

**Second Unitarian
Annual Report
2021 - 2022**



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Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees (BOT) started the year with three main goals in mind:

- Open the Church safely when Covid numbers would allow
- Hire a Minister
- Revise the Bylaws

Board Orientation was held July 24th. On August 21st, we held the Board Retreat at Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center near Ashland, Nebraska. One of the items we addressed in our Retreat was to write a Board Covenant. We all felt that we had written something very special. The idea was broached to say our Board Covenant before each Board meeting and we put that into place.

The Budget had been amended due to an error which increased the total to \$207,950. Therefore, a Congregational meeting to approve the Amended Budget was held on July 25th.

Discussions for Protocols to open the building were held with the thought of a possible September opening. Variants continued to play havoc with our plans throughout 2021. We were able to successfully open the church on April 3, 2022. We continue to require masks for services. Masks are not required except at the worship services. Eating and drinking in small groups is allowed.

The BoT approved changing our application for a Minister from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. We continued to keep Rev. Mary Moore on as a targeted Minister. We changed her to a $\frac{3}{4}$ time Minister and wrote the contract to enable the Board to end her contract if we found a Minister to hire. Early in 2022, we received two ministerial candidates that we felt were promising. We worked closely with the Ministerial Search team to decide on a candidate to hire. A town hall meeting was held with the congregation to discuss types of ministry, finances, and present the chosen candidate. Rev. Juniper Meadows was hired and started at Second Unitarian beginning May 1, 2022 as a Full time contract Minister.

Sue Aschinger and Carol Johnson worked diligently on revising the Bylaws, a monumental task. Molly Kliment-Jenkins reformatted the entire set of Bylaws. A town hall meeting was held before the Annual Meeting, and opportunities were given to ask questions and seek clarity before the Annual Meeting. The Bylaw Revisions were voted on at the Annual Meeting and all revisions were accepted by the Congregation.

Meaning and Purpose

A plan was put in place to meet with the members quarterly to discuss one of the themes of Meaning and Purpose. Also, a computer generated card was made to be shown on zoom before services.

Documents Approved

- Visitor to Membership Protocol
- IHRT Conflict Resolution Policy and Procedure February 2022

- Personnel Manual
- Endowment Procedures and Timeline
- Endowment Fund Distribution Calculation
- Membership Status Form
- Policy for Use and Security of Church Purchasing and Credit Card
- LOA written for Rev. Juniper Meadows
- Accountable Reimbursement Policy for Second Unitarian
- Revised Technology Coordinator Job Description

New Committees Formed

- Committee on Ministry (COM) - HRT incorporated into COM
- Caring Collective
- Safety - Emergency Manual Revision, AED training were delegated
- Safety - Attended Active shooter training for Houses of Worship along with DRE

Approved

- Hiring Rev Juniper Meadows as a Full-time Contract Minister
- 2022 - 2023 LTCRI projects approved
- Award distribution of the Endowment fund to the FCC to be used for the LTCRI projects
- Approved moving the “New Building Fund Money Market to LTCRI Building and Technology Set - Aside
- Approved the 2022-23 Draft Budget
- Increase the Ministerial Credit Card to \$4000
- Approved Cheri Cody as Treasurer for 2022 - 2023
- Approved Anita Jeck as Committee Leadership Chair
- Approved selection of 2022-23 Executive Committee - Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Secretary, Anita Jeck - Vice Chair, Dorothy Danielson - Chair
- Ratified all Zoom Board Votes as valid from March 2020 - May 2022

Town Halls Held

- January - Discussion to clarify the different types of Ministers
- May - Discussion and Q&A of Bylaw Revisions

In Progress

- SMART - First meeting held June 21st
- Monitoring of Security Cameras

It was a pleasure to serve on a Board with such dedicated, thoughtful individuals who made the year both productive and enjoyable.

Building & Grounds

Members

Clyde Anderson, Chair
Rick Bell
Pam Curtiss-Smith, Aesthetics Liaison
Dorothy Danielson, Board Liaison
David Johnson
Larry Kurtz
Carla/Bill Kuhn
Michael Lynne
Roger Nicolaisen
Tom Peterson

Summary of achievements

- Beginning in January 2022 we re-established the practice of regular monthly meetings, usually on the first Saturday morning of the month. These meetings at Church include a walk-around inspection, light repairs, yard work, etc. Members also meet weekly at Bagel Bin on Thursday mornings to discuss any immediate property and building maintenance issues.
- Church Work Days were held on October 2nd, November 11th, and April 30th and we greatly appreciate all the volunteers who participated!
- B&G volunteers on April 2nd got the Church building and yard spruced up for the big reopening on Sunday, April 3rd after more than two years of meeting on Zoom. We also assisted with the big celebration on April 17th welcoming our new Minister and dedicating our new Bathroom Addition, Parking Lot, and Front Deck/Handicap Ramp.
- Assisted the Church Safety Task Force and Fellowship Committee with modifications required with reopening the Church in April.
- Added finishing touches to the new building addition: installed changing table & coat hooks, hung hallway mirror, placed splash guard to right of new Coffee Alter sink, and relocated fire extinguisher and defibrillator.
- Assisted with the installation of the Zoom/Pan video camera in the Sanctuary for use televising the services on Zoom.
- The Board authorized B&G to hire a contractor to paint the exterior of the building. This included repairs to the siding damaged by the 2019 hail storm. This work was accomplished in late April and early May. The exterior is now gray with white trim. The work was done by Great Plains Painting at a cost of \$7,508.50. Our B&G volunteers cleaned out the window wells and other tasks in preparation for painting.
- Repairs were made to the water supply system for the Community Garden including the rain barrel.
- Many volunteer hours were spent maintaining the church grounds.

- Managed the lawn care and snow removal services which are contractor-provided.
- B&G is researching replacement of the front and basement double doors.

Future goals

- Replacement of the front and basement double doors.
- Install 8-camera video security system (started in July 2022).
- Get Board approval for an annual HVAC system maintenance contract.
- Paint the Sanctuary.
- Assist with painting RE classrooms and Nursery.
- Replace or repair the irrigation system in the front landscape areas.

Other information

- A list approaching a hundred tasks (many reoccurring) is maintained to provide a work agenda for the Fall and Spring Church Work Days.

Submitted by Clyde Anderson

Caring Collective

The revived Caring Committee is now called the Caring Collective.

Members

Wesley Morrison-Sloat, Chair

Ruth Corwin

Linda Robb

Pat Solick

We did have our first member affiliated funeral service on July 29th for Mary Elizabeth Anderson, the mother of Stephanie Peterson. Her son-in-law, Tom Peterson, presided. This team coordinated cookies & refreshments and greeted the attendees.

In 2022, developing our Mission Statement, responsibilities and guidelines has been a major focus of this team.

Mission Statement

The caring collective's mission is to build a caring community within the congregation. A community that will support and assist each other as we experience the events, states, and transitions of life.

Responsibilities

The collective, in cooperation with the Minister, is responsible for ensuring that the following functions are carried out.

- Sending cards for births, deaths, illnesses, etc.
- Assist with coordination of memorial and funeral services and the receptions that follow.
- Provide and solicit assistance for members in need. This will require a streamlined communication system among the collective members.
- Sponsoring/coordinating programs to address pastoral care needs.
- Maintain a current list of volunteers.
- Maintain community resource document.

Confidentiality

The Caring Collective will keep all member information confidential unless specifically authorized to release information by the minister, the member or the member's family. This includes both written and verbal communications.

Anticipate our Limits

Sometimes it is important to anticipate our limits if a request is difficult to fulfill and especially if there is no foreseen end to the need. The Caring Collective can often help a family coping with a difficult situation, but it should not lead the family to believe it can rely on the collective indefinitely. Based on judgment and experience, inform the family as soon as possible that after specified time, other arrangements will need to be made.

Enable Independence

Sometimes we are asked to assist people who do not yet realize they are ready for increased independence. Sometimes declining a person's request can give them the incentive to seek and try a more independent means of accomplishing their objective.

Use the Caring Volunteer List

The mission of the Caring Collective is to "build a caring community". The collective can't meet all the needs of the congregation by itself but that the entire congregation would benefit and grow spiritually if it was encouraged to become a caring community. Therefore, use the Caring Volunteer list to solicit assistance for fellow members. This list of volunteers can help with certain tasks, such as, memorial services. We would like to expand this list, so we aren't going to the same people too frequently for assistance.

Refer Rather than Coordinate

We've started building a Community Resource document to identify local organizations that can aid beyond what the committee can do. It will include resources for food, housing, aging populations, domestic violence, families/individuals at risk, etc.

Faith Connections

Members

Carolyn Miller, Co-Chair
JoAnne Draper, Co-Chair
Anita Jeck
Cheri Cody
Clyde Andersen
Mary Rudy
Pam Curtiss-Smith, Board Liaison

Mission:

Provide adult learning and exploration opportunities that deepen spiritual development in the areas of Loving Faith, Loving One Another, and Loving Mother Earth.

Duties:

Through various venues such as First Hour, small group ministries, and class sessions, the Faith Connections Team develops programs in the following areas of exploration:

- Loving Faith – Exploring our Unitarian Universalist faith and heritage, personal spiritual and religious journeys, and other religious traditions and concepts.
- Loving One Another – Exploring the challenges and rewards of relationships—including issues of racism, navigating difficult conversations and interactions, building trust, nurturing healthy personal relationships, and strengthening covenantal community.
- Loving Mother Earth – Nurturing our connection to Nature and developing the knowledge and commitment required to preserve our planet for generations to come.

Programs:

- **UU 101 Tracing Our Roots**

UU 101 Tracing Our Roots Part 3 continued with focus on the Rise and Fall of American Unitarianism. Discussion of the philosophies of Transcendentalism and Humanism were part of this and was held on July 13th and 17th.

Ideas for improvement were:

- Ask presenter to send the coordinator their presentation in advance so they can show the presentation if needed.
- When working with a guest presenter ask them to time their presentation.
- Meet with guest speakers ahead of time for a run through. There were 7 people for Tuesday and 9 for Saturday. Target 1 to 1 ½ hours at the maximum, including discussion.

UU 101 Tracing Our Roots, Part 4, the Universalists was held on August 10th and 14th.

