



# THE UUS NEWS

April 2021

**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

## *Upcoming Sunday Services*

Join the Virtual Service via Zoom each week at [bit.ly/UUSVirtualService](https://bit.ly/UUSVirtualService). Meeting ID: 422 482 660, Passcode: 006311

Or join via phone: Find your local number: [bit.ly/UUSServices](https://bit.ly/UUSServices) [FindZoomNumber](#).

*Each week the Zoom meeting will open at 9:50 am, with the service beginning at 10. A time for virtual fellowship will follow.*

### **April 4th: “Returning Again, Becoming Anew,” Rev. Diana Smith**

This Easter Sunday, join us for an All Ages service as we reflect on and celebrate the old story of what happened to a prophet named Jesus, what has happened in our world this past year, and how transfiguring events invite us into writing our stories about what life means.

### **April 11th: “Whatever Happened to the Parable of the Good Samaritan?”**

**Pamela Ayo Yetunde**

### **April 18th: “Shared Ministry in a Time of Covid,” Rev. Diana Smith**

### **April 25th: “Pathways to Healing and Regeneration,”**

**Rev. Yadene Hailu & the Green Sanctuary Team**

### **April’s Social Justice Offerings Benefit The Domestic Violence Intervention Center (DVIP)**

This year hotline calls have increased by 28% and DVIP has provided 76% more in emergency sheltering expenses to families needing help because of the pandemic. A grant helped a number of families to be housed elsewhere while makeshift walls were constructed in the shelter to provide extra rooms. Community contributions have helped with rent deposits, application fees and set-up utility fees. The need is still great and we can help! Thank you.

Cash or check donations can be given [online through Realm \(online.through.Realm.org/uusic/-/give/SJOffering\)](https://online.through.Realm.org/uusic/-/give/SJOffering), or mailed to the office. (Write checks to UUS, with DVIP on the memo line.)

### **April Birthdays**

<i>Joe Barrash</i>	<i>Russ Lenth</i>	<i>Anna Rode</i>
<i>Emily Cooper</i>	<i>Marcela Linley</i>	<i>Sarah Ross</i>
<i>John Elson</i>	<i>Dawn Marshall</i>	<i>Theresa Ullerich</i>
<i>Linda Fisher</i>	<i>Mary McCann</i>	
<i>Nathan Gall</i>	<i>Craig Mosher</i>	If you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter (or removed), contact <a href="mailto:dcl@uusic.org">dcl@uusic.org</a> .
<i>Liam Gupta</i>	<i>Gerald Nordquist</i>	
<i>Linda Hartford</i>	<i>Peter Palmer</i>	
<i>Adam Ingersoll</i>	<i>John Raley</i>	
<i>Jan Jacobson</i>	<i>Tabitha Rasmussen</i>	
<i>Sandy Keller</i>	<i>Tom Rocklin</i>	
<i>David Kramer</i>		
<i>Susan Kramer</i>		

### **Past Sunday Service Attendance**

- February 28th:** ~129 Participating Zoom Accounts
- March 7th:** ~135 Participating Zoom Accounts
- March 14th:** ~110 Participating Zoom Accounts
- March 21st:** ~130 Participating Zoom Accounts
- March 28th:** ~125 Participating Zoom Accounts



## From Your Minister

Dear Ones,

As we move past the spring equinox and into April, springtime showers, warmth, and sun are helping the world around us spring forth. For many of us, our spirits and hope are beginning to rise with the change of the seasons, even as the fatigue of a year of pandemic life continues to wear on us.

As our monthly theme changes to “Becoming,” it feels ironic that we’re entering into a time of reflecting on what we’re becoming as a congregation, on how we’ve been changed by the pandemic, and what that calls us to be in the world and how it calls us to be together, even as we’re so exhausted, worn down by the relentlessness of this year, and anxious for change. It’s hard, if not nearly impossible, to find the mental and emotional space and clarity that we so dearly want for discernment.

And yet, here we are. Discerning together about becoming, about what the lessons of the pandemic are that will help us create a better new normal, about how we’re called to be together.

