoranec, for the record, that we should check with our insurance carrier to see if, in the event of vandalism relating to the banner, our insurance would cover us.

**Closing Words:** Rev. Josh Snyder

**Adjourn:** 1:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nancy Amsler, Secretary of the Board

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Annual Meeting – May 17, 2009**  
*Submitted by Pat Caffrey*

*A sincere expression of gratitude and appreciation to all contributors for their generosity and stewardship in ensuring that Second Unitarian Church continues to be a vibrant and dynamic church and an ever brighter beacon of hope in our community! Thank you!*

**The Financial Statements presented are as of April 30, 2009, and include the following:**

- Consolidated Balance Sheet
- Fund Balances Report
- Income and Expense Report for Operating Year of 2008-2009 including budget information

**Presentation of Fund Balances as part of Consolidated Balance Sheet**

In our efforts to achieve a more comprehensive consolidated balance sheet, the Fund Balances and reconciliation to checking and money market balances, are included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The Consolidated Balance Sheet shows the restricted and unrestricted funds in both the assets and liabilities/members' equity portions of the balance sheet. Checking and Money Market Account Balances total \$81,866.34. \$49,092.38 is Restricted Funds. \$39,773.96 is Unrestricted Funds.

In addition it recognizes the prepaid pledges as payable in 2009-2010. To accurately report these as pledges paid in 2008-2009 for 2009-2010, this amount is recorded as a Liability (Payable). It will be transferred to Pledge Income in the next fiscal year of 2009-2010.

The Endowment Fund – Fund 03 is detailed on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Included in the Endowment Fund are investments in the Vanguard Group, the donated Jefferson Pilot Annuity and the donated 50 shares of Citigroup stock.

**Fund Balances Report**

Notes to the Fund Balances Report include the following:

Transfers in June 2008 from various funds were consolidated into Fund 03 – Endowment Funds.

- Fund 02 – Dodge Fund (Mutual Fund) was transferred to the Vanguard Group.
- Fund 03 – Boggs Mutual Fund (Mainstay) was transferred to Vanguard Group.
- Fund 10 – Endowment Money Market was transferred to the Vanguard Group.
- Fund 13 – Interest from Money Market was transferred to the Vanguard Group.
- Fund 25 – Boggs 04, 05 was transferred to the Vanguard Group.

The total amount transferred to the Vanguard group was \$45,166.00.

As per the accountant's recommendation, in September, 2008, the investments were marked to market:

- Interest / dividends are recorded as capital gain or loss monthly as well as any fees.
- Changes in market value are recorded as "Unrealized Gain or Loss" account on a monthly basis (except for the Jefferson Pilot Annuity which is annual).
- Fund 06 – Music and Worship – name changed from Choir.
- Fund 16 – Welcoming Congregation balance of \$147.00 was transferred to Fund 08 Social Action.
- Fund 20 – Service/Project Collections – name changed from Together, Inc. to allow the fund to be used for multiple purposes.

**Income and Expenses: Notes follow the Income and Expense Statement**

### Additional Notes

The Finance Committee with approval from the Board of Trustees implemented additional procedures to strengthen the management of funds and to exercise responsibility in the handling of those funds. This included: 1) New procedures for the counting and processing of Sunday contributions and deposits and 2) Two signatures required on all checks.

<b>Second Unitarian Church Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED) - Consolidated - April 30, 2009</b>		
	<b>Current Year-to-Date</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>Omaha State Bank-Checking</b>	\$7,255.19	
<b>Omaha State Bank-Money Market</b>	<u>\$74,611.15</u>	
	\$81,866.34	
Checking & Money Market - Restricted		
01 - OPERATING FUND - PREPAID PLEDGE	\$5,510.00	
04 - ASEC FUND	\$840.71	
05 - BUILDING	\$4,441.05	
06 - MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$688.67	
07 - MACYL BOROFF LIBRARY	\$988.27	
08 - SOCIAL ACTION	\$1,725.59	
09 - RGL CHILDREN	\$460.10	
12 - NEW BUILDING FUND MON MKT	\$7,125.00	
14 - HUNTER FUND MM	\$2,000.00	
15 - TEEN MINISTRIES	\$367.11	
17 - TECHNOLOGY	\$303.01	
19 - FELLOWSHIP FUND	\$614.98	
20 - SERVICE/PROJECT COLLECTION	\$101.72	
23 - MEMBERSHIP	\$833.17	
26 - ASCHINGER MM	\$16,000.00	
27 - CARING FUND	<u>\$93.00</u>	
<b>Checking &amp; Money Market - Restricted</b>		\$42,092.38
<b>Checking &amp; Money Market - Unrestricted*</b>		\$39,773.96
<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>		
Vanguard Group	\$29,877.93	
Jefferson Pilot Annuity	\$11,149.02	
Citigroup Inc. 50 Shares Common Stock (3/09 \$2.68/sh)	<u>\$152.50</u>	
<b>Subtotal Endowment Funds</b>		<u>\$41,179.45</u>
<b>Subtotal Current Assets (Fund Balances)</b>		<b>\$123,045.79</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
LAND AND BUILDINGS		
Land	\$20,000.00	
Church Building	\$88,744.00	
Equipment**	\$1,650.00	
Furniture and Fixtures**	<u>\$5,125.72</u>	
<b>Subtotal Fixed Assets</b>		<u>\$115,519.72</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><b>\$238,565.51</b></u>

<b>LIABILITIES (PAYABLES)</b>		
Pledges Prepaid-Next Year	\$5,510.00	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES (PAYABLES)</b>		\$5,510.00
<b>FUND BALANCES / MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Fund Balances	\$134,413.57	
Restricted Funds - Committees	(\$11,457.38)	
Restricted Funds - Building, Hunter, Aschinger	(\$25,125.00)	
Restricted Funds - Endowment	(\$41,179.45)	
Unrealized Gain/Loss Vanguard	(\$16,004.78)	
Unrealized Gain/Loss Citigroup	(\$873.00)	
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES - RESTRICTED</b>		\$77,761.83
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES - UNRESTRICTED</b>		\$39,773.96
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		\$115,519.72
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE/MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		<u>\$238,565.51</u>
<b>Second Unitarian Church Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED) - Consolidated - April 30, 2009</b>		
	<b>Current Year</b>	
<b>RECON - FUND BALANCES</b>		
Fund Balances	\$134,413.57	
Unrealized Gain/Loss Vanguard	(\$16,004.78)	
Unrealized Gain/Loss Citigroup	(\$873.00)	
<b>Totals as represented on Accounting Fund Balances Rpt</b>	<b>\$117,535.79</b>	
Pledges Prepaid - Amount Received-Due 2009-2010	\$5,510.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$123,045.79</u></b>	
<b>*RECON - TOTAL FUND BALANCES UNRESTRICTED</b>		
01 - OPERATING FUND	\$34,388.97	
13 - INTEREST FROM MONEY MARKET	\$372.15	
24 - FUNDRAISERS	\$5,012.84	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$39,773.96</u></b>	
**Equipment and Furniture and Fixtures will be reviewed in the next fiscal year.		

<b>Second Unitarian Church Accounting Fund Balances (UNAUDITED) April 30, 2009</b>					
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Direct Transactions</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
01 - OPERATING	34,700.25	0.00	12,311.03	12,622.31	34,388.97
July 2008 - April 2009	14,533.39	0.00	135,113.24	115,257.66	34,388.97
03 - ENDOWMENT FUNDS	38,457.98	2,721.47	0.00	0.00	41,179.45
July 2008 - April 2009	28,175.01	-16,877.78	29,882.22	0.00	41,179.45
04 - ASEC FUND	840.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	840.71
July 2008 - April 2009	840.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	840.71

05 - BUILDING	4,441.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,441.05
July 2008 - April 2009	5,288.94	0.00	0.00	847.89	4,441.05
06 - MUSIC & WORSHIP	688.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	688.67
July 2008 - April 2009	527.51	0.00	389.00	227.84	688.67
07 - MACYL BOROFF LIBRARY	988.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	988.27
July 2008 - April 2009	926.29	0.00	556.90	494.92	988.27
08 - SOCIAL ACTION	1,767.90	0.00	40.00	82.31	1,725.59
July 2008 - April 2009	1,104.63	0.00	3,348.22	2,727.26	1,725.59
09 - RGL CHILDREN	855.10	0.00	0.00	395.00	460.10
July 2008 - April 2009	822.38	0.00	825.00	1,187.28	460.10
11 - KIOS-MEMBERSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
July 2008 - April 2009	0.00	0.00	1,725.00	1,725.00	0.00
12 - NEW BUILDING FUND MON MKT	7,125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,125.00
July 2008 - April 2009	7,125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,125.00
13 - INTEREST FROM MONEY MARKET	329.25	0.00	42.90	0.00	372.15
July 2008 - April 2009	508.39	0.00	-136.24	0.00	372.15
14 - HUNTER FUND MM	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
July 2008 - April 2009	4,614.00	0.00	0.00	2,614.00	2,000.00
15 - TEEN MINISTRIES	367.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	367.11
July 2008 - April 2009	287.11	0.00	80.00	0.00	367.11
17 - TECHNOLOGY	303.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	303.01
July 2008 - April 2009	204.32	0.00	98.69	0.00	303.01
19 - FELLOWSHIP FUND	614.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	614.98
July 2008 - April 2009	64.76	0.00	550.22	0.00	614.98
20 - SERVICE/PROJECT COLLECTION	101.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	101.72
July 2008 - April 2009	0.00	0.00	748.99	647.27	101.72
23 - MEMBERSHIP	898.65	0.00	0.00	65.48	833.17
July 2008 - April 2009	558.49	0.00	2,019.25	1,744.57	833.17
24 - FUNDRAISERS	5,012.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,012.84
July 2008 - April 2009	6,124.34	0.00	625.00	1,736.50	5,012.84
26 - ASCHINGER MM	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,000.00
July 2008 - April 2009	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	4,000.00	16,000.00
27 - CARING FUND	93.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.00
July 2008 - April 2009	93.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.00
Totals	115,585.49	2,721.47	12,393.93	13,165.10	117,535.79
July 2008 - April 2009	98,271.56	-16,877.78	169,377.20	133,235.19	117,535.79

