



# THE UUS NEWS

May 2020

**WE ARE A WELCOMING, SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE HOME. WE ACT ON OUR VALUES:**

- \* HONOR THE EARTH
- \* ADVOCATE FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- \* FOSTER DEEP CONNECTIONS
- \* EMBRACE THE ONGOING QUEST FOR MEANING

## *Sunday Services*

Join the Virtual Service via Zoom each week at [bit.ly/UUSVirtualService](https://bit.ly/UUSVirtualService). Meeting ID: 422-482-660

Or join via phone: Find your local number: [bit.ly/UUSServices\\_FindZoomNumber](https://bit.ly/UUSServices_FindZoomNumber).

*The Zoom Meeting will open at 9:45 am, with the service beginning at 10. A time for virtual fellowship will follow.*

### **May 3rd: "Weaving the Threads," Rev. Diana Smith**

A tapestry can be woven in many ways, with threads old and new, of joy and sorrow, and of justice, love, courage, learning, and growth. Join us online or by phone as our ministerial candidate leads us in reflecting on the tapestry we're weaving together.

*A Congregational Meeting will follow the service. See page 3 for details.*

### **May 10th: "Mother's Day and Flower Communion," Rev. Diane Dowgiert & Jessica Zimmer**

The tradition of the Flower Ceremony was created by Unitarian martyr Norbert Capek. For Capek, it was a ceremony of consecration, a solemn dedication to a larger purpose. During this multigenerational service we'll celebrate the dedication of mothers everywhere and renew our dedication to each other and to life.

### **May 17th: "Thresholds," Rev. Diane Dowgiert & Jessica Zimmer**

May is a threshold month with all its usual graduation and commencement ceremonies, marking the completion of one phase of life and the beginning of another. These large in-person gatherings will not be taking place this year, so this service will be in recognition of everyone who is graduating or achieving a milestone.

*A Congregational Meeting will follow the service. See page 5 for details.*

### **May 24th: "The Promise of This Opening," Rev. Diane Dowgiert**

Thresholds are spaces that are neither here nor there and at the same time, both here and there—both/and spaces that encompass the past and the future, where endings and beginnings meet. This is a threshold time in the history of the world. Will we choose to go back to old ways or will we choose new ways of being?

### **May 31st: To Be Announced**

Look for details on this service on our website and weekly publications later this month.

### **May's Social Justice Offerings Benefit Table to Table**

Table to Table (T2T) is the original food rescue organization in Iowa. In the past 24 years, T2T has kept 12 million pounds of food from going to waste! This amazing feat has been accomplished with a small staff and many helpful volunteers.

During this difficult time when the number of volunteers is smaller because of the coronavirus pandemic, new helpers have appeared to fill in where needed. And recently, in addition to the regular routes, T2T has joined in the "Food With Love" initiative, transporting prepared food from restaurants to social service agencies. Your generosity will help to feed needy families.

Cash or check donations can be given [online through Realm \(onrealm.org/uusic/-/give/SJOffering\)](https://onrealm.org/uusic/-/give/SJOffering), or mailed to the office. (Write checks to UUS, with T2T on the memo line.) You can also text "GivetoUUSIC Offering \$--" to 73256.

### **Sunday Service Attendance**

#### **April 5th:**

~105 Zoom participant households

#### **April 12th:**

~136 Zoom participant households

#### **April 19th:**

~132 Zoom participant households

#### **April 26th:**

~160 Zoom participant households

# Congregational News and Events



## From the Interim Minister's Study

May's theme is *Thresholds*. A threshold is a powerful place—a place of choice, a place of departure, a place of movement from one way of being into another. Consider the threshold, that piece of wood under your front door, and how it serves as both an entrance and an exit, a

place for hellos and goodbyes. Threshold experiences, whether recognized or not, are part of our everyday existence. Significant crossings are marked with ceremony and celebration—birth and birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, coming of age, graduation, retirement, and death—these are marked with rituals which become like touchstones, calling up memories of the event. Thresholds are places of memory and hope.

This is a threshold time at UUS, a time when you are saying hello to a new minister and saying goodbye to another. This is also a threshold time for the whole world. Due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, we have left behind some old ways of being and we don't know for sure what will happen next.

The thing about thresholds is that in the crossing, we always carry something of the past with us. The point of power comes in deciding what that something will be.