As I sit here, feeling this irony and hearing it in exhaustion, anxiety, and confusion that show up in so many conversations, I’m wondering if this irony is really so strange after all. So often when we’re in a space of change, of becoming that demands discernment, all is not calm. We’re often tired and harried from a dramatic change that has just happened or that we see coming. We’re often feeling pulled in many different directions. We’re often aware that something is happening that will change everything. We’re in the midst of a whirlwind. And thus the need for discernment, the need for both community and stillness to help us in this process.

So now, as we move into a time of community discernment, as we create time and spaces for reflecting together, I invite you to first remember back to times of change in your life. How did you feel? Who were you with? What helped you with your discernment about how to proceed? Are there some experiences

when you felt more fully held, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally, in the process than others? What was different about those times? What does this tell you about what spaces you’d like to create in your life now? How might you be able to do that?

Once you’ve had some time to reflect on that, and hopefully begin creating some spaces to help you, I invite you to reflect on some questions that the COVID Team is using as we discern what this congregation is becoming, what the pandemic has taught us about how we might create a better new normal, and how we are called to be together as we move through this next phase of the pandemic:

- Who, what groups, are most on your heart as you think about coming back to in-person gatherings?
- What concerns and questions do you have? What concerns and questions might others have? Are there things you don’t have words for?
- What do our principles, our values, and our covenants ask of us and tell us?
- How might we as a congregation help all of us navigate the emotional, spiritual, and mental stresses of this next phase of the pandemic?
- What types of communities might help us be nimble and create spaces for different needs?

The COVID Team will be holding Town Halls on March 30th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and on April 1st from 10 to 11 am to discuss UUS’s newly updated phases and hear from members about what’s on your heart. Then the team will be holding another set at the end of April and early May as we move further into physical reopening. I hope you’ll join in these discussions and discernment, and you’ll share what’s on your heart whether by attending a meeting or by reaching out to a team member.

As we move into and through this month of becoming, may you find ways to create the spaces that will help nurture you and ways to help create spaces that will help nurture others.

Love and Blessings,

Rev. Diana

## UUS COVID Update

In March, UUS's Board of Trustees approved updates to our COVID reopening phases. We are currently in phase 2 and will soon move to phase 3 if community transmission levels remain where they are now. (Find the updated phases on our website: [www.uusic.org/about-us/covid-19-info-updates](http://www.uusic.org/about-us/covid-19-info-updates).)

As the COVID Team has been working on reopening plans, we are being mindful of how we can create both online and in-person spaces. We know that many members have questions and concerns about the phases, what they mean for individuals and the congregation, how we'll ensure that different needs are met. We don't have all the answers yet—the pandemic keeps challenging us in that way—and have more plans to develop as we move deeper into physical reopening phases.

In Phase 2, small groups of 10 people or less (from up to 7 households) may schedule meetings on the UUS grounds.

In Phase 3, outside group limits are increased to 12 people (from up to 10 households), and small groups of up to 8 people may schedule meetings inside the UUS building.

For both Phases 2 & 3, the following guidelines apply:

- People at risk are encouraged to stay home. Anyone who is sick, not feeling well, or has been exposed should stay home.
- Meetings at UUS require advance scheduling with staff by a group leader and attendance must be taken.
- Masks are required for those over 5 years and social distancing of 6 ft. must be observed with anyone outside of the same household.
- Good hand-hygiene practices must be observed (use of sanitizer and handwashing), and surfaces and equipment must be disinfected before and after use.
- No singing or wind instruments.
- The front vestibule is open for supply pickup & drop off.
- Restroom access is available.
- Anyone entering the building must sign in and out and observe all requirements, follow all posted UUS COVID guidelines and regular policies, and watch for new signs and information.
- Any UUS groups meeting in person must follow all guidelines for the current Phase regardless of where the meeting is held.
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID after visiting UUS MUST inform a member of the staff.