**Second Unitarian Church  
Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)  
OPERATING Fund 01, April 30, 2009**

		Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Budget Percentage	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Percentage	Revised Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>	4050						
Pledge Income/Current Yr.	4101	\$10,296.33	\$99,889.30	95.84%	\$125,070.00	79.87%	\$125,070.00
New Pledges Current Year	4102	240.00	1,240.00	148.81%	1,000.00	124.00%	1,000.00
Pledges for Previous Year	4103	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Subtotal Income	4050	10,536.33	101,229.30	96.36%	126,070.00	80.30%	126,070.00
Interest Income	4400	0.00	19.18	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Dividend Income	4401	0.00	202.37	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Fundraising/Gifts	4410	1,116.00	27,227.62	491.99%	6,641.00	409.99%	6,641.00
Offering	4420	658.70	6,699.96	107.20%	7,500.00	89.33%	7,500.00
Rent	4430	0.00	175.00	21.00%	1,000.00	17.50%	1,000.00
MISC. INCOME	4500						
Refund Income	4503	0.00	1.75	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Sabbatical Income	4504	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Subtotal Misc. Income	4500	0.00	1.75	0.14%	1,500.00	0.12%	1,500.00
TRANSFER FUNDS	4610	0.00	-441.94	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>12,311.03</u>	<u>135,113.24</u>	<u>113.61%</u>	<u>142,711.00</u>	<u>94.68%</u>	<u>142,711.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
SALARY EXPENSES	5000						
Office Admin. Salary	5110	\$929.50	\$9,234.79	90.41%	\$12,257.00	75.34%	\$12,257.00
Asst .Treasurer	5111	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2,800.00	0.00%	2,800.00
Music Director*	5119	0.00	1,640.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	7,152.00
DRE Salary	5120	<u>1,184.50</u>	<u>10,689.24</u>	<u>100.27%</u>	<u>11,845.00</u>	<u>90.24%</u>	<u>11,845.00</u>
Subtotal Salary Expenses	5000	2,114.00	21,564.03	92.92%	26,902.00	80.16%	34,054.00
MINISTERIAL PKG*	5121						
Housing Allowance	5122	1,666.67	14,166.69	85.00%	20,000.00	70.83%	17,500.00
Insurance Benefits	5123	706.45	5,615.41	107.32%	6,279.00	89.43%	5,494.00
Minister W2 Salary	5124	2,403.54	20,430.09	80.46%	30,471.00	67.05%	27,279.00
Professional Expense	5125	536.02	3,783.10	96.59%	4,700.00	80.49%	4,112.50
Minister Pension	5126	<u>391.67</u>	<u>3,329.20</u>	<u>85.00%</u>	<u>4,700.00</u>	<u>70.83%</u>	<u>4,112.50</u>
Subtotal Ministerial Pkg	5121	5,704.35	47,324.49	85.85%	66,150.00	71.54%	58,498.00
Moving Expenses	5127	0.00	3,500.00	100.00%	3,500.00	100.00%	3,500.00
Payroll Taxes	5128	161.73	1,566.45	89.51%	2,100.00	74.59%	2,100.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	5130						
Administrative Expense	5131-100	484.94	2,717.47	236.65%	1,378.00	197.20%	1,378.00
Treasurer Admin Expense	5132	<u>51.49</u>	<u>908.79</u>	<u>140.72%</u>	<u>775.00</u>	<u>117.26%</u>	<u>775.00</u>
Subtotal Administrative Expenses	5130	536.43	3,626.26	202.12%	2,153.00	168.43%	2,153.00



# STAFF ANNUAL REPORTS

## Annual Report 2008-2009

### Stephen Sinclair, M.Div., Interim Minister

As I prepare to leave Omaha and begin another interim ministry elsewhere, I would like to highlight some of things that we have accomplished together this year. It hasn't been easy, but no one ever said it would be. It is challenging and uncomfortable to look more closely at the way things are done so as to discern whether or not changes should be made—changes that will help a congregation to more effectively live out its mission and to have a more significant voice in the larger community. To that end let us celebrate these things:

- Thirty-five members attended the Creative Conflict Workshop.
- The highest dollar amount ever was pledged to the church.
- An alcohol policy was written and approved.
- A communications committee was formed.
- Church governance was changed from a small church liaison model to a program counsel model.
- Three successful fundraisers were held.
- The newly formed men's group was a success.
- The congregation began to participate in the Shared Community Meal program.
- Worship services refocused and structured in order to be more welcoming and reverent.
- New phone system was installed.
- New sound system for the sanctuary (donated by a member).
- An effective and resourceful office administrator hired.

These are just some of the things that happened this year that should be celebrated by you, the congregation of Second Unitarian. It through the work of everyone in the church that these came into being and is an indication of the health of the shared ministries of this faith community and of the importance that is placed upon stewardship.

What is imperative in the year to come is for the congregation and its elected leaders to work with the new interim minister to closely examine the relationship between the church and the professional minister so that there can be a better working relationship between leadership and the minister who will be called by the congregation next spring. There needs to be a clear understanding of the role of professional ministry in all aspects of church life as well as a clear understanding of the role and authority of the minister.

Also, I encourage you use whatever resources are available on the district level to engage in a thoughtful examination of what it means to be a welcoming congregation and to look for the systems in place that actually work against your stated mission as being an open, inclusive and welcoming congregation.

In Faith,

Stephen Sinclair, M.Div.

**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
**Laura Shennum, Director of Religious Education**

In 2008-09, the K-6<sup>th</sup> grades explored at the beginning of the year their Unitarian Universalist identity through the new Tapestry in Faith curriculum. They went on to look at the Golden Rule in several different world religions and developed service projects that benefited the congregation and the community. We are ending the year with Earth Ministry. We had over 10 children plant pumpkin seeds for the community pumpkin patch. Our Chalice Tots have been using the curriculum *Celebrate Me and My World*. They have spent most of the year learning about themselves and have recently turned to looking at their world. We have 30 children registered and have averaged a monthly attendance of 19 children. Teachers did a fantastic job in the classroom and created a fun, stable environment for the children.

This year, safe congregation education workshops were held for the board, teachers, teens, children and parents. This will be an on-going educational process for the entire congregation. K-1 Our Whole Lives program was offered, but due to lack of interest and scheduling issues it was unable to be followed through.

We had several multigenerational services this year. I implemented new ideas with music instruments, modeling clay, music, and writing exercises. The children helped develop the Earth Day service from the seating arrangement to the story that was told.

Besides doing the children's religious education, I have facilitated other groups. There were two parent groups; one for parents of elementary age and younger parents as well as one for youth parents. I led a successful Spirit in Practice adult class on Thursday mornings for 10 weeks. In consultation with the minister, I developed a series of social events in February and March called Fabulous Fridays. Although not huge successful events, they were enjoyed by the people who attended them and may be something to pursue in the future.

At the district and national level, I participated in several events. In October, I took a district offered workshop on Pastoral Care for Religious Educators as well as attended the National Liberal Religious Educators (LREDA) conference in New Mexico. Both provided me with valuable skills for my position as DRE. In addition, I attended the Prairie Star District Conference in Duluth, MN in April. I presented a workshop on Safe Congregation at the conference to over 20 attendees. After the conference, I went to a retreat for the PSD LREDA chapter with 18 other professional religious educators in our district. I have been actively involved in preparations for the first UU camp in Nebraska, Camp StarTrail as well as part of the Annual Conference District Planning Committee. I will be working with Cheryl Wallace again in June to have the Second Annual UU Church camp for children K-6 grade.

Thank you so much for the support and enthusiasm the congregation has shown for the children of our congregation as well as for me in my position!

**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
**Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator**

I began working with Second Unitarian Church in March, 2009. Thanks to everyone for being so welcoming and helpful. I'd like to especially thank Nancy Amsler, who has been my (very patient) mentor, as well as Pastor Stephen Sinclair and Laura Shennum, who have provided much-needed guidance.

