



THE UUS NEWS

A DIVERSE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY THAT TOUCHES
HEARTS, CHANGES LIVES, AND TRANSFORMS THE WORLD.

February
2019

Sunday Services

Services begin at 9:30 am, followed by a social hour

What Does It Mean to Be A Community of Trust?

February 3rd: "This We Promise,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

A covenant is a sacred promise. As a non-creedal faith, Unitarian Universalism is held together not by belief but by covenant. Our promise to each other is that we will come together in mutual love and care to serve the larger, transcendent purposes of justice, hope, freedom, and truth.

February 10th: "Trust Is at the Heart of Love,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Both love and trust are matters of the soul. While love may make the world go 'round, trust is what holds it together. Love draws us out of isolation and into relationship, satisfying our deepest yearnings for connection. Trust is what makes connection possible.

February 17th: "Keep on Crossing Borders,"

Guatemala Trippers

Participants from the June 2018 Guatemala service-learning trip will share their transformative experiences. Learn how their service and their stories touched hearts and changed lives.

February 24th: "Tear Down the Walls,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Walls may make us feel safe and secure, but they also keep us separate and divided. Trust is built by risking vulnerability, letting our guard down enough to allow others in. With so much mistrust in our world today, what must we do to tear down walls of fear and build bridges of trust?

Sunday Attendance

December 30th:	115 total (Multigenerational)
January 6th:	196 total: 162 service, 34 RE
January 13th:	143 total 118 service, 25 RE
January 20th:	187 total 148 service, 39 RE

February's Social Justice Offerings Benefit the Domestic Violence Intervention Program

DVIP, founded in 1977, provides services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking. Intimate partner violence is widely known to be one of the greatest physical dangers to women. And the risk of child abuse is much greater in households where domestic violence occurs. Incoming crisis calls and safe shelter for women and children is available in Johnson and seven other southeast Iowa counties.

Cash or checks to UUS (DVIP on the memo line) can be given on Sundays, online through Realm, or mailed to the office. You can also text "GivetoUUSIC Offering \$--" to 73256.

February Birthdays

<i>Audrey Adamson</i>	<i>Ronald McCall</i>
<i>Alice Atkinson</i>	<i>Mirabel McCusker</i>
<i>Sharon Beckman</i>	<i>Ayla McFarland</i>
<i>Susan Boyd</i>	<i>Virginia Miller</i>
<i>Joseph Brisben</i>	<i>Nancy Noyer</i>
<i>Lucy Choisser</i>	<i>Maureen Patterson</i>
<i>Alexander Clark</i>	<i>Gerry Pearson</i>
<i>Judi Clinton</i>	<i>Jaia Rosenfels</i>
<i>Susan Eberly</i>	<i>Paula Sanan</i>
<i>Christine Etlar</i>	<i>Jill Stephenson</i>
<i>Karen Fox</i>	<i>Vanessa Taylor</i>
<i>Amy Fretz</i>	<i>Carly Van der Heide</i>
<i>Kurt Hamann</i>	<i>Peg Voelker</i>
<i>Kathy Huedepohl</i>	<i>Kylie Wallin</i>
<i>Brigette Ingersoll</i>	<i>Nora Wittenkeller</i>
<i>Betsy Klein</i>	<i>Grace Young</i>
<i>Juanita Kosier</i>	

If you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter (or removed), contact dcl@uusic.org.



From Your Interim Minister's Study

February's theme is trust. What does it mean to be a people of trust?

There's a certain chicken and egg quality to trust. It is both granted and earned. Which comes first?

It has been said that the way to make someone trustworthy is to trust that person. One of my vivid childhood memories is of when my first-grade teacher called on me to return the big

scissors—the ones with the black handles and long, shiny blades—to the school office—all by myself. She showed me how to safely hold the scissors not by the handles but by the closed blades as I walked. I remember how proud I felt when the task was accomplished. You better believe that from then on, I wanted to live up to the trust my teacher had granted me—in all things.