What I will carry with me from my time at UUS is the way in which you as a congregation embody your covenant of love and service through your acts of welcome, hospitality, and care—for each other, your community, and the world. I will always be grateful for the trust you placed in me as we did the work of interim ministry together.

My last Sunday with you will be June 7th. We will find creative ways to mark this threshold event with celebration, ceremony, and ritual, even if we have to do it over physical distance.

Good endings are a hallmark of good beginnings. I wish you well in beginning a new chapter with a new minister. You have done your work well in the making of this decision. I will be looking for good things to come out of your ministry together in the coming years.

Travelling this threshold with you has been a pleasure and a privilege.

Yours in the interim, Rev. Diane

## Contacting Our UUS Members and Friends During the COVID-19 Crisis

Rev. Diane announced a few weeks ago that we would be trying to contact all of those that we have listed as members and friends of UUS to see how everyone is doing. We are grateful for the 23 volunteers, along with a number of staff members who are making calls.

So far we have made direct contact, mostly by phone, some by email, with about 250 out of the 490 members and friends we have listed in Realm. About another 100 have received emails or phone messages, but we have not heard back from them yet. If you haven't received a call or phone message yet, don't despair! You should be contacted soon, or you might also check your email or phone messages. Contact the UUS if we may not have your current phone or email.

Most people are very appreciative of receiving a phone call just checking in. Most of the responses are that people are doing fine ... considering. Some are concerned about family members, some are facing challenges like getting groceries delivered, some are facing financial challenges from being laid off or a family member being laid off. Some needed help with Zoom, and several volunteers provided Zoom coaching by phone.

Parents are having to learn ways to adapt to both working from home and having their children home with. As expected, many people are experiencing stress from adjusting to new patterns of daily life and connecting virtually.

Many people also said they are finding ways to help neighbors and family members when they can, and many are finding ways to offer support to our larger community in the Coralville and Iowa City area as well.

Any urgent needs are being passed along to Rev. Diane and the pastoral care team, and UNI-Care will be trying to match up people who have offered help with those who need logistical help like having things delivered. Thank you to the many who are offering to help somehow but aren't sure what you can do. If you have ideas how we can support one another, let us know!

We aren't able to offer to respond to all needs, and we haven't finished all the calls, but it is great to hear about the connections being made and emotional support being offered through reaching out to our UUS community!

## COVID Care Donations

Some have asked how they can help members of the society who are experiencing difficulty with finances during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to serve that need, UUS is accepting special contributions to our Ministerial Discretionary Fund (MDF). Donations can be made online through Realm ([onrealm.org/uusic/give/MDF](https://onrealm.org/uusic/give/MDF)) or by check mailed to UUS (2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA 52241). Please put "MDF" on the memo line (we will assume that any donation to the MDF made outside of the annual Christmas Eve offering is earmarked for COVID Care unless otherwise stated). Your donations will be listed on your year-end giving statement as a tax-deductible gift. Earmarked donations will be held for COVID Care requests until June 2021, after which they will be used according to the general guidelines for the MDF for congregational and community assistance.

If you are a member or friend of UUS in need of assistance due to COVID-19, please contact Rev. Diane Dowgiert (cell: 520-465-8804 or [minister@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org)). Peggy Garrigues ([dcl@uusic.org](mailto:dcl@uusic.org)) will administer the Fund over the summer when we are between ministers (June 7th through August 1st).

## From Your Ministerial Search Committee



In early April, the Ministerial Search Committee announced Rev. Diana Smith as our recommended candidate for the next settled minister of UUS.

Rev. Smith is currently serving as Interim Minister at Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church in Woodinville, WA. She earned her Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School and also holds a Master of Planning degree from the University of British Columbia. She worked in Olympia, WA, for ten years, coordinating environmental projects for state and local government. During that time, she was deeply involved in a crisis intervention hotline program, and was very active in the Olympia UU congregation.

We held an extended virtual Candidating Week that kicked off on Wednesday, April 22nd, with a virtual potluck supper over Zoom with over 60 UUS households participating. It was the fourth anniversary of our groundbreaking for UUS in Coralville—it seemed like an auspicious day for another new beginning! The potluck gathering was a chance for Rev. Diana to talk a bit about herself and answer some of the questions from the congregation.

Rev. Diana met with the Board on Thursday, April 23rd, and also participated in the Family Fun Night on Friday, April 24th. She led the service on April 26th and attended several Zoom meetings a day during the week of April 27th in order to meet with UUS teams, committees, and staff. Rev. Diana will also lead the May 3rd service, after which a congregational meeting will be held to vote to call her as our next settled minister. See below for more information about the vote.

