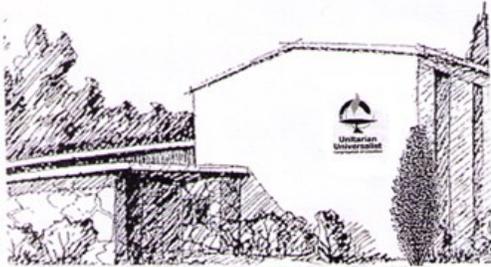




# The Unigram

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC

February 10, 2016



2701 Heyward Street, Columbia, SC 29205  
803-799-0845 • [www.uucolumbia.org](http://www.uucolumbia.org)

## **Sunday Schedule**

**Forum:** 9:30 am in the Library

**Worship:** 11:00 am-12:15 pm

**Nursery:** Available during service for infants through age 3

### **February 14, 2016**

**9:30 am Forum Topic**

Should religion and politics be intertwined?

**11:00 am Sermon Topic**

*"Heart Communion" Multigenerational Service* directed by Nancie Shillington-Perez

### **February 21, 2016**

**9:30 am Forum Topic**

Rights to privacy.

**11:00 am Sermon Topic**

*"Ministry is..."* by Rev. Jennie Barrington

## **Minister's Meditation**

**The Rev. Jennie Barrington, Interim Minister**

*"People wish to be settled; only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them."*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Dear Members and Friends,

The former Director of the UUA's Settlement Department, the Rev. John Weston, used to include the above quote on all his correspondence. Rev. Weston, and Mr. Emerson, were acknowledging that everyone is, at any point in time, in the midst of some transitions and feelings of being unsettled. So are all congregations. And this is an especially big and complex transition for UUCC, since your minister of ten years, the Rev. Neal Jones, resigned in the spring and moved to a new job last summer. So we are about to begin the process of searching for a new settled minister, who would begin in August of 2017. Fortunately, there is an abundance of wisdom and experience we can draw on to move through this unsettled time smoothly, calmly, enjoyably, and effectively.

## **Unigram Deadline**

The deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, Feb. 21**, for publication on **Wednesday, Feb. 24**. *Items submitted after the deadline will not be published.* Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to [uucc@uucolumbia.org](mailto:uucc@uucolumbia.org).

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Many of you have asked me what the first steps are toward forming a Search Committee. I am pleased to describe this process to anyone; don't hesitate to call me up and ask me more! The first step is a visit by your Ministerial Settlement Representative [the "MSR"]. Her name is Ann Marie Alderman. She is an experienced UU minister who is specially trained to advise congregations that are in search. The board has scheduled her visit for Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Alderman will lead the worship service, and we'll have a light potluck meal. Then she will tell us about the UUA's search process in detail, including the timeline, and Best Practices for forming a Search Committee. She will answer all your questions about this exciting undertaking! She'll meet with the Board and me about its responsibilities in the search process on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

I encourage you all to attend on March 6th, especially if you are interested in serving on the search committee. The better informed you are before the MSR Visit, the better that forum and the whole search process will be. And so Rev. Alderman, and I, and the Board encourage you to read the UUA's *Settlement Handbook* before March 6th. It is on-line at:

[http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/settlement\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/settlement_handbook.pdf)

Andrea Dudick and I can give you a hard copy if you'd like.

Over the years, the UUA has amassed a lot of wise and helpful advice about the best ways to form a search committee. To begin with, the search committee needs to be members of UUCC. And it is better not to passively accept the first half dozen members who assert their names. The UUA has a recommended process for creating a list of possible names. All members are provided with some basic information. This includes the characteristics of an ideal Search Committee, and a list of people who are currently members of UUCC. Then members are asked to submit four names to one board member. Those four names should be people that member would trust with this honor and major responsibility. The member may suggest her or his own name if they'd like to.