This small act of trust did more than instill a sense of responsibility in me. It made me believe in myself as a capable and competent person. Maybe, if my teacher trusted me, maybe I could trust myself. It set up a feedback loop—trust granted, trust earned, further trust granted, further trust earned.

A line from a favorite hymn says, "teach us how to trust each other ..." Trust is essential to our UU way of faith, not based in belief or creed, but in covenant. We come together in a covenant of mutual love and care in order to serve larger purposes of liberty, justice, and freedom.

We trust that we will be held by each other when we need to summon the courage to say or do what must be done. We trust that we will be held by each other when we stumble and fall, when we fail to live up to our best selves. We trust that we will do what it takes to restore trust when trust has been broken.

Through it all, we are held by sources of life beyond our individual and collective selves. Call it the Interdependent Web of Existence, call it Love, call it the Universe, call it God—there is something good and holy holding us all.

Please note that after the service on February 10th, I will be leading a Sunday Forum titled *The State of the Society*. It will be an opportunity for you to hear my reflections on the interim ministry so far and the scope of work still ahead. I hope you will plan to attend.

Also, a correction—I mistakenly stated that Bill Eginton had been the longest active signed-the-book member of UUS. That honor actually goes to Virginia Stamler who has been a member since 1952.

—Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Congregational News and Events

Leading as a Spiritual Practice

Leading at UUS is an opportunity for young emerging leaders to get experience in a safe environment and for any member who wants to contribute to our beloved community. Talk with Jim Olson (jimolson921@gmail.com) about joining our Board of Trustees, Maureen Patterson (maureen.p.patterson@gmail.com) about our Leadership Development Committee, or Jean Hood (ajhood@oaknoll.com) about our Endowment Committee.

Covenant Groups

In January, covenant groups began the new year by examining what it means to be "a people of possibility." Other religious traditions emphasize moral failing at the core of human identity but Unitarian Universalism has always placed its faith in human potential. Another way to say this is that UUs view each life as brimming with promise: instead of hoping for redemption in the afterlife, we search for the possibility of fulfillment in our actions here on earth. It's been said we're the religion of "Why not?" Perhaps we can add that answering the question "Why not?", and searching for our "possibility" in our own lives and in service to others, is our most important form of spiritual practice.

You can learn more about Covenant Groups and how to join a group by contacting Jan Locher (354-6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Freethinker Friendly Congregation (FFC)

The FFC Committee will have an informational table in Fellowship Hall after the February 10th Sunday Service. Please stop by with any questions or comments. There will be a Congregational Vote in May to assume the FFC Designation. Look in future newsletters for more events and information ahead of the vote, or go to www.huumanists.org and scroll to the Red Heart logo of the FFC designation for more general information.

Green Sanctuary and Drawdown

Following workshops on *Introduction to Drawdown* by Kristin Wildensee, the Green Sanctuary Committee has chosen educational topics for UUS that address the reversal of global warming. *Drawdown* is a book edited by Paul Hawken and is the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. Topics chosen for initial exploration by Green Sanctuary come from *Drawdown* and include expanding rooftop solar and LED lighting, lowering food waste by composting, eating a plant-rich diet, protecting existing trees and forests and planting more, supporting family planning, and educating girls worldwide.

The February topic is lowering food waste and increasing composting at UUS as well as at home. Look for the Green Sanctuary monthly tri-folds in the Fellowship Hall for education, inspiration, and change.

In addition to information on the tri-folds, Green Sanctuary members are available to conduct an introductory presentation on *Drawdown*, a comprehensive plan to reverse global warming. To arrange for a presentation, contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com. Please also consider joining us at the next Green Sanctuary meeting on Tuesday, February 5th, at 5:30 pm in the Conference Room.