People thought everyone in the Congregation should see these. The first program lasted about 1 hour and 15 minutes with 8 attendees and the second one was 1 hour with 6 people attending.

UU 101 Tracing our Roots, Part 5, The Merger, was the story of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalists Church of America merger in 1961. People could choose to attend on Tuesday Sept 14th, 1 PM OR Saturday Sept 18th, 10 a.m. Attendance was 4 on Tuesday and 3 on Saturday.

UU 101 Civil Rights, Part 6, the final program was on Oct 12th and 16th with 6 attendees on Tuesday and 7 on Saturday. Surprisingly, the homework did add to the experience.

- **The proposed 8th Principle**

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

- **8th Principle Continued**

First and Second Unitarian Churches of Omaha held a joint worship service with Paula Cole Jones, on Sunday August 1st at 10:30 on zoom. Paula Cole Jones, organizer of the 8th Principle Project, realized after working with many UU congregations that a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level. The 8th Principle provides us a path to renew our commitment to antiracist work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles. The UU Principles were designed to be *dynamic*, not a fixed creed. It means we want to always continue to be educating ourselves, exploring truth, and raising our consciousness.

A workshop on the 8th Principle was held on Saturday, August 6th. Ninety-two people registered with Second having 18 who did attend. Others were from First Church, around 50 and 6 from Lincoln. Speaker Paula Cole Jones laid it out well and kept everyone engaged especially with how long it was going from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- **Dialogues on Racism**

Starting September 23rd Elaine Wells, First Unitarian member, again offered her 6-week series of conversations designed to educate participants about racism in Nebraska, and to inspire them to take actions to build a more equitable society.

There was a joint service with First and Second Unitarian on February 20th entitled “On Empathy: Widening Our Hearts to Include the Pain of Others.” Cheri Cody spearheaded this along with Mary Kay Peters from First. Participating in the service also were Carolyn Miller and Clyde Anderson from Second along with Mark Loscutoff from First. It was a hybrid service with approximately 45 adults in the sanctuary along with 7 children and 70 people on zoom. The two churches worked very well together in putting this service together. Each participant delivered quality presentations and

having a live choir was a treat. The attendees greatly appreciated the message and the service.

- **Pathways** is a series of classes by the Membership Committee which is open to all members. Reflection on our spiritual journeys and exploring Unitarian Universalism are included. These were all held on Saturday mornings via zoom on October 30th, November 6th and 13th. Classes were also held in the spring on March 26th, April 2nd and 9th.
- **Braver Angels**, “Depolarizing Within” workshops were held on Saturdays, April 9th and June 4th. The title of the June Workshop was “Skills for Bridging the Divide.” This was hosted by Braver Angels of Nebraska and Nonviolence Omaha. Attendance numbers by Second Unitarian was not available.
- First Unitarian's **Hiking Club** invited Second Unitarian for hiking at the Hitchcock Nature Center, Saturday, March 5th from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. This is in Iowa’s Loess Hills, about 20 miles north of Council Bluffs. Contact was Mary Kay Peters of 1st UU.

First Hours:

Habitat for Humanity was the 1st hour presentation on July 11th. Due to power outages, Clyde could not host and Cheri stepped in. Becky Vinton, Senior Development Officer with Habitat for Humanity of Omaha did a great job and there was good discussion.

The First Hour program on the 8th Principle was August 8th. Twenty-three attended which included 1 from Lincoln and 1 from First. Registration was helpful so reminders could be sent.

On September 12th, First Hour on Together Omaha was represented by Tom Hoy, VP of Development. Second UU member, Pete Miller, is on the staff. Attendance was about 9 and the program was well received.

Rank Choice Voting lead by social justice committee member Kimberly Jones was held on October 10th. Material was well presented and there was an excellent discussion.

Siena Francis House was our First Hour topic on November 14th. In addition to what we know about Siena Francis House – drop-in shelter, meals, and long-term apartment living – the organization is also creating a tiny home community called Cottages. A total of 14 people attended including the speaker. It went well.

Widening the Circle was held on December 12th with 14 people in attendance. Mary Kay Peters with First Church was part of this program with Cheri and Mary as co-chairs. It went very well but we were surprised by lack of participation at First Unitarian.

Linda Duckworth from the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha was the presenter on Sunday, January 9th. It went well with 19 people in attendance including the speaker. The Friday email reminder was effective in increasing the registration.

On February 13th the 1st Hour program was on OTOC's concerns about mental health. Turnout for this event was 22, the highest we have seen. Six or seven people expressed their desire to get engaged and their names were passed on.

Preston Love Jr. is Founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Urban Development (4Urban.org), a trade name for the Black Votes Matter Institute of Community Engagement. Preston is also UNO Adjunct Professor of African American Experience in Politics. As our First Hour guest on March 13th, Preston not only told us of the plans for his 5th Annual Civil Rights Tour for high school students this summer, but also his new program of North Omaha History bus tours. Feedback was very positive with 20 people in attendance. Preston participated in the service. We are hoping to schedule a tour with Preston in the future.

Our first hybrid First Hour on zoom and in the basement was held on April 10th. Ashly Weaver and Jeff Heck from Firststar Recycling, Omaha's recycling contractor was coordinated by Carolyn Miller. Ashleigh, DRE, managed the tech duties which was very helpful. There were nine participating in person and eight via Zoom. The screen was a bit blurry.

May 8th, First Hour, Andrew Aleman, Deputy Director of People Power and National Partnerships at Black and Pink National. This was cancelled. Some former members had received feedback from people impacted by Black and Pink and recommended that we not provide a forum for them at Second Unitarian. We need to look at how these organizations are vetted.

On May 10th, there was a tour of Firststar Recycling to see their operation. Clyde reported 14 people attended from First, Second, OTOC and Sierra Club and split into 2 groups for the tour. Good questions and tour was well done.

The First Hour session on June 12th was dedicated to helping us understand *Committee on Ministry*. The session was led by Rev. Lisa Presley, Congregational Life Consultant for the Mid-America Region of the UUA.

At the Faith Connections meeting held on February 21st, Anita Jeck suggested that the Soul Matters Program and Dementia Caregivers Support Group come under the umbrella of Faith Connections as they function on their own. The team agreed.

For Soul Matters there are three groups led by Kathy Bell, Anita Jeck and Judy Wieczorek. These covenanted small groups are led by a trained facilitator and meet monthly to delve more deeply into the worship themes. Soul Matters groups allow participants to:

- Practice deep and disciplined listening as we hear each other's stories and reflections on the theme material.
- Share our gratitude.
- Develop deeper connections with our fellow group members.
- Learn about ourselves.

By JoAnne Draper

Fellowship

Members

Janet Nichols, Chair
Judy Eller

Mission:

The mission of the Fellowship committee is to enhance the vision of the Second Unitarian Church by providing a ministry of welcome and celebration.

As our building continued to be closed due to COVID-19, our activities continued to be on Zoom. At the Thanksgiving Saturday evening “dinner” over Zoom, we had 10 attendees enjoy their own meal and social time. On Thanksgiving Day, several members enjoyed some time together over Zoom. Christmas Day, several members also met over Zoom to spend time together.

On February 13th, we hosted with Religious Education a “Share the Love” Open House. Friends dropped by the church on Sunday afternoon, visited, and donated a small stuffed animal that was donated to Project Harmony. Children left with a craft project to do at home and everyone left with candy and cookies! We had 30 stuffed animals donated to Project Harmony.

Our church building opened with restrictions in April 2022.

The Board of Trustees asked Fellowship to lead a team to plan a celebration on May 15th. This team was comprised of Janet Nichols, Judy Eller of Fellowship, Dorothy Danielson of Board of Trustees, Tom Peterson of Worship Team and PIM, Ashleigh Fuson, DRE, and Molly Kliment-Jenkins of Marketing.

This team planned and carried out:

- The **Dedication** of the Property Improvement Ministry (addition of the handicapped accessible bathrooms, handicapped accessible deck, parking lot, and coffee bar with sink /back of the sanctuary),
- The **Celebration** of being back in our building after a long closure due to COVID-19 and
- **Welcoming** Rev. Juniper Meadows as our new minister.

It was a big event involving the worship service, as well as, activities outside following the service. Many activities were enjoyed among members and friends with joy and celebration. Check out the addition of painted rocks in the flower garden!



Board President, Dorthy Danielson, leading the "BIG Hurrah" Celebration. Rock painting under the awning in the background.

Finance Coordinating Council

Members:

Vicki Pratt, Chair
Cheri Cody, Treasurer
Jan A Frank, Endowment Fund Committee representative
Dorothy Danielson, Board of Trustees representative and Fundraising Team representative
JoAnne Draper, Stewardship Team Representative
Joel Haskins
Carolyn Miller
Mark Siepker

Mission Statement

The Council's mission is to oversee the fiscal health of Second Unitarian Church and to marshal the financial resources to further its mission. The Council includes the Finance, Stewardship, and Fundraising Teams plus the Endowment Committee and Treasurer.

Specific duties include:

- Promoting stewardship.
- Conducting the annual pledge drive.
- Preparing the annual budget for submission to the Board.
- Reviewing the financial statements monthly and recommending action to the Board if a problem is apparent.
- Making recommendations to the Board concerning investments, endowments, and non-budgeted expenses.
- Canvassing new members shortly after they join the church.
- Maintaining pledging records.
- Soliciting and administering memorial gifts and bequests for the purpose of enlarging the Endowment Fund as specified in the Memorial Gifts Policy.

Proposed additions:

- Completing Weekly Deposit Form to aid preparation of weekly bank deposit; maintain transparency and security of cash and checks received from offering plate and otherwise received; and identify income lines for recording member pledges and other contributions.
- Monitoring Long Term Capital Replacement and Improvement future projects to ensure adequate funding in set-aside accounts.