## From Your Board President, Joe Rasmussen

### *Who Are We and Where Do We Go?*

The UUS Board of Trustees is adopting a new planning model as part of our shared ministry governance structure. At a special meeting on February 25th, the Board and Reverend Diana completed the first part of planning for the future. That requires writing up to three Open Questions to pose to the congregation for discussion each year. We call them Open Questions because they do not have yes or no answers. Instead, they engage all of us in a discussion of who we are and what we want to be in the future. The Open Questions for discussion during 2021 are as follows:

- What makes UUS unique and makes you want to be a part of it?
- Are you aware of or thought of opportunities that exist for UUS to reach a broader community?
- What have we learned from the pandemic and what can we use from this experience to nourish and grow our deep connections?

The Board is currently working on the method in how we can informally engage UUS members in exploring these questions in the coming months. It is our hope that these questions will help us examine what purpose UUS serves and how we meet our shared mission and vision. Please consider these questions and engage with us as we prepare for our future.

The next step in our planning process will be a June 19th Board retreat that engages both retiring and newly-elected Board members. This all-day activity includes covenanting work between the members and will focus on drafting our first Annual Vision of Ministry. This is a goal-setting document that establishes a few specific goals for the coming church year. The Open Question discussions combined with the Annual Vision of Ministry bring us into an annual evaluation process. It is our hope that these translate into our budget decisions for 2022.

If you come by the church building in the coming months, you will see some changes taking place. The Board has approved several projects that have been planned or need immediate attention. The bio-cell near the parking lot has an erosion problem that will require rebuilding part of one wall. At the same time construction will take place on a new memorial garden space east of the sanctuary and a pathway being built to connect to a lower gathering space south of the building using memorial and endowment funds. A great change will take place at some point in the fellowship hall. A donor has stepped forward to fund constructing a cedar wood ceiling in the hall. The donor(s) wish to remain anonymous, but we will all benefit from their generosity with our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

As we emerge from our pandemic isolation rest assured that events are moving forward. Stay Safe. Stay Engaged. Peace.

## CommUnity (Crisis Center) Baby Shower

Diapers, formula, and other baby essentials are expensive. CommUnity (the Crisis Center) doesn't always have them in stock. Throughout this month, please help out by picking up any baby essentials and bringing them to the foyer at UUS.

## COVID Town Hall, April 1st

The COVID Team will be holding town halls on Tuesday, March 30th, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, and on Thursday, April 1st, from 10 to 11 am. Both will be held via Zoom ([Link to Join Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 994 8323 0158, Passcode: 085760)

During these town halls, the team will be discussing UUSs newly updated phases and hearing from members about your questions and concerns as we move into phases 2 and 3 and begin planning for phase 4. You can read about the updated phases here: [www.uusic.org/about-us/covid-19-info-updates](http://www.uusic.org/about-us/covid-19-info-updates).

If you can't attend one of these town halls, we invite you to review the updated COVID phases chart and PowerPoint on our website (linked above), reflect on the questions from Rev. Diana's column on page 2 of this newsletter, and talk with a member of the COVID Team.

The Team will be holding another set of town halls at the end of April and in early May as we move further into physical reopening.

## UUS Easter Egg Hunt, April 3rd

On the weekend of April 2nd through 4th, we will have a physically distanced Easter Egg Photo Scavenger Hunt. Families are invited to come to UUS to search out and photograph the Easter Eggs hidden at UUS.

There are two ways families can participate and enter for their Easter Egg Hunt prizes. First, we will have an in-person hunt on the morning of Saturday, April 3rd, from 10 am to 12 pm, where staff will have goodies on hand.

If you are not able to attend on Saturday, you are welcome to come between 5 pm on Friday, April 2nd, and 5 pm on Sunday, April 4th (The trails will not be lit, so we do not recommend you come after dark). Then email Jessica Zimmer ([education@uusic.org](mailto:education@uusic.org)) your photos from the hunt to get a prize delivered. Instructions and tip sheets will be in the entryway.

Please be aware we will also be following UUS's COVID guidelines and Phased Opening Requirements (see page 2).