Changes to the UUS Newsletter Mailing List

Please see the notice on the back page of this newsletter regarding changes to our mailed newsletter subscription list. After this (February) issue, we will be deleting the newsletter mailing list and starting from scratch. If you want to continue receiving the *UUS News* via the postal service, you will need to contact the office (337-3443 or admin@uusinc.org) before Sunday, February 17th (in time to get the March issue).

Sr. High OWL Offering

This Spring, UUS will be offering the Sr. High (10-12th grades/homeschool equivalent) level of Our Whole Lives (OWL). OWL is a comprehensive lifespan sexuality education program that is co-created by the UUA and UCC (www.uua.org/re/owl). The Sr. High level covers sexuality, gender, healthy relationships, sexual health, body image, and more in an honest, accurate, and age-appropriate way.

The program will start with an overnight on Friday, February 22nd, and will then meet weekly on Sundays from 4 to 6 pm starting March 3rd. We will take a break for Spring Break and Easter, and the last session is scheduled for May 19th.

In order for youth to participate in OWL, they must make a strong commitment to attend all sessions. We understand each family's schedule and situation are unique, and if your youth would like to participate but would need to miss a number of sessions, please arrange a time to discuss your personal circumstances. Parents, custodial adults, and caregivers must also attend a mandatory Orientation Meeting, and all custodial adults must sign a permission slip. The purpose of this orientation is to provide parents with an overview of the goals, values, and content of OWL and to give parents the opportunity to view the materials that the youth will see.

Registration was limited to UUS families until January 30th, after which we opened the program to the community. If you know of friends or family who would be interested in having their youth attend, feel free to pass along our OWL information. We charge a \$50 fee for youth whose families are not members or friends of UUS, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay.

If your youth is interested in attending OWL, please contact Jessica Zimmer (education@uus.org or 337-3443).

It's Peanut Butter & Jelly Time!

During the month of February, the Elementary RE Program will be collecting peanut butter and jelly to support the Crisis Center's "Spread the Love" campaign: jccrisiscenter.org/spread-love-2019/. Donations can be dropped off in the marked bins found in the RE Wing on Sundays, February 3rd through the 24th.

Building & Grounds Updates

New Soap Dispensers: UUS is working towards a "closed loop system," which means that we are increasing our efforts to keep as much of our trash as possible out of the landfill. All UUS soap dispensers have been replaced with a motion-activated system which will result in a lower use of soap. The new soap is hypo-allergenic and fragrance-free. The soap reservoirs themselves are made from recycled materials, and when they are empty they will be recycled.

Landscape Update: An overall plan for the landscape design proposal has been created for the areas surrounding the solar array. David Selmer, a landscape designer from Sustainable Landscape Solutions, has created the design for us. Included are many native species of trees, bushes, and grasses that will enhance and beautify our site. The plan contains a variety of conifers, grasses such as switch grass, Karl Forester, prairie drop seed, and blue grama. Also included are several native flowers. The plan will be phased in over the next few years as funding permits. After the plan has been adjusted and fine-tuned some more, it will be printed and shared with the congregation.

"Sharing Our Memories Through Poetry," March 3rd

The Poetry service cancelled due to weather last November has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 3rd. Treat your mind, body, and senses to memories. You are invited to bring to this service a poem that speaks of memories of childhood, of loved ones, of favorite places, events, objects—or even of lost memory. As time allows, members and friends will read their poems to the congregation.

UUS House Ensemble Resumes March 7th

The House Ensemble is scheduled to reconvene to prepare for the Earth Day/Easter service on Sunday, April 21st. Rehearsals are scheduled for March 7th, 14th, 28th, and April 4th, 11th, and 18th. All instrumentalists are invited to join. The rehearsals are from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the UUS Fellowship Hall. To make sure there is music for everyone, please speak with Gloria or send an email (music@uus.org) with your intentions and the instrument you will be playing.