Achievements:

- Welcomed new members Carolyn Miller and Mark Siepker! We appreciate their finance expertise.
- Managed 2021-2022 Operating Budget of \$207,950, including changes to accommodate replacement of heating/air conditioning units as well as contract for Rev Juniper Meadows.
- Implemented Long Term Capital Replacement and Improvement process to set aside funds to “save up” for future technology equipment needs and repairs to our church building. The set aside started by moving \$7,225 from “New Building Fund” money market to newly created “LTCRI Building and Technology Set Aside.”
- Refined procedures for approving and processing credit card statements for church-issued credit cards.
- Submitted finance-related changes during the rewrite of our congregation’s Bylaws.
- Listed month-by-month duties and responsibilities of the Chair and committee to aid business continuity and recruiting and training new members.
- Trained two volunteers for how to record weekly income from offering and pledges.
- Started research on how to address the Digital Security Assessment received from Core Bank.
- Completed application to request \$4,500 from church Endowment Funds to use as partial payment for safer front and basement doors on our church building.
- Held 12 regular meetings and several meetings to draft 2022-23 Operating Budget, all by Zoom. Preparation included gathering budget needs from owner of each expense line. Thanks to Stewardship Team and expense line owners for their assistance in defining financial resources needed for our congregation to carry out our Meaning and Purpose!

Thanks to steadfast, reliable, and diligent volunteers who complete reporting of weekly stewardship and other income: Clyde Anderson, Kathy Bell, Kathie Haskins, Vicki Pratt, Shirley Rundquist, Lolly Thomas.

Future Goals:

- Set up tracking for Long Term Capital Replacement and Improvement set asides.
- Address issues identified in the Digital Security Assessment received from Core Bank.
- Separate FCC and Stewardship duties now that our bylaws recognize the need for ongoing Stewardship.

Stewardship Team

Members

JoAnne Draper, Chair

Phil Phillips

Lolly Thomas

Pat Caffrey

With assistance from Ed Bok, Julie Kirn and Tom Peterson

The theme for this year was suggested by Vicki Pratt, "Enter, Rejoice & Come In". This song reflected our joy of coming together after almost two years of Covid lock down. We very much were looking forward to being together in our church and welcoming our new minister. Molly Kliment-Jenkins created this logo used on the ACH and paper pledge form and much of our communications:



An online pledge form using Google was updated and tested with the assistance of Kathy Bell. This included notifications when a pledge was submitted. This was completed by February 2nd.

Testimonials were monthly starting on November 7th with Dorothy Danielson, November 21st with Carolyn Miller, December 19th with Chris Peters, January 16th with Phil Phillips, February 20th with Jack Frost and March 20th with Joel Haskins. Lolly Thomas, as our communications coordinator, worked with the worship team to keep them abreast of who would be speaking. Some delivered it in person and some videotaped theirs. Lolly notified everyone a month before as well as the week before. Lolly also submitted inspirational articles of appreciation. Keeping everyone updated on how the pledge campaign was going was done weekly.

Phil Phillips recruited 20 stewards with most being assigned 3 people. Stewardship training by Ed Bok was on February 12th. Dorothy Danielson as board chair presented the budget. Spreadsheets of donors and assigned stewards and where to find forms online and paper were provided. Last year's google presentation was modified. Tom Peterson directed zoom.

A stewardship letter which included a members pledge for this year went out on February 14th. This was in collaboration with Board Chair, Dorothy Danielson, and Office Administrator, Jaime Short.

We had a visionary event on February 19th in which we invited the top 25 pledgers. A special gift of 2 small bottles of wine and special nuts were hand delivered to their homes before the event. Julie Kirn was instrumental with this event.



On Saturday evening, Board Chair Dorothy Danielson kicked off the event, followed by a Phil Lund video discussing the positive things to come out of Covid and the strengths of small congregations. Mr. Lund is from the MidAmerica Region. This was followed up by break out rooms to discuss three questions. Tom Peterson was our Zoom host which went flawlessly.

Stewardship Sunday was held on February 27th, titled “Enter, Rejoice and Chip In”. Rev. Mary Moore helped put together a fun service. Writings on Stewardship were presented by members Pete Miller, Lolly Thomas, Lorraine Duggin and Tom Cantrell. There was a musical power point of the many changes of our building from a highly successful capital campaign. Due to Covid most of the congregation had not seen the improvements to the building. The big surprise was a 3-minute video from Rev. Meadows who would become our minister in May.

March 5th was our Kickoff Event via zoom with Darrel Draper, our own renowned storyteller, presented *The Statue of Liberty... the Rest of the Story*. Special music was provided by Carla/bill Kuhn. Pictures of Rev. Meadows were on almost every slide. JoAnne reviewed the 2022 Canvass and Pat Caffrey was host of the presentation. Again, Tom Peterson was our Zoom guru.

The pledge drive started on March 6th and ended on March 30th.

Final Results:

Goal: \$185,000 (8% increase to enable us to go from a 3/4-time Minister to a full time with Rev. Juniper Meadows)

Actual: \$183,235 (99.3% of goal)
Just \$1,285 short of goal

Pledge Units: 81

Lessons learned:

- Many members had problems filling out an electronic pledge form.
 - 22 out of 80 either did paper pledges or requested that I submit the form on their behalf using information they supplied.
 - thus, 28% are not skilled in, or comfortable with, technology.
 - (In the future I recommend including paper pledge forms.)
- Make it is easy - Have them send an email and have the Stewardship Chair submit their info on their behalf.
- During stewardship, I emailed and texted everyone who hadn't pledged including what they had pledged for last year.

Submitted by JoAnne Draper

Endowment Fund Committee

Members

Gene Kopecky, Convener

Rod Baumann, Secretary

Jan Afrank, Investment monitor, UUCEF Quarterly Investor Call and FCC attendee

Review of Endowment Fund Fair Market Value (FMV) Quarterly Reports

(January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fair Market Value of Endowment Fund</u>
March 31, 2021	\$264,879.58
June 30, 2021	\$285,895.23
September 30, 2021	\$286,032.95
December 31, 2021	\$309,227.57

- The Endowment Fund baseline threshold of \$250,000.00 was surpassed in December 2020 and was maintained for the required four consecutive quarters to authorize a distribution (see table). Consequently, in January 2022, the Endowment Fund was eligible to enter the distribution phase (for an approved use) for the first time in its history. The Endowment Fund distribution amount approved by the Board of Trustee for distribution in FY 2021-22 was \$4,500.00.¹
- The Endowment Fund Committee recommended approval of the Endowment Fund Allocation Application submitted by the Finance Coordinating Council to apply the \$4,500.00² for partial payment toward replacing front and basement doors for the safety of our congregation. The Board of Trustees approved the distribution amount and recommended use of the funds recommended by the Endowment Fund Committee. As required by the Bylaws and the Endowment Fund Committee Implementation Procedures (discussed below), the threshold of a simple majority of the voting members of the congregation present at the annual meeting in June 2022 approved the distribution amount and recommended use (vote was unanimous).

Endowment Fund FMV falls below the \$250,000.00 Threshold

- Unfortunately, due to significant market volatility with a precipitous drop in the market, the FMV for the quarter ended June 30, 2022, fell below the required quarterly threshold of \$250,000.00. On June 30, 2022, the FMV of the

¹ A human error in the Endowment Fund distribution calculation occurred and the 2022 Endowment Fund distribution was corrected to \$3,500.00.

² See footnote 1.

Endowment Fund was \$247,447.50 or \$2,552.50 below the threshold. On July 1, 2022, the Endowment Fund reentered the non-distribution phase.

Target an 80/20 Split in Invested Funds for the Endowment Fund

- Endowment Fund maintains an approximate investment split of 80% Vanguard Fund and 20% Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund.

Endowment Fund Committee Implementation Procedures of Articles 13, 14, 15 of the Bylaws:

- The Endowment Fund Committee developed a document designed to establish detailed procedures, a project plan, and an annual schedule for the Endowment Fund Committee to administer the Endowment Fund. The intent of the procedures is to provide a consistent and standardized approach for the Endowment Fund Committee to administer distributions from the Endowment Fund. The Implementation Procedures were unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees October 13, 2021.

Designed an Endowment Fund Database:

- Developed a database of the Endowment Fund investment details from the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund and Vanguard funds. The purpose of the Endowment Fund database is to monitor the status of the Endowment Fund and calculate the dollar amount of a potential distribution.
- The Endowment Fund database also serves as Appendix C of the Implementation Procedures.
- The distribution calculation consists of the lesser of the “income prong” and the “fair market value prong.” See Implementation Procedures, Section 3.B. The distribution calculation is generated quarterly and reported to the Board of Trustees so that the Board of Trustees can plan for and monitor the Endowment Fund if a distribution is authorized at the appropriate time.
- If a distribution from the Endowment Fund is authorized, the Endowment Fund Committee reports the distribution calculation to the Board of Trustees and includes a recommended distribution amount (as it did in FY 2021-22 for the \$4,500.00³ distribution).

Gratefully Accepted Gifts to the Endowment Fund from the Following:

- Shirley Rundquist in memory of her husband, Tom Rundquist.
- Vicki Pratt in memory of Judy Maniscalco.
- Chris Peters in memory of his father, George Edward Peters, and his stepmother, Mariruth Flint Peters.
- Pat Caffrey in honor of the Endowment Fund.

³ See footnote 1.

Submitted by Jan A Frank.

Fundraising Team

The first fundraiser was held by a member of Second Unitarian, Mark Siepker. Mark was going to be moving. He would give the Church 50% of the profits in exchange for having the members assist in the many jobs necessary when holding an estate sale. Many members volunteered their time and effort and the sale was very successful. The proceeds given to the church was \$3,850.

Carol Johnson assisted me in applying for a Chalice Lighter's grant from the MidAmerica Region. We received notice that we had received the grant! I wrote it with the hope that it would replace the reserve funds that we needed to use to cover the cost of the HVAC units that had to be replaced. The reserve funds that we used were supposed to help cover the cost of hiring a Minister. The grant was awarded to Second Unitarian in the amount of \$10,000.

Submitted by Dorothy Danielson

Treasurer's Report

Our fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th. The following income/expense report compares amounts for 2021-2022 with end-of-year amounts for 2020-2021 and 2019-2020; the consolidated balance sheet compares the 2021-22 fiscal year to 2020-21 fiscal year.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

The Consolidated Balance Sheet shows restricted and unrestricted funds in both the assets and liabilities/fund balances/members equity portions of the balance sheet. The Operating Fund 01 money is held in the checking account or money market account which includes everything except Endowment. This gives comprehensive and transparent reports by showing all transactions. Endowment funds are invested, restricted, and not liquid.

