



THE UUS NEWS

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

March 2019

Sunday Services

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

March's Spiritual Theme is "Journeys"

March 3rd: "Sharing Our Memories Through Poetry," Susan Salterberg

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 or objects. Or even of lost memory. As time allows, members and friends will read their poems to the congregation.

March 10th: "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?

We will welcome new members at this service.

March 17th: "Wandering in the Wilderness,"

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

The book of Exodus is a powerful metaphor for the transformation that can take place when wandering in the wilderness. Our fast-paced, goal-oriented society doesn't allow much time for wandering. But maybe wandering is what it takes to find the Promised Land!

March 24th: "TBA," Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs

Rev. Eller-Isaacs is co-minister at Unity Unitarian in St. Paul, Minnesota. On this day, she begins her work with UUS as Transitions Coach, helping the congregation, Board and Search Committee through the process of searching for a new minister.

March 31st: "Stranger, Healer, Midwife, Fool: Companioning Families on a Spiritual Journey,"

Rev. Lois Cole

UUS Community Minister Rev. Lois Cole will explore how being a chaplain to children and their families at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital brings lessons about the Spiritual Journey, and the nature of resilience and hope in the face of illness and loss.

March's Social Justice Offerings Benefit the Inside Out Reentry Program

The goal of the Inside Out Reentry Program is to help former offenders returning to the community succeed. Everyone benefits when a returnee becomes a positive, contributing citizen. "We help people find work. We offer mentoring, support groups, legal assistance, a resource center, tutoring, and practical assistance—all with an emphasis on community building."

Cash or checks to UUS (Inside Out 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.

The offerings from the fifth Sunday, on March 31st, will go to the Common Fund of the Crisis Center. See the article on page 3. Thank you for your generosity to both of these helpful organizations.

Our Mission: *We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.*

Our Vision: *To be a loving, inclusive, and growing spiritual community. We celebrate life and a liberal tradition that leads social justice work, heals the earth, and nurtures the lifelong journey of mind and spirit.*

Our Seven Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



From Your Interim Minister

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Or so I was taught as a young person. We can only hope it is so. What we know to be true is that life is a journey from one state of being to another. Maybe more accurately, life is a layering and interweaving of multiple journeys. The journey through the seasons: winter to spring to summer to fall to winter again. The journey from

birth to childhood to adolescence to adulthood to old age (if we are so lucky) and the certainty of death. The journey through grief and loss. The journey from innocence to the wisdom earned by life experience. The journey through illness. The journey of relationship from isolation to intimacy. The journey of work and career and vocation. The journey of life's passions for truth and justice. The journey of faith from fear to love. These are woven together throughout life.

We are on a journey together here at the Unitarian Universalist Society, a time of transition from one settled minister to the next. Those who study change and transition tell us there are three predictable phases we all go through when life throws us the inevitable curve ball and we are asked to change:

First is ending, losing, and letting go. No easy task! Leaving my comfort zone? Letting go of the familiar to enter the unknown? Feelings of grief come with endings. Loss is part of the deal. Not that we must like it. Not that we must deal with it gracefully. But we do need to live with the reality of the ending. And this, my friends, is hard.

What comes next is an in-between time when the old is gone but the new isn't fully operational. Sometimes referred to as "the neutral zone," this phase is also known as "wandering in the wilderness"; a time when psychological adjustments and realignments are made—a time ripe with the possibility of transformation.

The third phase is a new beginning, emerging from the neutral zone—the wilderness—with a new identity, new energy and a new sense of purpose.

Each of us will move through these phases at our own pace, making the journey in our own time.

This is the journey of interim ministry, this time of transition: from an ending to a new beginning, a time of transformation, like the month of March, from lion to lamb.

I am ever so grateful to be on this journey with you.

—Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Congregational News and Events

Covenant Groups

In February, covenant groups delved into the sensitive issue of "Trust." Trust is a complex thing, to say the least. To some it's sacred, but sadly not to all. To many of us—maybe to all of us at some point in our lives—the violation of trust is a source of profound pain. Others may have abused our trust or we theirs. But trust earned and kept can be one of the most emotionally and spiritually rewarding experiences we ever have. Trust is the foundation stone of belief and of religious faith. Among the questions group members addressed in their discussions were: How do you define or recognize trust? Who has taught you the most about risking trust? Who or what have you never lost faith in? How has your understanding of trust changed over time?

If topics like this one intrigue you, you may be ready to join a covenant group. The covenant group program offers its members the opportunity to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while creating closer ties with other UUs. You can learn more about the program and how to join a group by contacting Jan Locher (locherj@mchsi.com or 354- 6260).

Freethinker Friendly Forum, March 10th

Rev. Diane Dowgiert will lead a forum on the Freethinker Friendly Congregation (FFC) designation on Sunday, March 10th, in the Sanctuary at 11 am after the service. The purposes for this forum are: 1) to inform the congregation further on the FFC designation, which is granted by the UUA's UU Humanist Association, 2) to respond to any questions or concerns congregants may have, and 3) to encourage support for this designation (it's similar to being a Welcoming Congregation for GLBT+ individuals).

Please try to attend, as it will be one of the last informational sessions prior to a vote at the May Congregational Meeting.

Calling UUS Children

Easter and Earth Day fall on Sunday, April 21st. A composer by the name of Ruth Moody wrote a song called "One Voice," which begs for the sound of children's voices. (Look it up on YouTube Music to hear the song being sung by young voices.) This is an invitation to all UUS children to prepare to sing the song with the ladies of the UUS Adult Choir on April 21st. Brief 15-minute rehearsals to learn the song are scheduled in the Sanctuary immediately after the Sunday morning services on Sundays March 10th through April 14th. (As a bonus, consider that the refreshment line will be shorter by the time the rehearsal is over!) Questions? Contact Gloria Corbin.

Scholarships for Regional or General Assembly

Because we want to encourage UUS leaders and members to develop connections and resources with the larger UU movement, UUS offers some scholarship support for the MidAmerica Regional Assembly (RA) and the UUA General Assembly (GA). Both are wonderful opportunities to meet other UUs, celebrate together in worship, and attend workshops on a wide variety of topics.

If you would like to apply for scholarship support, please fill out the Google survey here: bit.ly/2019RAGASupport (or request a paper copy from the office) by March 15th. (Please keep in mind that the hotel deadline for special rates at RA is March 5th.)

More information on the MidAmerica Regional Assembly, April 5th through 7th, in St. Louis, Missouri, can be found here: uua.org/midamerica/ra. More information on the UUA General Assembly, June 19th through 23rd, in Spokane, Washington, can be found here: uua.org/ga

Contact Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org) with questions or to be connected to others who have attended in the past.

Treats & Talents Auction, March 9th

If you haven't gotten your ticket for this year's Mardi Gras Treats & Talent's Auction & Dinner, now's the time! Find them on our auction website (<http://bit.ly/2019TTAuction>) or look for more details, including a downloadable form with the schedule of events and a FAQ, on our website: www.uusic.org/groups-activities/institutional-support-groups.

2019 Auction Poem

Each year, as part of the Treats and Talents Auction, Al Thomas writes a poem to kick off the event. Thank you, Al!