The Settlement Handbook describes those characteristics of ideal Search Committee Members as:

- Known and respected by others in the congregation;
  - More strongly committed to the congregation as a whole than to any subgroup;
  - Well informed about the demands and time requirements of search committee membership. Members should promise to attend every meeting, and to give about 300 hours between August of 2016 and May of 2017;
  - Balanced by gender, age, interests, and tenure of membership to reflect the diversity of the congregation.
- Major areas of church life such as religious education, social action, property management, finance, and music should be represented by participants, not partisans;

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- Balanced by attributes: organizational ability, broad theological awareness, computer skills;
- Not paid members of the church staff;
- Pledged to conduct a search that is fair and nondiscriminatory with respect to race, color, disability, gender, sexual orientation, age, and national origin;
- Committed to maintain confidentiality and to seek consensus;
- Capable of both self-assertion and compromise;
- Not prone to extreme reactions to ministers. The previous ministers' strongest supporters or opponents are rarely the best choice;
- Well-suited to teamwork: a search committee is no place for Lone Rangers!

During the search, members should be released from other major duties in the congregation. The chair should be assigned as a board liaison, but should not be a board member.”

That process will generate a list of people who receive the most votes of confidence that they are equal to the task of being on the Search Committee. When the people who receive the most votes are asked to serve on the Search Committee, we are able to say that the current members of UUCC have strong confidence and trust in them. That fact makes it more likely that those asked to be on the Search Committee will say yes. If you are interested in serving on the Search Committee yourself, then simply begin telling people that you would like to so serve.

I can answer many of your questions about the search process. So please continue to bring me your thoughts, concerns, and hopes about UUCC's next long-term minister. But the forum with the Rev. Alderman is an opportunity not to be missed. So please avail yourselves of it, and the information and recommendations in the *Settlement Handbook*. One of the best ways to get where you want to go is to learn from people whose journey ended in a happy success.

With care and cheer,

Rev. Jennie (“It’s a privilege to be here.”)

# Thank You

## **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**

I would like to express my deep thanks for this generous church collection from UUCC of \$783.53. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has helped marginalized people in rural Haiti to rebuild their lives, advanced the human right to water in the United States and around the world, and championed workers' rights here at home. Because of you, UUSC is a powerful force for change. Please accept by heartfelt gratitude. Sincerely, Rev. Dr. William ("Bill") F. Schultz, President and CEO, UUSC

## **Stand Up Sunday – a Success!**

Thanks to **all** who signed letters to your state legislators during **Stand Up Sunday** on January 31. There were **103** letters signed by UUCC members and friends, with **98** individuals urging their state legislators to DO SOMETHING about gun violence in our state by supporting reasonable, common sense gun legislation.

Hundreds throughout SC responded on Stand Up Sunday, indicating the great majority of citizens want loopholes closed, background checks completed, and laws and prosecutions of violators strengthened.

Gary Smith of Gun Sense SC, the event organizers, and the Midland's Faith Coalition on Gun Violence express their deep appreciation for all who helped make Stand Up Sunday a success.

Those of you who committed to Standing Up at a State House rally this spring will be notified of the specific day and time. If you'd like to be included, please email Sej Harman at [sejharman@att.net](mailto:sejharman@att.net).

## **Cabaret 2...What an Evening!**

The magical experience of CABARET would not have been possible without the involvement of a multitude of keen, hardworking people: the planners; the entertainers; the technicians; those who set up- hauling furniture long and short distances- and installed lighting; those who decorated, and those who put all to rights afterwards; the many, many creative cooks who provided sumptuous appetizers and calorie laden desserts, and the wine; and those who organized and ran the kitchen, before, during and after our event; the bar man, the ticket takers and raffle seller, the prize procurers and the commercial and individual prize providers: Arabesque Restaurant, Giorgioni's Restaurant, Eggs Up Grill, Tracy Steele, Instructor at Columbia's Ballroom Company, Nonnah's Café, Nickelodeon Theatre, and Rosewood Market... whew! What a massive undertaking and collective effort!