As of June 30, 2022, Checking, Money Market, Account Receivable, Capital Campaign Pledges, and Investment Accounts Balances total \$389,696.52 which includes Restricted Funds of \$377,339.26 (including investment funds) and Unrestricted Funds of \$12,357.26.

The Endowment Fund is detailed on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Investments are comprised of our purchases of Vanguard Group funds and our account in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. Changes in market value are recorded as "Unrealized Gain or Loss" account on a monthly basis on the balance sheet.

Capital campaign

- Total pledged: \$272,696.08
- Chalice Lighter Grant: \$6,000
- Pledge cash received: \$257,288.91
- Current pledges receivable (Dec 2018-Nov 2022): \$12,257.62
- Doubtful pledges written off in 2021-22: \$2,630
- Non-pledge cash received: \$700
- Expenditures: \$281,479.86 (includes architect and survey expenses of \$7,600 and replacement of the deck-\$21,175).

Income and Expense Statement – Operating Fund

The Income and Expense Statement compares actual income and expenses to their budgeted amounts for the period ending June 30, 2022 as well as for the 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 financial data analysis, presentation, and retention, disbursements, plus preparing the workers comp audit report and other essential reports. I also administer payroll and ensure that the proper employee and employer forms are completed, payroll is submitted on a timely basis, and update information for the UUA insurance plans. The office administrator, Jaime Short, is responsible for day-to-day activities such as recording deposits, contributions, offerings, and paying invoices. In March of 2019, I

assumed responsibility for the monthly bookkeeper responsibilities such as making accounting entries, reconciling the bank statements, and preparing balanced financial reports.

Weekly Counters

Clyde Anderson, Kathy Bell, Kathie Haskins, Vicki Pratt, Lolly Anderson Thomas, and Shirley Rundquist. As a team they organize the offering plate contents into pledge payments, Share the Plate donations and other income.

Submitted by Cheri Cody, Treasurer

Balance Sheet

07/17/2022 10:37 AM

Consolidated - June 2022

Page: 1

	Current Year	Previous Year
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
CHECKING		
Core Bank-Checking	\$108,072.23	\$91,517.82
ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
Vanguard Group	201,630.38	228,888.15
UUA Common Endowment Fund	50,549.06	56,527.08
Subtotal Endowment Funds	252,179.44	285,415.23
MONEY MARKET	14,686.74	14,678.68
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		
Edward Jones Acct	2,500.49	2,500.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES		
Cap Campaign Pldg-Current	12,257.62	12,430.53
Cap Campaign Pldg-Noncurr	0.00	27,029.00
Allowance-Doubtful Pldgs	0.00	1,348.29
Subtotal Capital Campaign Pledges	12,257.62	40,807.82
Subtotal Current Assets	389,696.52	434,919.55
FIXED ASSETS		
LAND AND BUILDINGS		
Land	20,000.00	20,000.00
Church Building	88,744.00	88,744.00
Building Improvement 2021	278,612.00	278,612.00
Subtotal Land And Buildings	387,356.00	387,356.00
EQUIPMENT FURNITURE & FIX		
Equipment Furniture & Fix	24,645.70	24,645.70
Accum Depreciation	-16,830.56	-14,543.12
Subtotal Equipment Furniture & Fix	7,815.14	10,102.58
EQUIPMENT		
Equipment	3,000.00	3,000.00
Accum Depreciation-Copier	-3,000.00	-2,700.00
Subtotal Equipment	0.00	300.00
Subtotal Fixed Assets	395,171.14	397,758.58
TOTAL ASSETS	\$784,867.66	\$832,678.13

Balance Sheet

07/17/2022 10:37 AM

Consolidated - June 2022

Page: 2

	Current Year	Previous Year
LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		
Accounts Payable Vendors	\$2,637.67	\$17,025.50
MEMORIALS PAYABLE	2,525.69	2,450.00
PREPAID PLEDGES/GIFTS		
Pledges Prepaid-Next Year	13,475.00	14,305.00
Pass Thru Account	0.00	-9,720.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>18,638.36</u>	<u>24,060.50</u>
FUND BALANCE		
OPERATING FUND BALANCE		
Operating Fund Balance	\$141,850.22	\$162,314.36
Reserve Fund Balance	80,839.41	43,034.91
Building Fund Set-Aside	851.78	3,360.28
N. Heinemeyer Mem Fund	1,355.00	1,355.00
Elvera Boggs Fund -MM	7,200.00	7,200.00
New Bldg Fund - MM	7,125.00	7,125.00
Refugee Support	2,703.57	0.00
YRUU Fund Balance	51.77	151.85
OATS Program	550.00	550.00
Cap Campgn Fund Bal-Cash	11,984.95	26.96
Cap Campgn Fund Bal-Pldg	12,257.62	40,807.82
Cap Campgn Non-Pldg Cash	240.72	142.35
Subtotal Operating Fund Balance	<u>267,010.04</u>	<u>266,068.53</u>
Unrealized Gain/Loss Vang	99,313.89	136,665.71
Unreal Gain/Loss UUA Comm	10,373.65	16,351.67
Member Equity	<u>389,531.72</u>	<u>389,531.72</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>766,229.30</u>	<u>808,617.63</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$784,867.66</u></u>	<u><u>\$832,678.13</u></u>

Second Unitarian Church - Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	as of 6/30/2022			as of 6/30/2021			as of 6/30/2020		
	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
INCOME									
Pledges Budgeted	\$168,070.73	\$171,844.00	97.80%	\$164,389.32	\$178,923.24	91.88%	\$201,926.59	\$205,139.00	98.43%
New Pledges Current Member	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2,400.00	0.00	0.00%	1,095.00	1,120.00	97.77%
New Pledges New Member	1,820.00	2,000.00	91.00%	1,470.03	2,000.00	73.50%	470.00	3,000.00	15.67%
Pledges for Previous Year	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	1,530.00	0.00	0.00%	2,670.00	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Pledge Income	\$171,890.73	\$173,844.00	98.88%	\$169,789.35	180,923.24	93.85%	206,161.59	209,259.00	98.52%
Dividend Income	247.00	250.00	98.80%	209.10	250.00	83.64%	305.10	250.00	122.04%
Income from Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00%	44.84	0.00	0.00%			
Gifts	5,200.00	200.00	2600.00%	5,119.24	200.00	2559.62%	290.00	200.00	145.00%
Fundraising	1,508.85	1,500.00	100.59%	420.00	3,500.00	12.00%	4,503.87	4,000.00	112.60%
Other Income (new line '16)	591.23	120.00	492.69%	225.86	200.00	112.93%	185.92	311.00	59.78%
Offering	13,323.22	13,000.00	102.49%	13,854.20	12,000.00	115.45%	13,799.92	12,000.00	115.00%
Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	50.00	200.00	25.00%
PPP Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00%	23,252.00	0.00	0.00%			
Grant	10,000.00	0.00	0.00%						
Transfer From/(To) Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	17,235.00	0.00%	0.00	3,595.00	0.00%
Transfer From Cap Cpgn	0.00	16,586.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
Transfer From Restricted	2,608.58	2,450.00	106.47%	3,250.00	0.00	0.00%			
Subtotal Income Received	\$33,478.88	\$34,106.00	98.16%	\$46,375.24	33,385.00	138.91%	19,134.81	23,556.00	81.23%
TOTAL INCOME	\$205,369.61	\$207,950.00	98.76%	\$216,164.59	214,308.24	100.87%	225,296.40	232,815.00	96.77%
EXPENSES									
Office Admin. Salary	\$22,245.47	\$22,111.00	100.61%	\$21,675.20	\$21,677.00	99.99%	\$20,900.98	\$21,294.00	98.15%
Office Admin-Ins Benefits	287.40	265.00	108.45%	281.76	260.00	108.37%	266.16	256.00	103.97%
Office Admin-Retirement	2,224.54	2,211.00	100.61%	2,167.51	2,168.00	99.98%	2,090.11	2,129.00	98.17%
OA Professional Expense	311.17	442.00	70.40%	209.75	650.00	32.27%	335.94	639.00	52.57%
DRE Salary	24,491.04	24,491.00	100.00%	18,833.04	18,833.00	100.00%	14,735.97	19,018.00	77.48%
DRE-Insurance Benefits	524.04	494.00	106.08%	403.62	380.00	106.22%	265.40	383.00	69.30%
DRE-Retirement	2,449.08	2,449.00	100.00%	941.64	1,883.00	50.01%	548.60	1,902.00	28.84%
DRE-Professional Expense	461.58	490.00	94.20%	187.17	565.00	33.13%	792.73	571.00	138.83%
Music Director				4,529.00	13,587.00	33.33%	13,347.00	13,347.00	100.00%
Childcare Supervisor Salary				0.00	720.00	0.00%	585.00	1,440.00	40.63%
Child Care Staff	0.00	1,440.00	0.00%	-26.26	625.00	-4.20%	1,090.95	1,250.00	87.28%
Technology Coordinator	6,309.00	6,912.00	91.28%	2,272.50	0.00	0.00%			
Payroll Taxes-Staff	2,289.75	4,204.00	54.47%	2,085.05	4,241.00	49.16%	3,242.54	4,311.00	75.22%
Staff Development / Appreciation	180.00	200.00	90.00%	150.00	200.00	75.00%	117.02	200.00	58.51%
Subtotal Salary Expenses	\$61,773.07	\$65,709.00	94.01%	\$53,709.98	\$65,789.00	81.64%	\$58,318.40	\$66,740.00	87.38%
Housing Allowance	\$14,173.31	\$12,229.00	115.90%	\$9,882.07	\$16,950.00	58.30%	\$16,650.00	\$16,650.00	100.00%
Insurance Benefits	3,718.14	7,960.00	46.71%	4,129.63	5,730.00	72.07%	12,610.26	12,871.00	97.97%
Minister W2 Salary	30,301.50	29,739.00	101.89%	27,586.88	45,564.00	60.55%	44,757.96	44,758.00	100.00%
In Lieu of FICA	3,402.30	3,208.00	106.06%	2,682.77	4,782.00	56.10%	4,698.00	4,698.00	100.00%
Professional Expense	4,053.88	4,195.00	96.64%	350.22	6,251.00	5.60%	3,976.82	6,141.00	64.76%
Minister Retirement	4,447.52	4,195.00	106.02%	3,747.01	6,251.00	59.94%	6,140.97	6,141.00	100.00%
Moving Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.00%						
Subtotal Ministerial Pkg	\$65,096.65	\$66,526.00	97.85%	\$48,378.58	\$85,528.00	56.56%	\$88,834.01	\$91,259.00	97.34%