One Year In

*The old ones have a secret
Which they have told to me
And I will tell it now to you,
And wiser you will be.*

*Change is the only constant,
That's what the elders say,
With sweep of roof and leaning glass
And Sunday morn cafe.*

*Luxuries undreamed of
Are now our status quo.
Things we did not know to want
We will not lack no mo'*

*What changes lie around the bend
No mortal tongue can say.
The parson will advise us
And help us find our way.*

*Unto whom is given much,
Of them is much required.
These words of scripture, writ so large,
Serve well us to inspire.*

*But enough of all this serious stuff,
Away, dull bard, away!
There's fun around the corner
To brighten up your day.*

*For treats and talents are here again,
The auction long awaited.
And for a pittance you can buy
Things you've anticipated.*

*Joe B. will shine your shoes for you,
You can sing along with Mike.
Game nights and many dinners
With everything you like.*

*Pack up your money, lots and lots,
Be sure to fill your luggage.
And spend it all, it's only dough,
Remember, we've a mortgage!*

*Tempus is a fugitin',
So think of your donation
Of something good to offer,
Help make the celebration.*

—The Bard of Tower Court

Justice News and Events

UU Free Lunch Report

On a very cold Friday, February 8th, 29 dedicated UUS volunteers served 102 meals to Free Lunch Program guests. The main dish was loaded baked potatoes with homemade chili and a variety of other toppings. Side dishes included cooked vegetables, fresh vegetable salad, fresh fruit salad, and a variety of delicious desserts and beverages. The baked potatoes were generously donated by Leigh Nida, and the chili was made by UUS volunteers in the UUS kitchen at the Day of Service on Saturday, January 26th. Many thanks to Leigh and also to the Day of Service volunteers! At the end of the lunch, one appreciative guest came up to our volunteers and said "What a great lunch on such a cold day!"

Thank you 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. If you are interested in providing a main dish or would like more information, please contact Carmen Griggs at csgriggsiowa@gmail.com.

Secular Humanists, March 19th

The Secular Humanists will next meet on Tuesday, March 19th, at 7 pm in Old Brick's Common Room downstairs. Our speaker is Rev. Dr. Paul Knupp, Jr., who will present his experience in and suggestions on assisting inmates in starting a Humanist Group in a prison system. Simon Tunstall, a member of UUS and inmate, wishes to start a group at IMCC (Oakdale Prison). Joe Brisben and Mark Yuskis visit Simon nearly weekly and, along with others, are helping Simon with his request for commutation to the Governor. All are welcome! Contact Mark Yuskis at resdoggie@aol.com.

Fifth Sunday Offering to the Common Fund, March 31st

The Common Fund is an initiative of the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) that provides partial funding to the Crisis Center's Emergency Assistance Program. The program is designed to help people facing eviction or having their utilities cut off, or for buying bus passes, work uniforms, or boots to help people make it to new jobs. These funds have become a major force for preventing homelessness in Johnson County, although unfortunately many in need must still be turned away.

UUS already supports the Common Fund through annual donations from the Social Justice Coordinating Committee's budget. On March 31st, the Sunday offering will also be donated to the Common Fund, helping provide for more families and individuals in crisis.

CROP Walk, April 7th

This is the 50th year of the international CROP Hunger Walks. Last year more than 87,000 walkers in 800 locations in the U.S. raised in excess of 8 million dollars which provided food, seeds, tools, water systems, technical training, and much more to empower people to meet their own needs. Walkers and donors in Johnson County raised \$24,000, and a quarter of that went to the JC Food Bank to help people in our area.

Teams and individuals from UUS have participated in the local Walk for a number of years. (You may remember seeing the colorful paper feet on the walls of Channing Hall at 10 S. Gilbert, and last year, in our new Fellowship Hall.) Walkers are welcome to form teams or walk individually, and donors are invited to support them. This is definitely a family event. Stop by the Social Justice Table in March to learn more and register to participate.

Upcoming UUS Events

Find more information on all UUS events online (uusic.org/upcoming-events) or by contacting the office.