Opportunity for Children Singers in March/April

UUS youth are invited to rehearse to sing with the Adult Choir on Earth Day/Easter, April 21st. The singers will learn a song by Ruth Moody. One Voice can be cued up on YouTube Music where at least three different groups sing the song. The rehearsals, no more than 15 minutes, are immediately after church at the Steinway on the following Sundays: March 24th, 31st, and April 7th and 14th. Questions? Contact Gloria Corbin at music@uus.org.

Aging Gracefully Class, March 28th–April 18th

"Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, Befriending Death." Does that resonate with your mindset? If not, what might be holding you back? Join others for a series of conversations to explore the challenges inherent in adopting and embodying such an outlook. Limited to 12 participants, the group will gather on Thursdays, March 28th through April 18th from 10 am to 11:30. Interested? Questions? Call or email co-facilitators Winnie Ganshaw (359-1733, wganshaw52@gmail.com) or Jeffery Ford (541-0470, jlford36@me.com).

MidAmerica Regional Assembly, April 5th–7th

The 2019 UU MidAmerica Regional Assembly is coming sooner than you think! This year, it will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, April 5th through 7th.

The theme is "Intersectionalities"—how various social issues and identities impact each other. Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality, and tools and skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general "nuts and bolts" of congregational life, such as leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education. Our Keynote Presenter will be our UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick Gray. Join us to explore, share, and worship with fellow Unitarian Universalists. Go to uua.org/midamerica/ra for more information.

Several of us from UUS have indicated an interest in attending this year. We will also have about six people who will be our official voting delegates. Contact Peggy Garrigues, dcl@uus.org or 337-3443 if you have questions. There is some scholarship money available for this event.

Justice News and Events

UU Free Lunch Report

On Friday, January 11th, 30 dedicated UUS volunteers served a record high of 173 meals to Free Lunch Program guests. The main dish was fried chicken from John's Grocery, generously donated by Jeanette Carter. Side dishes included cooked vegetables, fresh vegetable salad, fresh fruit salad, a variety of delicious desserts, and beverages. At the end of the lunch, one appreciative guest came up to our volunteers and said "Excellent! This was a great lunch! You do a great job!"

Many thanks to those who have recently volunteered to purchase or prepare a main dish for Free Lunch. We greatly appreciate it! We still have a couple open months coming up. If you are interested in providing a main dish or would like more information, please email Carmen Griggs at csgriggsiowa@gmail.com.

Racial Justice Ware Lecture Showing, February 3rd

Join the Racial Justice Study/Action Circle on Sunday, February 3rd, at 11 am in the Hickory and Oak Rooms for a showing of the Ware Lecture from the 2018 UUA General Assembly (previously scheduled for January 20th). The Lecture features Brittany Packnett, a leader at the intersection of culture and justice who serves as Teach For America's Vice President of National Community Alliances, where she leads partnerships and civil rights work with communities of color. Cited by President Barack Obama as a leader whose "voice is going to be making a difference for years to come," Brittany is an unapologetic educator, organizer, writer, and speaker. A former teacher, policy expert, and nonprofit executive director, Brittany has committed her life and career to justice.

Secular Humanists, February 19th

We next meet Tuesday, February 19th, at 7 pm in Old Brick's Common Room downstairs. It's Video Night! We will begin with Sam Harris, author of *The End of Faith*, *Letter to a Christian Nation*, *Waking Up*, etc. In this piece, Sam Harris speaks on how scientific principles can inform moral thinking, with discussion to follow. Then, we'll share a video of Australian comedian and songwriter Tim Minchin giving an "inspirational" talk, especially for our Secular Students at Iowa. (Reminder: there is free and open parking behind Old Brick off Market St. and a fully accessible entrance off Clinton St.) All are welcome.

Also, we have a new email list. If you haven't heard from us recently or if you're new and want to be included (infrequent emails), please contact Mark Yuskis: resdoggie@aol.com

IUUWAN

The Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) can be thought of as a localized, interconnected web for UUs. UUs throughout Iowa are connected by a Facebook page, monthly newsletters, and workshops. We are promoting a workshop by Christopher Sims on "Being Black in a Liberal Faith Movement," on Saturday, February 23rd from 1 to 4 pm at Peoples Church (4980 Gordon Ave NW in Cedar Rapids).