Yet, without the 70 attendees, (1/3 coming from the larger community, thanks to the publicity effort,) all would have been for naught. Approximate net funds raised (costs still being finalized ) were \$1,200.

So, all you kind, caring workers, on behalf of our Beszterce Congregation, and their dedicated minister our new friend, Rev. Zsolt Solymosi, your UUCC Partner Church Committee enthusiastically and most profoundly thanks you!!!

**Jean Capalbo, Susan Robinson, Carita Barr, Yolanda Ganong, Ceren Farr, Stephanie Palmer-Smith, Joyce Rogers, John Starino, and Lee Minghi.**

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# Thank You (continued)

## Pancake Breakfast

To high schoolers: **Santiago, Sophia, Nohl, Boone**, and **Benny** and middle schooler, **Mercedes**: Great work on serving up the flap jacks for the congregation last Sunday. Compliments all around for the food and service. And thanks to **Emilio Perez-Jorge, Amy Medlock-Greene**, and **Patty Drews** for overseeing the project. Well done, crew!

## CANstruction Results

Many wonderful projects were created by our fantastically talented students last week during their CANstruction project. Pre-K built a beautiful, fanciful castle complete with moat; 2<sup>nd</sup> – K put together a slithering snake with friendly face; **Emerson**, representing the 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade by himself, crafted a beautiful UU Chalice; the middle school re-created the symbol for Peace in Paris; while the high school youth created a couch along with a potato to represent the classic couch potato. And the winner is: The Middle School! Their enthusiasm, along with their boldness for soliciting votes, could not be beaten. However, many comments were heard complimenting all of the hard work and imagination. Please view pictures of their creations and of their delivery of foodstuffs to Harvest Hope on the UUCC Facebook page. Way to go CYRE! Over \$342.00 was raised! Thank you for your generous voting.

# News and Notes

**February 14: “Heart Communion: Multigenerational Service”** Please join us and invite friends and family to our portrayal of "Heart Communion". It has great messages of compassion and tolerance, plus good humor. The script, which was written by a UU minister, ties in well in our search for a settled minister at our beloved UUC. How would a "Stranger with a Perfect Heart" and a "Woman with a Broken Heart" help a village find peace?

**February 21: “Ministry Is...” (Rev. Jennie preaching)** This sermon and worship service will include some insights about what professional ministry is and should be, and also some ways lay people do ministry. This topic is timely because on March 6<sup>th</sup> we will learn more about the UUA’s process for searching for a settled minister.

**February 28: “A Place to be our Best Selves” (Rev. Jennie preaching)** Join us as we launch our annual Pledge Drive, during the worship service, and jolly festivities at the church that afternoon. Your Finance Committee has done wise and beautiful work in preparation for our pledge drive! Please do all you can to step up and support their excellent leadership and hard work.

**March 6: “Our ‘MSR’ Weekend” (the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman)** Join us for our opportunity to learn about the UUA’s search process. The Rev. Ann Marie Alderman will preach and lead worship, and lead a question and answer session afterward.

full plates as the clients walk through the line. One person hands out cans of soda, and another person counts the numbers served, while holding up the line if the servers need time to catch up. If you've not been to the Transitions orientation (6:00 p.m. on every 2nd and 4th Monday), please volunteer anyway! Bob will vouch for you until we can get everybody to that orientation.

I hope you can make it! If volunteering, please arrive no later than 5:15 p.m., as the service window is 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. Park in any open spot in the Transitions lot, and remember to bring a hat unless you prefer to wear one of the disposable hair nets they provide. They also provide disposable gloves and aprons, and we have two stools for anyone who might find it uncomfortable to stand for 30 minutes. Also, let me know if you would like someone to meet you at the front door and walk you through to the kitchen. Thank you!