Second Unitarian Church - Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	as of 6/30/2022			as of 6/30/2021			as of 6/30/2020		
	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
Administrative Expense	\$1,541.86	\$1,555.00	99.15%	\$1,119.09	\$1,110.00	100.82%	\$1,024.93	\$1,110.00	92.34%
Treasurer Admin Expense	2,927.82	2,430.00	120.49%	2,423.16	2,325.00	104.22%	2,328.41	2,181.00	106.76%
Treas Exp-Transaction Fee	719.54	870.00	82.71%	895.56	520.00	172.22%	438.10	240.00	182.54%
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00%	209.99	0.00	0.00%			
Board Mtgs & Retreat	318.85	0.00	0.00%	17.25	400.00	4.31%	0.00	450.00	0.00%
Share the Plate Donations	7,054.42	6,500.00	108.53%	7,206.55	6,000.00	120.11%	7,202.35	6,000.00	120.04%
Fundraising Expense	0.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00	100.00	0.00%	60.00	0.00	0.00%
Loan Finance Expense				776.98	2,500.00	31.08%	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
Invest Realized Loss/Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00%	80.36	0.00	0.00%			
Guest Musicians	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	900.00	0.00%	1,250.00	1,800.00	69.44%
RGL- Childcare	0.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00	300.00	0.00%	332.00	600.00	55.33%
Religious Education Suppl	2,212.96	2,100.00	105.38%	1,611.99	1,613.00	99.94%	2,193.37	2,150.00	102.02%
Copier Expense	511.83	1,250.00	40.95%	427.10	938.00	45.53%	888.21	1,200.00	74.02%
Denominational Dues	13,483.00	13,483.00	100.00%	12,490.00	12,487.00	100.02%	11,350.00	11,352.00	99.98%
Insurance	4,343.00	3,974.00	109.29%	3,753.00	3,830.00	97.99%	3,829.00	3,950.00	96.94%
Janitorial-Cleaning	2,840.00	6,160.00	46.10%	1,820.00	2,040.00	89.22%	7,017.90	8,730.00	80.39%
Janitorial-Suppl/Trash PU	1,235.00	1,075.00	114.88%	1,202.76	1,170.00	102.80%	1,144.60	1,390.00	82.35%
Lawn Care & Snow Removal	2,490.00	5,070.00	49.11%	4,208.75	5,220.00	80.63%	2,725.00	4,380.00	62.21%
OTOC Dues	1,324.00	1,324.00	100.00%	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.00%	1,652.00	1,652.00	100.00%
Postage	556.89	550.00	101.25%	485.00	550.00	88.18%	539.20	550.00	98.04%
Telephone/Internet	4,008.81	3,890.00	103.05%	3,855.88	3,276.00	117.70%	3,522.97	3,700.00	95.22%
Communcations/Mktg/Adv C	826.64	825.00	100.20%	420.00	825.00	50.91%	385.00	1,390.00	27.70%
Utilities	5,579.36	5,700.00	97.88%	5,093.65	5,700.00	89.36%	5,936.20	5,700.00	104.14%
Subtotal Admin/General Expenses	\$51,973.98	\$57,156.00	90.93%	\$49,697.07	\$53,404.00	93.06%	\$53,819.24	\$61,525.00	90.36%
Caring	\$28.06	\$25.00	112.24%	\$14.42	\$260.00	5.55%	\$215.00	\$460.00	46.74%
Fellowship	249.44	600.00	41.57%	14.00	1,145.00	1.22%	877.70	1,765.00	49.73%
Finance	354.50	475.00	74.63%	107.01	1,100.00	9.73%	825.66	1,560.00	52.93%
Bldg/Equip Repair/Replace	2,727.06	1,200.00	227.26%	19,668.00	0.00	0.00%			
Bldgs. & Grounds Mainten.	7,508.50	0.00	0.00%	1,439.81	950.00	151.56%	30.42	950.00	3.20%
Library	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	96.89	100.00	96.89%
Membership	296.38	500.00	59.28%	332.00	725.00	45.79%	76.07	725.00	10.49%
Music & Worship	752.25	10,000.00	7.52%	3,363.91	2,100.00	160.19%	2,597.54	4,400.00	59.04%
Soc Justice	390.00	700.00	55.71%	689.82	1,315.00	52.46%	494.18	1,950.00	25.34%
Technology	2,566.64	2,600.00	98.72%	870.49	1,892.00	46.01%	1,193.50	1,283.00	93.02%
Leadership Dev-Nominations	0.00	460.00	0.00%	75.00	100.00	75.00%	0.00	100.00	0.00%
Safety Team	1,819.33	2,000.00	90.97%						
Subtotal Committee Expenses	\$16,692.16	\$18,560.00	89.94%	\$26,574.46	\$9,587.00	277.19%	\$6,406.96	\$13,293.00	48.20%
TOTAL CASH EXPENSES	\$195,535.86	\$207,950.00	94.03%	\$178,360.09	\$214,308.00	83.22%	\$207,378.61	\$232,817.00	89.07%
EXCESS CASH INCOME/EXPENSES	\$9,833.75			\$37,804.50			\$17,917.79		
Depreciation Expense	<u>2,587.44</u>	<u>2,587.00</u>	<u>100.02%</u>	\$2,887.44	\$2,887.00	100.02%	\$2,887.44	\$2,887.00	100.02%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$198,123.30	\$210,538.00	94.10%	\$181,247.53	\$217,195.00	83.45%	\$210,266.05	\$235,704.00	89.21%
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	\$7,246.31			\$34,917.06			\$15,030.35		

Hospitality Teams

(jointly provided by the Fellowship and Membership Committees)

Team leaders met in December to discuss how to restart and restructure the teams at a more sustainable level. This resulted in four teams serving monthly and a fifth team serving on 5th Sundays for a total of roughly 40 people. Half of each team - about four members - serve each month, such that each team member only serves about six times per year.

Team leaders agreed upon some permanent changes to reduce passing germs of all virus types. In-person attendees now drop their offering into a wooden box rather than passing the plate. Copies of the order of service now sit in a basket for people to pick up on their own. Teams will no longer provide food after the service.

Since in-person services resumed on April 3rd, the teams have been greeting, welcoming newcomers and ushering. Due to remaining Covid restrictions, teams are not serving beverages at this time. The following people have resumed or newly started providing hospitality.

Hospitality Teams - 2022

Sundays	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Team Names	<i>Chalice Bearers</i>	<i>Flames</i>	<i>Joyful Servers</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Beacons</i>
Co-Leaders	JoAnne Draper Carol Johnson	Kathy Bell Julie Kirn	Michaela Weiss Carolyn Miller	Janet Nichols Anita Jeck	Ruth Corwin
Team Members	Clyde Anderson Tom Cantrell	Rod Baumann Janet Doan	Sue Aschinger Ed Bok	Dorothy Danielson Judy Eller	Cheri Cody Karen Hux
	Darrel Draper	Gene Kopecky	June Jenn	Betsy Fleckenstein-Phillips	Kathy Huggins*
	Jack Frost	Vija Kopecky	Melissa Konecky	Deborah Jadhav	Gay DeWester*
	Ray Harris	Shirley Rundquist	Judy Wiczorek	Wesley Morrison-Sloat	John Knape*
	David Johnson	Lucy Horpedahl*	Mary Rudy*	Don Mundy	
	Larry Kurtz	Cheryl Nelson*	Linda Robb*	Phil Phillips	
	Greg Minter			Mark Siepker	

* New team members.

Submitted by Kathy Bell, Hospitality Teams Coordinator

Macyl Boruff Memorial Library Committee

Members:

- Vicki Pratt
- Lorraine Duggin
- Pete Miller
- Melissa Konecky
- Gwen Eurich

Summary of Last Year's Activities

- Last year we met by Zoom the third Monday of each month.
- We updated the online Shelf List of books and allowed people to check out books during the pandemic.
- Melissa and Gwen sorted most of the old church pictures into broad categories.
- We have shelved and catalogued several new and donated books, including "Governance and Ministry" to aid the Board's need to form a new Committee on Ministry.
- Other new books:
 - Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multi-Culturalism
 - Activist Theology
 - Black Woman's History of the United States
 - Centering, Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry
 - Circle of Song
 - The Dishonest Church
 - Defund Fear, Safety Without Policing Prisons and Punishment
 - Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment
 - Love in the Mortar Joints
 - Pillars and Dreams, A History of First Unitarian Church of Omaha
 - Shared Pulpit
 - Unitarian Universalists of Color
 - With or Without Candlelight

Future Goals

- To work with the rest of the church to find a long-term storage solution for historical church materials
- To continue to acquire books not readily available elsewhere and that support church members' and attendees' individual searches for meaning. We obtain books that support the church committees in their work.
- Our book sale is scheduled for September 11th and 18th. Money received is part of "Fundraising" income on our congregation's Operating Budget.

Submitted by Melissa Konecky

Marketing & Communications

Mission

The mission of the Marketing and Communications Committee (MAC) is to promote communication within the congregation and to increase the visibility of Second Unitarian Church in the larger community.

Members

Kathy Bell
Carol Johnson
Molly-Kliment Jenkins
and Jaime Short

- All year long MAC does an amazing job keeping the 2U website fresh and working well.
- Once again we advertised in the River City Mixed Chorus program.
- Worked with the DRE and RE group to promote Trunk or Treat in October. It was a great success!
- Every year MAC runs a fund drive for KIOS donations in September. We use that money to underwrite weekly announcements on "All Things Considered." \$1625 was raised this year!
- Worked with Social Justice to create a "We Support Voter Rights" banner.
- Created a "virtual banner" for 2U participants attending the General Assembly virtually. This is also available for other meetings.
- Worked with Fellowship to promote the Back to Church Celebration. MAC made and sent out invitation postcards to the celebration.
- Created a poster for the foyer welcoming the new minister.
- Ordered a set of "loaner" *Side with Love* shirts for social justice and church promotion events. Shirts will be distributed to members at events and then laundered and returned to the church.
- Held a community building night at Union Soccer's Pride Night at Werner Park. We promoted our congregation with a booth. 2U attendance was low as it was dangerously hot.
- Worked with Ruth Corwin from Social Justice on the Pride Parade. It was a great success!