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who are the "Folding Fellowship" for *Second Thoughts*, our monthly newsletter. Their help is invaluable and much appreciated – we couldn't do the newsletter without you! Recent "Folding Fellowship" participants include Nancy Amsler, Diane Gowens, Doris Wallace, Tammy Hunter, Marilyn Krabbe, Marcia Leise, Kathie Haskins, and Al Harrison. In the future, we hope to build this into a regular roster of Office Volunteers to assist in a number of tasks.

I want to thank David Martin, who stepped up to become editor of *Second Thoughts* and whose professional experience greatly improves the quality of our publication. Anni Martin has volunteered to help with newsletter design, and we should be seeing the results of this very soon. Richard Koelling has been doing the final proofreading.

Thanks to the assistance of the Technology Committee, our office is blessed with an excellent copy machine/printer and a new telephone system.

The new Communications Committee will be an asset both to the church and to the church office. I'm looking forward to sharing ideas on how to improve our many avenues of communication.

I've been working with Nancy Amsler, Cheri Cody, and others to clean up our various mailing lists and prepare to transfer this information into our PowerChurch software over the summer.

Finally, I'd like to thank Alexandra Nather, former Office Administrator, whose detailed notes, organizational skills, and even recent email messages have been invaluable in getting me up to speed.

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**VOTING SECTION**

**Nominations and Leadership Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Don Shennum*

**Members:** Don Shennum and Janet Nichols

**2009-2010 Candidates' Biographies**

**Board of Trustees**

**Clyde Anderson (1-year term)**

I joined the church in March 1997, 3 months after my oldest daughter, Kerry Lee joined. In June 2001 I retired from Union Pacific and now work as a part-time school bus driver/aide for Omaha Public Schools. My wife, Mary Anna, is a horticulturalist with the Douglas County Extension Service. Being "Catholic refugees," she and daughter Kelly occasionally accompany me to services at Second Unitarian. Mary Anna and I share a deep interest in environmental and social justice issues. At the present time I am Treasurer for Nebraska Sierra Club and serve on Sierra Club's national Transportation Chairs Committee. I also serve on the boards of the Inner-city Coalition on the Environment and ProRail Nebraska.

Soon after joining Second Unitarian I was recruited to the Finance Committee (two years) and was Chair of the Social Justice Committee for three years before accepting nomination to the Board of Trustees in 2002-2003 and served as Board Chair in 2003-2004. My other committee participation

includes Long Range Planning, Building Needs Assessment, Technology, Committee on Ministry, Nominations, Ministerial Salary Review, and I am completing my third year as Chair of Building & Grounds.

This will be a challenging year for the Board – directing the transition from the Interim Minister Program to a settled minister while managing church finances during this stressful period when many church households have seen significant declines in income and/or wealth.

### **Kathy Bell (3-year term)**

I have been a member of Second Unitarian since 1995, when I joined the church with my husband Rick. I served as a Religious Education teacher while our children, Ross and Alison, were growing up. My previous board terms include a full two-year term from 1997 to 1999 and several months during the 2001-2002 church year to fill out the remainder of a board term. I have chaired the Finance, Caring and Library Committees and have served on the Personnel and the Religious Growth and Learning Committees. While leading house meetings during this year's pledge drive, I was reminded of how much strength and meaning I draw from my interactions with the people of this church. I hope my actions on the Board will increase the likelihood that new and long-time members will find strength and meaning at Second Unitarian.

### **Lorraine Duggin (3-year term)**

I first attended this church in the early 1970's, in 1985 began attending regularly, and in spring, 1986, became a member. I've been on the Music and Worship Committee since 1986, and chaired that committee in 1989 and 1990. I have also organized poetry services and spoken and/or read poetry and lay led many times from the pulpit. In 1990-1991 I served on the Board and attended General Assembly (in Milwaukee) and Leadership School in Beloit, WI, at my own expense, (which is what we did in those days.) I'm a longtime member of Social Justice and the Membership Committees, conducting interviews and writing "New Member Profiles" columns, since 1985. With members Jim Flanery and Phil Allen, I was instrumental in connecting both First and Second Unitarian Churches to OTOC at its inception, the three of us giving panel presentations on the aims of that organization at both churches, urging involvement through our Social Justice Committees.

A founding member with Alice Blackstone of the church's Macyl Boruff Memorial Library, I still serve on that committee. With Alice I also served on the informal "Caring Committee," women who visited church members in hospitals and nursing homes as well as offering rides to church and other events during the eleven years we were lay led. I've also helped with office administrative duties. I've been an active member of Writing Through Spirituality since the group started, having presented several First Hours, some on writing and poetry, a six-week session on Joseph Campbell's "The Power of Myth," a presentation on the patriot Thomas Paine, others. For many years, I sang in the choir. Second Church and its people hold a special place in my heart, so I would like to see this church stabilize its membership to a greater degree and develop its music program, concerns that members and Pastor Sinclair have been working hard on. I believe that this church's well-being can best be achieved through continued solid programming, stimulating, challenging, and content-filled messages and sermons, perhaps fewer but more efficient committees (as was suggested by Gary Blaine's assessment before we hired Rev. Snyder). I would also like to see more focus on adult learning, community building, and marketing through films, forums, study groups, and Building Your Own Theology discussion groups, for example, instead of emphasizing tasks available in committee membership.

### **Don Shennum (3-year term)**

I was born in Omaha in 1970, baptized and confirmed a Missouri Synod Lutheran. Growing up, religion was not an important aspect of my life. In 1989, I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to attend college at UC-Berkeley. I graduated with a BA in English in 1993. Laura and I were high school sweethearts here in Omaha. She moved to the Bay Area in 1992, and we married in 1994. We moved back to Omaha in 1998, to start a family and be closer to our parents. Our first child, Siena, was born in 1999. With the arrival of our Siena, we started exploring outlets for our liberal religious and social beliefs. I had visited the First Unitarian Church when I was growing up in Omaha, so we decided to visit 2UU in the fall of 1999. Laura and I immediately felt very welcomed, in a community of our peers where we were free to explore our own personal religious beliefs.

We moved back to the Bay Area from January of 2002 through January of 2005. Upon returning to 2UU that first time after moving back, Laura and I both felt at home, like something that was missing from our lives was once again rediscovered. We now have 3 children, and our whole family is thankful for the role the church plays in our lives. By joining the Board of Trustees, I hope to positively impact the church's role as a beacon of religious thought and expression within the community.

### **Nominations and Leadership Development**

#### **Steve Abraham (3-year term)**

My love for this church and the people of this community is my best qualifier. It helps that I have sat on the Board of 2U and chair a large committee, and therefore know the shadowy aspects as well as the brilliance of Church life. I'm not afraid to face challenges, and like to work collaboratively and inclusively.

#### **Jim Martin (2-year term)**

Born to an architect and a nurse, both from South Carolina, Jim Martin has an A.A. from Munich (Germany), a B.A. in Political Science from USF, and a J.D. from the University of Missouri. Jim currently works for West Corporation in Omaha as their Enterprise IT Security Manager.

Jim was introduced to the UU faith in 1993, and joined the UU church in Columbia, Missouri, where he married Anni Waters (a lifelong UU) in 1996. Since joining the 2nd UU Church in Omaha, he has been an active part of the Religious Education program. He and Anni have three young UUs, Abby (9), Nate (5) and Katie (3). His hobbies include playing with his kids, bicycling, playing guitar, tinkering with old computers and reading voraciously.

### **Endowment Fund Committee**

#### **Vicki Pratt (3-year term)**

I have been an active member of Second Unitarian since 1995 and have served on the Board and as Chair of Social Justice and Library committees. I'm currently on the Finance Committee as well as Care for the Environment group. I'm involved in issue groups and events coordinated by Omaha Together One Community. I was the UU team's Paint-A-Ton leader for several years and edited our church newsletter for two years. I've coordinated our social witness activities at many local events. I have spoken from the pulpit a couple of times and also served as Lay Leader and facilitated several First Hour discussions. I have attended four District Annual Conferences and am currently the Prairie Star District Social Justice Network Program Chair.

I am retired and living on a company pension and my own 401K savings so understand the impacts of the present economic situation on investments. My goals for the Endowment Committee are to implement Planned Giving into our Endowment Fund and coordinate with the Finance Committee to define roles for managing stewardship as well as endowment funds and operating budget.

**Cy Leise (2-year term)**

Marcia and I have been Unitarian Universalists since 1979. Although we were members at Second Unitarian for a brief period of time in the late 70's, we were members of First Unitarian for nearly 30 years. In 2007 we returned to Second Unitarian and feel that it is our church home. We were much involved in the RE program at First and our two daughters, accompanied by Marcia, frequently presented their music during services. My career has been mainly as a faculty member in psychology and human services at Bellevue University. We are finding Second to be a supportive community for our spiritual needs and have enjoyed meeting everyone as Sunday greeters. When Marcia decided to take up the role of archivist, which has involved many hours each week doing records research, writing, and preparing the Legacy Sharing site, I offered, and was approved by the Board, to take over her elected position on the Endowment Fund Committee. I have also agreed to be nominated to finish the remaining two years of the three-year term for which Marcia was initially elected. Among my interests for the committee are to explore ways to help members become more aware of options for their wills and estate planning that can benefit the church long term.

