



Second Unitarian  
Church of Omaha

authentic. compassionate. transformative.



## Annual Report 2016 - 2017

## Our Mission & Vision

The mission of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.



Our vision: Authentic, Compassionate, Transformative.

- ◇ Second Unitarian Church encourages people to live with integrity, to nurture one another, and to change the world through acts of love and justice.
- ◇ We minister to each other through vibrant worship, religious growth and learning, and a commitment to advocacy, witness and action.
- ◇ We come together to comfort and to challenge. We enrich our lives by weaving together our personal experiences, theologies and practices into one larger tapestry.

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# Meeting & Voting

## Rules of Order

### **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.



# Annual Meeting Agenda

## June 4, 2017

Call to Order

Opening Words

Reading of our Covenant of Right Relations

Credentials Report and Certification of a Quorum

Approval of the Rules of Order

Report of Nominating Committee (all for 3 year terms)—Additional nominations may be offered from the floor

- ◇ Board of Trustees: Lolly Thomas, Steve Abraham
- ◇ Endowment: Russ Alberts
- ◇ Nominations and Leadership Development: Judy Eller

Election of Delegates to General Assembly—Additional nominations may be offered from the floor

- ◇ On site delegates: Cheri Cody, Joan Benziger
- ◇ Off site delegate: Vicki Pratt

Treasurers Report of current budget (2016-2017)

Approval of Proposed Budget for 2017-2018

By-laws Revisions

Recognition / Gratitude for Those Completing Service to Congregation

Developmental Ministry Update

Closing Words

Adjournment



## Voting Members

Stephen Abraham	Maria Di Fiore	Tammy Hunter
Jan A Frank	Janet Doan	Ruthann Irby
Russ Alberts	Virginia Dodge	Anita Jeck
Lynn Alsman	Darrel Draper	Dave Jenkins
Sana Amoura-Patterson	Joanne Draper	Jeff Jenkins
Nancy Amsler	Donna Dudley	June Jenn
Clyde Anderson	Phil Dudley	Carol Johnson
Jill Archer	Vicki Dudley	David Johnson
Sue Aschinger	Lorrain Duggin	Tera Kirk
Marco Ballarin	Judy Eller	Julie Kirn
Elizabeth (Betty) Bange	Gwen Eurich	Molly Kliment - Jenkins
Rod Baumann	Bob Fischbach	John Knape
Kathy Bell	Betsy Fleckenstein-Phillips	Norma Koelling
Rick Bell	Marcia Forbes	Richard Koelling
Joan Benziger	Milton Forbes	Melissa Konecky
Ed Bok	Louisa Foster	Gene Kopecky
Catherine Boscardin	Jack Frost	Vija Kopecky
Elise Brazeal-Daganaar	Greg Gage	Carla/Bill Kuhn
Lisa Burnside	Debora Gibson	Larry Kurtz
Pat Caffrey	Ben Godfrey	Cindy Lynne
Tom Cantrell	Michelle Godfrey	Michael Lynne
Cheri Cody	Pat Hart	nellie sudavicius
Ruth Corwin	Joel Haskins	MacCallum
Neva Cozine	Kathie Haskins	Monica Meier
Pam Curtiss-Smith	Bill Hay	Anita Meyer
Todd Daganaar	Casey Horpedahl	Carolyn Miller
Gay DeWester	Lucy Horpedahl	Pete Miller
		Pam Miller-Jenkins

Greg Mintor  
 Wesley Morrison - Sloat  
 Don Mundy  
 Janet Nichols  
 Jocelyn Owens  
 Dan Pearson  
 Ferial Pearson  
 Chris Peters  
 Stephanie Peterson  
 Tom Peterson  
 Phil Phillips  
 Jonathon Pinzon  
 Craig Piquette  
 Jim Poleshuk  
 Vicki Pratt

Scott Quackenbush  
 Meg Quintana  
 Gay Robinson Abraham  
 Dodie Robison  
 Shirley Rundquist  
 Tom Rundquist  
 Ken Salzman  
 Bryan Scherbring  
 Becky Scherbring  
 Betty Segell  
 Jaime Short  
 Justin Short  
 Becky Siepker  
 Jeff Siepker  
 Mark Siepker

Krystal Skradski-Gage  
 Ronda Stevens  
 Jeff Tessin  
 Katie Tessin  
 Lolly Thomas  
 Mark Tipton  
 Gary Toth  
 Nancy VanderSluis  
 Michaela Weiss  
 Jennie White  
 Joe White  
 Charles Woram  
 Rachel Yamamoto





# Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting June 5, 2016

The 2016 Annual Meeting was called to order by Board of Trustees Chair Craig Piquette at 11:34 am on June 5, 2016.

Opening Words were read by Reverend Frieda Gillespie

Attendees read together the Covenant of Right Relationships.

Carol Johnson, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, stated that there was a quorum present of 57 eligible voting members at the meeting. 13 Absentee Ballots submitted.

Minutes of last annual meeting held May 17, 2015 were read. Motion was made by Clyde Anderson to approve the minutes. Seconded by Greg Minter. Approved by 53 in favor.

Board Chair Craig Piquette reminded attendees that Parliamentary Procedure would be observed to conduct business throughout the meeting

Tom Peterson, Chair of Nominations and Leadership Development, presented the slate of nominees for offices as follows:

- ◇ Board of Trustees: Don Mundy and Joe White
- ◇ Endowment: Phil Phillips
- ◇ Nominations and Leadership Development: Monica Meier
- ◇

Greg Minter moved that we accept the slate as a block. Seconded by Rachel Yamamoto

Motion carried by 53 in favor

Absentee votes to adopt slate: 13 in favor

Newly elected officers were asked to stand and be recognized.

Treasurers Report of current budget (2015-2016)

Treasurer Vicki Pratt reported the status of the 2015-2016 budget as of April 30th. Vicki was recognized for her work as Treasurer.

Report by Developmental Minister Search Committee:

Sue Aschinger, Chair of the Search Committee, first recognized the other members of the Committee who had worked with her: Lorraine Duggin, Jack Frost, Pete Miller, Jaime Short, and Rachel Yamamoto. Sue reviewed background, qualifications and experience of the Reverend Cynthia "Cyndi" Simpson, the candidate recommended by the Search Team and approved by the Board of Trustees at their May meeting. Sue explained that the contract was currently being written from samples provided for Interim and Settled Ministries and would soon be accepted by both parties. Cyndi has procured an apartment on Omaha and will begin her ministry at Second Unitarian Church mid-August.

A question was asked about her length of service with Second Unitarian: Developmental Ministry is a new program with the UUA and the intent is for the minister to be with the congregation to make the changes. The UUA provided the Search Team with one candidate that they considered a great match to move forward in achieving the goals we set for ourselves.

Craig indicated that although only Board approval was needed to hire Cyndi as our Developmental Minister, the Board asked for a Vote of Confidence from the Congregation.

Unanimous Vote of Confidence.

Clyde Anderson, Chair of the Finance Coordinating Council presented the proposed balanced budget of \$214,374 for 2016-2017 as revised by the team on May 23, 2016. Phil Dudley moved to accept the budget. Seconded by Betsy Fleckenstein-Phillips. Motion carried by 57 approvals. 13 Absentee ballots in favor of adopting the budget.

### **By-laws revisions**

Craig explained to Annual Meeting attendees that the revisions posted on the website were not the revisions approved by the Board to present to the congregation for vote. The posted revisions included deletions from sections pertaining to the Endowment Committee which had been reinstated for discussion with Endowment Committee. Secondly, the version posted did not include revisions made at the 2015 Annual meeting; Craig indicated that the current proposed revisions did not include or change the 2015 revisions. Craig then presented the proposed changes in bylaws wording for vote by the congregation.

Motion by Greg Minter: Approve the revisions to the by-laws as presented on the screen at this Annual Meeting (June 3, 2016). Seconded by Jack Frost.

## Amendments to the motion:

- ◇ The revisions on the screen be applied to the Bylaws adopted in May of 2015 (Kathy Bell).
- ◇ Approve the current wording in 5.3.b on Confidentiality and the Board define “Confidentiality” (John Knape).
- ◇ 14.9 add “to” following the phrase “request other persons vetted by the EFC” (Michael Lynne).
- ◇ Add a phrase to 6.7 Absentee Ballots to clarify that an absentee ballot will not count toward quorum (Joe White).

All amendments accepted.

Motion carried by 53 votes. Absentee Ballots not counted due to presented changes in bylaws and amendments.

The following were elected as Second Unitarian Church delegates to the 2016 UUA General Assembly to be held June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio. Delegates this year may register, participate and vote from remote sites.

On site delegate: Cheri Cody

Off site delegates: Vicki Pratt and Pat Caffrey

Michael Lynn moved that we approve the slate of delegates to General Assembly.

Seconded by Tom Peterson

Motion carried by 53 Yays and 13 absentee yays

Recognition of Those Completing Service to Congregation

Closing Words by Reverend Gillespie

Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm



## Nominees

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is announcing candidates for Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, and Nominations Committees. Additional nominations of any eligible voting members for these offices may be made during the Annual Meeting. All offices are for 3-year terms ending June, 2020.

Meet our candidates:

### For Board of Trustees

#### Lolly Thomas

After a Methodist minister of my youth encouraged religious curiosity, I tried several religions throughout my life, including Second Unitarian of Omaha in 2007. When I moved to California in 2008, I attended a Unitarian Fellowship there. On January 22, 2012, and back in Omaha for good, I became a member of this wonderful community. My career has taken me from a home-based business to leadership positions in communications, public relations and advertising. I enjoyed the challenge of developing creative strategies, coordinating projects, and managing budgets and timelines. In 2011, my focus turned from career to family. I published a children's book in 2015 and am now retired.

I've been a member of Toastmasters International, Business Networking International, several Chambers of Commerce in California and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. I have enjoyed serving on the Caring Committee of Second Unitarian since 2015.

#### Steve Abraham

I have been a member of the Church since 2004. I have served in several capacities, including member and chair of Music and Worship Committee, member and chair of Nominations and Leadership Development, member and secretary of the Board of Trustees, as well as working with various ad hoc committees. If elected, I would look forward to working closely with Rev Cyndi and all of you during this period of Developmental Ministry.

I am a psychotherapist with a full-time practice. My personal and professional goals match my spiritual and religious ones. This helps me in the service of members, and the Church as a whole, to achieve the "spirit" and mission of the Church. I feel strongly that it is transformative to commit to working with the inevitable conflicts and in human communities, moving conflict towards more intimacy, authenticity and compassion, leading us to transformation.



## For Nominations & Leadership

### Judy Eller

I have always been Unitarian – I just didn't always know it! For many years I searched for a church home, a community of people who knew that there is not just one right religion. I knew there had to be other people who respected all religions and knew that you didn't have to recite a creed or be "saved" to be a good person. The first time I walked in the door at 2U I knew this was a place I could call my spiritual home. I signed the membership book in August of 2009 – it was a life-changing decision.

I have been actively involved on the Fellowship committee for several years and am currently serving as co-chair. Fellowship has provided an opportunity to serve others while fulfilling an important social function for our community. It is a ministry of giving but what I get in return far outweighs what I give. When I was approached by the board to step in and finish a term on the board I was honored and a little overwhelmed by the responsibility. I was then elected to a second year where I learned much about the workings of Second Unitarian and gained great respect for the people who serve in a volunteer capacity as well as the salaried professionals who guide our community.