More information about Rev. Diana and her candidating week with us is available on the UUS website: [www.uusic.org/rev-diana-smith-chosen-as-minsterial-candidate](http://www.uusic.org/rev-diana-smith-chosen-as-minsterial-candidate).

From the Ministerial Search Committee: Alison Oliver (co-chair), Dave Martin (co-chair), Jerry Wetlaufer, Carolyn Johnson, John Bowman, Carol Adamson, and Jodi Linley.

## Special UUS Congregational Meeting, May 3rd

We will hold a special congregational meeting on May 3rd, 2020 at 11 am, immediately following the service. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote to call our new settled minister, Reverend Diana Smith, as recommended by our Ministerial Search Committee. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held over Zoom, and voting will be done by paper absentee ballot and electronic voting, with all votes due by 11:15 am the day of the meeting.

Our current Bylaws state, "Election or dismissal of a minister must take place at a meeting of the Society duly called for that purpose and requires that:

- i. 40% of the members eligible to vote are present
- ii. of those members present 80% vote in the affirmative."

A meeting packet with voting instructions was sent to members on April 22nd. The agenda can be found below. Due to time restraints, every eligible member will receive both a paper absentee ballot and an emailed invitation to vote electronically, unless they have indicated they only want electronic correspondence. Voting members should choose only one method of voting. Contact the office ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)) or Board President Amy Fretz ([amymhere@gmail.com](mailto:amymhere@gmail.com)) if you have questions or are having technical difficulty with the voting process.

### UUS Congregational Meeting MEETING AGENDA—May 3rd, 2020

*Instructions on electronic voting and paper absentee ballots were distributed to voting members ahead of the meeting.*

#### OPENING

Chalice Lighting & Opening Words	John Bowman, Ministerial Search Committee
Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum	Amy Fretz, Board President

#### ACTION ITEMS

Ministerial Search Introduction and process	Dave Martin and Alison Oliver
Vote to call Rev. Diana Smith as our settled minister	Amy Fretz
Rev. Diana Smith's acceptance of the invitation to be UUS's Settled Minister	Amy Fretz

#### CLOSING

Extinguishing the Chalice & Closing Words	Carolyn Johnson, Ministerial Search Committee
Motion for Adjournment	Amy Fretz

## From Your Board President, Amy Fretz

The Governance Committee of the Board began holding monthly Governance Town Halls earlier this year. At the first meeting in March, Jane DeWitt discussed the updated Right Relations Agreement. We continued that topic on April 19th, and the resulting conversation indicated that it would be beneficial to share a little more background on the Agreement, as well as on a few other topics that came up.

### Right Relations Agreement

We have had a Right Relations Agreement for many years. In fact, there was a framed version of it at 10 S. Gilbert that we now have hanging in our new building. Some of you may have been a part of its creation. The Right Relations Committee is one of the oversight committees the Board formed after Rev. Diane joined us almost two years ago. The committee members are Jane DeWitt, Colleen Higgins, Sharon Booker, and Jim Olson. The committee has been working to revise the old Agreement, and the updated version will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on May 17th. Both the original and updated versions are posted on our website for your review.

A Right Relations Agreement is an “agreement” on how we as a congregation will relate to one another. The purpose of such an “agreement” is to create a safe place where all can talk, listen, and be heard. This agreement, or covenant, is important because it helps remind us how we should treat each other.

An introduction added to the new version sums up the purpose of the agreement:

*The well-being, strength and reputation of this Unitarian Universalist Society depend on our relationships. We believe that members bring their best intentions into their relationships with the society members and friends, youth and children, staff, leaders, and clergy. Through this covenant we make a formal commitment to act with mutual trust and respect in our community. This covenant is a public statement to remind each of us of our explicit responsibilities in maintaining a healthy congregation.*

You may be wondering, what happens if you fail to follow this agreement? There are no Right Relations Agreement police. Sometimes we will fail. It gives us an opportunity to realign with the covenant. You cannot be forced to act in this manner. It is the hope that you will consider this as a standard of relating to others at UUS and beyond.

The reason the agreement is voted on by our congregation is because it is a covenant on how we agree to be with one another as members. It is not a board-driven policy for governance. It is brought to the Board and accepted by the Board through a vote before being brought to the congregation.