Membership Committee

Mission

The Membership Committee's mission is to be intentional in promoting a culture of hospitality by welcoming guests, educating and extending an invitation to membership, providing recognition, and helping all find a place in the congregation to nurture their religious and spiritual growth.

Members

Anita Jeck, Co-chair

Kathy Bell, Co-chair

JoAnne Draper

Lorraine Duggin.

We welcomed new team members Michaela Weiss in July 2021 and Judy Wieczorek in June 2022.

Accomplishments:

As the church building continued to be closed due to Covid, we created new ways to help newcomers and members cultivate connections at 2U:

- **Pathways Series** – Anita Jeck and JoAnne Draper offered our new three-session Pathways series via Zoom. Seven people attended the Fall 2021 series, and five attended during Spring 2022. The sessions incorporated both live and video presentation; discussion; music videos; and homework. Participants said they really liked (even preferred) attending via Zoom.
- **Signing Ceremonies** – Last Fall we developed a small, intimate Saturday morning Signing Ceremony for several reasons: our minister lived several states away; our church services and Pathways classes were conducted via Zoom; but most importantly, we wanted to make signing the membership book a more meaningful and memorable experience. Eight people in all attended our Fall and Spring signing ceremonies. Due to special circumstances, we brought the membership book to two people to sign in their homes.
- **Sunday Morning New Member Ceremonies** – We worked with Rev. Mary Moore and Rev. Juniper Meadows to welcome and introduce 10 new members to our congregation during our Fall and Spring new member ceremonies. We incorporated video slideshows and brief new-member biographies to help personalize the ceremonies.
- **New-Member Profiles** – We thanked Lorraine Duggin for the many years she had interviewed new members and written profiles about them. We now ask new members to provide information about themselves on their new-member form. From these, we created brief bios about them that were read during the new member ceremonies and published in the weekly e-news.

- **Membership Book** – Through a generous gift by Linda Robb, our membership book now sits in a decorative wooden box.
- **Third Soul Matters Group** – Kathy Bell started a new Soul Matters group in January to enable our new members and others to continue to connect with each other and deepen their spiritual growth. Ultimately, it was decided that Soul Matters Small Groups will be coordinated by the Faith Connections Committee.
- **Church Directory** – For the August directory, we contacted every member to confirm their contact information and to ask how they were doing. For the February directory, Michaela Weiss and Anita Jeck focused on reviewing and editing the introductory pages.
- **Holiday Cards** – In December, Anita Jeck spearheaded an effort to create and send holiday cards to all members, affiliates and current visitors.
- **Hospitality Teams** – The Membership and Fellowship Committees jointly worked with coordinator Kathy Bell to restructure and prepare hospitality teams to be ready when the church resumed in-person services on April 3rd. Membership also provided a wooden offering box as a more sanitary alternative to the passing of offering plates.
- **Spring Reopening Celebration** – We called all members who had largely been absent to personally invite them to the May 15th Reopening Celebration.
- **Exit Interviews** – Lorraine Duggin and Anita Jeck each conducted exit interviews of members who had resigned. These resulted in feedback being forwarded to the Board and the Faith Connections Committee respectively.
- **Google Drive** – We have placed all our membership documents on a G-Drive, which helps secure our documents and provide access to all team members, our board liaison and our minister.

Membership in July 2021: 102

Members Reported to UUA in February 2022: 105

Membership in July 2022: 105

Member Transitions during the 2021/2022 church year:

New Members (10): Lydia Eman & Ray Wahab; Pam Hansen; Cheryl Nelson; Linda Robb; Nicole & Tylor Schmidt; Pat Solick; Andrew Watts; and Suzy Williams.

Returning Members (3): John Knape & Gay DeWester; and Chris Alberts.

Resignations (6): Nancy Kenny; Beth & Steve Marks; Ina Mulford; and Nicole & Tylor Schmidt.

Did not pledge for 2022-2023 (3): nellie sudavicius maccallum and Chris & Kim Mach.

Deceased Members (1): Judy Maniscalco.

Submitted by Kathy Bell, Co-chair

Nominations and Leadership Development

Members

Julie Kirn, Chair
Pete Miller
Carol Johnson

Nominations and Leadership Development (NLD) operates on a three-year cycle. Julie Kirn will be retiring from the committee, and Pete Miller will be taking over as chair for the 2022-2023 church year. Note that new members to the committee are expected to assume chair position upon their third year of committee membership.

Leadership

Over the course of the 2021-2022 pandemic church year, NLD continued to help implement the Meaning and Purpose plan with other church committees. Our goal was to try and reflect the Meaning and Purpose plan more clearly as we chose church members for leadership positions. Unfortunately, the continuing pandemic severely limited our ability to offer Leadership Training in a meaningful way. The Midwest Leadership School closed its doors for the week-long intensive leadership training and now offers only virtual training. Hopefully, as the Pandemic continues to be a part of our daily lives, virtual/in person training will again be readily available for church members.

Nominations

NLD nominated, and the congregation voted in, the following members for three-year leadership positions:

- Board of Trustees:
 - Anita Jeck
 - Julie Kirn
- Endowment: Carolyn Miller
- NLD: Casey Horpendahl

Looking forward

NLD can expect to become increasingly involved with the committee leadership needs of Second Unitarian as the Meaning and Purpose plan continues.

Religious Education

Members

- Ashleigh Fuson, Director of Religious Education
- Anita Jeck
- Janet Nichols
- Pam Miller-Jenkins
- Pete Miller
- Jaime Short

Our RE program strives to create a culture where our children:

- Are listened to, valued and encouraged toward their better selves.
- Explore religious ideas together and reflect thoughtfully on their meaning.
- See and live UU principles — our core values — in action.
- Find comfort, joy and wisdom in our shared UU stories, rituals, worship, and celebrations.
- Are empowered to think critically to discern their personal beliefs and live their values.

Core Elements Religious Education

- All-Ages Worship Services
 - We welcome people of all ages and abilities to be part of our Beloved Community on Sundays. Our worship services are designed to engage all ages through music, videos and stories. Children participate in Sunday rituals such as lighting the chalice or sharing a joy or sorrow. And we provide activities in the sanctuary for busy hands and active imaginations.
- First-of-the-Month Sundays
 - On the first Sunday of the month, while parents worship upstairs, we introduce children to the monthly theme. This is a special time with stories and activities downstairs with their age peers.
- Fourth Fridays
 - On the fourth Friday evening of the month, September through May, we provide a short family worship, followed by a meal, activities and fellowship.
- Faith Development at Home
 - Our RE program also aims to support your child's primary religious educator...YOU! It has long been recognized that parents and families play a significant role in faith development. We can provide resources to help you develop faith-building rituals and celebrations at home, as fits into your lifestyle.

Safety Task Force II

Ed Bok, Chair
Betsy Fleckenstein-Phillips
Clyde Anderson
Ashleigh Fuson, Director of Religious Education

The Safety Task Force II primary focus was on Pandemic Safety. Church building access was limited to staff and occasional work volunteers for most of the year. We tracked Covid cases in the Tri-county area on a weekly basis and reported them via E-News periodically. We also developed a color-coded multi-tier system of targeted case numbers and determined what activities and level of participation would be allowed at each level. We developed detailed protocols for what might or might not be allowed by people in the building. Some of these protocols were implemented for things such as volunteer work parties, Musical recording for Zoom services, and RE events. Ultimately, we began to allow hybrid services, with some members being in attendance in person and others via Zoom.

The Safety Task Force II also made some progress in implementing suggestions raised in a report generated by Safety Task Force I, especially the AED (Defibrillator) purchase and installation.

Social Justice

Mission

“At Second Unitarian our social justice identity is grounded in Unitarian Universalism which asks us to value all people, be ethical, work for equality, and respect the earth. We are optimistic, engaged and willing to take risks. We are willing to be public, to stand with those who are discriminated against, and engage with others as we build a community that works for all. We seek relationships, speak and gather with others, are aware of our community and have a conscience that compels us to act to make a difference in our world.”

Members

Cheri Cody, Convener/Chair	Ruth Corwin	Ann Harms
Tera Kirk, Scribe	Vicki Pratt	Kim Jones
Clyde Anderson	Pam Miller-Jenkins	Kael Sagheer
Larry Kurtz	Cassandra Andersen	Michaela Weiss
Deborah Jadhav	JoAnne Draper	

Summary of the past year's achievements, highlighting major decisions, changes, and accomplishments:

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)

- Ruth Corwin and Deborah Jadhav co-chaired our Internal Contribution Campaign for OTOC and Second Unitarian members contributed \$1,225. Each year OTOC congregations conduct an internal contribution campaign where letters are sent to a targeted group of members in the congregation. The letters are signed by members of the OTOC Core Team within Second Unitarian Church.
- Participation by Second U members in Leadership Development and other training opportunities available through our congregation's membership in Omaha Together One Community, the local congregation-based community organizing group.
- Mental Health Action Team was featured at a First Hour in February 2022. Second U members and visitor, Ann Harms, met with county commissioners about funding for mental health services. Pete Miller and Ann also attended action team meetings and other research meetings with providers and regulators and updated the SJ committee. The Mental Health Action Team held a Civic Academy in June 2022 to share their findings with OTOC members and the community.
- Environmental Sustainability Team (ESAT) is led by Clyde Anderson. ESAT has been focused on three areas:
 1. Getting Omaha to enact a Climate Action Plan,

2. Improving Omaha's recycling and composting efforts, and
 3. working on several OPPD issues including opposition to the proposed extension of burning coal at the North Omaha Power Station from 2023 to 2026.
- Some Team members organized follow-up meetings in Fall 2021 with City Council members as agreed to in the April 2021 Candidate Accountability Session.
 - Supported the OTOC auction by donating a basket. Deborah Jadhav and Ruth Corwin created the BIPOC-themed basket and it raised \$150 for the auction for OTOC.

Open Arms Transgender Social Group (OATS) - After not being able to meet in person during the pandemic and not having great response to Zoom meetings, OATS began meeting in person again in May 2022. The interest and participation was excellent from the first day and continues.