## **Wear Your Standing on the Side of Love Shirt on Sunday, February 14**

Sunday marks the final day of the annual 30 Days of Love promoted by our Standing on the Side of Love initiatives. Let's all send the message that we support the 7th Annual National Standing on the Side of Love Day! *Thirty Days of Love 2016: Towards Racial Justice* that Unitarian Universalists and many of our partner organizations are building and organizing by taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice.

## **Transitions Volunteers Needed This Saturday Night, February 13**

We need some more help for this Saturday night’s Transitions Service event. So far we only have two people showing up on SignupGenius as volunteers. **If you can possibly find time, please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4daaae2ea4f58-transitions>, or contact Bob Whitaker at 803-960-8332 (home) or 803-391-5639 (cell) and he will sign you up on the site.**

UUC has a recurring obligation to help serve the evening meal at Transitions Homeless Recovery Center, 2025 Main Street in Columbia, on the second Saturday of every month. The social action consists of serving plates behind a service line, and one person handing out the

## **Mia McLeod Contact Information**

If you would like put on Mia McLeod's email list, please email Larry Siegel at [lksdoc@aol.com](mailto:lksdoc@aol.com) or Mia at [mia@schouse.gov](mailto:mia@schouse.gov). If you would like to send Mia an email, please send to [info@miaforsenate.com](mailto:info@miaforsenate.com).

## **Toiletry Donations Needed for Homeless**

The Social Action Committee is collecting personal toiletry items to be used by homeless clients utilizing the Inclement Winter Center (IWC) here in Columbia. Small, unused personal-sized toiletry items - like you can find at hotels and motels during your travels - can be left by the food collection area at the entrance of the UUCC Social Hall.

The IWC, funded by the City of Columbia and staffed by employees from Transitions and volunteers, is operated during nights from November 1 and April 1 when the temperature dips to 40 degrees or lower. Volunteers are needed on nights the shelter is open to help with general shelter tasks. Contact Tom Clements of the Social Action Committee for more information about your donations or volunteering, 834-3084, [tomclements329@cs.com](mailto:tomclements329@cs.com).

## **Collections Continue for Book/Media Sale**

Did you see the bookshelf in the Social Hall? It's just a little visual to remind you to donate books and media to the CYRE book/media sale. The sale benefits the HSYG Boston Heritage Trip. You may leave your boxes of donations in the Social Hall near the shelves or take them back to Room 6 in the CYRE wing. Talk with Amy Medlock-Greene (803)665-2760 for more information.

## **Harvest Hope**

Please leave your cans for Harvest Hope in the baskets in the Social Hall.

## **Adult Choir Practices & Performs Sunday**

The Adult Choir will practice at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 14 in the Sanctuary.

## **Amazon Smile**

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, SC. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0509045> and support UUCC every time you shop.

## **Fair Trade Coffee Sales**

Would you like to support our teen Boston Heritage Trip while enjoying monthly selections of top grade fair trade coffee? Then see our Coffee Sales Representative in the Social Hall after Sunday's service.



## **Transitions Training**

Mandatory Transitions training is being offered at 6:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at their facility at Main and Calhoun. Anyone can volunteer to serve at Transitions. They are always in need of more help either in the library on Friday afternoons (see Phil Turner) or serving meals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (see Bob Whitaker). The training takes less than one hour. TRANSITIONS NEEDS YOU! Please contact Sharon Pinckney at [spinckney@transitionssc.org](mailto:spinckney@transitionssc.org) to register for a class.