I am honored by the confidence that the Nominations and Leadership Committee has placed in me by asking me to be a part of this committee. I look forward to many conversations with new and long-time members of 2U if I am chosen to serve. I feel that my experience in public service (I have been a school teacher for over 30 years), my experiences on the board and Fellowship committee, and my commitment to Unitarianism Universalism make me a good candidate to serve on Nominations and Leadership.

## For Endowment

### **Russ Alberts**

Russ Alberts has been a Unitarian Universalist for over 40 years in five different cities, three different states and in the UK. He and his wife Ruthann started attending Second Unitarian in 1994 or 1995. He is a semi-retired Bio-Medical Engineer and teaches part time at Iowa Western University.



# Proposed Budget

		Approved 2016 -2017	Board Adjusted 2016- 2017	Proposed 2017 -2018	Change 2016- 2017 2017- 2018	% Change
<b>Line #</b>	<b>Income</b>					
1	Pledge Income/Current Yr	\$188,600	\$188,526	\$193,000	\$4,400	2%
2	New Pledge Current Member	\$500	\$500	\$0	-\$500	-100%
3	New Pledges New Member	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$7,000	\$3,500	100%
4	Pledges for Previous Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
5	Dividend Income	\$100	\$100	\$0	-\$100	-100%
6	Gifts	\$500	\$500	\$200	-\$300	-60%
7	Fundraising	\$7,454	\$7,657	\$6,366	-\$1,088	-15%
8	Offering	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,000	-\$1,000	-8%
9	Rent	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$0	0%
10	Other Income	\$520	\$520	\$480	-\$40	-8%
11	Transfer from Reserves	\$0	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	0%
12	<b>Total Income</b>	\$214,374	\$215,803	\$219,246	\$4,872	2%
	<b>Expenses</b>					
	<b><u>Salary Expenses</u></b>					
13	Office Admin. Salary	\$20,390	\$20,390	\$20,818	\$428	2%
14	Office Admin Ins Benefits	\$360	\$360	\$420	\$59	16%
15	Office Admin Retirement Fund	\$1,020	\$1,020	\$2,082	\$1,062	104%
16	OA Prof Expenses	\$612	\$612	\$625	\$13	2%
17	DRE Salary	\$19,659	\$19,659	\$20,072	\$413	2%
18	DRE Insurance Benefits	\$348	\$348	\$405	\$57	16%
19	DRE Retirement Fund	\$1,966	\$1,966	\$2,007	\$41	2%
20	DRE Prof Expenses	\$590	\$590	\$602	\$12	2%
21	Music Director	\$10,086	\$10,086	\$12,269	\$2,183	22%
22	Guest Musicians	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$2,400	\$450	23%
23	Childcare Supervisor	\$750	\$950	\$1,520	\$770	103%
24	Bookkeeper (combine with OA)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
25	Staff Payroll Taxes	\$3,893	\$3,893	\$4,183	\$290	7%
26	Payroll Processing	\$1,445	\$1,445	\$1,445	\$0	0%
27	Staff Appreciation/Development	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$0	0%
28	<b>Total non-ministerial staff</b>	\$63,268	\$63,468	\$69,047	\$5,779	9%
	<b><u>Ministerial Package</u></b>					
29	Housing Allowance	\$40,000	\$17,135	\$14,400	-\$2,735	-16%
30	Insurance Benefits	\$9,930	\$7,838	\$10,053	\$2,215	28%
31	Minister W2 Salary	\$15,450	\$42,042	\$43,600	\$1,558	4%
32	In Lieu of FICA	\$4,242	\$4,527	\$4,437	-\$90	-2%
33	Professional Expenses	\$5,545	\$3,380	\$4,790	\$1,410	42%
34	Minister Pension	\$5,545	\$5,918	\$5,800	-\$118	-2%
35	Moving Expenses	\$5,000	\$4,601	\$0	-\$4,601	
36	<b>Total Ministerial Expense</b>	\$85,712	\$85,441	\$83,080	-\$2,360	-3%
	<b><u>Administrative Expenses</u></b>					
37	Administrative Expenses	\$1,110	\$1,110	\$1,110	\$0	0%
38	Treasurer Admin Expense	\$933	\$933	\$873	-\$60	-6%
39	<b>Total Administrative Expense</b>	\$2,043	\$2,043	\$1,983	-\$60	-3%

	Approved 2016-2017	Board Adjusted 2016 -2017	Proposed 2017-2018	Change 2016- 2017 2017- 2018	% Change
<b><u>General Expenses</u></b>					
40 Board Mtgs & Retreat	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$0	0%
41 Share the Plate Donations	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,000	-\$500	-8%
42 Fundraising Expense	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0%
43 RGL-Childcare	\$750	\$1,950	\$2,560	\$1,810	241%
44 Religious Education Supplies	\$750	\$750	\$1,150	\$400	53%
45 Copier Expense	\$908	\$608	\$600	-\$308	-34%
46 Denominational Dues	\$9,520	\$9,520	\$10,115	\$595	6%
47 Insurance	\$4,150	\$4,150	\$4,250	\$100	2%
48 Janitorial-Cleaning	\$7,020	\$7,020	\$7,020	\$0	0%
49 Janitorial Sup/Trash Pick up	\$1,610	\$1,610	\$2,000	\$390	24%
50 Lawn Care & Snow Removal	\$2,665	\$2,665	\$2,785	\$120	5%
51 OTOC dues	\$1,414	\$1,414	\$1,100	-\$314	-22%
52 Postage	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0%
53 Telephone/Internet	\$3,509	\$3,509	\$3,509	\$0	0%
54 Communications/Marketing Advisory Council	\$1,740	\$1,740	\$1,590	-\$150	-9%
55 Utilities: Gas/Electric/Water	\$5,220	\$5,220	\$5,300	\$80	2%
56 Depreciation Expense	\$0	\$300	\$600	\$600	New copier
57 UUA/MAR Consulting	\$0	\$750	\$500	\$500	DM Prog
58 <b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,031</b>	<b>\$48,981</b>	<b>\$50,354</b>	<b>\$3,323</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b><u>Committee Expenses</u></b>					
59 Caring	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$0	0%
60 Fellowship	\$1,630	\$1,630	\$1,705	\$75	5%
61 Finance Coordinating Council	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,450	-\$200	-12%
62 Bldg & Grounds Mainten	\$850	\$1,400	\$850	\$0	0%
63 Library	\$150	\$150	\$100	-\$50	-33%
64 Membership	\$625	\$625	\$845	\$220	35%
65 Music and Worship	\$4,350	\$2,950	\$4,700	\$350	8%
66 Religious Growth and Learning	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$2,000	-\$1,400	-41%
67 Social Justice	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$730	-\$270	-27%
68 Technology	\$405	\$804	\$841	\$436	108%
69 Leadership Dev./Nominations	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,300	-\$500	-28%
70 Committee on Ministry	\$200	\$200	\$0	-\$200	-100%
71 <b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,320</b>	<b>\$15,869</b>	<b>\$14,781</b>	<b>-\$1,539</b>	<b>-9%</b>
72 <b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$214,374</b>	<b>\$215,802</b>	<b>\$219,246</b>	<b>\$5,143</b>	<b>2%</b>
73 <b>Out of Balance By</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$0</b>		



# Leadership & Staff

## Board Report

Submitted by the Board of Trustees  
Anita Meyer, Carol Johnson (Vice Chair), Don Mundy, Greg Minter,  
Joe White (Secretary), Pat Caffrey (Chair)

***It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we thank each and every one of you for who you are, why you are part of this faith community, the contributions you make and how we are connected in our journey together.***

This was our first year of Developmental Ministry. It was with great joy and enthusiasm that we welcomed Rev. Cyndi Simpson as our Developmental Minister to join with us in our journey!

The Board started the year with a retreat that resulted in a strong Board Covenant that has served us well to inspire us and work effectively together. It is posted on the church website and we invite you to read it.

In our Developmental Ministry application, Second Unitarian had identified four primary goals. It is important that we have a shared and common understanding and ownership of these goals. For that reason the Board members with Rev. Cyndi invested time in the clarification of the goals by identifying key outcomes for each of these including: Identity, Welcoming, Structure and Worship. These conversations were thought provoking and challenging as we discovered their importance for our future. These are also posted on the church website. They will be our guide as we move forward together.

In November, 2016, 60 of us joined together in a Town Hall Meeting to lift up and celebrate the accomplishments so far and to gain a better understanding of Developmental Ministry as a path to be the Second Unitarian Church that we yearn for.

Our Board Meetings have become a place where we practice spirituality and continuous learning, in addition to taking care of business. Rev. Cyndi has led us in learning sessions on technical vs adaptive leadership and understanding the effects of church size transition. After watching the webinar, 'Cracking the Leadership Crisis', we started incorporating spiritual practices to prepare for our meetings. It has changed the way we work together.

Following Rev. Cyndi's compelling sermon on the Sunday after the election, at our November Board meeting, the Board members affirmed *"the need for an ongoing response to the election and its aftermath and consequences and will build on the strengths and alliances that we already have as well as identify new alliances to seek out"*. In essence, to create and act in focused ways to proactively put our mission and seven principles into action, more so now than ever. The following lifts up our response to make our mission statement a reality. Members of Second Unitarian Church:

- ◇ Joined at least 12,000 people in the "Women's March on Omaha".
- ◇ Joined others for a multi-faith vigil at Turner Park for refugees and immigrants. Rev. Simpson stood onstage with local ministers of other churches during the vigil.
- ◇ Sponsored a block on 63<sup>rd</sup> and Dodge for "Light the Way for Refugees and Immigrants - Stand for Welcome on Presidents Day!"
- ◇ Started First Hours beginning with a series hosted by the Post-Election Work Group.
- ◇ The Bystander Intervention Workshop was led by Rev. Cyndi on February 16. It was well attended by members and community members alike.
- ◇ A Rapid Response Team was created and the congregation will be going through a discernment process on Sanctuary.

In March, 2017, 30 of us participated in the Developmental Ministry Kickoff workshop and the feedback was very positive. Rev. Cyndi's teachings on culture change and adaptive / technical challenges and solutions will be very beneficial as we integrate the four goals and key outcomes for Developmental Ministry into all that we do. As reiterated at the end of the workshop, we are continuing to build this New Way Forward!!!

At the April Board Meeting, a motion was passed that included: "The Board will convene a small task force to move forward on, at a minimum, replacing the parking lot and adding a restroom on the main floor, and for that group to come up with recommendations to the Board that would include work to be completed, strategies to cover the costs, communication with the congregation, etc." We will be mindful of how key outcomes of our Developmental Ministry goals can be integrated into this initiative.

During this church year, Carol Johnson served as a Co-Chair of the Program Council along with Pete Miller. The Program Council actively engaged with various aspects of Developmental Ministry, leadership development and finding meaning and spirituality as the various Committees carried out their ministries.

As we reflect on this church year, it is evident that our faith community is changing, experiencing new dimensions of being a Unitarian Universalist congregation and reconnecting to why it is meaningful to us. The conversations are deeper and there is a renewed energy and sense of purpose as we celebrate all that has happened this year.

***As members of the Board of Trustees, our work was grounded in the church mission and vision statement, the seven UU Principles and the church covenant. We held the congregation's values in our hearts and worked in the best interests of the congregation. It has been an honor to serve you during this past year.***

## Board of Trustees Covenant 2016-2017

**Second Unitarian Mission:** Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in our world.

**Vision statement:** Authentic, Compassionate, Transformative – Second Unitarian Church encourages people to live with integrity, to nurture one another, and to change the world through acts of love and justice. We minister to each other through vibrant worship, religious growth and learning, and a commitment to advocacy, witness and action. We come together to comfort and to challenge. We enrich our lives by weaving together our personal experiences, theologies and practices into one larger tapestry.