8th Principle Project

- Collaborated with First U on the 8th Principle Workshop in August 2021 and hosted the First Hour on the 8th principle the following day. A follow-up First Hour on the 8th principle was held in December 2021.
- Cheri Cody, Clyde Anderson and Carolyn Miller presented a joint worship service with First Unitarian members in February 2022 on Widening the Circle of Concern. This is the UUA's report study on addressing racism and white supremacy in our congregations.
- SJ continues to collaborate with the Faith Connections team to educate about the 8th Principle and Widening the Circle of Concern and is looking forward to the guidance of Rev. Juniper Meadows.

Refugee Family – See the summary and pictures following this report.

Other Items

- Second Unitarian became a member of the Decline to Sign Coalition to prevent requiring voters to present ID at a polling place. SJ members, Vicki Pratt, Pam Miller Jenkins, and Ruth Corwin worked on various efforts for Decline to Sign to resist the Voter ID petition drive. Social Justice had a banner installed on the north side of the church stating "We Support Voting Rights."
- Members from First and Second Unitarian joined UU congregations across the US in a candlelight vigil on January 6, the anniversary of the attempt to overthrow the 2020 presidential election results. The vigil, sponsored by UUtheVote, showed our commitment to building a beloved community - a multi-racial democracy where our leaders are accountable to the people and voters decide the outcomes of elections.
- Managed the community garden and provided ground tilling and water for the 14 community plots. Larry Kurtz, coordinator of the garden.
- Participation by Cheri Cody and others in the Omaha Community Council

for Racial Justice and Reconciliation continued.

- Set up Second Unitarian's parking lot as a host of two compost bins for members of Hillside Solutions.
- Donated \$50 to the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance MLK Luncheon and were recognized in the list of donors.
- Organized First Hour on Rank Choice Voting led by Kim Jones in October 2021.
- With the Church reopening for services in April 2022, the April 10th First Hour with speakers from Omaha's recycling contractor, Firststar Recycling was done as a hybrid with Zoom as well as in- person. On May 10th 2U and ESAT jointly sponsored a tour of the Firststar plant.
- Hosted First Hours for Share the Plate recipients except Minister Discretionary Fund.

Future goals

- Continue to collaborate with the Faith Connections Team which is a joint effort of Membership, Religious Education, and Social Justice.
- Promote adoption of the 8th Principle by Second U through education sessions, small group meetings, First Hours, and collaboration with other committees.
- Continue to provide First Hour presentations on justice issues and to feature Share the Plate recipients.

Share the Plate organizations for the year:

- Habitat for Humanity (July/August 2021) - \$954.90
- Together (September/October 2021) - \$1,052.30
- Siena Francis House (November/December 2021) - \$1,357.64
- League of Women Voters (January/February 2022) - \$770.84
- Black Votes Matter (March/April 2022) - \$1,198.06
- Planned Parenthood (during church service in lieu of First Hour) (May/June 2022) - \$1,038.00
- Minister Discretionary Fund (5th Sundays) - \$665.60
- Refugee Project (5th Sunday) - \$117.08

Submitted by Tera Kirk & Cheri Cody

Refugee Family

In August of 2021, the Social Justice committee started collaborating with First Unitarian to sponsor an Afghan refugee family through Lutheran Family Services. In December, it was agreed that there would be four co-chairs, two from each congregation. For Second Unitarian, those people are JoAnne Draper and Michaela Weiss from First Unitarian, Barb Herring and John Mangini. We did add additional mentors of Pam Miller-Jenkins & Darrel Draper from Second, along with Donna Neff & Walt Jesteadt from First.

Our first task was to raise money and collect furniture for what ended up being two apartments. The team put together an informational video & web site

<https://2uomaha.org/justice/afghan-refugee-project> to kick off this project at a joint service on Jan. 30th. The Board at Second graciously allowed us to store the furniture in our basement.



In February we were able to sponsor a family of 8. The father, mother, two teenagers and 8-year-old twins, are in a 3-bedroom apartment.



The other two, the grandmother and sister are in a one-bedroom apartment in the same complex.



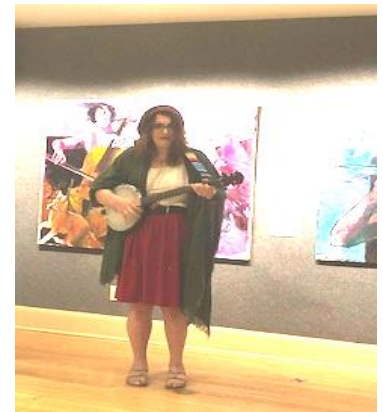
March 5th was the day of “the big move” into their apartments. Everyone pitched in with volunteers, teens from YRUU, as well as the Afghan family.

Later we extended our sponsorship to include a family of 3, as the wife, is a first cousin. Here she is along with her husband and their 3 yr. old son.



We successfully raised \$8,800.40 from both churches. The YRUU had a talent show/fundraiser for the Afghan family on June 3rd, raising \$553.78. This was used for zoo passes for the family. Our new Minister, who just started in May, Rev. Meadows performed in the talent show.

This team organized transportation for shopping and countless medical appointments, enrolling the children in school, helping the adults search for and find employment, attend ESL classes, driving instructions, and most recently, the purchase of two cars. Pam Curtiss-Smith’s daughter, Maya had a 2010 Ford Fusion, which was purchased by the first family on June 27th. A friend of Barb Herring’s, contributed a 2011 Rav 4 Toyota, purchased by the second family on July 8th. Both were immaculately maintained & donors generously discounted the price of the vehicles. Due to the aftermath of covid, affordable housing and used cars were exceptionally hard to find.



Unfortunately, institutions have not always come through for the Afghan Refugees. The team was able to find experts such as Rachel Yamamoto, an immigration lawyer who is a member of 2nd Unitarian. She is assisting them with their critical TPS (Temporary Protected Status) & Asylum paperwork. We are very grateful to the amazing support we found from both congregations. This is a very talented family who express their appreciation and think of the team as their extended family. We know they have a bright future in this country. It has been an honor & inspiration to work with them.

Technology

Accomplishments:

(With much support and assistance from Clyde Anderson, Rick Bell, and Tom Peterson)

- Ordered and installed new cabinets for Coffee-bar and Audio-visual (AV) system.
- Added a garage to house the coffee pots with new electrical circuits.
- Installed and configured AV components to allow projector to be controlled from the new AV cabinet.
- Installed wired network connectivity and wireless access for sanctuary.
- Installed a Sanctuary Camera for hybrid services.
- Replaced pulpit microphone with new high quality podium microphone.
- Replaced wireless handheld microphones.
- Replaced DRE laptop.
- Acquired MS Office licenses.
- Added additional microphones for musical instruments and vocals in chancel area.
- Configured and Installed video security system with monitor in Office Admin area, and two cameras are in operation.

Future goals:

- Install remaining cameras for the video security system.
- Train office administrator and others in use of security system.
- Add microphone to the sanctuary piano so it can be heard during hybrid services.
- Explore new technology for managing hybrid services.
- Replace Office Admin desktop PC.
- Upgrade sanctuary camera for hybrid services.

Submitted by Carla/bill Kuhn

Worship Team

Members:

Tom Peterson, Chair

Lorraine Duggin

Wesley Morrison-Sloat

Chris Peters

Carla/bill Kuhn

Ashleigh Fuson, Director of Religious Education attends our monthly meetings

Rev. Mary Moore (ex officio through April 2022)

Rev. Juniper Meadows (ex officio starting May 1, 2022)

Pam Curtiss-Smith, Board Liaison and Aesthetics Committee

This has been a year of transition for the Worship Team. Rev. Mary Moore continued to serve as Targeted Minister through April 2022, and Rev. Juniper Meadows joined us as Contract Minister starting May 1st. In-person/online hybrid services began April 3rd.

A recap of the year:

September 2021

1. Ashleigh Fuson joined the Worship Team and presented a Time for All Ages moment each service.
2. Ashleigh and Wesley Morrison-Sloat are planning to conduct training for youth who want to participate in services (perhaps by providing music, reading the opening words, lighting the chalice, or being a worship associate).
3. Rev. Moore and the Worship Committee are trying to make services more interactive by increasing use of the Zoom “chat box” feature.
4. Joys and Concerns are included every other week.
5. After the church reopens to in-person services, Worship plans to continue to offer multi- platform services.
6. Worship Team has been including more videos that include children. Also, Worship is considering how to structure services to accommodate shorter attention spans (perhaps break sermons up into smaller chunks).
7. Pam Curtiss-Smith is the new Board liaison for Worship. Pam will be hosting quarterly breakout sessions with the congregation to talk about Meaning and Purpose work.
8. Worship Committee is working with Janet Nichols on planning the back-in-the-building celebration.
9. Worship Committee partnered with First Unitarian to host a workshop about the proposed 8th Principle.

December 2021

Ashleigh Fuson, the DRE, continues to offer A Time for All Ages. She also organized the Chalica services, the December 19th service coming up, and the Christmas Eve service, which promises to be family friendly. Rev. Mary Moore continues to preach 3 Sundays a month. Her new contract goes through March 31, 2021. The Board is looking for options to assist the Worship Team in the event that Rev. Mary's contract cannot be renewed.