### Congregational Authority

Another question raised during the April Town Hall was: how is governance set up at UUS? What authority does the congregation wield? Firstly, the congregation votes on Bylaws. Bylaws are considered a legal document that dictates how an organization governs itself. They are written by Board members when an organization first forms. Then they are revised and updated as determined by the Board. Once the Board votes to accept changes made, it must be brought to the congregation for a vote of final acceptance. The congregation can vote down the changes. Our revised Bylaws were voted and accepted by the congregation in January 2020.

The congregation also wields authority by choosing who will serve on its Board of Directors. All Board members are volunteers within the Society. By voting to elect members to the Board, the congregation is agreeing that these people will carry forward the important business of the Society, acting in the best interests of the whole, and advance our work towards our mission and vision.

### Board Policy

At UUS we have created five oversight committees, which include at least one board member and members of the congregation. The Governance Committee is one of these, and it currently includes Paul Pomrehn, Joe Rasmussen, Mary McMurray, Tom Larkin, and me, Amy Fretz. Right now, we are working on a Board Policy book, which will help guide the board and staff in how to carry out the operations of the Society. Policies are general statements of guidance. Procedures are specific to how things get done. The Board will create policies that govern governance (i.e., safety, money, mission, and vision).

The congregation does not vote on policies. The Board is entrusted with this work by the congregation. However, the Governance Committee will be uploading the Board Policy draft as it moves along so the congregation can see the work we are doing. Our Board has chosen to have this work be visible because we have a commitment to transparency. If a congregational member would like to be involved in this process, they should talk with the Leadership Development Committee about becoming a Board member or nominate themselves for the Board when we vote for elected positions at the Congregational Meeting on May 17th. Another way to get involved in this work is to talk to a Board member about joining the Governance Committee.

It is also important to note that when the Bylaws passed in January, authority was given to the minister as Head of Staff. In so doing, the minister is responsible for directing the day to day operations of the ministry program. The minister and staff will create a separate Ministry Policies book that will govern ministry and programs. Ministry policies and procedures must follow any general requirements or expectations specified in the Board Policy book.

### The Minister

One final subject that was discussed at the April Town Hall was about the minister. It was pointed out that the minister is voted on by the congregation. This is true. Our Ministerial Search Committee, through a year-long process directed by the UUA, is entrusted with finding our ministerial candidate and presenting us with a final candidate at the end of that process. We then spend time with that candidate and ultimately, vote to accept or reject this person as our new settled minister. This is the only staff person that the congregation votes to accept or to terminate. This is also the only staff person the congregation directly evaluates. The minister is responsible for evaluating, hiring, and terminating all other senior staff persons (although there is a process for the hiring of other senior staff persons that involves the congregation).

### New! Weekly Virtual Chats With Amy

Starting May 7th, join me weekly on Thursdays at 7:30 pm to talk more about governance, board work that is happening, or just to socialize! These meetings will be casual and a time to share and have open communication. (Join at [zoom.us/j/99244879282](https://zoom.us/j/99244879282), Meeting ID 992 4487 9282, or call in to 312-626-6799.)

## UUS Groups Meeting in May

Please note that many events listed on the calendar ([www.uusic.org/upcoming-events/calendar/](http://www.uusic.org/upcoming-events/calendar/)) as still occurring in person have been canceled or moved to a virtual setting because of COVID-19. Contact the event's group leader or check upcoming weekly emails for updates and information on how to join. (If you are a group leader and would like to set up a Zoom meeting for an upcoming event, contact the office ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)) or Peggy Garrigues ([dcl@uusic.org](mailto:dcl@uusic.org)).

### Sunday Virtual AV Volunteers

We are looking for people willing to help out with our virtual services each week, to act as host of the Zoom meeting and to run the PowerPoint. Both tasks are relatively simple and require only basic knowledge of Zoom or PowerPoint. The staff have created easy-to-follow instructions, and a regular pre-service run-through each Sunday helps make sure everyone on the worship team is ready and on the same page. If you are interested in serving as an AV volunteer you can sign up directly for a Sunday at [bit.ly/UUSVirtualAVVol](http://bit.ly/UUSVirtualAVVol). Contact Emma Barnum at [admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org) with questions.

### Virtual Inquirer Sessions for May

We will continue for now to offer a general Q&A after our Sunday Zoom services for those who are newer to learn about Unitarian Universalism and our UU Society here. But Peggy and Membership Associates are exploring some ways to offer opportunities at other times of the week to learn about groups, to go more in depth about the history and values of Unitarian Universalism, to prepare for membership, and for newer folks to get to know each other. Stay tuned for details in coming weeks.