## CUUPs Metaphysical and Healing Properties of Crystals and Stones, April 8th

Join the Owl Moon Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) on Thursday, April 8th, from 8 to 9:30 pm via Zoom for an evening exploring the properties and uses for crystals and stones. Throughout the ages, crystals have been valued for their energy and power. Crystals are often used to increase, refine, and direct magical, divinatory, and healing work. We are delighted to welcome Paul Bellus from the Prismscape Gems & Healing Center to guide us on an exploration of the properties and uses of crystals. This workshop will cover crystals as conscious, living organisms; the role crystals play in humanity's evolution; some historical and contemporary uses of crystals; and why might a crystal's color, shape, and formation be something to consider.

Please feel free to have crystals or stones you would like to show the group or ask questions about on hand during the workshop. There will be time for questions and discussion. Look for a Zoom link on our calendar or in an upcoming weekly email. Contact [cuups@uusic.org](mailto:cuups@uusic.org) with questions.

## Covenant Group Report

In March, groups tried to answer the question, “What Is It Like to Be a People of Commitment?” Commitment is a big word—one of the biggest, in fact. We all commit to something or someone—a career, a partner, a child, a community. Perhaps a goal in life, a dream we’ve had since childhood. These commitments help shape us; they define and reveal who we really are. But they aren’t always easy to maintain. How hard has it been for you to commit and remain committed? From where do you draw the strength, the passion, the faith, or maybe just the stubbornness to stay committed? Are there special types of commitments we make as UUs? Commitments that define our Society for the world?

The covenant group program offers its members the opportunity to share 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)).

## UUS Free Lunch Program Report

After February’s frigid weather, UUS volunteers Bonnie Penno, Sherry Dolash, Lori Marshall, Ellen Junk, and Jan Jacobson, as well as our Free Lunch guests, welcomed much more temperate, almost Spring-like weather on Friday, March 12th.

Our lunch included chicken strips, thanks to the great generosity of Maxine Carlson, and side dishes of potato salad, baked beans, and juice were paid for by donations from many UUS Free Lunch volunteers. One guest came back to the serving window at 1105 S. Gilbert and shared “I just love the chicken. Thank you so much!” Sixty-three meals were served at 1105, and 25 meals were packed and delivered to the Day Shelter at the Robert A. Lee downtown for a total of 88 meals served. Leftovers were packaged and placed in the cooler for later use.

Bonnie Penno reports that volunteer Lori Marshall was “a woman with a mission” doing some deep cleaning and organizing that was met with grateful appreciation from Free Lunch Managers. She also praised new volunteer, Jan Jacobson, for being “as efficient as a veteran!”

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

## Green Sanctuary Team

### *Celebrate the Week of Earth Day at UUS*

April 17th through 24th is the week of Earth Day! Watch the Wednesday emails for more details about this year’s Drawdown Eco-challenge, as well as learning activities, playful observations, and seasonal rituals that will be available on our UUS land. Learn about birds, trees, the green features of our land and building, and things you can do to address climate change. Come on your own schedule or on April 17th or 24th to explore our grounds with family members or friends.

The Land Ministry, Green Sanctuary, and CUUPs Teams are all helping UUS to celebrate Earth Week. Look for more information in this newsletter and future communications from UUS!

## More From Green Sanctuary Team

### *Green Challenge from Tide & Your Green Sanctuary Team*

To save the planet, Tide—and your green Sanctuary Team—invite you to join us and quit using warm or hot water for laundry. Doing your laundry with cold water can help save the planet, and save you some money along the way. That would eliminate the power consumption required to heat cold water. And, by the way, Tide says cold water is just as effective at cleaning all your clothing and it will last longer.

If this goal is met, Tide says it will have the same impact on greenhouse gas emissions as removing about a million cars from the road for a year. “There is no tradeoff. You will save \$150 a year in energy costs, your garments will last longer, and by the way, you’re helping to save the planet,” Shailesh Jejurikar, CEO of Procter & Gamble’s fabric and home care division, said in an interview. “It’s a beautiful win-win-win if we get this right. More and more consumers want to do something. We are trying to give them a chance to take their ordinary daily actions, and make them have an extraordinary impact.”

### *The Race to Save the World Documentary Screening*

The Green Sanctuary Team will be setting up virtual screenings of a documentary featuring UUS member Miriam Kashia, among others, which will be released on Earth Day. Tickets will cost \$10, with half of the proceeds benefitting UUS. A panel discussion is being planned to follow the screening period.