**This covenant and the work that we will perform** will be grounded in the church mission and vision statement, the seven UU Principles and the church covenant. We will hold the congregation's values in our hearts and work in the best interests of the congregation. We also covenant to the following:

### **Commitments to one another and within the Board**

- ◇ We will conduct all meetings in an environment of care and trust, holding confidences and assuming positive intentions of one another.
- ◇ We will interact with honesty, authenticity, respect and compassion.
- ◇ We will set aside personal agendas for the best interests of the church, expressing our views concisely and honestly. Although unanimous decisions are preferred, we accept consensus and agree to speak with one voice once a decision has been made.
- ◇ We will work cooperatively toward our goals while appreciating each other's unique gifts.
- ◇ I will share in the work of the Board and be fully prepared for each meeting, having reviewed any materials that were issued in advance.

- ◇ I will ask for and share appropriate information, knowledge and education so we all have information for informed and wise decisions; I will bring issues to the board with a responsible amount of research.
- ◇ I will respect my fellow board members by listening deeply to them. I will actively ask for and listen to all points of views and share my own, avoiding disruptive side conversations. I will strive to be mindful of deepest truth. I will avoid triangulation.
- ◇ I will state the facts about an issue/problem and acknowledge that it exists. I will focus my thoughts and discussion on solutions. I will practice using language that is clear, positive, and future oriented.
- ◇ I will be brief; remain flexible, maintain perspective and a sense of humor, yet be fearless at times.
- ◇ We will be clear about all assignments and responsibilities of each board member and be accountable for our works and actions, keeping commitments to each other and to the congregation.
- ◇ We will have a process observer and timekeeper in board meetings. We will allow time to reflect on how we kept our covenant during meetings. We will be clear on assignments, i.e. communicating Board decisions.
- ◇ We will use email / internet for Board discussions and / or business only when appropriate, i.e. a routine request for approval that doesn't require substantive explanation or discussion or multiple email streams. We can determine when a topic would be more effective in person and end the email conversation.
- ◇ I will strive to lead with vision and continue to learn while staying in touch with what brings me joy and purpose in our commitment as a Board member. I will be responsible for my spiritual wellbeing.

### **Commitment to the Congregation**

- ◇ We will make decisions based on the path that the congregation has set for its future.
- ◇ We will do our best to consider the cultural implications that our decisions could have.
- ◇ We will handle complaints brought to the Board with respect. They will be handled at the appropriate level, gathering accurate and complete information as necessary.
- ◇ We will openly and intentionally communicate with the congregation including decisions in a way that reflects the process and considerations that went into decisions.
- ◇ We will respect the work of committees, chairs, staff and minister.
- ◇ We will stay connected to and actively involved in the church community.



## Minister's Report

Dear Members and Affiliates of Second Unitarian,

I hope you are all doing well!

(It seems most natural to me to address you in the form of a letter.)

About a year ago, I agreed to be your Developmental Minister for an initial contract of three years. Church leaders and members had done a thoughtful analysis of the congregation's needs and decided that contracting with a minister for a Developmental Ministry initiative seemed like the best choice for Second Unitarian.

You had looked at your recent history of:

- ◇ shorter periods of service from professional ministers;
- ◇ static membership;
- ◇ a need to focus on right relationships;
- ◇ lack of clarity around Identity as a Unitarian Universalist congregation;
- ◇ a sense of wanting to be better organized to live your mission; and
- ◇ a sense of wanting to experiment with different styles of Worship.

You also did an assessment of your strengths:

- ◇ a strong sense of caring, connection and valuing relationships;
- ◇ energy/momentum;
- ◇ a solid commitment to Social Justice;
- ◇ an excellent Covenant of Right Relations;
- ◇ leadership development; and
- ◇ financial health and generosity.

From this excellent analysis you identified four Goals as a focus for your Developmental Ministry, which is by definition goal-driven ministry: Welcome, Worship, Identity, Structure.

I knew that in coming to Second Unitarian, I was coming to a congregation that had a clear sense of wanting to be a congregation devoted to living and sharing our Unitarian Universalist Principles in order to make our planet a better place, locally and beyond, for all who live on it. I appreciated the insight and self-awareness that were obvious in your application. Your assessment made sense. Your goals seemed 'right,' considering your assessment. And the areas you identified for change are all areas in which I believe I have skill and interest as a minister. I was very happy to come here to serve as your Developmental Minister!

This year I had to get to know you and learn how this church ‘works.’ I needed, with you, to develop a sense of trust between us. And I needed to fulfill all the duties required of any minister: pastoral care, worship, staff supervision, etc., in addition to the work of Developmental Ministry.

Together, the Board of Trustees and I began a months-long process of taking the excellent and informative text in the Developmental Ministry application and turning it into a set of Goals and Key Outcomes, which we completed in time for our Developmental Ministry Kickoff in March. This took hours of rich and informative discussion among members of the Board of Trustees. I am grateful for their dedication and commitment to clarifying and elaborating on the Goals and Key Outcomes.

The Board of Trustees also realized that the work of Developmental Ministry is culture change. That is, becoming the vibrant, diverse and dynamic congregation you wish to be is not simply a matter of ‘doing’ this or ‘doing’ that (though there is always much to be ‘done’!). Rather it is about ‘being’ and ‘becoming’ a different group of people in some ways by changing the culture of Second Unitarian through changing yourselves.

Going forward, the Board of Trustees has committed to taking the Goals and Key Outcomes ‘on the road’ to various Committees and groups within the congregation. This is to help folks understand why Developmental Ministry matters, what the Goals and Outcomes are about and how we might get there.

And then, right after we clarified the work of Developmental Ministry and how we might approach it – came the 2016 elections! Given the election results – and the campaign promises made by the winner – it seemed important to respond specifically in some way to the election and its consequences. With the approval of the Board of Trustees, I convened a Post-Election Work Group: Pat Caffrey, Cheri Cody, Carol Johnson and Pete Miller, representing the Board, the Program Council and Social Justice.

The Group revived the First Hour discussion group, held a series of First Hour sessions on how we might respond to the election and put together recommendations that resulted in the development of a Rapid Response Team to let congregants know where there is an urgent local event focusing on the work of our local allies or an issue of concern based on our UU Principles and positions. The Post-Election Work Group also recommended that Second Unitarian become involved in the work of Sanctuary. This is all still unfolding!

There is definitely a lot going on at Second Unitarian! The Social Justice Committee is engaged in a process of determining where their areas of focus will be – and that is

exciting. The Board has committed to building an accessible bathroom on the Sanctuary level, as well as repairing the parking lot! Our Religious Education program is constantly re-visioning itself to meet the spiritual growth and development needs of our children and youth – and they need your help! Each of these initiatives and others relate to or have come directly out of the Developmental Ministry process. It seems to me that the culture changes needed by this congregation are beginning to happen!

I am very grateful this past year for the incredibly excellent leadership of Pat Caffrey as President of the Board of Trustees.

I am grateful to all the Board members for their flexibility, openness to new ideas and willingness to take risks: Anita Meyer, Joe White, Greg Minter, Don Mundy and Carol Johnson.

I am grateful beyond my ability to express it for the excellence of our staff: Jaime Short as Office Administrator, Molly Kliment-Jenkins as Director of Religious Education, Donna Zebolsky as Music Director and Pam Curtiss-Smith as Childcare Coordinator.

And I am grateful to ALL of you as members of this wonderful UU religious community. You have volunteered, you have voted, you have participated, you have wondered, you have trusted, you have welcomed, you have questioned and you have thought. This is an excellent congregation on the way to becoming a community of deeper meaning, richer relationships and more spiritual growth as Unitarian Universalists!



Faithfully yours,

*Cyndi*

The Reverend Cyndi Simpson  
Minister



## Director of Religious Education's Report

*Note: For convenience sake, I am referring to caretaking adults of children as "parents," and the time for children on Sundays downstairs apart from worship as "Sunday school." My data collection starts with July 1, 2016 and continues to April 2017. Survey results are not included as I did not have enough responses (I only received 4) to form any conclusions.*

### Young Religious Unitarian Universalists: YRUU

Justin Short will join Carolyn Miller as the incoming youth advisor. Each congregation will provide two advisors. We are looking at revising the youth advisor position to allow for mentor development through longer advisor terms.

### Curriculum for Sunday Mornings

We had 21 children registered for Sundays and an average Sunday school attendance of two in Spirit Play, eight in Miracles, three in Worship Weaving and five in the Little Free Library Service Learning Project.

The RGL Council and I selected four curricula for the 2016-2017 school year. In the fall, the youth tackled Worship Weaving and the rest of the children (pre-k through intermediate) worked in the Spirit Play classroom. Then in January, we dropped the youth exclusive class and added the Miracles class, a multigenerational class and attempted to attract Pre-K through adults.

♦ **Spirit Play:** The youngest group, our pre-readers to early readers (roughly aged three through first grade) continued with Spirit Play. Activities for this group do not require the ability to read yet. The Spirit Play curriculum is Montessori-based, adapted by Dr. Nita Penfold to the Unitarian Universalist tradition. This year we recycled some of our older lessons and added a few others. For the fall, I expanded it to include older children due to lower volunteer recruitment. We have few children in the Pre-K through early reader group so this has been a sparsely attended class when it is restricted to that age group.

*Interesting Note: During our last class of the year, service was scheduled to go long. We decided to have all ages participate in the spirit play story (it's was the flaming chalice foundation lesson). Interestingly, when we went to move onto the little free library lesson, we actually had some youth ask to join the Spirit Play classroom with the pre-K children. And they seemed to enjoy the works that were there.*

◇ **Miracles:** This curriculum focused on what constitutes a miracle, from the everyday observable to those things we do not understand. It was billed as a multigenerational curriculum through the UUA. Originally planned for a fall launch, it was postponed until January due to low volunteer recruitment numbers. Between that and it being our first attempt at a one room schoolhouse, I decided to be the primary facilitator. I found that the only age range that was attracted to the class was intermediate. Adults dropped off, and it was too advanced for the youngest. On the plus side, the experiments were a big hit and the science was exciting.

◇ **Worship Weaving:** This middle and high school youth curriculum focuses on exploring the elements of worship and developing a full worship. In November, the youth conducted their own entire worship. They chose to focus on ageism. They enjoyed the experience overall.

◇ **Little Free Library:** For our final few weeks of the spring, we constructed the little free library with a pattern and lesson plan I developed from scratch. I tried to tie in each lesson to a principle or quote that was relevant to the work at hand. I developed questions for discussion to bring the service learning project to that higher “spiritual work” level. I will be rolling out this curriculum to the other DREs on the Facebook group I am a part of.



## **Childcare**

- ◇ Last Spring, Pam Curtis-Smith was provided with extra time each week to take over the management of child care at our congregation. It is working out wonderfully. We have had good coverage and have also found additional adults -- some outside of our congregation -- for the program.

## **Our Whole Lives (OWL): Grades 7-9**

- ◇ We offered this class during the 2016-2017 school year. The facilitators were: Kate Wiig and Joe White. We had eight youth take the class: six from First Unitarian Church and two from Second Unitarian Church. The class included an overnight to get through a big chunk of lessons. We received excellent feedback from the youth. First Unitarian also conducted an elementary OWL class, but no Second Unitarian members attended. As a result of scheduling challenges, the DREs decided that it may be easier for each congregation to schedule their own OWL classes and invite the other congregation to attend rather than try to coordinate our schedules.