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## **PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

The work of a number of individuals has resulted in numerous changes in bylaws. Due to the nature of these changes and the paper that would be required for duplication, we have chosen not to reprint all pages of bylaws in this Annual Report. All changes were discussed at the Town Hall Meeting and will again be presented during the Annual Meeting. Copies of bylaws changes are available on our web site. Printed copies are available upon request.

**\SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA  
2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	<b>2008-2009</b>		<b>2009-2010</b>
<b>Income</b>			
PI Income - Current Year	\$125,070		\$130,143
New Pledges - Current Year	\$1,000		\$2,500
Pledge Income - Previous Year			
Interest Income	\$0		\$150
Dividend Income	\$0		\$0
Fundraising/Gifts	\$6,641		\$5,466
Offering	\$7,500		\$7,500
Rent	\$1,000		\$350
Use of Sabbatical Funds	\$1,500		\$0
RE Registration - Children	\$0		\$300
RE Registration - Teen	\$0		\$100
Elvira Boggs 2009 Gift	\$0		\$15,300
Transfer of Money Market Interest (Fund 13)	\$0		\$300
Transfer of Fundraising Fund (Fund 24)	\$0		\$5,013
Total Income	\$142,711		\$167,122
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Salary Expenses</b>			
Office Administrator Salary	\$15,057		\$12,246
Office Administrator Benefits	\$0		\$0
Asst. Treasurer			\$1,807
Director RE Salary	\$11,845		\$13,845
Music Director Salary	\$8,269		\$0
Membership Coordinator Salary	\$0		\$0
<b>Ministerial Package</b>			
Minister, Compensation	\$57,381		\$70,994
Moving Expenses	\$3,500		\$5,000
Payroll Taxes	\$2,100		\$3,027
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>			
Director RE Prof. Expenses	\$900		\$1,385
Music Director Expense	\$0		\$0
Office Admin Expense	\$1,378		\$1,378
Treasurer Admin Expense	\$775		\$850
Youth Director Contribution	\$2,000		\$2,610
Total Staff and Minister Expense	\$103,205		\$113,142

<b>General Expenses</b>		
Board Expenses (Travel, Training, etc)	\$300	\$300
Leadership Development	\$0	\$500
Childcare	\$1,100	\$1,616
Consumables (Paper products, cups)	\$0	\$0
Copier	\$2,550	\$2,800
Denominational Dues**	\$9,500	\$10,706
Insurance	\$3,100	\$3,100
Janitorial - Cleaning	\$4,411	\$4,545
Janitorial supplies/trash pick up	\$815	\$720
OTOC dues	\$750	\$830
Postage	\$800	\$440
Telephone (includes Internet)	\$2,040	\$2,200
Advertising**	\$840	\$495
Utilities	\$3,500	\$4,025
Ministerial Search	\$0	\$10,000
Building for the Future Fund	\$0	\$0
Religious Education Supplies	\$600	\$800
Interim Minister Search	\$0	\$300
<b>Total General Expense</b>	<b>\$30,306</b>	<b>\$43,377</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>		
Adult Spiritual Education	\$150	\$278
Building and Grounds	\$1,700	\$1,550
Caring	\$350	\$240
Committee On Ministry	\$0	\$0
Denominational Connections	\$0	\$0
Fellowship	\$800	\$725
Finance	\$300	\$200
Library	\$0	\$0
Long Range Planning (SASC)	\$0	\$0
Membership	\$1,250	\$1,160
Music and Worship	\$3,000	\$4,500
Nominations	\$0	\$0
Religious Growth and Learning	\$800	\$800
Social Justice Coordinating Council	\$450	\$750
Technology	\$400	\$400
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,200</b>	<b>\$10,603</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$142,711</b>	<b>\$167,122</b>

# COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

## Board of Trustees Annual Report 2008-2009 *Submitted by Bill Woodhams*

**Members:** Bill Woodhams (chair), Carol Johnson (vice-chair), Tom Peterson (secretary), Nancy Amsler, Sue Aschinger, Louisa Foster, Tammy Hunter, Marilyn Krabbe

This has been a year of significant change, ranging from music and worship activities, through church governance. The board has worked with Stephen Sinclair, our interim minister, as these changes have developed.

The Board of Trustees met with Stephen in an "Interim Start-up Workshop" conducted on October 12, 2008, by Rev. Fritz Hudson of the Lincoln Unitarian Church. In this session the following four goals were established for the board for the year:

- Clarify leadership roles and lines of authority between and among minister, board, committee chairs and congregation. Roles and responsibilities are to be developed in partnership with one another and be covenantal in nature
- Develop/implement well-articulated conflict resolution processes. Because times of change entail conflicts and because past conflicts have illustrated the need for tools and means of effectively addressing conflict, the goal for implementing conflict resolution processes will help us effectively navigate our conflicts.
- Develop partnership assessment processes. The board recognizes the obligation to assess whether/not our partnerships are effectively carrying out the mission of the church.
- Articulate the worship needs and style of Second Unitarian. As a congregation, we will be exploring various worship styles toward being able to articulate what will best meet the worship needs of the congregation.

The board has collaborated with the minister, committees, and the congregation as these goals have been pursued. Two-way communication between the congregation, committees, staff and the board were encouraged through the year. Specific results are available as you read the reports of the committees and staff.

Along with the four goals, the board has worked to focus its attention on long term issues for the church and to encourage church committees to be more autonomous as they work with staff to do day to day church work. Much has been learned from working with Pastor Stephen, and the board believes it is well prepared to work with the next interim minister, to educate the newly elected board as they assume their duties,

Thanks to each of you who have labored, in so many ways, to help this congregation live out its mission.

**Adult Spiritual Education Committee (ASEC)**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Anita Jeck*

**Members:** Anita Jeck, chair; Betty Segell; Melody Jones; Leslie Harvey; Melanie Williams; Tammy Hunter, board liaison; Laura Shennum, DRE

**Mission:** *To facilitate programming that meets the spiritual and educational needs of our religious community.*

After hosting a salad bowl discussion on the topic of “Home Grown Unitarianism,” over the summer, the Adult Spiritual Education Committee began the church year in the fall with an envisioning evening titled *Growing A Vision*, with the objective of developing a vision to guide our efforts over the next couple of years. Fifteen people attended, and participants Melody Jones and Leslie Harvey were soon welcomed to the committee.

This year Laura Shennum and Melody Jones offered both a day and evening option for the class “Spirit in Practice.” We enjoyed hosting a *Food & Friends* dinner this spring at the invitation of the Membership committee. This May we are experimenting with a Monday evening “Music Meditation.” We have also been responsible for coordinating the First Hour Discussion schedule for Sunday mornings before the service.

Adult Spiritual Education Committee members are enthused about our plans for next year which include a special emphasis on working with the Board of Trustees and the Transitions Team to help address educational and spiritual needs of the church community as we begin a second year of interim ministry and explore the possible path of growing into a “program” model church. Our plans include collaboration with the Transitions Team to facilitate a “growing pains” retreat in the early fall, facilitating regular “hot potato” discussions to address sensitive topics, coordinate a monthly First Hour discussion around the subject of being in relationship, and offer weekly Wednesday evening religion classes under the working title of *Beloved Community*. This summer we hope to create an informational brochure outlining the ASEC schedule for the 2009-2010 church year. We have tentative plans for the following year (2010-2011) of collaborating with the Caring Committee to offer a class on “Giving Meaning to Death,” and helping to set in place a process for recording and filing members’ wishes for their own memorial services if they so choose.

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**Archivist**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Marcia Leise*

In July, 2008, Marcia Leise responded to the Library Committee’s request for a volunteer to serve as the archivist for Second Unitarian. Three major projects were started.

- A column entitled “Notes from the Archives...” appeared in the monthly church newsletter *Second Thoughts*. These articles chronicled events and changes in the direction of Second Unitarian starting with its conception at First Unitarian Church. Each month focused on the time span surrounding significant changes or events such as installation of a new minister.
- An area of Second Showing was dedicated to display photos and other artifacts correlating with the time frame of the monthly articles.
- An electronic record was started using the Legacy Sharing website. [Chalice Journeys of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha](#) includes additional sections such as “In Memoriam” accompanying the chapters partitioned by the historical articles. Church members have access to log in and view this electronic document as it is built.

These endeavors are a work in progress, which will continue into the years to come.

**Buildings and Grounds Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Clyde Anderson*

**Members:** Clyde Anderson (chair), Tom Peterson (board liaison), Mike Brockman (custodian), Rick Bell, David Bringman, Al Harrison, and Tom Rundquist. Jana Halloran coordinates maintenance of the garden areas. Special thanks to Herb Armbrust for mowing our huge church lawn. Rick Bell has graciously volunteered to take over as B&G chair for the new church year.

