

## Committee & Interim Minister Reports April 2017

### Adult RE

#### Email Meeting held after regular meeting time cancelled due to storms

#### Old Business

- Endowment committee. Report from Dot Brown: we are waiting for more info from Sej Harman and Joe Long about setting up and managing endowments. ARE will sponsor after speakers are determined.
- Christian group. Report from Jenny Beale: Small participation at this point, but there's been only two meetings, so they hope to attract more.
- UUA Common Read of *The Third Reconstruction*. Report from Keitha Whitaker: there was good turnout (about twelve people) and efforts are underway in Columbia to form a combination group to coordinate for protest/resistance groups. All present we're in some way participating in protests, walks, writing legislators, joining groups, donating to different causes and organizations
- Classes on *God Is Not One* by Prothero. Report from Donald Cooper: we are halfway through *God is Not One*, but it has taken longer than planned because each chapter takes a whole session to discuss.
- Session on How to Plan A Funeral (Tony Ganong). Update: session was cancelled due to low number who signed up; may be re-scheduled for UUCC only.
- Library proposal - Report from Stephanie Palmer-Smith on Library committee: Regina Moody, Gail Dawson, and I have successfully resorted through 60% of the books that remain in storage and we have started shelving in the library. I am still awaiting a committee decision about how the books should be organized and will keep working to get more of our collection back up on the shelves.

#### New Business:

- Movie Club #2 *Now Is The Time*. Report from Emilio Perez: Emilio will look into whether it will be easier to show it at the UUCC or have people watch it first at home. We're not ready to move with it yet. But I have an update about another event advocating for universal healthcare next Saturday. See Facebook link below. I will be one of the speakers for the event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2246207002271773/>

---

#### POSTPONED UNTIL MAY:

Discussion of new spiritual practices class from Rebecca, CSAI discussion, and class for new members (Dot & Pat).

(from Rebecca) I am willing to teach a class on Spirituality. Four nights in May are doable. What does the committee think? I'll attach an announcement. I have many other ideas, if this course doesn't sound interesting. If this doesn't feel right, I can teach on how to plan a funeral or memorial.

Pat Mohr, Chair

## **Animal Ministry Committee**

The Animal Ministry sponsored Palmetto Lifeline's fundraiser, "Bark to the Park" on Saturday, April 8, at Finley Park. Although turnout was low, we still managed to raise over \$1000 for Palmetto Lifeline to help to save the lives of homeless cats and dogs, who would otherwise be euthanized.

There will be no monthly meeting in May.

Anita Grossman, Chair

## **Building & Grounds Committee**

### **Building Renovations Committee**

The Cmte met on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The feedback from the several meetings with constituent groups and the congregation has been compiled into a "wish list" of items that could be added to the renovations should funding remain after planned improvements are completed. A few adjustments were made to the list, but the consensus of the cmte was to put it aside until we have official cost estimates from contractors and at that time prioritize it. Established a sequence of actions with dates for having the electrician evaluate the building, give an assessment, and provide recommendations, have plans by mid-May, and a target date to be able to bid by June. Discussed process for selection of a Contractor and possible criteria. Also, began a list of names. Discussed likely construction schedule and potential conflicts with the Hogwarts camp in late July; decided that work would likely not begin until just after the camp. Next CBR meeting will be May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Caring & Hospitality Committee**

### **CYRE (Children & Youth Religious Education) Committee**

🕯 The CYRE Committee met March 1, 2017.

🕯 March highlights included:

- Miniature House raffle to fund an ad in the Free Times for Hogwarts 2017 was a success! Bob Whitaker won the raffle.
- We are continuing to actively recruit 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade OWL participants. We are in a holding pattern until we have at least 5 participants, preferably 8. Registration is open! We still need at least 3 or 4 more OWL Instructors. Talk with Keitha or Stephanie if you are interested in taking the training to be an OWL instructor and for a list of upcoming trainings.