## **Summer Programming**

- ◇ Last summer we did not provide any Sunday school programming. This summer we are trying a program where we work with individuals in the congregation to present children's books they are attached to. We will organize lessons and projects around each book. The RGL Council is taking the lead on this programming and I will provide them with support as needed. I will be working with Rev. Cyndi on worship, especially developing multigenerational aspects, and wrapping up our Safe Congregations Policy.

## **Religious Growth and Learning (RGL) Council**

- ◇ We are now meeting as needed (once every 2-3 months).
- ◇ My incredible committee members are: Jaime Short, Elise Brazeal and Pam Miller-Jenkins. They help keep me grounded and provide needed feedback. I also appreciate their willingness to step in when needed. Since Jaime is on staff, we are continuing to look for at least one to two more committee members to provide balance.

## Acknowledgements

Joe White is stepping down from his long time position with the youth. His dedication to the youth of both congregations is just amazing. We have been blessed to have his presence for nearly a generation. I am also thankful that Carolyn Miller was willing to take over YRUU this year and am glad she is continuing with the adventure!

I am beyond thankful for the classroom leaders for the Sunday programming this year: Clyde Anderson, Rod Baumann, Kathy Bell, Elise Brazeal-Daganaar, Todd Daganaar, Janet Doan, Michelle Godfrey, Dave Jenkins, Kyle Larson, Pattie Larson, Barb May, Monica Meier, Anita Meyer, Pete Miller, Pam Miller-Jenkins, Tom Peterson, Craig Piquette, Justin Short, Jaime Short, Mark Siepker, Kate Oelke Turner, Nancy Vandersluis, Michaela Weiss, and Rachel Yamamoto... as well as anyone who may have stepped in at the last minute that I forgot. They not only help welcome those who are young into our religious community; they also are willing to grow and expand their understanding of our world and universe.

Joe White and First Unitarian's Kate Wiig get a special thanks for making it through another year of 7-9 grade OWL. I substituted a couple times and truly enjoyed the time with the youth. They are lucky to experience that group week after week.

Finally, thank you to all who have donated time/skills and supplies. Tom Peterson's woodworking skills provided us with the cut panels for the Little Free Library. Wesley Morrison-Sloat and others donated books. Many anonymous others placed the highly coveted yet obscure #6 plastic on my desk for shrinky-dink projects. Someone else donated an incredibly full tub of wonderful giftwrap.

Truly, you are all the reason this church and congregation has a successful Religious Education program.

Thank you, again, for all you do!





## Office Administrator's Report

It's been a great pleasure to be the Office Administrator at our wonderful church for over a year now! It's been a delight to work with Rev. Cyndi during her first year of developmental ministry. Her presence is very energizing, and I hope she's finding her time in Omaha and at 2U enjoyable and fulfilling. I enjoy continuing to work with Molly, and I feel we work well together. I also enjoy working with Donna and Pam, although we work mostly through email as opposed to face to face.

Our beautiful new website has been up and running for about a year! Kathy Bell and I maintain the website to keep our content current. The website is an important step in drawing visitors to Second Unitarian, so it's important to keep it fresh and updated.

In January, the church purchased a new copier. This was certainly a welcome change, as the old one had a nasty habit of eating documents and was getting quite expensive to maintain as the parts for it were no longer being made. There has been quite the learning curve for folks (and yes, myself included). The copier is a "smart" machine and has lots of bells and whistles, which has led to much confusion. I have received numerous weekend calls from folks trying to figure out how the copier works! I have also come in on many a Monday to find the copier settings have mysteriously been changed. But like I said, there is a significant learning curve and we are all trying to figure things out together. In the long run, after we sort through the kinks, I feel the machine will be great for us. The new copier is a color printer and has led to (in my opinion) some truly beautiful order of service covers.

### What to look forward to in the coming months?

- ◇ Two days after the annual meeting, I will be leaving for two weeks for an adventurous girls' trip to Ireland with my mother-in-law, Donna, and my daughters, Sabrina & Izzy. I will be gone for two weeks, which is the longest we all have been apart since I took this position in March of 2015! However, I have no doubt that our wonderful volunteers will keep things running smoothly.
- ◇ A new directory will be out later this summer as we have welcomed quite a few new members to our 2U family.
- ◇ I am hoping that the Summer slow down will enable Cyndi and I to update a few policies, and I have a couple boxes of documents (courtesy of Dodie Robison's rapidly approaching move and inevitable house purging) to organize!



## Music Director's Report

Our small but dedicated choir sang 8 times this past year, on October 2, November 20, December 18, January 22, February 19, March 26, April 9, and May 21. Our current choir members are:

Tom Peterson	Tera Kirk
Lucy Horpedahl	Carla/bill Kuhn
Casey Horpedahl	

Others who have sung with us in recent months are:

Bob Fischbach	Cayla Friedl
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Guest musicians in Sunday services have included Carla/bill Kuhn playing guitar and singing, Dustin May playing the djembe, Vicki Pratt playing the recorder, and some of the young people from the youth program playing guitar and singing.





# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha Staff Covenant

September 2009  
(rev. November 2010)

In the interest of promoting spiritual growth and right relations within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, we, the professional staff of Minister, Director of Religious Education, Music Director, and Office Administrator, covenant to:

- ◇ Model healthy relationships and teamwork among the staff and with congregants
- ◇ Promote healthy business practices in a professional manner, with attention to good stewardship of all resources.

Recognizing that the way we are with one another affects the entire congregation, we agree to:

- ◇ Express appreciation and encourage one another
- ◇ Attend to group process, taking time together to remember what is important
- ◇ Communicate openly with one another
- ◇ Listen without interruption to what others have to say and process that
- ◇ Encourage speaking and knowing when not to speak, in the interest of effective decision-making for the common good
- ◇ Approach concerns and issues with direct communication, working toward resolution and with respect for confidentiality
- ◇ Avoid triangulation and offer mediation when appropriate
- ◇ Inform each other about when we arrive and when we leave the building
- ◇ Practice sensitivity to differences, cultural and otherwise.

Faithfully done, our work carries forward the ministry of this church to create loving community and inspire spiritual growth and supports the mission 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.



# Facilities

## Building & Grounds

*Prepared by Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs*

**Committee Mission Statement:** The Building & Grounds Committee works to insure the facilities of the Church are safe and meet the needs of its members and guests.

**Committee Members:** Clyde Anderson and Tom Rundquist (Co-Chairs), Rick Bell, Jaime Short (Custodial Contacts), Jay Haskins, David Johnson, Carla/Bill Kuhn (Technology Contact), Larry Kurtz, Roger Nicolaisen, Tom Peterson, Jim Poleshuk, Greg Minter (Board Contact).

### Major Achievements:

- ◇ Thanks to the many volunteers who participated in the Church Cleanups October 8, November 19 and April 29 and all the other B&G volunteer opportunities during the year!
- ◇ Last August, we installed a new storm water Drain extending about 30 ft. from a low spot in the west sidewalk into the swale on the west side of the church. Hopefully, this will help draw storm water away from the foundation and stop leaks in the Basement.
- ◇ We converted several of the florescent light fixtures to use LED bulbs for a significant increase in bulb life and decrease in power consumption.
- ◇ Last Summer Molly (DRE), Jaime (OA) and volunteers repainted several areas in the Basement (Garden Level) and got the Minister's Office ready for Rev. Cyndi's arrival.
- ◇ While we explore a long-term solution to our worn out parking lot, we patched several of the large potholes with a new high-tech cold asphalt patch material.
- ◇ Last Fall we installed a roof gutter on the east side of the roof to reduce the buildup of ice on the east sidewalk and basement entrance. It worked well this winter.
- ◇ This Spring we replaced the old and very noisy air conditioning unit in the Minister's Office with a new, quiet, energy-efficient unit.
- ◇ The battle with the paper wasps and yellow jackets continues. We hung three waspenator decoys from the outside eaves, and that seems to have eliminated the paper wasps from nesting there. However, the yellow jackets continued to nest in the Doggy-Potty station and compost bin. Unfortunately, the only solution has been insecticide.

- ◇ Affordable Maintenance Solutions did an excellent job clearing the church parking lot and walks after our few ice and snow events this winter. The above-normal rainfall during the growing season kept Whitney Loucks busy mowing our church lawns.

### **Future goals:**

- ◇ Continue making repairs to the Church parking lot until a long-term solution is found.
- ◇ Paint the exterior roof beams and fascia plus changes to the colors and signage on the south side of the church being designed by the Marketing Advisory Council.
- ◇ Extend the storm water drainage system on the west side to drain a new low spot next to the southwest window well.
- ◇ Replace the metal doors at the main entrance with glass doors with panic exit bars to make the church entrance more welcoming and a safer emergency exit.
- ◇ Repaint the Sanctuary.

**Leadership** – Tom and Clyde have co-chaired Building & Grounds for five years, and we are seeking new leaders.



Thank you to the Buildings & Grounds team for all your hard work!  
We all enjoy the beautiful benefits... even the neighbor cat Ashley.



# Church Finances

## Treasurer's Report

Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

***Thanks to your generous contributions Second Unitarian Church can continue our mission and developmental ministry, as well as our response to 2016 election aftermath and consequences.***

Our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. The following pages compare 2016-2017 amounts as of April 30, 2017 to end-of-year amounts for 2015-2016 and 2014-2015.

### **Consolidated Balance Sheet**

The Consolidated Balance Sheet shows restricted and unrestricted funds in both the assets and liabilities/members' equity portions of the balance sheet. As of April 30, 2017 Checking and Money Market Account Balances total \$66,374.75. Of this amount, \$41,668.08 is restricted (cannot be used for regular expenses) and \$24,706.67 is unrestricted.

2017-2018 pledges already paid in this fiscal year are recorded as a Liability (Payable) since we cannot spend this money until the new fiscal year starts on July 1.

The **Endowment Fund** is detailed on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Investments are comprised of our purchases of Vanguard Group stock and our account in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. Our UUA Common Endowment Fund account was opened during this fiscal year. As per the accountant's recommendation in September 2008, the Vanguard investments are market to market after dividends have been posted:

- ◇ Changes in market value are recorded as "Unrealized Gain or Loss" account on a monthly basis.

### **Income and Expense Statement – Operating Fund**

The Income and Expense Statement compares actual income and expenses to their budgeted amounts for the current and last two fiscal years.

## **Treasurer Duties and Responsibilities**

The Treasurer is appointed annually by the Board of Trustees. Responsibilities include custodian of all church funds, weekly deposits, bill paying, record keeping for pledges and other contributions as well as disbursements, and financial data analysis, presentation, and retention.

Carrying out these responsibilities requires expertise, skills, and time commitments well beyond my capability. I am grateful for paid staff and volunteers who perform many crucial daily, weekly, and monthly tasks that segregate duties to ensure transparency as well as financial integrity. During my three years of serving as congregation treasurer, I extend deep thanks and gratitude to:

- ◇ Office Administrator - Jaime Short. Office Administrator responsibilities include day-to-day activities such as recording deposits, contributions, offerings, and paying invoices. Jaime also performs monthly Bookkeeper responsibilities such as making accounting entries, reconciling our bank statements, and preparing balanced financial reports.
- ◇ Weekly Counters – Clyde Anderson, Kathy Bell, Kathie Haskins, Anita Jeck, David Johnson, and Melissa Konecky. As a team they organize the offering plate contents into pledge payments and Share the Plate donations.
- ◇ Payroll – Cheri Cody. This work entails making direct online changes to ministerial and staff compensation/benefits rather than relying on our payroll processor to accurately perform these tasks. Cheri also makes sure we are billed correctly for insurance and retirement benefits provided through the UUA. Cheri diligently pursued reimbursement for payroll processor errors that occurred in 2014 and 2015. In addition to the \$1,062.23 the IRS reimbursed us in 2015, they reimbursed us \$1,801.72 in 2016.