Synopsis: *The Race To Save The World* is a climate change film like no other. Instead of focusing on paralyzing facts and numbers, this inspiring feature takes a unique approach by following passionate activists, ages 15-71, who are in the trenches fighting for a livable future. These brave climate warriors put their lives on the line to push for change, regardless of the personal cost. Emmy award-winning filmmaker Joe Gantz brings an urgent and intimate portrait of the protests, arrests, courtroom drama, and family turmoil these activists endure as they single-mindedly focus their attention on the goal of creating a more sustainable world for future generations. You can view the trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/520076942>.

Miriam shares the following message: “This congregation generously supported me on my march across America with the Great March for Climate Action that is featured in the film. You hosted a wonderful potluck dinner for us when we came through Iowa City, and many of you housed my Marcher friends. You will see some of them in the film. The film is not your typical gloom and doom, heartbreaking, “we’re screwed,” scary climate film. Nor is it filled with data and charts and stats that make your head spin. The RACE is dynamic, inspiring, upbeat, and exciting. It’s about ordinary folks (like yours truly) who got outside their comfort zone and did something real, powerful, and meaningful to make a difference about our global climate crisis.”

More information on the dates and times for the UUS screening period and discussion will be shared in the weekly emails and on our website in the coming weeks.

## 2021 Nominees for Elected Positions

The Leadership Development Committee is pleased to present the following nominees for the open seats on UUS elected committees beginning July 1st of 2021. The election will be held at the May 23rd Congregational Meeting.

Whenever there is a vacancy on a UUS elected body, the Board appoints a successor to fill the vacant position and appointees serve until the next congregational meeting, when they are formally elected to complete the remainder of the term. This spring, Kris Canfield stepped down from the Endowment Committee and Carmen Griggs was appointed to replace her for the remainder of her term, which ends in June 2024. We are grateful for all these UUS members who are willing to serve in leadership roles.

### **Rochelle Honey-Arcement, Board Vice-President:**

Rochelle's family started attending UUS in the mid-90s when she was in High School. She joined the congregation when she was in college at the University of Iowa where she got her bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Therapeutic Recreation. She then moved out of state for graduate school where she joined the local Unitarian Universalist congregation. She and her husband, Michael Honey-Arcement, were married in the old building on Gilbert St. and they started attending services together. Throughout her time with the congregation, Rochelle has served in a variety of roles including co-chairing the Accessibility Committee, teaching RE with various ages, working in the childcare room, working with the Young Adults Group, serving on the Hospitality Team, Serving Free Lunch, singing in the choir and playing in the string ensemble.

With her master's degrees in Social Work and Health & Disability Rights, Rochelle has worked in a variety of social service jobs, most recently as Director of Mobile Crisis Outreach at CommUnity Crisis Services. She is now a clinical therapist in Tiffin, IA, and has also been working with COVID Recovery Iowa, a FEMA grant that provides free virtual counseling and support to any Iowan affected by the pandemic in any way. In addition to teaching at a Montessori preschool, she uses her teaching skills to provide training sessions for providers and the community on a variety of mental health topics.

Social justice and human rights have been passions of Rochelle's for her entire life. She looks forward to serving our congregation as we explore the issues facing our world, our country, and our local community. The principles of Unitarian Universalism are essential to the way Rochelle strives to live her life and she is excited to share that commitment with service to the congregation.

### **Diana Henry, Board Trustee at Large:**

Diana grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, went to the University of Cincinnati for a BS in deaf education, Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri for an MEd in developmental reading, the University of Iowa for MA in learning disability, and the University of Iowa for a Certificate in Museum Studies. She met her future husband, Joseph Henry, at Lincoln University. After marriage, they moved to Massachusetts, where he received his master's degree from Boston University. A few years later, they moved to Iowa City in 1977. Her husband has played an extensive role in the academic community.

He held an administrative position at the University of Iowa Graduate College to recruit, mentor, and maintain students of color. Diana taught for 38 years in public education, beginning her career in Washington, D.C., later in Dayton, Ohio, Boston, Cedar Rapids, and eventually Iowa City. She retired from the Iowa City Community School District in 2008. In 2014 she began working at the African American Museum of Iowa as an education assistant; in August 2020, she retired. Joseph retired from the University of Iowa in December 2020.