Another upcoming event supported by IUUWAN is a lobby day addressing criminal justice on February 7th at 11 am in Des Moines. Organized by the Iowa Justice Action Network, the group meets with legislators about criminal justice, including disproportionality, sentencing, voting rights, mental health diversion programs, and support for returning citizens. Contact Al Hays to register (allen.hays@uni.edu).

A monthly IUUWAN webinar planned for later this spring will have speakers presenting on a topic for 15 minutes, and then leading a discussion about it. If you would like to be a speaker, or know of someone who could speak on a social justice issue, contact sallyahartman@hotmail.com.

Social Justice Love

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee continues to encourage social justice action and support for community services that address poverty, hunger, and health.

Consider becoming involved this month in one or more acts of love. In addition to the UU shift at the **Free Lunch Program** on February 15th (contact csgriggs@gmail.com to volunteer), the Center for Worker Justice has an **Allies Meeting** at noon in their new location, 1556 S 1st Ave # C (in the back of the building).

For more information about the many actions of love and social justice undertaken by the **UUS Social Justice Coordinating Committee**, please join us for our monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 12th, at 7 pm in the Conference Room.

Upcoming UUS Events

Find more information on all UUS events on our online calendar:
www.uusic.org/upcoming-events or by contacting the UUS office.

Saturday, February 2nd

- **Dinners for Eight:** 5 pm at various member homes

Sunday, February 3rd

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Adult Learning Opportunities)
- **Racial Justice Ware Lecture Screening:** 11 am in the Hickory & Oak Rooms (see details on page 4)

Monday, February 4th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Tuesday, February 5th

- **Green Sanctuary Committee:** 5:30 pm in the Conference Room

Wednesday, February 6th

- **UUS Community Meal:** 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Spaghetti and Meatballs with meat, vegan, and gluten-free options and sides. RSVPs appreciated: bit.ly/Feb19CommunityMeal)

Thursday, February 7th

- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, February 8th

- **UU Free Lunch Program:** 11 am at 1105 Gilbert Ct., IC
- **CUUPs Food for Thought:** 6:30 pm at Marsha Cheyney's home

Sunday, February 10th

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (UU 101: Intro to UU Values and History)
- **The State of the Society Forum:** 11 am in the Sanctuary (See details on page 2)
- **UUS Accessibility Meeting:** 11 am in the Hickory Room

Monday, February 11th

- **Kiirtan:** 6 pm in the Sycamore Rooms
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll
- **UU Book Discussion Group:** 7:30 pm at Oaknoll (February book: *The Path Between the Seas* by David McCullough; March book: *There There* by Tommy Orange)

Tuesday, February 12th

- **Social Justice Coordinating Committee:** 7 pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, February 14th

- **UUS Board of Trustees:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, February 15th

- **UU Board Game Club:** 6 pm at Lucky's Marke

Sunday, February 17th

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Social Justice Groups and Opportunities)
- **Racial Justice Circle:** 11 am in the Oak Room
- **UU Vegetarian Community Ethical Eating Class:** 3:30 pm in the Conference Room
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** 5 pm in the RE Commons
- **UU Vegetarian Community "Plantluck":** 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 18th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Tuesday, February 19th

- **Secular Humanists:** 7 pm at Old Brick (Details on page 4)

Wednesday, February 20th

- **UU Grief Group:** 12:30 pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, February 21st

- **UU Scrabble Group:** 1:30 pm at Kim and Lula Palmer's home
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, February 22nd

- **OWL Overnight:** 5 pm in the RE Wing
- **CUUPs Encounters:** 6:30 pm in the Hickory & Oak Rooms

Saturday, February 23rd

- **UU Vegetarian Community Cooking Class "Vegan Soups and Stews":** 11 am in the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall:

Learn how to create healthy, flavorful and nutritious soups and stews for the winter season with Chef Dave Burt. Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations are required by Thursday, February 21st, to Carol Throckmorton (vegcommunity@uusic.org or 337-3030).