# Consolidated Balance Sheet (Unaudited)

	<u>Current Year-to-Date</u>	<u>4/30/2017</u>	<u>Actual</u> 6/30/2016	<u>Actual</u> 6/30/2015
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Checking	27,343.08		35,612.01	28,781.71
Money Market	14,325.00		14,325.00	14,325.00
Investment of Donated Stock for Pledge	<u>0.00</u>		<u>11,874.75</u>	<u>17,407.38</u>
	41,668.08		61,811.76	60,514.09
Checking & Money Market - Restricted				
01 - OPERATING FUND - Payables / Receivables	10,698.57		14,734.00	13,844.83
05 - BUILDING	1,134.40		1,393.40	981.31
12 - NEW BUILDING FUND MON MKT	7,125.00		7,125.00	7,125.00
21 - RESERVE FUND	11,103.74		15,403.74	9,818.95
28 - GIFT-ELVERA BOGGS TRUST	7,200.00		7,200.00	7,200.00
29 - MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY	2,899.52		2,574.02	2,461.30
31 - YRUU	151.85		151.85	320.32
32 - N. HEINEMEYER	1,355.00		1,355.00	1,355.00
33 - ANDERSON 2014-2015 PL MM	0.00		11,874.75	17,407.38
03 - Endowment (Sale of Jefferson Pilot Annuity)	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Checking & Money Market - Restricted		<b>41,668.08</b>	<b>61,811.76</b>	<b>60,514.09</b>
01 - OPERATING FUND Less Payables	24,448.47		10,950.12	10,591.71
13 - INTEREST FROM MONEY MARKET	<u>258.20</u>		<u>233.77</u>	<u>204.61</u>
Checking & Money Market - Unrestricted		<b>24,706.67</b>	<b>11,183.89</b>	<b>10,796.32</b>
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>				
Vanguard Group	97,479.67		85,134.57	84,061.30
Jefferson Pilot Annuity	0.00		0.00	11,149.02
Citigroup Inc. 5 Shs	0.00		211.95	276.20
UUA Common Endowment Fund	<u>19,061.07</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Subtotal Endowment Funds		<b>116,540.74</b>	<b>85,346.52</b>	<b>95,486.52</b>
Subtotal Current Assets		<b>182,915.49</b>	<b>158,342.17</b>	<b>166,796.93</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
<b>LAND AND BUILDINGS</b>				
Land	20,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00
Church Building	88,744.00		88,744.00	88,744.00
Equipment				
Panasonic Copier	0.00		1,771.64	1,771.64
Accumulated Depreciation - Copier	0.00		<u>-1,771.64</u>	-1,279.46
Furniture and Fixtures	3,000.00		0.00	0.00
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-200.00</u>		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Subtotal Fixed Assets		<b>111,544.00</b>	<b>108,744.00</b>	<b>109,236.18</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>294,459.49</b>	<b>267,086.17</b>	<b>276,033.11</b>
<b>LIABILITIES (PAYABLES)</b>				
Pledges Prepaid - Next Year	10,729.55		13,599.00	12,382.00
DRE HRA Ins Benefits Payable	0.00		0.00	1,462.83
Wages Payable	0.00		0.00	0.00
Memorials Payable - Blackstone	0.00		1,135.00	
Gifts Prepaid - Next Year	0.00		0.00	0.00
Security Deposits-Rental	0.00		0.00	
Pass Thru Account	<u>-30.98</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES (PAYABLES)</b>		<b>10,698.57</b>	<b>14,734.00</b>	<b>13,844.83</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES / MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>				
Fund Balances	102,571.27		111,252.36	112,981.45
Unrealized Gain/Loss Vanguard	43,342.00		30,996.90	29,923.63
Unrealized Gain/Loss Citigroup	0.00		-813.55	-749.30
Unrealized Gain/Loss Anadarko	0.00		-9,011.43	0.00
Unrealized Gain/Loss UUA Common Endowment Fund	<u>1,596.98</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BALANCES / MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		<b>147,510.25</b>	<b>132,424.28</b>	<b>142,155.78</b>
Restricted Funds - Committees; Payables	11,984.82		16,279.25	15,146.46
Restricted Funds - Bldg, Boggs, Minister's Disc, Reserve, Heinemeyer,	29,683.26		45,532.51	45,367.63
Restricted Funds - Endowment	116,540.74		85,346.52	95,486.52
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		<b>136,250.67</b>	<b>119,927.89</b>	<b>120,032.50</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE/MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		<b>294,459.49</b>	<b>267,086.17</b>	<b>276,033.11</b>

# Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	as of 4/30/2017			6/30/2016			6/30/2015		
	Current Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year End	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
<b>INCOME</b>									
Pledges Budgeted	\$158,485.23	\$188,562.00	84%	\$179,705.50	\$183,174.00	98%	\$177,826.00	\$184,544.00	96%
New Pledges Current Member	330.00	500.00	66%	1,810.00	500.00	362%	200.00	2,000.00	10%
New Pledges New Member	4,939.33	3,500.00	141%	1,290.00	3,500.00	37%	237.00	8,000.00	3%
Pledges for Previous Year	490.00	0.00	0%	1,890.00	0.00	0%	120.00	0.00	0%
Subtotal Pledge Income	164,244.56	192,562.00	85%	184,695.50	187,174.00	99%	178,383.00	194,544.00	92%
Dividend Income	437.15	100.00	437%	360.32	100.00	360%	240.86	100.00	241%
Gifts	30.00	500.00	6%	80.00	500.00	16%	450.00	2,500.00	18%
Fundraising	1,233.14	7,657.00	16%	8,259.16	10,712.00	77%	12,324.41	8,500.00	145%
Other Income (new line '16)	2,909.45	520.00	560%	2,982.60	590.00	506%			
Offering	9,983.51	13,000.00	77%	10,980.39	13,000.00	84%	11,361.31	13,000.00	87%
Rent	100.00	200.00	50%	275.00	200.00	138%	100.00	500.00	20%
Administrative Income (only used in '15)							79.62	0.00	0%
Transfer Funds	1,300.00	1,300.00	100%	-5,584.79	300.00	-1862%	9,150.85	15,840.07	58%
Transfer from Boggs Fund (only used in '15)				0.00	5,000.00	0%			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>180,237.81</b>	<b>215,839.00</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>202,048.18</b>	<b>217,576.00</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>212,090.05</b>	<b>224,984.07</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
Office Admin. Salary	16,770.77	20,390.00	82%	22,346.64	22,488.00	99%	20,688.00	20,688.00	100%
Office Admin-Ins Benefits	0.00	360.00	0%	298.17	398.00	75%	1,865.76	1,868.00	100%
Office Admin-Retirement	475.68	1,020.00	47%	1,499.36	2,249.00	67%	2,069.04	2,069.00	100%
OA Professional Expense	15.00	612.00	2%	191.75	621.00	31%	718.81	1,045.00	69%
DRE Salary	16,382.50	19,659.00	83%	20,208.25	18,723.00	108%	16,337.75	17,823.00	92%
DRE-Insurance Benefits	405.51	348.00	117%	330.96	331.00	100%	1,736.34	1,816.00	96%
DRE-Retirement	1,630.38	1,966.00	83%	1,872.00	1,872.00	100%	1,337.04	1,337.00	100%
DRE-Professional Expense	150.00	590.00	25%	482.06	508.00	95%	0.00	1,782.00	0%
Music Director	9,055.00	10,086.00	90%	9,884.04	9,888.00	100%	9,884.04	9,888.00	100%
Connections Coordinator Salary	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0%	927.00	3,708.00	25%
Connections Coordinator Prof Exp	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	371.00	0%
Musicians (new line '15)	1,700.00	1,950.00	87%	2,175.00	1,500.00	145%	3,150.00	3,000.00	105%
Childcare Supervisor Salary (new line '17)	720.00	950.00	76%						
Bookkeeper	0.00	0.00	0%	650.00	1,950.00	33%	1,650.00	1,800.00	92%
Payroll Taxes-Staff	3,283.99	3,893.00	84%	4,011.57	3,909.00	103%	4,543.13	3,986.00	114%
Payroll Processing	865.03	1,445.00	60%	820.22	1,225.00	67%	887.67	840.00	106%
HRA Monthly Fees	0.00	0.00	0%	70.40	72.00	98%	323.00	288.00	112%
Staff Development / Appreciation	212.00	200.00	106%	146.66	200.00	73%	0.00	200.00	0%
<b>Subtotal Salary Expenses</b>	<b>51,665.86</b>	<b>63,469.00</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>64,987.08</b>	<b>65,934.00</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>66,117.58</b>	<b>72,509.00</b>	<b>91%</b>
Housing Allowance	14,912.11	17,135.00	87%	40,279.92	40,280.00	100%	36,935.21	36,934.41	100%
Insurance Benefits	6,195.25	7,838.00	79%	1,191.96	1,192.00	100%	5,491.90	6,102.76	90%
Minister W2 Salary	34,945.69	42,042.00	83%	27,139.92	27,140.00	100%	28,040.87	29,031.90	97%
In Lieu of FICA	3,814.17	4,527.00	84%	5,157.96	5,158.00	100%	4,737.50	4,733.50	100%
Professional Expense	64.00	3,380.00	2%	5,804.40	6,000.00	97%	2,260.33	5,940.00	38%
Minister Retirement	4,985.75	5,918.00	84%	6,741.96	6,742.00	100%	6,187.92	6,187.50	100%
Moving Expense	4,563.23	4,601.00	99%				3,000.00	3,000.00	100%
<b>Subtotal Ministerial Pkg</b>	<b>69,480.20</b>	<b>85,441.00</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>86,316.12</b>	<b>86,512.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>86,653.73</b>	<b>91,930.07</b>	<b>94%</b>
Administrative Expense	813.63	1,110.00	73%	1,147.82	1,160.00	99%	595.03	1,305.00	46%
Treasurer Admin Expense	400.10	933.00	43%	579.13	842.00	69%	806.82	625.00	129%

# Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	as of 4/30/2017			6/30/2016			6/30/2015		
	Current Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year End	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
Board Mtgs & Retreat	207.29	275.00	75%	275.00	275.00	100%	201.30	275.00	73%
Search Committee (only used in '16)				39.00	5,000.00	1%			
Share the Plate Donations	4,991.77	6,500.00	77%	5,462.71	6,500.00	84%	5,680.67	6,500.00	87%
Fundraising Expense	81.70	500.00	16%	197.19	774.00	25%	0.00	0.01	0%
RGL- Childcare	931.41	1,950.00	48%	1,477.66	1,500.00	99%	1,774.60	2,500.00	71%
Religious Education Suppl	184.69	750.00	25%	750.17	750.00	100%	793.68	750.00	106%
Copier Expense	184.74	608.00	30%	493.39	420.00	117%	327.89	420.00	78%
Denominational Dues	9,520.00	9,520.00	100%	9,744.00	9,744.00	100%	10,956.00	10,956.00	100%
Insurance	4,023.00	4,150.00	97%	4,197.00	4,800.00	87%	4,265.00	4,265.00	100%
Janitorial-Cleaning	5,330.00	7,020.00	76%	3,380.00	3,920.00	86%	6,205.00	7,020.00	88%
Janitorial-Suppl/Trash PU	911.61	1,610.00	57%	766.92	1,210.00	63%	1,562.03	2,058.00	76%
Lawn Care & Snow Removal	1,823.25	2,665.00	68%	2,471.75	2,490.00	99%	2,413.75	2,500.00	97%
OTOC Dues	1,414.00	1,414.00	100%	1,300.00	1,300.00	100%	1,500.00	1,500.00	100%
Postage	294.44	500.00	59%	568.02	575.00	99%	317.73	675.00	47%
Telephone/Internet	2,631.22	3,509.00	75%	3,023.76	3,190.00	95%	2,936.26	2,900.00	101%
Communications/Mktg/Adv C	861.19	1,740.00	49%	545.03	540.00	101%	1,710.00	1,540.00	111%
Utilities	3,933.57	5,220.00	75%	4,116.29	5,339.00	77%	5,656.12	5,268.00	107%
UUA/MAR Consulting (new line '17)	750.00	750.00	100%						
Depreciation Expense	200.00	300.00	67%	492.18	591.00	83%	590.52	240.00	246%
<b>Subtotal General Expenses</b>	<b>38,273.88</b>	<b>48,981.00</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>39,300.07</b>	<b>48,918.00</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>46,890.55</b>	<b>49,367.01</b>	<b>95%</b>
Caring	250.00	260.00	96%	29.99	260.00	12%	56.65	610.00	9%
Fellowship	978.39	1,630.00	60%	1,371.97	1,310.00	105%	1,319.23	1,453.00	91%
Finance	1,067.59	1,650.00	65%	1,132.18	1,650.00	69%	1,219.14	2,075.00	59%
Bldgs. & Grounds Mainten.	900.98	1,400.00	64%	684.55	800.00	86%	548.21	950.00	58%
Library	49.98	150.00	33%	199.79	150.00	133%	238.51	300.00	80%
Membership	326.93	625.00	52%	394.68	1,165.00	34%	596.14	1,500.00	40%
Music & Worship	1,373.21	2,950.00	47%	1,143.25	3,550.00	32%	3,418.17	6,750.00	51%
RGL Council	326.83	3,400.00	10%	3,383.97	3,400.00	100%	573.14	1,400.00	41%
Soc Justice	418.45	1,000.00	42%	397.07	700.00	57%	768.99	700.00	110%
Technology	509.00	804.00	63%	280.51	525.00	53%	166.21	772.00	22%
Denominational Connection	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	300.00	0%
Committee on Ministry	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0%
Leadership Dev-Nominations	80.00	1,800.00	4%	600.00	600.00	100%	2,021.95	1,988.00	102%
YRUU Program (only used in '15)							0.00	200.00	0%
Transition Team	0.00	200.00	0%	0.00	200.00	0%	0.00	250.00	0%
<b>Subtotal Committee Expenses</b>	<b>6,281.36</b>	<b>15,869.00</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>9,617.96</b>	<b>14,310.00</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>10,926.34</b>	<b>19,248.00</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>166,915.03</b>	<b>215,803.00</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>201,948.18</b>	<b>217,676.00</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>211,990.05</b>	<b>234,984.08</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$13,322.78</b>			<b>\$100.00</b>			<b>\$100.00</b>		



## Finance Coordinating Council

Submitted by Joel Haskins

**The Finance Coordinating Council (FCC)** includes the Endowment Committee, Fundraising Task Force, Stewardship Task Force, and the Treasurer.

**Finance Coordinating Council Members:** Joel Haskins (Chair), Clyde Anderson (Recording Secretary), Vicki Pratt (Treasurer), Cheri Cody (Endowment Chair), Ed Bok (Stewardship Chair), & Pat Caffrey (FUNdraising Chair).

### Major Achievements during 2016-2017:

- ◇ Managed the 2016-2017 Budget of \$214,374.
- ◇ Held 8 meetings.
- ◇ Volunteers prepared the Weekly Deposit Forms from Sunday offerings.
- ◇ Fixed payroll problems involving tax payments and insurance withholdings.
- ◇ Pursued IRS tax errors resulting in almost \$3,000 of reimbursement to the church.
- ◇ As of April 30, 86 pledges have been made for the 2017-2018 Stewardship Campaign totaling \$192,092, nearly 98% of the \$197,000 goal. A generous anonymous donor matched pledge increases.
- ◇ Reviewed 12 months of financial statistics
- ◇ The Budget Team (Clyde Anderson - Chair), Rev. Cyndi, Carol Johnson, Vicki Pratt, Cheri Cody, Pat Caffrey, and Joel Haskins) prepared the Proposed 2017-2018 Budget, which can be found on pages 13 and 14 of the Annual Report.
- ◇ Created a Stock Gift Policy which was approved by the Board, plus, an account with Edward Jones was set up to accept stock transfers to the church.
- ◇ Updated the Purchasing and Credit Card Policy, which was approved by the Board.
- ◇ Supported the FUNdraising efforts with eBingo and Omaha Gives (this is the last year for Omaha Gives).
- ◇ Supported a 5-year church audit whereby financial books and Board minutes are scrutinized for errors and inconsistencies. Thank you to Clyde Anderson and Shirley Rundquist for this effort.

- ◇ Streamlined the process for obtaining W9 form Workers Compensation Insurance Certificates from contractors so we could produce tax information as required by law.
- ◇ Converted point-of-sale capability to PayPal, consequently getting rid of the older USB swiper device.
- ◇ Worked with the Caring Committee to update the Benefactor and Memorial Plaque policy, which was approved by the Board.

## Stewardship Report

The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign was A New Way Forward. This theme focused on the challenges ahead, both as our congregation moves forward into the era of Developmental Ministry, as well as the challenges faced by our nation as we deal with changes in our government. Stewardship Campaign Schedule: Steward Training - Sunday, February 12; Visionary Donor Event - Saturday, February 25; Kickoff Dinner - Saturday, March 4; and the Stewardship Campaign extended through March 26. Our Stewards contacted nearly 100 members and friends, and as of early May we had received 86 pledges totaling \$192,092 - nearly 98% of our \$197,000 goal.



# A New Way Forward



Second Unitarian  
Church of Omaha



## Endowment Report

**Committee Members:** Sue Aschinger, Cheri Cody and Phil Phillips

The Endowment Committee is required by the by-laws to meet quarterly but we have been much more active than that and met at least every other month for most of the year. In July 2016 we rewrote our investment philosophy and processes. In collaboration with the Finance Coordinating Council we met with a broker and have established a relationship where any stock gifts can be sold quickly before their value can be affected. The Stock Gift Policy was also amended to reflect this new process.

As we discussed various issues related to investing and restricted investments, we realized that there needs to be a formal way of preserving institutional memory. Vicki Pratt, a former member of the Endowment Committee, had preserved multiple emails which the current committee will assemble as a historical reference document. In some years, there are not available minutes so the emails document decisions.

In an effort to support our Unitarian Universalist denomination, the committee decided to open an account with the UUA Common Endowment Fund. We invested the proceeds of an annuity fund along with some other donations for a total of approximately \$16,600. We are monitoring the return on this account which has a 1% managerial fee and participate in the quarterly investor calls that the UUA hosts.

For the first time, the Endowment Committee sent out a year-end letter requesting contributions to the fund to help us grow more quickly to the \$250,000 goal in the by-laws. We received \$1,800 this first year which was much appreciated and we will continue this practice in future years. We did have some discussions about revisiting the \$250,000 goal and whether that goal should be abandoned so the congregation could do some good works now by operating under a conservative spending plan. This idea is still in discussion. We also discussed revisiting the requirements of the Dodge Fund which is not available until 2026 to see if that could be changed. We are aware of best practices in planned giving and will continue to implement some of those within the congregation.

We discussed the intent of the Benefactor's plaque since it was a mix of many different sources of funds, some of which were fundraisers in the congregation and not really benefactors. We did rewrite the benefactor plaque process but have not yet asked that it be implemented.

We will continue to promote accelerated giving to the Endowment Fund so that we can achieve the goals set many years ago when the fund was established.



# **Programs & Groups**

## **Caring Committee**

Submitted by Lolly Thomas

**MEMBERS:** Kathie Haskins (chair), Cindy Lynne, Vicki Dudley, Lolly Thomas and Ronda Stevens. Rev. Cyndi Simpson (ex-officio member).

**MISSION:** The Caring Committee's mission is to build a caring community that will help and support each of our members as we experience the events, stages, and transitions of life.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

- ◇ From July 1, 2016 through May 1, 2017, we have sent **59 cards** to members who are celebrating joys or are dealing with illnesses, deaths, and other sorrows. Other contacts are made by calls, e-mails, and visits. Information for these contacts is gained from the Sunday service Joys and Concerns, from members of the congregation, and from Rev. Cyndi Simpson.
- ◇ Provided cards, stamps, pens, and addresses for members, during fellowship, to write notes of caring as a way to facilitate congregational connections. This continues to be well received. An average of 2 - 4 cards are written by church attendees each Sunday and are sent by the committee member supervising at the time.
- ◇ Provided assistance for members with special needs.
- ◇ Gave a pastoral care program entitled "Loss at the Holidays" on December 8, 2016, which was facilitated by Rev. Cyndi Simpson.
- ◇ Hosted a pastoral care program on February 28 entitled "Dealing with Addictions," featuring Bruce Hugunin, Executive Director of A Better Way Therapy.

### **GOALS:**

- ◇ Recruit new members so that we are better able to continue our mission of caring and support.
- ◇ Continue to facilitate connections and communication within the church community
- ◇ Address the topic "When Tragedy Strikes," a pastoral care program in how to respond to those in crisis
- ◇ Address the topic "Meeting Caregiving Challenges," a pastoral care program offering tips for friends and family of those needing assistance.



## Fellowship

Members: Judy Eller and Lynn Alsman, co-chairs; Dodie Robison, member

The mission of the Fellowship Committee is to enhance the vision of the Second Unitarian Church by providing a ministry of welcome and celebration. Fellowship committee is proud of the special events we sponsor each year. We support the mission of Second Unitarian of being authentic, compassionate and transformative by providing radical hospitality. We also partner with other committees to support special events.

- ◇ Thanksgiving Dinner
- ◇ Sing For Your Supper
- ◇ Fiesta Frieda farewell celebration
- ◇ Special events as needed - such as farewell events for long-standing members who have moved.
- ◇ We purchase the hospitality supplies and the coffee!



Don Mundy, Tom Rundquist, David Johnson, Julie Kirn  
& Carla/bill Kuhn perform at Sing for your Supper.



## Hospitality Teams

Submitted by Kathy Bell

In their second year, Hospitality Teams continued to provide a welcoming experience to newcomers and members on Sunday mornings. Team members responded to a survey in September with overwhelming support to continue the team approach. Thank you to everyone who served on a team. (Stars by names indicate team leaders.)