### Multi-age Bridging Recognition for School Transitions, May 17th

Every year we recognize our graduating Sr. High Youth with a bridging ritual both to honor their transition to emerging adults and to offer our blessing for wherever their journeys take them next. We are also aware that with area schools officially closed for the remainder of the year, many school transitions will not be honored as they normally would. So this year we are going to extend our bridging ritual to celebrate all the major school transitions.

If you have a preschooler who will be advancing to kindergarten; an elementary student advancing to Jr. High; a Jr. High student that will be transitioning to Sr. High; a graduating Sr. High youth; and/or any of their home-school equivalents and would like to participate in this ritual of recognition and blessing in our Sunday Service on May 17th, please let Jessica Zimmer know at [education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org). We are still working out how bridging will look in an online space if we are still closed that Sunday, but in the meantime, please let Jessica know if you have any questions.

### No 5th Sunday Offering in May

Normally for months with five Sundays, one is designated as a "5th Sunday," and the money donated to the offering during the service goes to a special agency or cause chosen by the Social Justice Team. We have decided to skip doing a 5th Sunday in May to maximize giving for our monthly partner, Table to Table. Find a description and ways to donate on the front page of the newsletter.

### UUS Congregational Meeting, May 17th

We will hold our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17th, at 11 am, immediately following the service. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on nominees for our elected committees for terms beginning June 2020. We will also vote on the updated Right Relations Agreement (see the President's Report on page 4 for more information). Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will most likely be held over Zoom, and voting will be done by paper absentee ballot and electronic voting. Eligible members will receive a meeting packet in the mail and via email with voting instructions and more information. The draft agenda can be found on page 7. Contact the office ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org)) or Board President Amy Fretz ([amymhere@gmail.com](mailto:amymhere@gmail.com)) if you have questions.

### UUS Faithify Campaign to Benefit Chico Mendez

At Faithify, the UU crowd-sourcing site, UUS members have launched a fundraiser to benefit the Chico Mendes Reforestation Project in Pachaj, Guatemala. UUS has sent three intergenerational service-learning groups to plant trees at Chico Mendes, and participants have become close to the people of this small village in the Guatemalan Highlands. Sadly, because of COVID-19, we canceled our trip this year. Nine other international volunteer groups also canceled, and the community of Pachaj found itself without income for the Project workers, homestay families, and Spanish teachers.

The Faithify campaign has a goal to raise \$3,000, and the funds raised will help pay for seeds, fertilizer, tools, supplies, and staff salaries to maintain the young trees and protect the forests. Families who provide homestays and Spanish teachers will be compensated.

Here is a link to read more about the project and to donate: [faithify.org/projects/guatemala-reforestation](http://faithify.org/projects/guatemala-reforestation). The campaign will end on May 15th.



*Pictured above: UUS member Deb Schoelerman with Chico Mendez Director Jorge Armando Lopez Pocol and his wife Paulina Claudia López Alvarado*

## UU Free Lunch Report

On Friday, April 10th, COVID-19 prompted UUS volunteers to serve lunch at the Free Lunch Program in a new and creative way, our first “in the bag” Free Lunch!

David Jepsen generously provided 120 turkey and cheese sandwiches (cheese only for vegetarians) in memory of his wife Mary, whose birthday is this month. The sandwiches were made and delivered by John’s Grocery.

Free Lunch volunteers rose to the occasion and gave cash donations needed to buy all the sides for the bag lunches—fresh fruit, cookies, and chips—which were then assembled by Diana Miller and Carmen Griggs and transported to Free Lunch. Bonnie Penno, Russ Lenth, and Vicki Siefers donned their masks and rubber gloves, bagged the sandwiches, and distributed our bag lunches to 114 very appreciative Free Lunch diners. As always, it was a great team effort!

See a photo journal of the day submitted by Susan Eberly below!

To learn more about the many ways you can participate in our Free Lunch Program, please email Carmen Griggs at [csgriggsiowa@gmail.com](mailto:csgriggsiowa@gmail.com).

### Free Lunch in a Time of Coronavirus



Everything but the sandwiches, in the bag and ready for delivery thanks to Diana and Carmen. That’s a lot of bags!



(Left) Russ and Vicki and a boatload of turkey and cheese sandwiches, ready to go into the bags. For our vegetarian diners, we also had plain cheese sandwiches on hand.