## **Sitting with Sadness - A Conversation, Meditation and Mindfulness Group, Mondays**

The purpose of this group is to allow a safe place to experience your sadness and to grieve, to share your experience with the group if you feel moved to do so, to silently sit in meditation, and to learn about "mindfulness." Led by Nyna Dalbec, who has a lifetime of experience with mindfulness and meditation, this non-religious, rotating group will meet **Mondays from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.** You may participate for as many weeks as you find helpful. There is no fee. To register and find out more, please contact Nyna at [nyna.dalbec@me.com](mailto:nyna.dalbec@me.com)

## Chocolate Auction, Sunday, February 14



Goodies are needed for our popular Chocolate Auction! Whether you make basic brownies or a gourmet gateau no item is too small for our bake sale or too large for the silent auction. All items will need to be in the fellowship kitchen either Saturday morning, February 13 between 10:00 & Noon or Sunday as early as possible on the morning of February 14 so we can prepare for the sale and auction. (Please package individual portions for bake sale items.) So tie on your apron and bake with a loving spoonful! For questions or further info contact Gail Dawson: [gailzebub@msn.com](mailto:gailzebub@msn.com)

## Chair Yoga Continues in February

Chair yoga entails about 45 minutes of real yoga but it takes place mostly seated. It is ideal for people who want to improve flexibility but who do not like (or, for physical reasons, cannot do) the typical yoga class.



Chair Yoga will meet in the UUC Social Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the following Tuesdays in February: 2, 9, 16, and 23. **If you are new to the group** and have questions or would like to participate, please contact Ruthie Saunders [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu).

## Upcoming Coffeehouses

**Saturday, February 20: The Honey Dewdrops**

**Saturday, February 27: Peter Case**

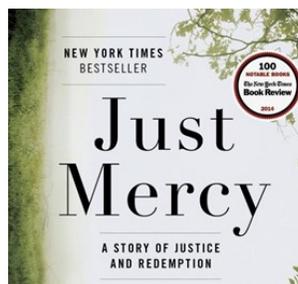
Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Please make reservations at 200-2824 or [www.uucoffeehouse.org](http://www.uucoffeehouse.org).

## Birthday Sunday, February 21

Our Birthday Celebration for members is right around the corner. On Sunday, February 21 we will celebrate February Birthdays! If you have family members, friends, or are celebrating a February birthday, please celebrate with us on the 21<sup>st</sup>. All you need to do is email [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) with



your name to be added to our birthday poster. Want to help supply cake for the congregation? Just sign up on in the Birthday Cake binder or email Stephanie. And remember, if you would like to donate but are not a baker, our Chocolate Auction is the prior Sunday. Feel free to donate your auction purchase to the celebration if you would like.



## Adult Religious Education: The Common Read, Wednesday, February 24

Each year the UUA selects a book for all congregations to read and discuss. This year the Common Read is "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson, which addresses the impact of mass incarceration. Here are some sample reviews: "*Just Mercy* is every bit as moving as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways maybe more so." "(It) demonstrates, as powerfully as any book on criminal justice that I've ever read, the extent to which brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the United States." "The stories told within these pages hold the potential to transform what we think we mean when we talk about justice." The books are available now in the Social Hall following services for \$10.00. Two discussion times are planned on Wednesday, February 24: 10:30 a.m.-noon and 7:00-8:30 p.m.; both will be led by Pat Mohr and Patrick Saucier. Read the book and come join us for one of the discussions.

## September Set, Friday, February 26

Our monthly September Set for our UUCS Seniors will be held Friday, February 26. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall with conversation and getting to know each other better. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun. Long time and new members and friends are welcome. We hope to see you there. Contact Jean Capalbo at [jacapalbo@gmail.com](mailto:jacapalbo@gmail.com) or Pat Mohr at [patmohr@mindspring.com](mailto:patmohr@mindspring.com) with any comments or questions.