The Building & Grounds Committee works to insure the facilities of the Church meet the needs of its members. These facilities include the Church grounds, the exterior & interior of the Church, the mechanical systems of the church, and major items of furniture. Aesthetics of the church is a joint responsibility of Music & Worship and the Building and Grounds Committees.

B&G generally meets the first Sunday of every month at Noon, but we welcome input anytime from Church members as to needs they observe. This input can come in the form of a phone call, an email, a note in our folder in the Administrator's office, or simply a conversation after Sunday Service.

We are especially thankful for all our wonderful volunteers who assist us maintain the building and church grounds. We had good turnouts for our Fall (October 11, 2008) and Spring (April 25, 2009) work days.

The following is a list of major projects and issues we dealt with this church year:

- Early morning Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, a category 2 tornado struck our church neighborhood that did severe damage to the large ash tree on the west side of the church. The east half of the tree broke off and was leaning against the roof and power lines. Thanks to Rick Bell, Dan Hanneman, and Jana Halloran, they had the tree sawed up and the debris carried to the curb by late Sunday afternoon.
- After Thanksgiving seating in the Sanctuary was rearranged so that the congregation faces west instead of north. This arrangement has several advantages including the potential for an increase in seats and easy access to the north stairway to reach the restrooms. Most members and friends like the west-facing arrangement better than north-facing because it is less formal and more intimate. Of course, the seating arrangement can be changed in less than an hour for specific needs. B&G still needs to install permanent sound cables and lighting to better support the new seating arrangement.
- Building & Grounds assisted the Technology Committee install a new digital phone system. In addition to providing auto-receptionist and expanded voice mail features, the new system makes it easier to transfer calls between extensions as well as providing intercom capability.
- Another joint project with Technology is upgrading the sound system in the Sanctuary. This a two-year project. The components were moved out of the Minister's Office to the northwest corner of the Sanctuary for easy access to the controls, and a new amplifier and mixer were installed. Have you noticed that the loud hum is gone?

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**Caring Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Dodie Robison*

**Members:** Dodie Robison, chair, Elaine Hess, Nancy Heinemeyer, Jill Archer, Diane Gowens, Jim Daniels, Gail Harrison and Marilyn Krabbe, board liaison

**Mission:** *To build a caring community that will help and support each of our members as we experience the events, stages and transitions of life.*

The committee, in cooperation with the Minister, is responsible for ensuring that the following functions are carried out. The Caring Committee assumes full responsibility for these functions when a Minister is not present:

- Sending cards for births, deaths, illnesses and announcing that information in church, and making wreaths for newborns for the nursery.
- Visiting hospitalized and homebound church members and sending flowers when appropriate.
- Coordinating transportation for members in need to and from church for services and special events.
- Assisting with memorial and funeral services and the receptions that follow.
- Providing and soliciting assistance for members in need.
- Sponsoring programs to address pastoral care needs.
- Maintaining a list of volunteers.
- Maintaining Donor and Memorial plaques

This year's activities included:

- As part of our Pastoral Care Mission, the caring committee presented: Breaking the silence: a dialogue on mental health in March, 2009 with a first hour presentation by Jill Archer and a third hour panel discussion. Lunch was provided by the committee.
- Initiated Adopt a UU Program which will keep in touch with members who are in the military or college, through cards, letters, email, and care packages.
- Provided meals for families during illness and hardship.
- Visited Together, Inc.
- Nancy Heinemeyer responded to the congregations joys, concerns, and, illness with her individual notes and with an acknowledgement in the monthly newsletter.
- Began exploring collaboration with the Membership Committee to contact "lost sheep."
- Elvira Bogg's name was added to the Memorial Plaque.

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**Communications Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Nancy Amsler*

**Members:** David Martin, *Second Thoughts* editor; Pam Curtiss-Smith; Lorraine Duggan; Gwen Eurich; Anni Martin; and Nancy Amsler, committee chair. Ex-officio member: Office Administrator Gary Emenitove.

This newly formed committee met in April, 2009. The first order of business was to approve a committee mission statement, which is: *The Communications Committee works closely with the Technology Committee and the Office Administrator, facilitates internal and external church publications, and ensures the consistency of printed and on-line materials.*

David Martin has agreed to serve as the newsletter editor. As editor he will review the articles that are submitted for content and form. He will work with the Office Administrator and the Minister.

Currently under discussion are ways to improve the print and online versions of the newsletter.

**Denominational Connections**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Gene Kopecky*

The Denominational Connections Committee was inactive for the Church year 2008-2009. No future activities are planned at this time.

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**Endowment Fund Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Mark Hunter*

**Members:** Mark Hunter, Rick Bell, Cy Leise, and Bill Woodhams (board liaison)

In the summer of 2008, the Committee transferred the bulk of the Endowment Portfolio into three funds: Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund (50%), Vanguard International Stock Market Fund (25%) and the Vanguard FTSE Social Index Fund (25%). The remaining investments are a Jefferson Pilot Annuity and 50 shares of Citigroup, Inc.

The committee's objective is to achieve maximum long-term return with reasonable risk exposure, along with some social considerations.

The goals are maximum return (total investment in stocks), reduction of risk by diversification (index mutual funds in U.S. and abroad), low costs (to maximize long-term gain), and social considerations.

The severe economic collapse in the last few months of 2008 led to a significant decline across most asset classes, including stocks. The last quarter of 2008 saw a decline in the value of the endowment portfolio of about 23.5%. The declines continued during the first two (2) months of 2009, before an upturn finally occurred in March (up to March 25), leaving a 2009 year-to-date decline of about 10.4%.

Historically, when a stock market recovers from a significant downturn, the "recovery" year sees a large increase in value. The key is to be patient and have faith in your long-term objectives. The endowment portfolio is invested in virtually every significant publicly-held business in the U.S. and a large number in Europe, Asia and the Emerging Markets.

Assuming that we avoid a 1930s type of economic collapse, I think that we are positioned to experience a meaningful recovery.

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**Fellowship Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Laura Neece-Baltaro*

**Members:** Laura Neece-Baltaro (chair), Janet Nichols, Dodie Robison, Betty Segell, board liaison: Nancy Amsler Ex-officio: Circle Supper Coordinator: Tom Rundquist

**Mission:** *To enhance the vision of the Second Unitarian Church by promoting a ministry of welcome and celebration.*

The Fellowship Committee had a busy year during 2008 - 2009 sponsoring events and providing services to our church community. For various reasons, our committee is becoming smaller and it is a very busy committee for so few members. We continue to provide supplies, set up, coordination of snacks and clean up for the coffee and refreshments after church services each Sunday.

Our ex-officio member, Tom Rundquist, coordinates Circle Suppers. They have been well attended.

We held our second annual Halloween party on the Saturday after Halloween, November 1<sup>st</sup>. All who attended had fun wearing their costumes one more time and enjoyed the snacks of popcorn, cookies, etc. We had a costume parade, played games, and watched the movie, “Charlie Brown’s Halloween.”

In November, we had our annual Thanksgiving Brunch for which we provided turkey and two choices of vegetarian Tofurkey, as well as drinks – all for a small fee. People brought side dishes or desserts to serve 10-12 people. The decorations were much appreciated and the turnout was large which prompted a discussion of our ability to continue to host the Thanksgiving and Easter Brunches.

In December, we provided refreshments after the Christmas Eve service. We provided hot mulled cider with the congregation bringing Christmas cookies.

We held our traditional, 8<sup>th</sup> annual “Sing for your Supper” in January. We again invited the teens to participate in the event with child care provided downstairs for those 6<sup>th</sup>-grade and under. Participants were asked to bring a soup or dessert with the committee providing bread, and beverages. Everyone ate the soups together and then the children went downstairs before the entertainment began. The teens particularly enjoyed performing for us.

Planning for a special service on Easter Sunday precluded having the annual Spring Brunch. Instead of a brunch, we provided a special Fellowship Hour. The congregation was invited to bring their own culture’s special seasonal treats and spring decorations made for a festive event.

We anticipate a celebration for Laura Shennum, Director of Religious Education as she enters seminary and prepares for the next big phase of her life. That celebration is scheduled for Sunday, April 26.

Financially, we had budgeted frugally and came in close to our projections, with only slight overspending due to replacing a coffee pot, and 3 tablecloths, as well as needing to buy extra plates and serving ware after the large turnout for the Social Justice movie night event in February.

In keeping with our mission statement, we continue to provide and seek ways to promote the fellowship ministry within the church.

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### **Finance Committee Annual Report 2008-2009 *Submitted by Stu Burns***

**Members:** Stu Burns, Kathy Bell, Vicki Pratt, Bill Kuhn, Al Harrison, Marilyn Krabbe (board liaison), Pat Caffrey (treasurer)

**Mission:** *To oversee the fiscal health of the church and to marshal the financial resources to further its mission.*

As both an interim ministry year for the church and a severe economic downturn for the country, 2008-2009 was a challenging time for the Finance Committee. A new task we undertook was to prepare an itemized count of each Sunday’s collection to enable easy entry by the Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer. Beginning this year, each collection was counted by two members of the Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, or Board of Trustees. Each counter verified the amount to be deposited, providing a steady level of security.