<b>Transformers</b>	<b>Flames</b>	<b>Pleasant Porters</b>	<b>Journeys</b>	<b>Beacons</b>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Odd Months</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Odd Months</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Odd Months</i>	<i>4th Sunday Odd Months</i>	<i>5th Sundays</i>
Kathy Bell*	Donna Dudley*	Elise Brazeal-Daganaar*	Janet Nichols*	Michelle Godfrey*
Clyde Anderson	Jan Afrank	Sue Aschinger	Nancy Amsler	Cheri Cody
Rick Bell	Sana Amoura-Patterson	Kathy Bell	Judy Eller	Ben Godfrey
Tom Cantrell	Joan Benziger	Tammy Hunter	Pat Hart	Janet Nichols
Larry Kurtz	Phil Dudley	Melissa Konecky	Don Mundy	Jim Poleshuk
Martha Nunn	Anita Meyer	Mark Tipton	Betsy Phillips	Betty Segell
Shirley Rundquist	Vicki Pratt	Michaela Weiss	Phil Phillips	Isabelle Short
Tom Rundquist	Ronda Stevens		Katie Tessin	Sabrina Short
	Katie Tessin			

(Stars by names indicate team leaders.)



Phil & Betsy Phillips can turn even the simplest of hospitality tasks into fun!

<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	<b>@ UU'r Service</b>	<b>Joyful Servers</b>	<b>The Welcomers</b>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Even Months</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Even Months</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Even Months</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Even Months</i>
JoAnne Draper*	Nancy VanderSluis*	Meg Quintana*	Gay DeWester*
Darrel Draper	Pat Caffrey	Ed Bok	Lynn Alsman
Jack Frost	Gene Kopecky	Cathy Boscardin	Tera Kirk
Ray Harris	Vija Kopecky	Melissa Konecky	John Knape
Carol Johnson	Craig Piquette	Carolyn Miller	Wesley Morrison-Sloat
David Johnson	Betty Segell	Tom Peterson	Julie Nicolaisen
Julie Kirn	Katie Tessin	Dodie Robison	Roger Nicolaisen
Greg Minter	Charlie Woram	Michaela Weiss	Katie Tessin
Ken Salzman			



Hospitality teams take care of all those big and little details that make Sunday mornings run smoothly. Janet Nichols knows a Sunday would not run smoothly without coffee!



## Library Committee

Members: Pete Miller, Chair; Gwen Eurich, Vicki Pratt, Lorraine Duggin, Melissa Konecky

The Macyl Boruff Memorial Library Committee continued to meet monthly on the third Monday. Thanks to the generosity of church members, this year's book sale was our most successful yet! We continued to grow the library, adding several new exciting UU and social justice titles. Our agenda going forward includes coordinating with RGL to help stock the Little Free Library that will go near the church cairn. In addition, we are housing church archival material until an appropriate storage place can be found.

## Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

**Members:** Jaime Short, Pam Miller-Jenkins, Elise Brazeal-Daganaar; Ex-officio member: DRE- Molly Kliment-Jenkins. Due to the small size of our committee we have difficulty fulfilling our mission. We put most of our efforts into assisting and supporting the DRE.

- ◇ **Teen Movie Night:** We hold a teen movie night once a month, youth watch a movie, followed by pizza and conversation. A BIG thank you to Bob Fischbach who leads engaging discussions and Anita Meyer who makes everything happen!
- ◇ **Summer Programming:** We have asked congregation members to choose one Sunday this summer to share a story with the children - this could be an inspirational story from their own youth or a story that really speaks to them. We have had a such a wonderful response we will be carrying this program over into the fall!
- ◇ **Weakness:** Our main weakness is people willing to be on the council. We are trying hard to keep programming engaging, but this is very difficult when we do not have people willing to invest time and talent in the development of new programs.
- ◇ **Strength:** Our dedicated DRE! Molly is wonderful to work with and has done incredible things with our programs. We also have strength in volunteers! Members do not seem interested in committee meetings, but thankfully some are ready to jump in to teach a class or be a helper.
- ◇ **Goals:**
  - ◆ We have changed our meetings from monthly to quarterly, or when programing requires additional meetings.
  - ◆ Increase our support to our wonderful DRE.



## Marketing & Communications

**Committee members:** Nancy Amsler, Kathy Bell, Elise Brazeal – Daganaar, Carol Johnson, Molly Kliment – Jenkins and Jaime Short.

### **Activities:**

- ◇ Advertising - Led an effort to jointly advertise with First Unitarian Church in all 2016-17 Rose Theater playbills and additionally with Lincoln Unitarian in three River City Mixed Chorus playbills.
- ◇ We coordinated with Social Justice to be a sponsor of “Corn this Way”, an LGBTQ Youth Leadership Conference at UNO.
- ◇ Beautiful new website was put into action
- ◇ Coordinated the KIOS fundraising to advertise the church
- ◇ Coordinated the Omaha Gives! Fundraiser
- ◇ The 2U Forum (a Facebook closed group for church members and affiliates) is a popular communication tool to keep members in touch with one another.
- ◇ We have increased the number of Facebook and Twitter posts to several times a week.

### **What to look forward to in the coming months:**

- ◇ The MAC committee is looking into purchasing ads at Film Streams. These would be the onscreen ads that show before the movie.

**A special thank you to Nancy Amsler.**

**Nancy has functioned as the “MAC” convener and chair at various times. As she moves out of the Omaha area, we are grateful for her service to our committee and to our congregation.**

**Her insight, humor and quiet strength will be greatly missed.**



## Meditation Group

**Chair/facilitator:** Kevin Dunlop. We don't have a true membership roll, but our regular members include Gwen Eurich, Ronda Stevens, Diane Gowens, and Ed Bok.

The Meditation Group struggled quite a bit with attendance this past year. We have changed meeting nights in an effort to increase attendance. As always, we have been learning about and encouraging lovingkindness, mindfulness, and spirituality. We encourage each other to improve our lives, as well as the lives of those around us, by using meditation to reduce the effects of stress and to find peace of mind.

## Membership Committee

Donna Dudley (Chair), Kathy Bell, JoAnne Draper, Phil Dudley, Lorraine Duggin, Tom Rundquist, and Rev. Cyndi Simpson

### Activities:

- ◇ **Membership Classes:** Membership committee hosted two classes (Enquiring Minds) this past year. The class in the fall met on a week night for 4 consecutive weeks. The class in the spring was held on 3 consecutive Saturday mornings. We also encouraged current members to join us to meet and welcome possible new members. Classes consist of getting acquainted and sharing spiritual journeys, answering any questions about the UU organization, plus, learning about our own church and ways of becoming involved.
- ◇ **Hospitality Teams:** Membership committee continues to work with the Fellowship Committee in the organization of the Hospitality Teams. Kathy Bell is the coordinator. We currently have 8 teams serving one Sunday every other month. Team members greet at the front door, refer newcomers to Visitors table, usher, prepare coffee + treats, and clean-up.
- ◇ **Visitors:** If a visitor fills out a 'contact card', a letter is sent from the church office and a temporary nametag is made. Rev. Cyndi follows with an e-mail. Betty Bange also attempts to reach them with a "welcoming" phone call.
- ◇ **Misc.:** Committee also assists with new-member ceremonies, orders new name tags, posts new members biographies & pictures.



### Membership Statistical information:

- ◇ 110 Members reported on the UUA census
- ◇ 20 new members
- ◇ 2 resumed membership
- ◇ 67 average Sunday attendance



Membership knows that all of our members are important to the life and vitality of our church.



## Nominations & Leadership Development

Submitted by Janet Nichols

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee members are elected by the Congregations to serve three-year terms. The primary purpose of the committee is to seek out candidates who are eligible, experienced, and capable of fulfilling the duties for terms of office on the Board of Trustees, Endowment, and Nominations and Leadership Development Committees. The Committee is also charged with promoting and developing leadership skills within the congregation.

During the 2016-2017 Church year, the committee:

- Conducted Leadership 101, a one day training in December. Sixteen (16) congregants attended. A special thanks goes to the people forming the planning and implementing of the Leadership 101 class: Tom Peterson, Carol Johnson, Phil Phillips, Pam Curtis-Smith, Rev. Cyndi Simpson, Monica Meier, Sabrina Short, and Janet Nichols.
- Recruit nominees for the Board, Endowment, and Nominations committee.
- Requested funding from the congregation of Second Unitarian to provide full tuition scholarship for an adult member of the church to attend the Midwest Leadership School (MWLS) in July 2017.
- Conducted Board Orientation for new Board members in June.
- Assisting the Board with various congregational needs.



Thank you to all members, staff, and clergy of Second Unitarian Church who support programs for all our leaders reach their full potential.



## Program Council

Submitted by Carol Johnson and Pete Miller

This year, the theme underlying the work of the Program Council has been to deepen the development of spiritual growth through service to the congregation. Significant topics of discussion this year included:

Members of Program Council took time to get acquainted and learn about Reverend Cyndi Simpson, her experience and work style preferences

Committee Chairs updated one another on upcoming events and considered ways that their own committee could assist or support the lead committee in making the event successful

Program Council viewed the webinar “Cracking the Leadership Crisis” and showed it to all members of the congregation as a 2-part First Hour presentation

Committee Chairs participated in the Developmental Ministry Kick-off event held in March

Program Council is comprised of Committee Chairs as well as Child Care Coordination. Last year, the Standing Rules for Program Council were revised to establish co-leaders: one leader from the Board and one leader from the Council itself. Carol Johnson was the representative from the Board and Pete Miller was selected to represent committee chairs. Pete and Carol also served as Program Council representatives on the Post-Election Work Group to guide the response of Second Unitarian Church following the November presidential election.



## Retirees' Group

Retirees Group is not just for persons officially retired - it's for anyone looking for socialization, fun, personal growth and learning. The group meets monthly (typically the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00) for a topic or activity of interest to the group. This year, many programs were led by members of Second Unitarian Church with a few presentations by guests.

Programs this year included:

- ◇ *Institute for Holocaust Education* by Donna Walter, Director of Education
- ◇ *Getting Around Green in Omaha* by Clyde Anderson
- ◇ *Retain Repeal of the Death Penalty* by Vicki Pratt and Marylyn Felion
- ◇ *Connecting Through Social Media (Part 1)* by Elise Brazeal-Daganaar
- ◇ *The Life of Private Harris* by Ray Harris
- ◇ Lunch as a Group at Omaha Rockets Canteen
- ◇ Our January meeting was cancelled due to snow and ice
- ◇ *Connecting Through Social Media (Part 2)* by Elise Brazeal-Daganaar
- ◇ *Share Your Favorite Poetry* led by Darrel Draper with contributions by participants
- ◇ *History of Unitarian Universalism in Transylvania* by Janet West
- ◇ *Happy Aging* by Mechelle Streif, Director of Wellbound

Please join us when you see something interesting to you: all are invited to attend-regardless of retirement status.



Retirees' Group at the Holland Center Summer 2016



## Social Justice

Many people have participated in the work of social justice:

Russ Alberts	Cheri Cody	David Johnson
Clyde Anderson	Ruth Corwin	Tera Kirk
Sue Aschinger	Bob Fischbach	Carla/Bill Kuhn
Marco Ballarin	Deb Gibson	Larry Kurtz
Betty Bange	Ruth Ann Irby	Pattie Larson
Joan Benziger	Tammy Hunter	Kyle Larson
Ed Bok	June Jenn	Wesley Morrison-Sloat
Pat Caffrey	Carol Johnson	Kelly Patton

The Social Justice Committee's work this year was broad and deep. Following are some of the major activities of 2016/17:

In June 2014, there was an intentional effort to re-imagine social justice at Second Unitarian. This year the committee decided we needed a reboot and undertook various activities to make this happen. A social justice retreat was held in early February 2017, and all Second U members/friends were welcome. Rev. Marshall Johnson facilitated the first part of the retreat and taught us community organizing practices to understand public and private relationships which are connected to our developmental goal of Welcome. Rev. Cyndi was planning to do a piece on tying this to UU principles and post-election what we are called to do as UUs. Unfortunately Rev. Cyndi was ill the day of the retreat, but we still successfully expanded our way of looking at justice work.