## UUCS Book Club, Sunday, February 28



The next UUCS Book Club meeting is on Sunday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m. Bauer Western will facilitate a discussion on *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence* by Karen Armstrong. We will meet at a member's home. The UUCS Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUCS. Please contact Ruthie Saunders if you have questions or would like more information: [rsaunders@sc.edu](mailto:rsaunders@sc.edu)

## Upcoming Consultant Weekend, Sunday, March 6

Sunday morning, March 6 is our opportunity to learn about the UUA's search process. Our "Ministerial Settlement Representative" (our "MSR") is the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman. Rev. Alderman will preach and lead worship focusing on the process of being in search, we will share a meal, then she will do a presentation and answer questions for the whole congregation. Rev. Jennie will attend to hear members' questions, feelings, and concerns. We hope everyone will turn out to learn more about our upcoming process to find and call a new settled minister. Anyone who is interested in serving on the search committee should certainly attend worship and the meeting on Sunday, March 6. On Saturday evening, March 5, our MSR will meet with the board and Rev. Jennie to review their responsibilities and role in the search process, and best practices for forming and guiding a search committee.

## Women's Book Group, March 8



The Women's Book Group will meet March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 to discuss *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, 776-0784. [sjchubon@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjchubon@sc.rr.com).

## You Have a New Calendar

Don't forget to write in the dates of the annual UUCS retreat at The Mountain. Activities and fun for the entire family! Details will be posted later. For now, reserve the dates: September 16-18. See you there!

# Religious Education

## Children's Choir

The Spring Children's Choir schedule is available. Be sure to pick up a printed version from the shelves near the DRE office. or email [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org) to request an electronic version.

And thanks for giving us such a spirited performance last Sunday. Many in the audience were clapping and dancing along.



## Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to be part of our CYRE group of volunteers, please see Stephanie Palmer-Smith after the service or email her at [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org).

## Children & Youth Religious Education Calendar

Sunday Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – Heart Communion Multi-Generational Service  
Chocolate Auction after the service!  
1:00 – 3:30 7 – 9<sup>th</sup> grade OWL session

## Recruiting Social Action Mentors

Do you have a passion for direct social action? Would you like to share that passion with our youth? CYRE students who are interested in direct service need adult mentors. Please see Stephanie or contact via email at: [dre@uucolumbia.org](mailto:dre@uucolumbia.org).

# UUCC Board of Trustees

## Summary of December 16, 2015 Meeting

The Board of Trustees met December 16 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Marc Drews chaired the meeting.

### Interim Minister's Report

**Appraisal of Interim Process** Rev. Jennie pointed out that there are three times during the 2-year interim when she and the Board need to do an appraisal of how the interim process is going. Those appraisals are a vehicle for the Board and the Interim Minister to assess how well we are on track with the five development tasks of interim ministry. Our first appraisal is due February 15, 2016. Blank appraisal forms were provided to each board member, including the ex-officio members. Each was asked to fill out a form and bring it to the meeting on January 20. The Board Secretary will create a composite of members' reports and Rev. Jennie will fill out the same report. Copies of both reports will be sent to Boston by February 15.

**Capital Fund Drives** After last month's Board meeting, Marc asked Rev. Jennie to do some research as background for a possible capital campaign. Marc's specific question was whether it is customary for a congregation to have a target goal in an amount approximately the same as its annual operating budget (which contributors could pay over the course of three years) i.e., approximately \$200,000. Rev. Jennie researched UU congregations with recent capital campaigns, especially ones in UUCC's range of operating expenses, membership numbers, and pledge units, which are in a geographical wage area similar to ours. Based on the experiences of those churches, a capital campaign with a target goal of \$200,000 would be realistic, achievable, and smaller than other congregations like us have done successfully.

**Preparation for Start-Up Weekend** on January 8 and 9: The plan is for the entire congregation to meet on Friday evening for dinner and a discussion of the Congregation's history. The Transition Committee will provide a light meal Friday evening. On Saturday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM the board, committee chairs, transition team, and key lay leaders will meet with the consultant and continue the discussion of where we want to go in the future.

### Treasurer's Report

Linda Brennon reported that we continue to have a serious shortfall in income. Expenses to date for this fiscal year exceed income by \$6,201.87. Pledge income is \$7,400 less than expected. Rental income is higher than anticipated, cushioning the lack of pledge payments. We have had no fund raisers for the general fund this fiscal year.