This year we gathered our congregation’s monetary pledges through a series of house meetings hosted by generous members of our church. These meetings, facilitated by members of both Finance and the Board of Trustees, provided an opportunity to discuss questions of stewardship in small groups. Our gatherings were also an opportunity for spiritual stewardship as Board members led lively conversations about changes and directions in our worship service. Despite the nationwide financial recession, Second Unitarian’s members pledged over \$130,000 for 2009-2010, an increase of more than \$5,000 over the previous year.

**Fundraising Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Darrel Draper*

**Members:** Darrel Draper (chair), Sue Aschinger (board liaison), Melanie Williams, Marcia Leise, Cy Leise, Steve Abraham, and Gay Abraham

At the 2008 2nd UU Church of Omaha Annual Meeting, a need was recognized to form a fundraising team to reduce the approximate \$6,000 deficit in the operating budget that was apparently not going to be covered by the projected pledge drive receipts. Several people volunteered to be part of an ex officio committee to try to reduce that deficit. In November, 2008, 2nd UU Board member, Sue Aschinger, serving as Board Liaison to the Fundraising Committee, contacted the volunteers and scheduled a meeting. The meeting was attended by Sue Aschinger, Darrel Draper, Melanie Williams, and Marcia Leise, who was not a Fundraising Committee volunteer, but who proposed an outline for a dinner/dance fundraiser.

Darrel Draper volunteered to chair the committee with no objections from those present.

Melanie Williams proposed a Craft Fair fundraiser which was held successfully on December 13, 2008, which yielded a net profit of about \$1,200. Melanie Williams and her husband, Kent Smotherman, and her family deserve great credit for producing this event.

A January 1, 2009, "Poker Night" event was conducted by the church men's group in coordination with the Fundraising Committee, led by Gene Kopecky, which yielded about \$224.

A January 20, 2009, "Second UU Inaugural Ball" pot luck dinner/dance was conducted with a free will offering per person (recommended \$5) yielded about \$150. Marcia & Cy Leise led the dancing, with Rick Bell providing video and a wide screen TV to view the highlights of the Obama Inauguration events, and with Stu Burns acting as emcee and devising and hosting a Presidential Trivia game.

A fundraising collection was held during the January 31, 2009, "Sing for Your Supper" event which yielded about \$114. In February and March 2009, Sue Aschinger, Darrel Draper, Marcia Leise, Cy Leise, Steve Abraham, and Gay Abraham continued extensive planning and research for the dinner/dance fundraiser scheduled for April 4, 2009. Marcia Leise took the lead and suggested assignments and supporting tasks which were distributed among the planners. Forty-one people attended the event. A net profit of \$866 was turned over to the church treasurer.

The above events produced or coordinated by the Fundraising Committee have netted over \$2,200 or almost 40% of our \$6,000 goal.

Future events in the next three months include a silent auction, garage/parking lot sale, a concert night, a poetry night, and a comedy/drama night. I have great confidence that our \$6,000 goal will be met.

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**Interim Ministry Transitions Team**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Anita Jeck*

**Members:** Pastor Stephen Sinclair, Mark Dickmeyer, Al Harrison, Rachel Yamamoto, Craig Piquette, Anita Jeck

The Interim Ministry Transitions Team was appointed by the Board of Trustees as an advisory board to the Interim Minister. Members were chosen to represent diverse areas of experience within the church. It was noted that the role of the Interim Ministry Transitions Team has not been well defined by

the UUA. It was acknowledged that it is basically up to the church leadership and the task force itself to define our role, prioritize needs, set and pursue goals. It is further noted that in the literature available, the task force is not a ministerial relations committee, and yet there does seem to be a need to have a more formal mechanism in place to support the minister. This committee met at the beginning of the church year and facilitated a few items such as orienting the minister to the congregation and its history, and obtaining a computer, but then went into “on call” mode after December. In March of 2009, the Transitions Team was reconvened in response to difficulties surrounding interim ministry.

There are a number of things that Pastor Sinclair suggests the task force consider facilitating in the future: an anti-oppression workshop such as “Beyond Categorical Thinking,” addressing change and conflict, addressing ambivalence regarding growth, addressing ambivalence regarding our mission, helping members work through their feelings regarding the previous minister, greater emphasis on being a beacon and examining the ways in which we can be more nurturing, education regarding the goals of interim ministry with an emphasis on “we” as a congregation, and education regarding lines of authority.

During the course of our discussions, it was noted that many of the difficulties that the church is experiencing can be attributed at least in part to the special challenge of being at a point of transition from being a “pastoral” church to a “program” church. It is perhaps in light of this particular transition that the task force needs to frame our efforts. We definitely see a need, and support the board’s proposal to restructure our governance. We recognize that such restructuring points us toward a “program” model and could help minimize the great burden of board service. We can also see that such restructuring could help committees to communicate more effectively with the broader leadership of the church, and enhance collaboration in living the church’s mission.

The task force needs to prioritize goals for the coming year, and if we are to have an interim minister, how he or she can best help the task force and congregation pursue those goals. It is not clear at this time how likely it is that the church will be able to hire another interim minister. Generally there has been a shortage of interim ministers willing to serve in the Midwest. It is unknown how the current recession affects that situation. As we approach the second year of Interim Ministry, we feel we have gained a greater sense as to how to proceed to be an effective advisory resource to the minister and better serve the congregation as we journey through the transitions that lie ahead.

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**Macyl Boruff Library Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Gwen Eurich*

**Members:** Lorraine Duggin, Gwen Eurich, Melissa Konecky, Anni Martin, Jim Martin, Vicki Pratt, and Harry Wilkins, with Nancy Amsler serving as board liaison.

The committee work for the past year included the purchase and installation of new shelves which allows us more space to add new books. Our annual book sale during the first two weekends in October brought a record \$547 into our Macyl Boruff fund. This fund allows us to purchase new titles. Subsequently, we added several new acquisitions to our library. A new dictionary and thesaurus were also ordered and donated to the library by Caroline True.

In January, committee members participated in the service fair. As a result, we had two new members join our committee. Presently, for the first time in our Macyl Boruff Library history, the committee is inventorying all of the books on our shelves.

**Membership Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Cheri Cody*

**Members:** Cheri Cody (chair), Leslie Harvey; Lorraine Duggin; Mary Bamesberger; Gail Harrison; and Sue Aschinger, board liaison.

**Mission:** *To be intentional about spreading the good news of Unitarian Universalism, welcoming visitors, extending an invitation to membership, and helping all find a place within the congregation to nurture their religious and spiritual growth. We will promote a culture of radical hospitality by being bridge builders to help all Second Unitarian members adapt to growth and find their place in Unitarian Universalism*

This was a year when many of the activities planned by the Membership Committee over the past few years became established. The Committee held its first Pathways to Membership class at the end of the last fiscal year. Two additional classes were held this year on November 1, 2008 and March 14, 2009. Pathways to Membership is a 5-hour class to help participants better understand Unitarian Universalism, the workings of Second Unitarian Church and the benefits and responsibilities of membership. Since July 1, 2008, the following people have become members at Second Unitarian: Jim & Anni Martin, Dan & Stephanie Herron, Charles & Emily Kaminski, Gary & Tina Price, Jeff & Katie Tessin, Joel & Sarah High, Bruce & Sue Gardner, Diane Gowens, and Judy Levin. Profiles of new members were written by Lorraine Duggin and published in Second Thoughts throughout the year. New member recognition ceremonies were held on November 2, 2008 and May 3, 2009.

We have been blessed over the years with dedicated greeters who welcome members and guests every Sunday morning. Greeters also collect the offering. We held our first greeter training and dinner on October 31, 2008. We wanted to recognize the greeters for their service and to discuss some additional needs related to better handling the seating people as our sanctuary became filled, greeting latecomers, etc. The following long time greeters were recognized at the dinner: Cy & Marcia Leise, Carol & David Johnson, Darrel & JoAnne Draper and Gene & Vija Kopecky. Also recognized were newly installed greeters – Leslie & Brett Harvey.

Our newest venture has been the monthly Just Food & Friends dinners. These dinners came about through a Collaborative Growth Grant that Prairie Star District awarded jointly to First and Second Unitarian Churches. As a result of a survey conducted with visitors to the church, we learned that most people didn't continue to attend church because "something else came up." At Second Unitarian, we decided to offer a dinner which would free people from cooking one evening a month, give them a chance to get acquainted with other visitors and members of the church, and provide activities for children. These have been delightful evenings devoted to interesting and amiable conversations. We leave the dinners more knowledgeable about and connected to the others who attended.

Cheri Cody and Sue Aschinger facilitated the *Getting to Know UU* sessions for newcomers on the second Sunday of the month. This hour-long session gives a brief history of Unitarian Universalism and information about Second Unitarian Church for those interested in learning more. It is also an opportunity for the visitors to ask questions and present their spiritual journey.

The committee held a retreat on January 3, 2009, to do in-depth planning. The committee members read, discussed and initiated best practices for membership growth and retention. Work on a new directory will begin in May and June of 2009 with the distribution of info update forms and the goal of producing a new directory in August, 2009.