Diana has long been a UUS friend, having a family background connection (on her father's side) regarding the role of Unitarian Universalism in Cincinnati, Ohio. However, she didn't become an official member of this Society until 2006. Her involvement at UUS includes working in the RE department, helping with the free lunch program, serving on the pastoral care committee, hospitality team, assisting as a worship associate, and the Committee for Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM). She participated in writing the current mission and vision statement. Also, Diana has been a consistent member of the Racial Justice Team since its inception and participated in the first Wells Spring group at UUS from 2018-2019. Several years ago, she went on one of the service trips to Guatemala.

In the community, Diana has served two terms on the League of Women Voters of Johnson County. She is currently working with the League's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. She is a member of the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, serving on the subcommittee for voter engagement. Also, she is an original member of the Soul & Blues Committee, which is part of the annual Iowa Summer of the Arts programming for Iowa City. Lastly, as a member of the Tau Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she currently serves on its Educational Advancement Foundation subcommittee. She is honored to be nominated to serve as a Trustee at Large on the UUS board.

### **Hazel Seaba, Board Trustee at Large:**

Hazel joined the UUS in 1975. She grew up as a Methodist in Michigan and came to Iowa City in 1967 for graduate school in pharmacy. In 1968 she married Peter Seaba, an engineer, and they had one son. She was widowed in 2012. Other than six years in Madison, Wisconsin, her career has been at the University of Iowa. Retiring in 2015, she is an emerita professor and associate dean of the College of Pharmacy. In her later career, she developed a service-learning course that took students to a Mexican community each spring for over ten years until COVID. It was particularly rewarding to introduce students to service in a less advantaged community. Current service activities include active membership in Rotary International and League of Women Voters of Johnson County. Until COVID, she also delivered Meals on Wheels.

During her undergraduate education, Hazel visited a Unitarian Church and found that the values resonated with her beliefs. As a young adult in Iowa City she sought out the UUSIC and became a member. Her recent UUS activities include membership in Committee on Congregational Life and the Ministry (CCLAM), helping with the Treats and Talents Auction, participation in a covenant group, Girls Night Out, dinners for 8, and a hospitality team.

**(Continued next page)**

**Dave Gallaher, Leadership Development Committee:**

Dave is a retired middle school principal who joined UUSIC in 2018. He grew up mainly in Iowa, attended college at UNI, and then after graduation joined the Army. He served as a Russian linguist in Turkey. Dave has two children and five grandchildren who live in Iowa and Colorado.

Dave's professional career included teaching seventh-grade math, junior high counselor, and then a middle school principal in Newton, Iowa. Prior to COVID times, he was an occasional substitute teacher at Southeast Junior High School.

Currently, his passions involve Pickleball, woodworking, gardening, hiking, biking, canoeing, and pulling garlic mustard.

Dave's UUS service includes singing in the choir, watering trees, mowing the lawn, helping with building playscape items, being a hospitality team leader, and serving as Habitat for Humanity volunteer coordinator.

**Ron Pile, Leadership Development Committee:**

Ron has been a member of UUS since June of 2012 and has been involved many activities and committees. He has been a worship associate, served on the original Communications Committee, was a "sound guy" at the previous building at 10 S. Gilbert, has been on Hospitality Committees, and a member of a covenant group. He is on the Prison Ministry Team and has been active in the UU Vegetarian Community. He has also participated in many UUS activities like Rummage in the Ramp, Love Bus, and Pride parade.

In the community, Ron has volunteered with the Writers' Workshop at the Iowa Medical Classification Center (IMCC, also known as the Coralville Prison) and has been a mentor and volunteer at Inside Out Reentry Community, which serves people returning to Johnson County after incarceration as well as currently incarcerated individuals. He has a passion for social justice issues, racial justice, and criminal-justice reform.