Sunday, March 3rd

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Nurturing Mind and Spirit Groups)
- **Racial Justice Circle:** 11 am in the Oak Room

Monday, March 4th

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

Tuesday, March 5th

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

Wednesday, March 6th

- **UUS Community Meal:** 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall (RSVPs appreciated: bit.ly/Mar19CommunityMeal)

Thursday, March 7th

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

Friday, March 8th

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

Saturday, March 9th

- **UUS Treats & Talents Auction**
 - **Children's activities:** 1 pm in the Atrium and RE Wing
 - **Mocktail Hour (ticket required):** 5:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall
 - **Dinner & Live Auction (ticket required):** 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 10th

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Realm Connection Software)
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal:** 10:40 am in the Sanctuary
- **Treats & Talents Cake Walk:** 10:45 am in the Atrium
- **Freethinker Friendly Congregation Forum:** 11 am in the Sanctuary (See details on page 2)
- **UUS Accessibility Meeting:** 11 am in the Hickory Room

Monday, March 11th

- **Buddhist Sangha:** 7 pm at Oaknoll
- **UU Book Discussion Group:** 7:30 pm at Oaknoll (George St. Building, 4th floor)

The Path Between the Seas by David McCullough was our February book but the weather intervened so we will discuss it along with our March selection, *There There* by Tommy Orange. You can also begin reading *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving, which is our selection for April.

Tuesday, March 12th

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

Thursday, March 14th

- **UUS House Ensemble Rehearsal:** 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **UUS Board of Trustees:** 6:30 pm in the Conference Room
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Saturday, March 16th

- **UU Vegetarian Community Ethical Eating Class:** 3:30 pm in the Hickory & Oak Rooms
- **UU Vegetarian Community St. Patrick's Day "Plantluck":** 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 17th

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Tour of Building and Outdoor Areas)
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal:** 10:40 am in the Sanctuary
- **Racial Justice Circle:** 11 am in the Oak Room
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** 3 pm in the RE Commons
- **CUUPs Encounters:** 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 18th

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

Tuesday, March 19th

- **Secular Humanists:** 7 pm at Old Brick (Details on page 3)

Wednesday, March 20th

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

Thursday, March 21st

- **UU Scrabble Group:** 1:30 pm in the Walnut Room
- **UUS House Ensemble Rehearsal:** 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 22nd

- **CUUPs Earthbeats:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 24th

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Q&A with Rev. Diane Dowgiert)
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal:** 10:40 am in the Sanctuary

Monday, March 25th

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

Tuesday, March 26th

- **Girls' Night Out:** 5:30 pm at Monica's (303 2nd St, Coralville)

Thursday, March 28th

- **UUS House Ensemble Rehearsal:** 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **UUS Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31st

- **Inquirer Session:** 10:40 am in the Conference Room (Intro to Volunteering Opportunities)
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal:** 10:40 am in the Sanctuary

Welcome Our Newest Members

Who are Joining UUS on April 10th



Craig Mosher

Craig grew up in Iowa City and attended University High School. He taught social work at University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, and Luther College in Decorah before retiring to Iowa City to be nearer to two of his children and their families. Craig is a carpenter and a woodworker. He was active with the Decorah Unitarian Universalists for 12 years and was glad to find a vibrant community of like-minded people here at UUS. He values UU openness to a variety of ideas and beliefs, and our commitment to social justice and the environment. He looks forward to friendship and support, spiritual and intellectual nourishment, and helping with programming on topics such as end-of-life issues and caring for the earth.

In the 1970s, Craig lived in an intentional community in San Francisco. When he retired to Iowa City, he decided to move into Prairie Hill, Iowa's first cohousing community. There he met Marcia Shaffer, his across-the-hall neighbor. Craig and Marcia are planning to be married in the spring.



Cheryl Tugwell

Cheryl is originally from North Carolina. She moved to Iowa City over 40 years ago for graduate school and is still here. She has a son, a bonus son, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren and loves spending time with all of them. In addition to spending time with family and friends, Cheryl enjoys reading, crocheting, and spending time on the beach. She values the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, our congregation's activism, and the chance to be involved in a variety of activities. Cheryl is hoping to find friendship, fellowship, spirituality, and interesting topics for reflection. She enjoys volunteering and plans to do some of that volunteering here at UUS.