Al Harrison and Brett Harvey helped with the Thursday dinners.

**Music & Worship Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Stephen J. Abraham*

**Members:** Stephen Abraham (chair), Lorraine Duggin, Sajda Qureshi, Al Harrison, Diane Gowens, Julie Kirn (vice chair), Dodie Robison, Vija Kopecky, Dan Pearson, Stu Burns, Deb Gibson, Chris Peters, and Caroline True.

The Year began with the election of Deb Gibson assuming the helm of the Committee through November of 2008. Many thanks to Dan Pearson who assumed the Committee Chair from Sara Seaman. I volunteered for the job in December of 2008 and will continue for a full term. Again, many thanks to Deb for holding the job.

The Committee's responsibilities were tightened, as the Committee is very large with very large responsibilities. We resumed the Ministry Model introduced in 2006 by Sara Seaman. This model consists of "sub-committees" or ministries of cooperative volunteers in our democratic religious organization. We like the term "ministry" because it emphasizes the notion of service to the Congregation and to ourselves as members of this Congregation.

**The Ministries and Mission of the Committee include:**

The Speaker Ministry, which is responsible for obtaining speakers either volunteer or professional for the pulpit when the pastor of the church is not present.

The Music Ministry, which is responsible for obtaining musicians both paid or volunteer, for the worship service.

The Aesthetics Ministry, which handles the beautification of the Church, especially the Sanctuary and Second Showing.

The Steward Ministry, which makes sure the Church is ready for worship on Sunday morning (candles in place, chalice has oil, the microphones are on and the portable has batteries, the visitor signs in the parking lot are up, the seats are organized for whatever orientation they are placed in, etc.).

The Budget Ministry, which is responsible for overseeing our expenditures (which we exceeded this year). We have a budget of \$3100 for this fiscal year, the same as last year's budget.

The Communications Ministry, which records minutes, writes thank you letters.

The Committee is responsible for getting messages to the Office Administrator in a timely way for the Order of Service when the pastor isn't presenting, such as names of speakers, musicians, hymns and readings. We also commission checks from the Treasurer to pay speakers and ministers in a timely way out of our budget. We purchase the hymnals, design, purchase and type the Bookplates in the hymnals, supply music to the choir, when we have one, and much more....

We currently have an ad hoc committee, which is responsible for orientation of the sanctuary, east, or west, paint color, and other larger projects, which require our joining with and including Building & Grounds Committee.

We hope to be responsible for and write the policy for the future Music Director (MD) whenever in the future that person is hired. We wish to work cooperatively with the Personnel Committee and Minister in the hiring process, handle the expenditures of the MD, and work cooperatively with shaping the musical life of the church.

**Personnel Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Chris Peters*

**Members:** Chris Peters (chair), Gay Abraham, Carol Johnson, and Louisa Foster (board liaison)

**Mission:** *The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to represent the Congregation and advise the Minister and Staff on important personnel issues*

This committee has been quite active over the 2008-2009 church year. We would like to formally recognize and thank the members of our church's professional staff: Office Administrator Gary Emenitove; Director of Religious Education Laura Shennum; former Office Administrators Isabel Pilkenton and Meredith White; and former Music Director Derrick Yellin. We recognize that our staff contributes a great deal to our church life, and are grateful to each of them for their service.

We also celebrate with Laura Shennum as she moves on to the next phase of her life, studying for the Unitarian ministry. We look forward as members of the congregation to supporting Laura in her transition back to full membership of her own. As this report is written, we are beginning the process to find Laura's successor in the DRE position, and hope to have another qualified individual in place for the beginning of the 2009-2010 church year.

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**Religious Growth and Learning Ministry (RGL)**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Pam Curtiss-Smith*

**Members:** Co-chairs Pam Curtiss-Smith and Gay Robinson Abraham; board liaison Louisa Foster; DRE Laura Shennum; Agnes Flamen-Dunlop, Kelly Hanneman, Leslie Harvey, Anita Jeck, Anni and Jim Martin, Anita Meyer, Jamie Short.; YAC liaison Mary Ann Chisholm

**Mission:** *To encourage the learning and living of our Unitarian Universalist principles. We strive to provide a spiritual, accepting, and caring environment where we explore religious ideas together. We hope to establish a foundation of information so our children can define their beliefs and grow as members and leaders in our church, community, and world.*

The 2008-09 church year was a year of experimentation within the church and a year of focus for the RGL committee. We maintained our membership and added a new member and a new role, both fulfilling needs our committee identified over the course of the year. We have initiated quarterly meetings with the First Unitarian Church DRE and RE coordinating council chair to create a channel of regular communication. This along with meeting with YRUU leadership helps us share information and ideas between churches and keeps us involved with youth programming. We are learning from each other and enjoying building this relationship.

The summer RE program in 2008, "If the World Were a Village" was well received by both the attendees and the congregation. The children developed a greater understanding of the diverse world population and of how the world's resources are utilized in other places. They then shared their experience with the congregation as a "world meal" to raise everyone's awareness of how thankful we can be to enjoy such wealth when compared with the experiences of others. The RE summer program for 2009 is based on earth ministry and currently being planned.

Multigenerational relationships continue to be a primary focus of our committee efforts. The Religious Education program on Sundays involves many adult and teen volunteers. Events such as the Halloween Party, Holiday Happenings, and Secret Friends communication and breakfast connect all members and friends of the church with the children and youth. Our devoted committee members,

spouses and friends worked hard to make these events fun and memorable for all who participated.

The teen ministry, has continued in its mission of facilitating the building of intergenerational relationships, providing options for teen involvement in all aspects of our church community, and encouraging the teens to create meaningful, spirituality building experiences. Second Circle meets twice each month, focusing on the concept of community with connection and trust building activities as well experimenting with alternative forms of worship. An average of eight teens attend each time.

A teen highlight this year was planning and facilitating “Step Into the Circle” at a well attended First Hour. This variation of “Step Across the Line” helped attendees explore life experiences and views on religion and spirituality. A follow-up First Hour is being planned.

Changes for RGL this year included the hiring of a childcare coordinator, lifting a major burden from the DRE and committee members. Jill has been a wonderful addition to the nursery on Sunday mornings. Another change - RGL sponsored a Red Cross course that gave 8 people the opportunity to develop lifesaving skills rather than having a church member teach the Red Cross babysitting and CPR certification course. Committee co-chairs are also now involved in generating a policy for conflict resolution with implications for conflicts around YRUU issues as well as those identified at Second Unitarian.

Next year will bring new leadership to the committee, both with chairing it and our board representation and DRE. The challenges of change are many, but the rewards are often many as well.

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**Social Justice Coordinating Council and Action Teams**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Carol Johnson*

**Members:** Co-chairs Shari Busse and Bill Kuhn; Clyde Anderson, Pat Caffrey, Cheri Cody, Stu Burns, Merry Barney, Gene Kopecky, Bruce Gardner, Carol Johnson, Melissa Konecky, Vicki Pratt, and Laura Shennum; board liaison Tammy Hunter; Social Justice is the work of the entire congregation.

**Mission:** *To carry on the Unitarian Universalist tradition of equality and justice by actively promoting responsible consumerism, respect for diversity and a strong infrastructure both within the local community and within the congregation.*

Over the past year, Second Unitarian Church became more focused on witnessing and advocacy as primary social justice strategies.

The Social Justice Coordinating Council coordinates activities of Social Justice Action Teams. A representative for each group participates in Coordinating Council Meetings to report the activities of their team and to obtain resources and other supports needed by the Action Team. Action Teams typically meet on the third Sunday of the month; Social Action Coordinating Council supports these meetings by arranging a light lunch and child care, providing a spiritual grounding to begin meetings and encouraging intergenerational participation. As a report-back to the congregation on progress since the Empowerment workshop of February, 2008, the Social Justice Coordinating Council planned and conducted the Sunday service on January 18.

Activities that the congregation believes to be important but which do not directly link to one of the Action Teams are planned and implemented by the SJCC. At the 2008 Annual meeting, the congregation voted to purchase an Anti-Torture Banner to be hung on the north side of the church. The banner was purchased from member donations and hung in accordance with National Religious Campaign Against Torture timelines. The banner for Second Unitarian is featured on the poster and website of NCRAT. The hanging of the banner was accompanied by a movie night featuring Abu Ghraib on August 24.

Social Justice Coordinating Council organized Second Unitarian's participation in Paint-A-Thon August 15 and 16. Eighteen volunteers participated; the homeowner was very pleased with the result. SJCC also coordinated a collection and donation to Together, Inc.

Second Unitarian Church continues membership and active participation with Omaha Together One Community (OTOC). The SJCC organized 3 First Hour presentations to inform congregational membership of OTOC issues. Topics of First Hour presentations were: A meeting about opposing Initiative 424 Anti-Affirmative Action Amendment proposed for the November election; an informational meeting about OTOC's purpose and goals; and finally a house meeting preceding the mayoral elections about city issues affecting members of our congregation. Members attended City Council meetings with other OTOC members to increase funding for Sun Dawgs summer programs and to advocate for an independent police auditor. Second Unitarian members participated in 2 OTOC Delegates' Congress meetings and the OTOC Mayoral Forum. Work continued in rebuilding relationships among parents, teachers and the community in public elementary schools/community to increase student achievement. Members of Second Unitarian participated in the Institute of Public Life series of leader development sessions focused on the principles and practices of broad-based organizing. SJCC re-examined congregational membership in OTOC with resulting reaffirmation and recommitment to full paid membership and congregational participation.