Sunday, February 24th

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Interest and Activity Groups)

Monday, February 25th

- **Girls' Night Out:** 5:30 pm at Red Ginger (1301 So. Gilbert St. #6)
- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll

Saturday, March 2nd

- **"Day of Mindfulness" Buddhist Retreat: 8:30 am at UUS**

Join the Winding Path Sangha of Iowa City and the UU Buddhist Sangha for an all-day retreat led by Jack Lawlor, which will explore some of the simple but effective mindfulness tools available for reducing suffering and grounding ourselves during turbulent times. Registration is \$35 if paid before February 18th, and \$40 after that date. For more information and to download the printable registration form, visit www.windingpathsangha.org and navigate to the Day of Mindfulness page.

UUS Calendar for February 2019

A- Atrium
 C- Conference Room
 CW- Church-Wide
 FH- Fellowship Hall
 G- UUS Grounds
 H- Hickory Room (Sr. High)
 J- Juniper Room (Pre-K)
 K- Kitchen
 M- Maple Room (3-4)
 N- Nursery
 O- Oak Room (Jr. High)
 R- Redbud Room (1-2)
 REC- RE Commons
 S- Sanctuary
 W- Walnut Room (5-6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)	28 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	29 7 PM Secular Humanists (Old Brick)	30	31 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	1	2 5 PM Dinners for Eight (offsite)
3 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Racial Justice Ware Lecture Screening (H&O)	4 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	5 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee (C)	6 6 PM UUS Community Meal (FH)	7 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	8 11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct., IC) 6:30 PM CUUPs Food for Thought (Marsha Cheney's home)	9
10 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM <i>The State of the Society</i> Forum (S) 11 AM Accessibility Meeting (H)	11 6 PM Kiirtan (Sycamore Rooms) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll) 7:30 PM UU Book Discussion Group (Oaknoll)	12 7 PM Social Justice Coordinating Committee (C)	13	14 6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting (C) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	15 6 PM UU Board Game Club (Lucky's Market)	16
17 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C) 11 AM Racial Justice Circle (O) 3:30 PM UUVC Ethical Eating Class (C) 5 PM UUVC "Plantluck" (FH) 5 PM Dances of Universal Peace (REC)	18 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	19 7 PM Secular Humanists (Old Brick)	20 12:30 PM UU Grief Group (C)	21 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (Kin and Lula Palmer's home) 7 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (S)	22 5 PM OWL Overnight (RE Wing) 6:30 PM CUUPs Encounters (H&O)	23 11 AM UUVC Cooking Class (K&FH)
24 9:30 AM Service (S) 10:30 AM Social Hour (FH) 10:40 AM Inquirer Session (C)	25 5:30 PM Girls' Night Out (Red Ginger, IC) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	26	27	28	1	2 8:30 AM "Day of Mindfulness" Buddhist Retreat (CW)

Find more events by visiting our website calendar (www.uusic.org/upcoming-events) or by signing up for our weekly emails (www.uusic.org/news/weekly-email).

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – January 13, 2018

Board meeting minutes are available on the website or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

Present: Jane DeWitt (President), Jim Laughlin (Past-President), Amy Fretz (Vice-President), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex officio Interim Minister).

Guests: None.

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Pomrehn provided opening words followed by the chalice lighting and a brief check-in by Board members.

Consent Agenda & Announcements:

Consent Agenda items: Board Agenda; January Executive Committee Minutes; December Board Meeting Highlights & Minutes; December Congregational Meeting Highlights & Minutes; Minister's Monthly Report; Financials are not yet available to the Treasurer – Year-End report will be provided in February. Other items: Automated Locking System Upgrade & Contract Proposal, Cost Estimate, and Building Security Task Force Report.