### Committee Reports

**Building and Grounds** Marc reported that Peck Drennan signed the contract we discussed at our November meeting. A copy is attached to the December Board Meeting Minutes which are posted on the Board's bulletin board in the social hall.

**Membership Committee** The New Member Dinner is scheduled for January 23 with the Joining Service Ceremony on January 24.

**Social Action Committee** Janet Swigler reported that procedures have been established and recorded for selecting recipients of Share the Plate. Our Families Helping Families campaign was very successful. There are two Community Conversations scheduled: one on February 21 on "Talking to Your Children about Racism" and another on April 10 on "Human Trafficking". These are held on Sunday afternoons and are expected to attract participation from people in the larger community.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**UUCC Website** Donald Griggs reported that work on the new website is moving forward and the site should be ready for launch soon.

**Planning for Congregational Meeting May 22** Marc asked whether there are any bylaws changes for this year. We will need a slate of candidates for offices and we will elect a ministerial search committee. We will have a consultant from the district March 5 and 6 to explain the search process and procedures.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Statement on Syrian Refugees** Governor Haley recently issued a statement that Syrian refugees will not be welcome in South Carolina. The Social Action Committee developed a statement expressing the UUCC's opinion on this topic which Pat Mohr shared with the Board. Some minor grammatical editing was done and the Board approved the Statement for circulation in our congregations' publications and also to a variety of outside publications, organizations, and government offices. A copy of the statement is attached to the minutes of the December 16 meeting, posted on our bulletin board in the social hall.

**Bonuses for Staff** The Trustees agreed to pay staff annual bonuses based on our policy.

**Financial Support for Start-Up Weekend** Trustees voted to provide as much as \$1,100 from the Board's Discretionary Fund to the Transition Committee to cover expenses of the Start-Up Weekend.

**Locking the "Back Door" during Sunday Services** Trustees voted to set the timer to ensure that the Heyward Street door (by administrator's office) is locked during worship services. This will provide protection from intruders for children and adults in the RE wing.

Minutes summarized by Sandy Chubon, Secretary

# Meetings & Rentals

Board of Trustees Meeting	Wednesday, February 17	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Bon Voyage	Every Wednesday	7:00 pm	Member's Home
Children & Youth RE Committee	Sunday, March 13	12:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Choir	Every other Sunday	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Committee Night (starts with dinner)	Wednesday, March 2	6:00 pm	Dinner in the Social Hall
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Library
Forum	Every Sunday	9:30 am	Library
Green Committee	TBA	6:30 pm	Classroom # 8
Knit or Not	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Membership Committee	Sunday, March 13	12:20 pm	Classroom #8
New to UU Class	TBA	12:15 pm	TBA
Science & Religion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
September Set	Friday, January 29	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Social Action Committee	Wednesday, March 2	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Technology Committee	Wednesday, March 2	6:00 pm	Workroom 1
UU Animal Ministry	Wednesday, February 10	6:00 pm	Classroom # 7
UU Book Club	Sunday, February 28	6:30 pm	Member's Home
UU Humanist	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
UU Partner Church Committee	Contact: Lee Minghi, 798-0904; Carita Barr, 782-0053; or Susan Robinson, 446-0675	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Women's Book Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:00 pm	Classroom # 8
Writing Group	Tuesday, March 8	6:30 pm	Classroom # 5
<b>Rentals</b>			
Sitting with Sadness	Every Monday	7-8:15 pm	Social Hall
Tai Chi 803-772-9557 columbia.sc@taoist.org	Every Thursday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Meditation	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Library
Men's AA	Every Tuesday	6:30 pm	Social Hall
Agnostic AA	Every Sunday	5:00 pm	Library
Women's AA	Every Wednesday	6:30 pm	Library

## The Six Sources of Faith for Unitarian Universalists

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

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