Julie Reynolds and Mike Schmitz

Julie grew up in Aurora, IL, and moved to Iowa City in 2007 for dental school. She has been here ever since and is now on the faculty of the UI College of Dentistry. In her free time Julie enjoys yoga, cooking, and attending Broadway musicals. She plans to volunteer for events and would also consider serving on a committee or helping with surveys. Julie and Mike have two children—Ari who is two, and Lina who will be one year old on the 4th of July. Mike and Julie value the welcoming spirit of Unitarian Universalism. They both appreciate the religious education for kids, education about social issues, and the strong community for the entire family.

Mike grew up near Waterloo, Iowa, and has also lived in London and Kansas City. He graduated from the University of Iowa and now works as Director of Technology at Rantizo, a startup agricultural drone spraying company with a focus on reducing chemical inputs in agriculture. He enjoys cycling and woodworking in his free time. Mike has jumped right into serving on the stewardship committee. He also looks forward to volunteering in ways that involve manual labor or technology, and to discovering new areas to become passionate about.

Welcome Our Newest Members



Erica Reschly

Erica is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and works as a mind-body psychotherapist in Coralville. She has practiced meditation and yoga for decades, and occasionally teaches yoga and mindful eating. Previously, she was a member of a Mennonite Church, but has found a community of like-minded individuals here at UUS. Erica moved to Iowa in 2009 with her husband, Matt Krasowski, and their three daughters: high school juniors Madelyn and Justine, and fifth-grader Miriam. They came here to be closer to family. In her free time, Erica loves hiking and bird watching. She appreciates the RE program and the Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum. Erica values our commitment to social justice and supports our connection to the Center for Worker Justice. Here at UUS she hopes to find strength and support to live out her values.

Dana and Steve Van Abbema

Dana grew up in Wisconsin and has also lived in Minneapolis and Maryland. She has a PhD in human development and has worked as an assistant professor of psychology and as the director of a college career center. She currently works in Human Resources at the UI Center for Advancement. Dana and Steve have two daughters—Avery (12) and Macy (8)—and appreciate the broad religious education program offered here. Dana volunteers at Hancher, with the Penn Elementary PTO, in the UUS RE program, with Heartland Greyhound Adoption, and with T.R.A.I.L. of Johnson County. She and their girls volunteer at Free Lunch and care for shelter cats. Dana also enjoys gardening. She values a network of like-minded people, opportunities for service, and having a multigenerational community.

Steve grew up in Orange City, Iowa, then moved to Iowa City in 1991, where he and Dana met. Steve works as construction manager and Helping Hands manager for Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity. He enjoys the outdoors—fishing, hiking, and camping—cooking and entertaining, sporting events, carpentry projects, and spending time with his family. He values the open-mindedness, open-heartedness and religious diversity of Unitarian Universalism. He looks forward to volunteering on some carpentry projects here, as well as serving on a hospitality team and helping further develop a partnership between UUS and Habitat for Humanity. Steve and Dana were previously members of the very small UU Congregation of the Chesapeake in Maryland.

March Birthdays

<i>Philip Beck</i>	<i>Diane Martin</i>
<i>Aiden Bettine</i>	<i>Kathy McDonald</i>
<i>Alan Bohanan</i>	<i>Shelby Myers</i>
<i>Reed Cheyney</i>	<i>Laurie Neuerburg</i>
<i>Lois Cole</i>	<i>Alison Oliver</i>
<i>Kay Eginton</i>	<i>Ellie Primmer-Tamayo</i>
<i>Betsy Fischer</i>	<i>Mark Profit</i>
<i>Audrey Friestad</i>	<i>Jenny Reynolds</i>
<i>Leo Gerlach</i>	<i>Linda Rice</i>
<i>Rochelle Honey-Arcement</i>	<i>Susan Salterberg</i>
<i>Jean Hood</i>	<i>Jane Slaymaker</i>
<i>Kathleen Kingman</i>	<i>Barbara Staib</i>
<i>Jodi Linley</i>	<i>Sullivan Turner</i>
<i>Jan Locher</i>	<i>Mary Vasey</i>
<i>Rory Marshall</i>	<i>Elaine Waples</i>
<i>Katharine Marshall</i>	<i>Jerry Wetlaufer</i>