The Board received the Consent Agenda; approved the congregational meeting highlights and minutes, the January Executive Committee minutes, and the December meeting highlights; and approved the December meeting minutes pending the discussed changes.

Reese Fund: In December 2017 the Board approved the allocation of \$100,000 from the Reese bequest to a *Jean Reese Named Endowment Fund*. The intent is for it to fund projects outside the scope of the annual operating budget. Policy and procedures have yet to be written that define the fund's use and outline project proposal submission and selection processes. Voelker will work in coordination with the Endowment Committee and Finance Council to develop the documents and submit to the Board for review and approval.

Automated Locking System Upgrade & Contract Proposal: Rev. Dowgiert presented a proposal put forward by Emma Barnum to upgrade the automated door locking system to a cloud-based system. There is a yearly contract fee for this service. The upgrade will allow authorized people to control the locks on the front doors from off-site. *The Board approved the upgrade and service contract.*

6-month Interim Ministry Assessment: The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Transitions office provides a standardized assessment and recommends that the Transition Team, the Board, and the Interim Minister each complete it after 6-months, one-year, and at the end of the Interim Ministry. After discussion, the Board agreed that over the next month each member will review and formulate responses to the items. During February's meeting the Board will discuss the assessment and collate responses. If necessary, a small group will meet after the Board meeting to finalize and submit the assessment to UUA.

Governance and Ministry Re-organization: The Board continued to discuss and operationalize the Governance and Ministry reorganization plan. Rev. Dowgiert recommended that the Board prioritize establishing the needed Board Committees, particularly the Governance/Policy Committee. Pomrehn agreed to serve as chair of the Governance/Policy Committee. He will work to recruit a few others (non-board members) to serve on the committee. Rev. Dowgiert commented that the "State of the Society" forum scheduled for 11 am on February 10th will provide an opportunity for her to share information about the reorganization with the congregation. She also shared that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities (UUCQC) undertook major Governance/Policy work prior to calling Rev. Jay Wolin in 2011 — noting that their website at www.uucqc.org has a lot of good information and policy documents.

Feldmann provided closing words. Higgins reported as Process Observer. There were no guests present. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. to closed session. The next Board meeting is Thursday, February 14, 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
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regarding mailed issues of the *UUS News*

UUS Staff

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Congregational Administrator: Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org)
Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Jessica Zimmer
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Director of Congregational Life: Peggy Garrigues
(dcl@uusic.org)
Music Director: Gloria L. Corbin (music@uusic.org)
Accompanist: Peng Zhang (accompanist@uusic.org)
Publicity Coordinator: Jeff Walberg (publicity@uusic.org)
Administrative Assistant: Nik Jakob (admin.assistant@uusic.org)
Childcare Coordinator: Anna Rode (nursery@uusic.org)
Facilities Coordinator: Lori Marshall (facilities.coordinator@uusic.org)
Building Steward: Ron Wright (admin@uusic.org)
Community Minister: Rev. Lois Cole (community.minister@uusic.org)

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To All Mail Subscribers:

In an effort to live up to our Green Sanctuary Congregation Accreditation, UUS is looking for ways to cut down on paper use. One way to save both trees, money, and volunteer hours is to reduce our list of printed newsletter subscribers. We understand that many of our congregants prefer a paper copy mailed to their homes, but that many more would be fine viewing the newsletter on our website or picking up a copy on Sundays.

After this issue, **we plan to remove all subscribers from our mailing list.** You can be added back to the list at any time by contacting the office. In order to receive the March issue by mail, please contact the office (319-337-3443 or admin@uusic.org) before Sunday, February 17th.

No action is required if you would like to be removed from the mailing list. PDF copies of the monthly newsletter are uploaded to our website at the end of each month. (Also consider subscribing to our weekly email or our Facebook page, if you haven't already, to get timely updates on UUS news and events).

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate this change. Thank you for helping us be a Green Sanctuary Congregation!