🕯 April highlights included:

- A bonny Easter Parade and egg hunt. Fun for all!
- Earth Day Service
- Beltane Crafter's Faire

🕯 We will offer Hogwarts 2017 for two weeks this summer, July 17 -21 and July 24 - 28. We are looking for Master Witches and Master Wizards as well as a few ghosts to make this an enchanting event for our young witches and wizards. Contact Stephanie, DRE, or Gail Dawson ([gailzebug@msn.com](mailto:gailzebug@msn.com)) to offer your magical talents. Registration is open!

- ❖ Our Summer Curriculum is Passports! Passports is an all-time popular summer UU curriculum for children, youth and “Tour Guides!” Stephanie is currently recruiting members of the congregation to take our kids on a journey to, oh, I don’t know – how about Africa? Spain? New Zealand? England? Japan? Germany? You name it! Get out your memorabilia from your various travels and prepare to wow our kids with pictures, interesting travel stories, food, and costumes from your journeys around our globe.
- ❖ Our annual CYRE Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Please join us! There’s always food and we have lots of fun!

Keitha Whitaker, Chair

## **Denominational Connections**

### **Endowment Committee**

#### **Finance Committee**

1. The total of pledges to date is \$221,089.84 as of last Friday morning. We don’t expect a large amount of new pledges to come in.
2. Our next work is to prepare a budget proposal for the Board’s Executive Committee. Our biggest challenge in that regard is the unavoidable uncertainty about ministerial expenses.

Joe Long, Chair

#### **Governance and Structure Ad Hoc Committee**

My apologies for forgetting to send a committee update report in February.

The UUCC Governance and Structure Ad Hoc Committee met January 31, 2017.

- ❖ The Committee continued to outline and discuss items to include in a proposal to the Board and discussed each in relationship to our current governance.
  - If you are interested in seeing this list so that you can add your own ideas to it, please email Keitha ([uukeitha@gmail.com](mailto:uukeitha@gmail.com)).
  - We are currently compiling a list of what works well and what might need improving in UUCC’s governance and structure. Please feel free to weigh in on this issue!
- ❖ We welcome any comments you would like to share. Please direct your comments or questions to [uukeitha@gmail.com](mailto:uukeitha@gmail.com). Thank you.
- ❖ Our March meeting was postponed due to family and scheduling issues on the part of committee members.
- ❖ The UUCC Governance and Structure Committee met on April 25<sup>th</sup> and we continued to outline our proposal for the Board.
- ❖ We will meet again in May (Please email Keitha at [uukeitha@gmail.com](mailto:uukeitha@gmail.com) for date and time.) and plan to finalize our report to the Board in June.

→For reference, our current governance and structure can be found here:

- ❖ <http://www.uucolumbia.dreamhosters.com/about-us/our-governance/>

→Some of the other resources we are currently researching include:

- ❖ <http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/congservices/governance.pdf>
- ❖ <http://www.uua.org/management>

- 🔥 Dan Hotchkiss' book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, Second Edition. Available from inSpirit (<http://www.uuabookstore.org/Governance-and-Ministry-Second-Edition-P17796.aspx>) or Amazon.com or other book sellers.

Keitha Whitaker, Chair

## **Green Sanctuary Committee**

## **Leadership Development Committee**

### **Membership Committee**

The membership committee did not meet in April due to weather, then the chair was out of town on makeup day.

At this time the committee is working on contacting members that we have not seen in a while, and planning the 3rd annual UUCU Picnic at Suzi Garland's home.

The membership committee will meet next on Committee night May 3rd after the pot luck.

The next visitor Orientation will be held after service on May 21st in the library.

Patty Drews, Chair

## **Personnel Committee**

## **Publicity Committee**

## **Shared Ministry Committee**

Discontinued during interim period.

## **Social Action Committee**

**Banner** – we have ordered our banner from Regal Prints for a cost of \$95. We will be paying for this with funds left in our budget. The owners of Regal Prints are Jerry and Eileen Rega, a couple that we met at the March for Science that indicated a sincere interest in attending UUCU. The price on the banner was much lower than any others that we had been quoted. The banner will be hung on the brick side of the church facing Woodrow Street where we once had the Standing on the Side of Love Banner. We have had the approval of both the Board and the Building and Grounds committee and we are grateful to both for their support.

**T-Shirts** – we began sales of the 35 Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts March 26th and now have 7 left. We will submit a new order on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The shirts are selling for \$22 and we also have long sleeve available at \$25.