(Right) Vicki and Bonnie with Friday’s menu.



Thank you to all the great UU Free Lunch volunteers who helped make this happen!

## Covenant Group Report

In March, groups thought about “Wisdom.” What does it mean to be wise, to possess wisdom (or lack it), and for UUs to become a People of Wisdom? Could we all be wise in different ways?

April found many of us contemplating the timely topic of “Liberation” from a safe distance apart, wondering when this period of social isolation will end. But although that’s a powerful place to start, in truth “liberation” is a much more complicated idea than merely recovering freedom of movement. Many believe the true work of liberation begins before the moment the key turns in the lock and we’re released—begins instead inside each of us once we have the courage to admit that beyond all locks or social commands, we are often held prisoner by ourselves. We’re held prisoner by routine, by habit, by fear, by the past, sometimes even by our most cherished beliefs—if, instead of beliefs, we see them as unshakable truths. Nearly 2,000 years ago Greek philosopher Epictetus said: “It is our attitude toward events, not events themselves, which we can control. Nothing is by its own nature calamitous—even death is terrible only if we fear it.” More recently, Buddhist philosopher Thich Nhat Hanh has written: “Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness. If, in our heart, we still cling to anything—anger, anxiety, or possessions—we cannot be free.” Were they writing about the same thing, liberation, with different words? How would you define “liberation” or explain what becoming “liberated” means to you?

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 (354- 6260, [locherj@mchsi.com](mailto:locherj@mchsi.com)).

### May Birthdays

<i>Valerie Bowman</i>	<i>Terri O’Berry</i>
<i>Aidan Burdinie</i>	<i>Cora Patterson</i>
<i>Ian Cawley</i>	<i>Sally Peck</i>
<i>Sam Cochran</i>	<i>Bonnie Penno</i>
<i>Mary Dix</i>	<i>Alex Penno</i>
<i>Henry Gilbertson-White</i>	<i>Charity Rowley</i>
<i>Brian Glidewell</i>	<i>Mike Schmitz</i>
<i>Sally Hartman</i>	<i>Dick Siefers</i>
<i>Carolyn Howe</i>	<i>Dahlia Stevenson</i>
<i>Jan Hubel</i>	<i>Hayden Stevenson</i>
<i>Teddy Ingersoll</i>	<i>Dave Tokuhisa</i>
<i>Nik Jakob</i>	<i>Harper Uhl</i>
<i>Cameron Johnson</i>	<i>Doug Wallace</i>
<i>Cassie Kaminsky</i>	<i>Mary Kathryn Wallace</i>
<i>Brenda Linley</i>	<i>Daniel Walls</i>
<i>Elaine Mahler</i>	<i>Mary Lou Welter</i>
<i>Clara Martin</i>	<i>Laura Westfall-Christophel</i>
<i>Micah Neuerburg</i>	<i>Kristin Wildensee</i>

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

**Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees**  
**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—April 8th, 2020**

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

**Present:** Amy Fretz (President), Joe Rasmussen (Vice-President), Jane DeWitt (Past-President), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Allison Bettine (Secretary), John Raley (Finance Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex-officio)

**Guests:** Dave Martin (Ministerial Search Committee), Allison Oliver (Ministerial Search Committee)

Board President Fretz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. *The Board entered a closed session with the Chairpersons of the Ministerial Search Committee.* After the closed session ended, Rev. Dowgiert provided opening words.

**Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda items: March Board Meeting Minutes, Minister's Report, Treasurer's Report, and Financials

*The Board received the Consent Agenda and approved the March Board Meeting Minutes, April Executive Meeting Minutes, Minister's Report, Treasurer's Report, and Financials.*

**Finance Committee Updates:** Raley updated the Board on the status of the transition to the new accounting system being completed by Emma Barnum. It was noted by the Board that Barnum's recent increase in salary was approved at the February Board Meeting in conjunction with the decision to move accounting in-house. Regarding facility rentals and in collaboration with staff, Raley has compiled the facility rental history which will be presented to the Board at the next meeting for consideration.

