

## VISION TEAM

Team Members: Chair, Charlie Eastham, Members: Ruth Bonfiglio, Nancy Haley, Jamie Sharp, Dick Siefers, Gordon Strayer, Mike Van Meter, Doug Wallace

The Vision Team was established in August, 2000. Our charge has been to lead the congregation in a planning process to consider options for growth, programming, and building expansion. A complete report of our activities through April, 2002, can be found in the Annual Report for 2002.

To learn members' vision of what our Society building should be in the future and our capacity for growth, the congregation was asked last May to vote on its preference for further, detailed study of one of two options: 1) planning to buy land and eventually build a new building, or 2) remaining at our present location and making extensive reservations and additions. The first alternative received 109 votes; the second, 58. The Board committed itself to revisit the building issue and present a second vote to the congregation within 12 months.

Accepting the Board's invitation to work together in engaging with the congregation to further clarify how we see our future as a religious community, the Vision Team held two events this last September. We invited the congregation to participate in a workshop led by Prairie Star District Executive, Nancy Heege and PSD Growth Coordinator, Beth Atkinson that asked us to look at what we do well as a congregation and to look ahead by asking, "What else?". Later in September, Roge Bertschausen, minister of the Fox Valley UU Fellowship in Appleton, Wisc., came to visit with us and gave an inspiring sermon relating that congregation's transformation from a small fellowship to a church with over 400 members, 200 children, and three services.

Beginning in the late fall, the Board and Vision Team decided that our work of envisioning our future would be best expressed by the development of a Long Range Plan to guide us over the next 3 to 5 years. After discussions with committee members, staff and the Board, a draft Long Range

Plan was developed. The draft plan was presented to the Society in six discussion groups during January and February. Revisions were made and the Long-Range Plan was presented in its final form on Sunday, April 6. Copies were available in Channing Hall or by request after that meeting. The complete plan is included at the end of this Annual Report.

Having fulfilled its commitment to gain further clarification with the congregation as to where we see us in the future as a religious community, the Vision Team recommended to the Board that on May 4 the congregation vote to affirm the proposal stated below by simple majority.

I support the Vision Team's exploration of land purchase options, including sites in the downtown Iowa City area. I understand that any decision regarding the purchase of land must be brought to the congregation for a majority vote. I further understand that any recommendation brought to the congregation with respect to any land purchase is only one of several decisions and votes to be made with respect to the Society's home in the future.

The Board agreed with this recommendation and joined with the Vision Team in asking the Congregation to continue with the process of envisioning our future.