Some attendees were disappointed that the focus of the retreat was not more concrete and from that an ad hoc "proposal group" was formed to make recommendations for some concrete decisions. The group recommended using a process of Start/ Stop/ Continue to determine what our priorities will be in the coming year.

Therefore, we will:

- ♦ **START** – SJ Movie Night; Vote on GA issues; Commit to doing 1:1 conversations; Continue emphasis on Race/White Privilege /Black Lives Matter; Sanctuary; Educate about UU conferences, General Assembly, Study Action Curriculums, and other related denomination activities.

- ◇ **CONTINUE** – Omaha Together One Community, Open Arms Transgender Support, Welcoming Congregation, Share the Plate, First Hour, PRIDE booth, Community Garden, Banners.
- ◇ **STOP** – Earth Day booth, Green Sanctuary, Peace & Justice Institute booth, Inclusive Communities Table Talk.

One of the commitments coming out of the Retreat was to learn how to do 1:1 relational meetings which can transform the culture of a congregation by creating deeper relationships as well as supporting the developmental goals of our congregation. In May 2017, Rev. Marshall Johnson led the training on how to do effective 1:1 meetings for 18 Second U members. The participants had a chance to practice an abbreviated 1:1 meeting which they found energizing. Every participant set up one or more 1:1 meetings to be held within the next 6 weeks.

The committee continued its self-education and formed community collaborations to become more effective on issues of race and discrimination. During committee meetings, members worked to understand and internalize the impact of white privilege. In August, we worked with IMA president, Rev. Tony Sanders, to present the movie *I Dream of an Omaha Where...* Carol Johnson invited several of the people featured in the film to participate in a panel discussion after the movie, along with Rev. Sanders.

Members of Second U attended two of the Black Lives Matter protests held in west Omaha and downtown Omaha. Several members also attended the Black Men United event at Big Mama's in September 2016; the Black and Blue forum hosted by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance in August 2016; and the Interfaith Solidarity Service in August 2016.

In January 2017, Second Unitarian Church purchased a table for the Martin Luther King Luncheon. (Due to a snowstorm, the luncheon was postponed until March.) Ten Second U members attended the luncheon; participants reimbursed the church for their tickets at a level affordable to them.

With the post-election increase in hate language, several members of Second Unitarian participated in the “Light the Way for Refugees and Immigrants” which demonstrated support by assembling along Dodge Street during rush hour. Members had signs and the response from drivers was very positive. Rev. Cyndi and Izzy Short were interviewed and appeared on two television news programs; both were excellent.



In response to Rev. Cyndi’s encouragement to resist, the committee has been learning about what’s required to engage in sanctuary. Some committee members watched the webinars on discerning whether the congregation would to participate and multiple committee members attended the general meetings of the newly formed Sanctuary Network group. This will be a church-wide effort but Social Justice can lead some actions.

The Share the Plate process was streamlined this year and the Social Justice Committee accepts the nominations and approves the recipients. Another goal for Share the Plate was to create a deeper relationship with the recipient and starting in April 2017, recipients are asked to do a First Hour discussion so that we can learn more about their work.

Recipients for 2016/17 Share the Plate were:

July - Community Alliance	January - Partnership 4 Kids
August - IMA/Black Lives Matter	February - Justice for Our Neighbors
September - Compassion in Action	March - Intercultural Senior Center
October - Omaha Police Foundation	April - Heartland Workers Center
November - Foodbank for the Heartland	May - National Alliance on Mental Illness - Omaha
December - Stephen Center	June - Tai Chi for Balance/Friendship Program

The LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee re-organized this year and has re-integrated with the Social Justice Committee. Tammy Hunter will still co-facilitate the Open Arms Transgender group, but will be counting on the full Social Justice Committee to help with the work of advocating for and protecting the rights of the LGBTQ community. A new rainbow banner was put on the front the church this year. Second U has been a designated Welcoming Congregation since 2004 and this year submitted a request as required by the UUA to renew our designation. This is an ongoing process.

In October 2016, the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee worked with Rev. Cyndi to present the Sunday service in recognition of National Coming Out Day. Several participants shared their heartfelt and courageous coming-out stories. The Open Arms Transgender Youth Group ministry continued to meet monthly and is an important support for the youth and young adults who attend. During the year, Second U and Open Arms were represented at the Transgender Day of Remembrance, the Transgender Day of Visibility, World Aids Day, Corn This Way, and we will again join First Unitarian in marching in the Pride Parade and hosting a booth at the Pride Festival and Youth Pride in June 2017.



The community garden plots are reserved for another season. Second Unitarian did not have a booth at Earth Day this year. In our Start/ Continue/ Stop process it was decided to stop participating in Earth Day until volunteers are interested in organizing Second Unitarian's display.

Second Unitarian Church has been a member of Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) for 20 years. OTOC is what the UUA calls a congregation based community organization, which trains leaders how to advocate for their interests and how to help each other advocate on broader issues.

OTOC unites more than 20 congregations and solidarity members in Omaha to build relationships and make our community a better place to live. OTOC teaches people to become effective leaders in their congregation, explore common interests, research ways to resolve concerns and issues, present solutions to decision-makers, and hold elected officials accountable.

Discussions around strategic planning and increasing institutional membership continued in 2016/17. After a successful Accountability Session with mayor and city council candidates on May 1, OTOC will change its priorities in the coming year. OTOC leaders met with regional supervisor, Paul Turner, in May 2017 and agreed to switch focus from doing mostly issue work to creating a plan for going back to the "basics" of community organizing and re-teaching the principles and practices of successful organizing.

Second Unitarian again supported OTOC by participating in the Internal Contribution Campaign where members in our congregation are invited to make a personal contribution to the work of OTOC. Our members contributed a total of \$745 in 2016. Social Justice also contributed a gift basket for the OTOC auction as we have done in previous years. Jim Poleshuk sold 20 fundraiser tickets to our members, and Vicki Pratt, Pat Caffrey, Jim Poleshuk, and Cheri Cody volunteered at the event.

Vicki Pratt was the liaison to the OTOC-led effort to educate and get out the vote by the Retain the Repeal Death Penalty Repeal Action Team. The team offered many educational events around Nebraska and Vicki organized a Lunch & Learn event after a Second U church service on September 25, 2016.

Clyde Anderson and the OTOC Environmental Team presented at First Hour on April 23, 2017.

The committee extends grateful thanks to Kathy Bell for her development work on a new and much improved webpage for social justice.



# Technology Committee

Submitted by Carla/bill Kuhn

**Committee Mission Statement:** Provide technology consulting and support for the effective operations and out-reach of the congregation, related to personal computing and networking, electronic file systems, audio, video, and telephone and security systems.

- ◇ Added a new laptop for the minister's office.
- ◇ Added a new dedicated presentation laptop for the video projection system.
- ◇ Upgraded personal computer security software from free to premium subscription service for enhanced protection.
- ◇ Continued familiarization and training for members of Music and Worship on use and operations of the Audio/Visual system.
- ◇ Completed preparation of a new Power Church server for replacement of the existing outdated server.

## Future goals:

- ◇ Provide a system for recording of sermons to be made available on our website.
- ◇ Install newer router and wireless network connectivity.
- ◇ Research and plan for replacement of internal TalkSwitch phone system as necessary.
- ◇ Install passive switching system for projection system, enabling projection from front or rear of sanctuary.
- ◇ Upgrade Sanctuary sound system with a commercial grade amplifier, and improved podium microphone.



# Developmental Ministry

**A New Ministry - Second Unitarian is engaged in the process of Developmental Ministry. Together we will create a culture that moves us forward.**

## Developmental Goals & Key Outcomes

### Identity Goal

***2U has a clear and shared idea of our identity as Unitarian Universalists in this time and place.***

- ◇ The Board of Trustees and church leaders maintain their clarity of church identity.
- ◇ Our identity drives the determination and fulfillment of the purpose of the congregation.
- ◇ Our culture, organizational structure, programs, worship, and activities reflect and are grounded in our identity.
- ◇ Our church name reflects our identity as Unitarian Universalists.
- ◇ Because we **act** on our identity, the church is recognized in the larger community as a UU liberal religious faith community.
- ◇ Our culture of right relationship is apparent in how we are together and is central to our understanding of our identity.
- ◇ Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
  - ◆ Accessible to all
  - ◆ Inviting and welcoming
  - ◆ 7 Principles apparent in structure & function
- ◇ Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.

## Welcoming Goals

***2U is a welcoming and engaging congregation for newcomers and members.***

- ◇ Newcomers and members are excited and enthusiastic about belonging to 2U.
- ◇ Newcomers and members want to join in on the 2U mission.
- ◇ Newcomers and members have connection and good relationships at 2U.
- ◇ Newcomers and members have personal and spiritual growth at 2U
- ◇ As a congregation, 2U is diverse, multicultural and multigenerational.
- ◇ Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.
- ◇ Our worship strengthens and affirms our mutual bonds of love, relationship and covenant.
- ◇ Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
  - ◆ Accessible to all
  - ◆ Inviting and welcoming
  - ◆ 7 Principles apparent in structure & function

## Worship Goals

***2U engages in worship that activates and transforms spirit, mind and body.***

- ◇ Our worship presents diverse opportunities for inspiration, illumination, meaning and transformation.
- ◇ Our worship is a time of solace and sanctuary.
- ◇ Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.
- ◇ Our worship strengthens and affirms our mutual bonds of love, relationship and covenant.
- ◇ Our worship affirms our worth and what we hold to be worthy.
- ◇ Our worship calls and equips us to partner with others to change the world.

## Structure Goals

***2U has an organizational and physical structure that is appropriate for and responsive to our vision for the future.***

- ◇ Our structure reflects the identity, purpose and covenants of the church and continually moves the congregation forward in its development.
- ◇ More people will be engaged in doing manageable tasks that appeal to different kinds of people.
- ◇ Members experience various ministries as engaging, energizing and spiritually fulfilling.
- ◇ Our structure supports a more intentional, focused and coordinated presence in the wider community.
- ◇ Our culture of right relationship is apparent in how we are together and is central to our understanding of our identity.
- ◇ Our structure stimulates new ideas and the application of new ideas.
- ◇ Our structure reflects a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, and of what is essential.
- ◇ Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
  - ◆ Accessible to all
  - ◆ Inviting and welcoming
  - ◆ 7 Principles apparent in structure & function



# Church Life

## 2016-2017

### **New Members**

Rod Baumann  
Ruth Corwin  
Janet Doan  
Jeff Jenkins  
June Jenn  
Tera Kirk  
Kyle Larson  
Pattie Larson  
Beth Marks  
Steve Marks  
Barbara May  
Wesley Morrison - Sloat  
Jocelyn Owens  
Kelly Patton  
Jim Poleshuk  
Scott Quackenbush  
Ken Salzman  
Becky Siepker  
Jeff Siepker  
Mark Siepker

### **Reinstated Members**

Casey Horpedahl  
Lucy Horpedahl

### **Moving Away**

Nancy Amsler  
Marcia Forbes  
Milton Forbes  
Norma Koelling  
Richard Koelling  
Alice McArdle  
Rich McArdle  
Dodie Robinson

### **Deaths**

Hank Eurich  
Doris Wallace