**Finances & PPP Loan:** Fretz reports that despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the community, congregational finances are stable. Fretz then presented on Paycheck Protection Loans and the Board discussed the opportunity. *The Board voted to approve that the Finance Committee pursue funding through a PPP Loan.*

**Congregational Meeting Planning:** Fretz facilitated a conversation regarding the upcoming congregational meeting and Call to Ministry. The Board discussed off-site voting processes necessary during a time of social-distancing due to community spread of the COVID-19 virus. *Recommendations of the UUA were considered and the Board is to discuss options further.*

**Assembly Delegate Designations:** *The Board voted to approve Vicki Siefers and Dave Martin as the delegates for Regional Assembly with Sally Hartman and Colleen Higgins as the delegates for General Assembly.*

**Closing:** Rode read the closing words, Rasmussen gave process observer comments, and Fretz adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. —Submitted by Allison Bettine, Secretary

**UUS Congregational Meeting**  
**MEETING AGENDA—May 17th, 2020**

*Instructions on electronic voting and paper absentee ballots to be distributed to voting members ahead of the meeting.*

OPENING

Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum	Amy Fretz, Board President
Chalice Lighting & Opening Words	Michael Honey-Arcement, Board Trustee

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to approve minutes from January Congregational Meeting	Amy Fretz
<i>Find the full text soon at <a href="http://www.uusic.org/about-us/board-governance/board-agendas-minutes">www.uusic.org/about-us/board-governance/board-agendas-minutes</a></i>	
Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members	Amy Fretz
Presentation of Leadership Nominees (see page 8 for bios)	Jim Olson, LDC
Nominations from the Floor & Vote to Elect:	Amy Fretz
Board of Trustees	
Leadership Development Committee (LDC)	
Endowment Committee	

Presentation of the Right Relations Agreement	Jane DeWitt, Past President
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*Find the full text at [www.uusic.org/about-us/board-governance/bylaws-policies](http://www.uusic.org/about-us/board-governance/bylaws-policies)*

Vote to Approve Right Relations Agreement	Amy Fretz
Announcements	

CLOSING

Motion for Adjournment	
Extinguishing the Chalice & Closing Words	Rev. Diane Dowgiert

## 2020 Elected Position Nominees

The Leadership Development Committee is pleased to present the following nominees for the open seats on UUS elected committees beginning in June of 2020. These positions will be elected at the May 17th Congregational Meeting.

**Vice President: Alan Swanson** has a BA in English and an MA in journalism from the University of Iowa. He was the first marketer for the UI Press's academic publications of poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction and also designed book jackets and a UI Press book. Later he became the first communications/creative director of the UI Center for Advancement. On his 30th anniversary, then senior vice president there, he departed for a second career in real estate with Blank & McCune and now is co-owner/co-broker of the company.

He's served on many area and state boards, including the Iowa Able Foundation, Iowa Architectural Foundation, Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism (current), United Way of SE Iowa, Iowa City Area Association of Realtors, Iowa City Public Library Foundation (president), Summer of the Arts, Riverside Theatre (president), Iowa City Community Theatre (current), Englert Theatre, and the Stanley UI Museum of Art (current). He's also served on various nonprofit development or campaign committees, including for Shelter House, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, the UI's Museum of Art, and UUS. He's a member of the National Association of Realtors, Public Relations Society of America, and the Congress for New Urbanism. He enjoys community involvement and support, keyboard performance for nonprofit events, graphic art, architecture, interior design, and world travel.

**Treasurer: Michael Pavelich** grew up in South Beloit, IL, went to Notre Dame for his BS in chemistry, and SUNY at Buffalo for his PhD. At the latter he met, fell in love with, and married Pat, also a chemistry grad student. Over the next decade they had four kids and now also have eight grandkids. They lived for 30 years in Denver, CO, where he was a professor at the Colorado School of Mines and Pat eventually joined USGS as an analytical chemist. They moved to Iowa City in 2006 to be nearer to two of their kids' families and are delighted with that choice. They were both Catholics from birth and were members of the Newman Center. Pat became discouraged with the Catholic church for many reasons and started looking around. She found UU and they began attending regularly when the new building opened. They love it, especially its welcoming of spiritual diversity and its vibrant community. UU is a home. They have worked on hospitality teams and now lead one. Pat got them into a very neat covenant group. Michael was a member of the 12-person "Mission and Vision" team led by Kirk Witzberger. He also plays trumpet in Gloria's UU band. He would be honored to serve the UU community as its treasurer.

**Trustee: Lucy Choisser** grew up in southern Illinois and south Florida and went to the University of Miami for her bachelor of education degree, to Southern Illinois University for her MS in rehabilitation, and to the University of Oregon and the University of Iowa for doctoral study. Lucy was employed at Grant Wood Educational Agency for 25 years as an educational consultant to local school districts in the seven-county area. Lucy met Sam Cochran in Columbia, MO, and they have lived in the Iowa City area since 1982. Lucy and Sam explored different churches and became members of the UU Society in 1992 as the place to raise their daughter, Kate Cochran.