Since our last meeting we have accomplished the following in accordance with Meaning and Purpose, the new Re-vision, and assisting the Board and other committees:

1. Once a month we offer within the service a testimonial called Stewardship Moment. So far Dorothy Danielson, Carolyn Miller, Chris Peters, and Phil Phillips have either offered meaningful words or been scheduled. These testimonials will continue throughout the Stewardship campaign. On February 27th, a Stewardship Sermon will be offered by Rev. Mary.
2. We are assisting the Board with Meaning and Purpose goals by scheduling quarterly break-out room discussions after the Sunday service with members of the Board officiating. We had our first one with the theme of connection in October and the second with the theme of ministry is scheduled for January. The Board Liaison to our committee, Pam Curtiss-Smith comes to our monthly meetings whenever she has something to share from the Board on ministry, the Search for a contract minister, or requesting we hold the breakout room discussions, considering the technological issues for doing that.
3. We continue to represent diversity in Sunday services.
 - a. We held a collaborative Samhain service with First Church in November that featured pagan and earth-centered theology and CUUPS members from First church.
 - b. We feature African-American musicians when possible, children's choirs, and videos that offer diversity when appropriate.
 - c. We held a service on Native and Indigenous people, their spirituality, and the way they cultivate relationships among all living things.
 - d. To honor Hanukkah, we offered a talk from Rabbi Sacks and on two occasions we featured the lighting of the Menorah.
 - e. Rev. Mary delivered a sermon on Afghanistan, its history and culture, along with observations on the United States' involvement in that country. She strongly proposed we adopt a newly arrived Afghan family to support and assist in their new life. Since then, a committee co-chaired by JoAnne and Darrell Draper has been formed.
 - f. The December 12th service with the theme of Opening to Joy will include a Jewish Prayer, a poem by an Indian poet, a Christian view of lighting Advent candles, and a piece on the meaning of the Festival of Our Virgin of Guadalupe originated in Mexico will be featured in short segments of the service.
4. Wesley offered a testimonial on the topic of LGBTQ-plus issues and Ashleigh shared an excellent video of the history of LGBTQ to honor that month in November.

5. Rev. Mary continues to break up most of her sermons into multiple segments to accommodate the shorter attention spans of most children and many adults as well.
6. A potential service on the status of the proposed 8th Principle is being considered for Martin Luther King's birthday.
7. A New Member Ceremony in collaboration with the Membership Committee will be January 9th, five new members who have signed the book last week. We would like to have as many of our members at that service as possible to welcome the new members.
8. Our Samhain collaborative service was multi-platform, which we continue to work toward when we get back into the building. Carla/bill Kuhn is organizing a team of sanctuary co-hosts who will be trained to assist in the additional tech issues that will exist at that time. As of today, we're still in the Red Zone, which is why we're continuing on Zoom. Carla/bill is setting up the new AV cabinets in the sanctuary.

March 2022

The Worship Committee continues to offer services on Zoom every Sunday, using themes from Soul Matters. Those who rotate as Worship Associates are Tom Peterson, Chris Peters, Wesley Morrison-Sloat, Vicki Dudley, Ashleigh Fuson, and Lorraine Duggin. In addition, the Membership committee members, Kathy Bell, Anita Jeck, JoAnne Draper, and Michaela Weiss have joined the technical team on rotating Sunday mornings to admit members to Zoom and to count visitors. This task has freed up Sarah and the Worship Associates to focus on the services and is greatly appreciated. Ashleigh Fuson, the DRE, continues to offer A Time for All Ages during Sunday morning services. Other committee members are Carla/bill Kuhn and Sarah Carter, our Technology Coordinator, who does an amazing job preparing music videos and putting together special videos, announcements, and the introductory slide show and running the technical end of things each Sunday. Tom Peterson's expertise as a troubleshooter and problem-solver is invaluable. Pam Curtiss-Smith serves as our Liaison to the Board and attends our planning meetings. We appreciate her input which keeps us connected to the Board. Rev. Mary Moore continues to preach 3 Sundays a month. Her new contract goes through April 30th. April 24th will be her last Sunday offering a sermon. She has stepped up to assist each group in organizing services and her 37 years of experience has been extremely valuable in questions of copyright, UUA personnel, and many other issues that come up in the committee.

The Board has negotiated a contract with Rev. Juniper Meadows, who will start at 2U on May 1st. We cannot announce yet when her first sermon will be, but please stay tuned. She will make an appearance at the Worship Team's April planning meeting. To help keep us connected, we continue to offer Joys and Concerns every other Sunday through the Chat feature on Zoom. We are currently making plans to continue in a hybrid format once we return to the building.

Since our last meeting we have accomplished the following in accordance with Meaning and Purpose, the new Re-vision, assisting the Board and other committees, and adhering to the newest guidelines of the Leadership Council.

1. Once a month throughout the Stewardship Campaign, in collaboration with the Stewardship Committee, we include within the service a testimonial called Stewardship Moment. So far Dorothy Danielson, Carolyn Miller, Chris Peters, Phil Phillips, Jack Frost, and Joel Haskins have either offered meaningful words or been scheduled. On February 27th, a Stewardship Sermon was offered by Rev. Mary. The highlight of that service was a taped introduction and inspirational words from Rev. Juniper Meadows. The Writing for Spiritual Growth members were also asked to share their writings for that service; they also gave readings for the December 26th service. So thanks very much to Pete Miller, Tom Cantrell, and Lolly Thomas, as it isn't easy to write "on demand" for a church congregation.
2. We continue to assist the Board with Meaning and Purpose goals by scheduling quarterly break-out room discussions after the Sunday service with members of the Board officiating. We had our first one with the theme of connection in October and the second with the theme of ministry is scheduled for January. The Board Liaison to our committee, Pam Curtiss-Smith comes to our monthly meetings whenever she has something to share from the Board on ministry, the Search for a contract minister, or requesting we hold the breakout room discussions, considering the technological issues for doing that. We have decided to forgo the April connection with the Meaning and Purpose theme because of having to work out logistics for re-opening on April 3rd with hybrid services. We have had a couple of rehearsals while Carla/bill Kuhn has been purchasing the necessary equipment, mounting the camera, and installing the appropriate cables. We could not do any of this without Carla/bill's expertise and the many hours given to this endeavor. We have another rehearsal planned for Thursday of next week, which will be a complete run-through of a mock service.
3. We continue to represent diversity in Sunday services by choosing music and readings that feature a variety of voices and viewpoints that express our values. We offer African-American and other musicians as often as appropriate, including the Ukrainian Children's choir, and videos that honor diversity.
4. We have held two more multi-platform collaborative services with First Unitarian which help us to connect to more members of this congregation and to First Unitarian members and their minister, Rev. Shari Woodbury. These services take a great deal of coordination and planning, as you can imagine, and we are grateful to all of those involved:
 - a. On January 30th, we had a joint service with First Church to introduce in more depth the Afghan Refugee Family Project. Two members from our church, JoAnne Draper and Michaela Weiss, and two first church members, John Mangini and Barbara Herring, organized and participated in this service with Rev. Mary. Many volunteers have since stepped forward to greet, settle, and mentor our new family of 8 members.

- b. Second Unitarian's Faith Connections Team collaborated with First Church in a February 20th service in honor of Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month. This service had participation from 2U from Cheri Cody, Carolyn Miller, and Clyde Anderson exploring the theme of "Empathy: The Practice of Widening Our Hearts to Include the Pain of Others," in an effort to support the 8th Principle and to work on social justice issues to dismantle white supremacy in our congregations.
- 5. Rev. Mary continues to break up many of her sermons into multiple segments to accommodate the shorter attention spans of most children and many adults as well. We hope to continue in this format after Rev. Meadows arrives, but she will be in charge of much of what we do, so we will adapt. Ashleigh Fuson, our DRE, has done a phenomenal job of including topics and stories for all ages in our Sunday services, holding zoom Parents' meetings on the last Sunday of each month, and she has many plans for conducting RE in future services after the church re-opens and Rev. Meadows joins us. In addition, she is planning an Easter event that will involve participation of children. Many members and visitors enjoyed and participated in the St. Valentine's stuffed toy celebration and collection for Project Harmony. Currently, she is planning a workshop on re-connecting in relationships after the Pandemic. Please read her interesting and thought-provoking writing in this week's e-news about this project.
- 6. A New Member Ceremony in collaboration with the hard-working and creative Membership Committee was celebrated on January 9th with biographies and videos of our six new members of last year. I hope all of you have been able to meet the new members in breakout rooms or in committee meetings, as we want them to make connections as soon as possible.
- 7. Ashleigh Fuson organized a UU the Vote service on January 23rd to maintain connection to the UUA and also to remind us of our civic duties. On January 2nd Tom Peterson also coordinated a service through the UUA with UUA President Susan Frederick Gray.
- 8. The Worship Team has agreed to participate in updating our Welcoming Community certification. Tera Kirk and Cassie Anderson have agreed to take the lead on this project, which includes updating our progress on LGBTQ plus issues, such as Ashleigh's excellent presentation last Sunday on controversial proposals and laws currently regarding trans children.
- 9. We have been helping support the Faith Connections Team by offering a service on the topic of Mental health on February 8th, as a follow-up to the OTOC initiative and planned summit by that organization on issues surrounding mental health care in our community.
- 10. Wesley Morrison-Sloat, Pam Curtiss-Smith, and Molly Kliment-Jenkins have been working on putting together a survey for the congregation that solicits preferences for procedures on re-opening on April 3rd. Wesley has also organized a Covid Service for UU's that he will present tomorrow, with the help of Dorothy Danielson, and a special performance by Donna Zebolsky on piano and Alana Hux on viola.

June 2022

Multi-platform (in-person/online) services began April 3rd, and continue to evolve. Tom Peterson succeeded Lorraine Duggin as chair of the Worship Team in May. We welcomed Rev. Juniper Meadows whose contract began May 1st. The Team has been working with Rev. Juniper to continue building engaging multi-platform services. The Team meets on the first Tuesday of each month to review and to plan, working approximately two months ahead.

Some changes that have been introduced:

- All services will be Intergenerational except for the first Sunday each month when kids are downstairs.
- Altar building has been well received. We will be adding a time for people to directly share Joys & Concerns on the first Sunday each month when kids are not present.
- Following the recommendations of REvision, services are being organized into shorter segments, mixing things up to help attendees of all ages to better maintain their attention.
- Announcements will only be in the weekly e-news and in the pre-service slides, except where bylaws require announcement from the pulpit, such as congregational meetings.
 - The deadline for including announcement is Wednesday by 9AM
 - Announcement should be sent to Jaime and to Tom (for routing to Sarah for slides)
- Encouraging more participation - seeking chalice lighters and readers to take part in the service. Wesley, Rev. Juniper, and Ashleigh continue planning the “Bell, Book and Candle Society” for younger members.
 - We are working toward a more "task oriented" model of participation - though we would like to expand the Worship Team's membership as well.

Thank you, everyone, for attending Sunday services and for being so supportive of 2U's Worship Team with your time, talents, funding, words of encouragement, and participation in so many ways.

Finally, the Team extends appreciation to Vicki Dudley who stepped down this summer after many years with us. We are grateful for her faithful participation, even after her relocation to New York State.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Peterson, Chair
Worship Team