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

Sunday Attendance

January 27th:	139 total 106 service, 33 RE
February 3rd:	167 total 124 service, 43 RE
February 10th:	149 total 122 service, 27 RE
February 17th:	47 total: RE cancelled (weather)
February 24th:	Services cancelled (weather)

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – February 14, 2019

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), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex officio Interim Minister).

Absent: Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee).

Guests: Deb Schoelerman (representing Land Ministry and Building & Grounds).

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. DeWitt provided opening words followed by the chalice lighting and a check-in by Board members.

Consent Agenda & Announcements:

Consent Agenda items: February Board Agenda; February Executive Committee Minutes; January Board Meeting Highlights & Minutes; Minister's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Report; January Financial Statements; 2018 Year-End Financial Statements; Signage Funding Request (Peggy Garrigues); and Library Task Force Charge 01-2019 (Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman). *Other items:* UUA Interim Ministry Appraisal form; UUS General Endowment Investment Policy Statement (Ken Atkinson, Endowment Committee); UUS Dedicated Endowment Investment Policy Statement (Ken Atkinson, Endowment Committee); UUS Landscaping Plan 1-10-19 Proposal (Deb Schoelerman).

DeWitt added a five-minute fundraising policy review discussion to the agenda. She also shared that the UUA interim appraisal instructions specifically state that the Board and the interim minister should complete the form separately. Therefore, the Board will meet without Rev. Diane for that agenda item. The completed appraisals will be shared and discussed later. There were no email votes during the past month. Noted in the Executive Committee minutes was the approval of a \$500 funding request for parking and shuttle service signage. *The Board received the Consent Agenda; approved the January meeting highlights and minutes; and approved the February Executive Committee minutes pending the discussed changes.*

Treasurer's Monthly and Year-End Reports, Budget: The 2018 year-end financial statements show that revenues fell slightly short and expenses ran over budget for a net loss of approximately \$30,000. Rode noted that uncertainty estimating building-related expenses, unexpected expenses during our first year in the building, and ministerial transition expenses account for the overage. Currently, pledges toward the 2019 Operating Budget total \$420,355 – \$48,000 short of our budgeted pledge revenue. Over the next couple of months, the Board will communicate with the Stewardship Committee, monitor budget projections, and identify solutions.

Endowment Fund Investment Policy Statements: UUS is required to provide the University of Iowa Community Credit Union (UICCU) with Investment Policy Statements (IPS) before transferring endowment funds. The Endowment Committee submitted a General and a Dedicated Endowment Fund IPS to the Board for approval. *The Board approved both.*

Six-Month Interim Ministry Assessment: The Board (without Rev. Dowgiert) spent the last 40 minutes discussing the 27 items on the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Interim Ministry Appraisal form. During the meeting, Feldmann graciously took notes and formulated a consolidated response for each item. *DeWitt will finalize the appraisal and share with Rev. Diane and the UUA Transitions Office.*

Landscaping Funds Request: Deb Schoelerman shared that Land Ministry (LM) has been working on plans to add trees, shrubs, and grasses to our property. David Selmer, a landscape designer with Sustainable Landscape Solutions, developed a comprehensive design for UUS that the Board viewed via a "fly through" video that he provided. LM expects that implementation of this design will take several years but have set as a priority the purchase of trees. *The Board approved the allocation of funds (not to exceed \$9,500) from the new facility account to purchase trees that will be planted in 2019.*

Fretz provided closing words. Laughlin reported as Process Observer. Board members reviewed the tasks that they agreed to do. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

The UUS News

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