Over the years Lucy has participated in a number of activities and committees in the society, including teaching religious

education classes, making dishes for Free Lunch, hosting canvass dinners, participating in a covenant group, volunteering in the office, and attending Girls' Night Out. Lucy has served on the Care and Welcome Home Wednesday committees. Since retirement she has volunteered at the Coralville Food Pantry, on a HOA committee, as a University Retiree Association program committee member, and at Iowa City Hospice.

**Leadership Development Committee: Sue Otto** has been a UU member since January 2007. She was on the Board from 2010-2013, serving as president from 2011-12, when the Society renewed their efforts to gauge the needs and desires of the congregation for new facilities. She served on the New Facilities Committee (and on the Land, Kitchen and AV subcommittees) from 2013 to 2017. She served on the 2016 search committee for the director of congregational life and ministry. She was a worship associate for Nancy Haley (2007-2008), Benjamin Maucere (2008-2011), and Steven Protzman (2014-2017). Over the years Sue has participated in a number of service and social justice projects and events and has been part of three covenant groups. She went to the US/Mexico borderlands twice—the first time for the 2009 service trip to Mexicali and other towns along the southwestern border and the second time this January to Brownsville, TX, to provide assistance to asylum seekers detained in Matamoros, Mexico.

Sue is an associate professor emerita in the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Iowa. Before her retirement in 2015, she was director of the University of Iowa Language Media Center and co-director of the FLARE Second Language Acquisition doctoral program. For more than 35 years, she devoted her career to creating foreign language instructional software and examining the effects of multimedia and web-based applications on language acquisition and cross-cultural understanding.

**Leadership Development Committee: Susan Salterberg** has been a UUS member for 15 years. She values this community and has served in various capacities. She is a former board member and currently is a worship associate. Susan loves spending time outdoors, with friends and family, and singing. Currently, in her work world she reviews college admissions applications, giving her some interesting perspectives on 18-year-olds. She also teaches online courses for UNI.

**Endowment: Liz Swanson**, PhD, RN, completed her BSN degree and MA in medical-surgical nursing at The University of Iowa (UI) College of Nursing and her PhD in student development and personnel from the UI College of Education. Her career at UI has included staff nurse, faculty member, investigator, collegiate administrator, and central administration. She is currently associate professor emeritus.

She has worked in partnership with the Center for Advancement to secure private gifts for the College of Nursing. She actively serves on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) and Tools and Resources for Active Independent Living (TRAIL). She serves as chair for the fundraising committees of IWF and TRAIL. Currently, she serves as a hospitality leader and on the Stewardship Committee for UUS.



# The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society

2355 Oakdale Road

Coralville, IA 52241

Website: [www.uusic.org](http://www.uusic.org)

Office Phone: 319-337-3443

**Our Mission:** We are a welcoming, spiritually diverse home. We act on our values: Honor the Earth; Advocate for racial and social justice; Foster deep connections; Embrace the ongoing quest for meaning.

**Our Vision:** We aspire to be a more inclusive, loving, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. We will defend and celebrate the Earth, confront racial and social injustice, and nurture deep connections.

## 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.

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## UUS Staff

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Diane Dowgiert (minister@uusic.org)

**Congregational Administrator:**

Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org)

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:**

Jessica Zimmer (education@uusic.org)

**Director of Congregational Life:**

Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org)

**Music Director:** Gloria L. Corbin (music@uusic.org)

**Accompanist:** Aura Strohschein (accompanist@uusic.org)

**Publicity Coordinator:**

Jeff Walberg (publicity@uusic.org)

**Administrative Assistant:**

Nik Jakob (admin.assistant@uusic.org)

**Religious Education Assistant:**

Anna Rode (re.assistant@uusic.org)

**Community Minister:**

Rev. Lois Cole (community.minister@uusic.org)

## UUS Board of Trustees, 2019-2020

**President:** Amy Fretz

(720-207-4513, amymhere@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Joe Rasmussen

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**Past President:** Jane DeWitt

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**Secretary:** Allison Bettine

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**Finance Trustee:** John Raley

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**Trustee:** Michael Honey-Arcement

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**Trustee:** Colleen Higgins

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**Trustee:** Paul Pomrehn

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