**March for Science** was held on April 22 and it was a great success. UUCU had approximately 35 people in attendance. We had an information table showing off our UUCU banner and information about Unitarian Universalism. There was a significant interest in our church and what we were about. We had a continual flow of visitors throughout the event and a great opportunity to share about UUCU. We had a sign-up sheet available to collect email addresses to reach out to those who were interested. It was estimated that over 1000 people attended the rally promoting care for our environment and what we need to do politically to protect it. Laura Hartwig did a great job in organizing and promoting this event. Our new member Michelle Edgar was responsible for Greater Columbia Action Committee that organized the entire March for Science event.

**Sign-Making Party** was April 9<sup>th</sup> and a group gathered after church to make signs for rallies and protests. These signs were generic in nature but most were aimed at the March for Science rally. It was a fun time for getting to know each other and exchanging ideas. It is the intention to have another such event at a later date using all of the participants own materials and preparing for another rally.

**Ramadan Dinner** will be held on June 2 beginning at 7:30 in our Social Hall. We were contacted through Andrea by Paula Ludwig at Atlantic Institute to share in their Ramadan celebration dinner. This seemed like an excellent opportunity for us to further our outreach for immigration, refugee support, and Islamophobia. The evening will begin at 7:30 with an introduction from Dr. Akif Aydin about his experience as a Muslim during Ramadan. This will be followed with a Q&A session and then after sundown (about 8:30) we will share dinner. The Atlantic Institute will provide the specially prepared meat and we will provide sides of salads, vegetables, fruits and breads. Laura Hartwig has set this up on our webpage and in an electronic mailing with an RSVP/ticket system so we can control our numbers and know how many will attend. Atlantic Institute will also be advertising this through their mailing list. We have limited the event to 100. We expect this to be a wonderful evening of learning and sharing with another culture. We will be looking for assistance from our members to bring the sides and help with set up.

**Seeds of Hope** will begin June 18<sup>th</sup> and once again Bauer Westernen will chair this project. We will follow the same scheduling plan as in the past with two members manning the station in front of the church. More information will follow on this in the Unigram and Order of Service and on the website.

**Know Your Rights** presentation will be taking place at UUC on June 28<sup>th</sup>, arranged by SC United with Immigrants Coalition. There will be lawyers and interpreters provided to answer questions and assist. They expect 50 to 60 immigrants to attend and we will expecting a good turnout from our own members who will be wanting to learn about the rights of immigrants. This will be open to the public.

Our next meeting will be May 3, 2017

Linda McLeod, Chair

## **Technology Services Committee**

### **Transition Team**

The Transition Team met with Rev. Jennie on April 27 to discuss various matters at UUC, including her departure and future plans. We have scheduled our next, and most likely final meeting for June 15.

Kevin Meredith, Chair

### **Worship Committee**

. . . After being brought up to speed by Rev. Jennie, the committee suggests that the congregation be educated about the process and current situation regarding seeking and installing UUA leadership.

. . . Rev Jennie will be in the pulpit 4/30, 5/7, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, and 6/25. Richard will speak and serve as worship leader May 14. David Crockett will be asked to be flexible as the possible speaker on June 18, depending on when there is a new minister candidate. Julianne Lepp of a Wisconsin UU church will be here July 2 with Larry as the worship leader.

. . . The OOS statement about Candles of Community will be changed to read “If you have a significant personal joy, sorrow, or concern you would like to share, please phone or email the administrator by noon Friday. If you would like this expression to be spoken in your own words from a written script, let her know at that time.”

. . . The committee has submitted a budget that includes funding for a part-time music director. Members will encourage the Board and Finance Committee to strongly consider this addition to our staff that would enrich our services and encourage new minister candidates.

. . . The sanctuary should be organized so that each row has several chairs with hymnal storage under them and pockets in the back so that there's easy access to hymnals and pledge envelopes.

. . . Another ongoing discussion is about how and when announcements should be made during the service.

. . . The new Singing the Children Out, composed by Richard and titled “Learn Your Lessons Well” will be introduced April 30 with audience instruction.

Richard McLeod, Committee Chair