Movie nights included showing King Corn and Van Jones' lecture at 2008 General Assembly. The most successful movie night and panel discussion was "The Battle for White Clay" shown February 8<sup>th</sup>, which received city-wide publicity and filled our church to capacity.

The Social Justice Coordinating Council continues to demonstrate Second Unitarian's values through sales of fair trade, organic coffee, tea and chocolate. Reusable canvas bags with the Prairie Star District Conference chalice logo and "Unitarian Universalist" have recently been added to the inventory. Proceeds from sales help support social justice activities.

### **Social Action Teams:**

The work of the Action Teams began with four months of facilitated meetings using a "Critical Success Factors" model. Each team created a mission statement and listings of values, opportunities/needs and what they are currently doing to address the issue.

### **Closing the Economic Gap/ Economic Justice:**

The Closing the Economic Gap/Economic Justice action team researched two approaches: Personal financial management education and Advocacy for systems and policies that improve the situation of the unemployed and underemployed. The team recently met with state senator Brad Ashford to begin researching the policies and structures in place locally and state-wide. The team has formed an alliance with the OTOC Jobs Committee and together will be conducting more research actions with state and local officials as well as other leaders in the community.

### **Becoming a Beacon to LGBTQ Community:**

This year, Welcoming Congregation and the LGBTQ Beacon Action Team merged efforts to eliminate discrimination, isolation, ignorance and misunderstanding and provide a safe, non-judgmental place of worship for LGBTQ individuals and their families.

One of the first activities of the LGBTQ Action Team was to purchase and install "Celebrate Diversity" signs to be displayed on the northeast corner of the church grounds. We are regularly listed as a church welcoming to LGBTQ individuals in the "Gayzette" which is distributed widely to LGBTQ community.

The LGBTQ either sponsored or participated in several events throughout the year. One of the goals is to build alliances with organizations that support the interests of LGBTQ individuals. We participated in the Gay Pride Parade in June, 2008, and in collaboration with First Unitarian sponsored a booth for the day-long Gay Pride Celebration. In September, we sponsored "Super Gay Weekend" which included Friday night movie night "Our House" attended by 25 people. Saturday night included a panel

presentation by GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network) attended by twenty people; Sunday worship service was given by Dr. Joe Hoagbin on "Gay Heroes." This Second Unitarian event was publicized by The River 89.7 Radio Station, the Reader, City Weekly, World-Herald and through wide distribution of flyers.

In December, we sponsored a pre-party for Night of a Thousand Stars. Sixty people attended and Second Unitarian donated \$786. to Nebraska AIDS Project from our ticket sales. In January, six members of the LGBTQ Action Team attended a day-long conference in Lincoln sponsored by Citizens for Equal Protection. At this conference, LGBTQ Beacon Group opened the door to creating new alliances within the Omaha-Lincoln area. One of the members of the LGBTQ Group has established a website for communication among the participating agencies of the conference:  
<http://groups.google.com/group/linoma-lgbtq-happenings>.

Members of the LGBTQ Beacon Group, with Stephen Sinclair and other clergy, participated in National Right to Marry. Couples were featured on Facebook and Second Unitarian was named in the Reader, Omaha World Herald and is seen in television coverage. Stephen Sinclair, along with other clergy were present at the Pottawattamie County Courthouse April 27<sup>th</sup>, the first day gay/lesbian couples could legally obtain a marriage license in Iowa.

### **Care for the Environment Social Action Team :**

Our mission is through action and education to emulate the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) model. In the fall of 2008, the Care for the Environment, or CE group, set strong action goals that would involve individuals, the congregation, and the broader community. The goals were set up to piggyback on each action project in order to maintain momentum.

First, the group developed a formal environmental pledge form. The pledge drive was from January 23, 2009 to March 21, 2009. Thirty-three pledges were turned in. They were tallied and measured against a standard carbon footprint calculator to determine what the congregation's contribution was to saving the environment from carbon. This project coincided with making and hanging prayer flags as a spiritual reminder of the ongoing pledge commitments of each member.

CE group continues to update the website page with all materials from this committee so that members can access the environmental pledge sheets, the UUMFE program, read about ongoing community awareness projects local and global, and find local environmentally friendly services and products. The CE group is utilizing UUMFE's *Green Sanctuary* manual and *Ethical Eating* curricula. The group has not yet submitted a *Green Sanctuary* application, mainly because of the \$100 cost. Everything the group is doing and planning to do counts for GS certification.

The CE group:

- submitted several newsletter articles
- taught a children's RE session on seeds, planting, and caring for seedlings
- utilized the Second Circle as a platform to reach the teens and explain about environmental pledges and the community pumpkin patch
- established two 50 ft stretches of the northwest church lawn as a garden plot and layered the soil to prepare it for pumpkin seeds
- facilitated the planting of pumpkin seedlings on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2009
- sponsored two first hour sessions: one on the community pumpkin patch and another by John Traudt called "Making Your Home Energy Efficient"
- purchased and installed a rain barrel for the church
- organized and operated a church booth at the annual Omaha Earth Day celebration
- scheduled an energy audit with Building and Grounds

**To view photos and for more information** about Social Justice activities, visit our page at the church website: [www.secondunitarianomaha.org/?id=socialjustice](http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/?id=socialjustice)

**Technology Committee**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Don Shennum*

**Members:** Don Shennum, Tom Peterson, Clyde Anderson, Bill Kuhn, Bill Hay, Charles Kaminski, Jim Martin

Accomplishments this year

Web Site

- Added slide show to home page
- Created and helped implement new online calendar
- Continued maintenance of website contents, including text and graphics
- Started work on a new church website

Office Staff and Equipment

- Helped new minister with new PC, including configuration and user training
- Replaced office PC when previous system crashed and was unrecoverable
- Implemented regular online and offline backups of critical workfiles and data
- Implemented access control rules on office PC
- Helped with new printer installation and configuration
- Resolved ongoing issue with church network by working with Cox, and relocating network equipment from furnace room to church office
- Rebuilt church network

PowerChurch

- Installed software updates
- Managed User IDs and security
- Managed backup of critical data

Sound System (cooperative with Building and Grounds)

- Installed and configured new sound system
- Supported sound system during the reconfiguration of the worship area

Phone System (cooperative with Building and Grounds)

- Researched new phone system for church personnel. Chose Talkswitch as phone system.
- Installed phone system, including software on office PC for system administration

Unresolved and/or 2009-2010 goals

- Identify and recruit new committee members
- Finish building a new web site that will allow more flexibility for content management and sharing of church information with our community.
- Restore church audio server, including podcasts and other audio functions.
- Work with newly-formed Communications Committee on potential solutions to some of the issues the Communications Committee is facing.

**Youth Adult Committee (YAC)**  
**Annual Report 2008-2009**  
*Submitted by Cheryll Wallace*

“ When you come to the edge of all the light you know, and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing one of two things will happen: There will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught how to fly.”

— Barbara J. Winter

*I think that the religious education programs in our churches do both of the things Barbara Winter mentions above: they give us the solid grounding we need find balance and thus the courage to begin to consider flying and they give us the inspiration to try to leave the solid ground and head for the stars. This has been a busy year filled with much change for both churches. In many ways I believe that we have all been challenged to take the risk to head out on faith and begin to broaden the spiritual footprint of Unitarian Universalism in Omaha. One of the ways we do this is through our joint youth group – The YRUU.*

The Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) year ended on May 6, 2009, with the traditional End of the Year Banquet at the Old Market Spaghetti Works. The YRUU is a joint youth group between First and Second Unitarian Churches of Omaha that meets on Wednesday nights at First Unitarian. This year there were 27 youth who were active in the program with an average weekly attendance of 17. (19 youth from 2<sup>nd</sup> U, 3 from 1<sup>st</sup> U and 5 from neither/both churches)

**Youth advisors** working with the youth group this year include myself and Tom & Shawna Foster (1<sup>st</sup> U), Ben & Shari Wallace (1<sup>st</sup> U), and Joe & Jennie White (2<sup>nd</sup> U). 14 youth in grades 7-9 from both churches attended the Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality classes, which met for over 20 weeks on Wednesday nights before YRUU. The OWL teachers were Ben & Shari Wallace and Tom Foster.

**The Youth Adult Committee (YAC)** which provides leadership for the YRUU: **Youth:** Kate Hunter (2<sup>nd</sup> U), Heather Haskins (2<sup>nd</sup> U), Andy Huggins (2<sup>nd</sup> U) and T.J. Murphy (1<sup>st</sup> U). **Adult YAC** **Advisors:** Ben and Shari Wallace (1<sup>st</sup> U) and Mary Ann Chisholm (2<sup>nd</sup> U).