Ron retired as an airline pilot in 2012 after working at United Airlines for twenty-five years. In retirement, besides volunteering in the community, he enjoys nature photography, feeding the many birds around his house, and trying to write the Great American Novel (although he finds that a frustrating and difficult endeavor). He also enjoys occasionally drinking a beer or two with good friends. Ron and his lovely and talented wife, Sharon Beckman, travel the world at any opportunity and have taken many inspiring trips together.

**Bruce Alexander, Endowment Committee**

Bruce Alexander came to Iowa City in 1976 having grown up in Montezuma, IA, and attending college in Des Moines and Minneapolis. He retired in 2013 as an Emeritus Professor in the University of Iowa Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine, Department of Psychiatry with his teaching and clinical practice at the Iowa City VA Medical Center. Now in 'retirement,' he works as a contract data manager for the Iowa City VA Research Department.

Bruce started attending UUS 11 years ago after meeting his wife, Mary Losch, who is a long-time member. He joined in 2018. In UUS he has found a welcoming, religiously diverse faith home where members demonstrate their faith in social action. Attending General Assembly in Kansas City in 2018 gave him an appreciation of UU's national and international work.

Currently, Bruce is a five-year member of a UUS hospitality team, has served two years on the Building and Grounds Committee and the UUS Habitat for Humanity Committee. Last year he was elected Treasurer of UU Solar LLC.

Outside UUS, he is a 28-year volunteer for Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity, currently serving on the Construction Committee, and has attended four Jimmy Carter Work Projects. He was a founding member of the Board of Trustees for Action for Africa, a local nonprofit that provides medical supplies to East African countries, and is on the Advisory Board of the Johnson County Pickleball Association, where he can't wait to start playing again when it is safe to do so. His family includes five children and four grandchildren.

**Carmen Griggs, Endowment Committee (term ending 2024)**

Carmen was born in Iowa and was raised on a farm near Washington, Iowa. She received her BA in English from UNI and taught high school English, first at West High in Waterloo, and then at Washington HS in Washington, Iowa. While teaching, Carmen took Saturday and Evening classes and received her MSW from the School of Social Work at the UI. Seeking a related but new career path after 13 years of high school teaching, she went back to school full-time and received her Ph.D. in Student Development in Postsecondary Education at the UI in the College of Education.

Carmen and her life partner, Diana, moved to Boston in 1988 where Carmen worked at The Boston Conservatory of Music, Dance, and Theater as the V-P for Administration and Student Affairs and later as the V-P for Student Affairs/Dean of Students. While in Boston, Carmen and Diana were members of Arlington Street Church, a historic UU church in Boston's Back Bay. Carmen was on the Personnel Committee and the Ministerial Relations Committee, and she also served on ASC's governing board (the Prudential Committee) twice, once as the co-chair of the Pru. Massachusetts approved gay marriage in 2004, and Carmen and Diana were proud that ASC was the first church in the country to marry a gay couple. They also married later that summer.

After 26 years in Boston, Carmen and Diana retired in Iowa City to be close to family and to live in a progressive community with many of the advantages of a large city. They were happy to find a supportive and welcoming community at UUS. Carmen is on the UUS Free Lunch Team and is a member of both the Personnel Committee and the Historical Records Committee. She is also one of the original members of the Nighthawks Covenant Group, a group that is very dear to her. In addition to her service at UUS, Carmen enjoys reading, taking classes from the UI Senior College and the IC Senior Center, traveling, and attending performances at Hancher and other performance venues.

Current Leadership Development Committee Members: Susan Salterberg (Chair), Jean Hood, Marsha Cheyney, Dave Tokuhisa, and Sue Otto.

# Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

March 17th, 2021 (virtual via Zoom)

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

**PRESENT:** Joe Rasmussen (President), Alan Swanson (Vice-President), Amy Fretz (Past-President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Carol Adamson (Secretary), John Raley (Financial Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), and Rev. Diana Smith (Minister, Ex-Officio).

**ABSENT:** None.

**GUESTS:** Lori Enloe, Winnie Ganshaw, Deb Schoelerman.

*President Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.*

**CONSENT AGENDA:** *Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting. The Board voted and received the consent agenda and approved the February Board minutes, February Special Meeting minutes, March Executive Committee minutes, Minister/Staff Report, Treasurer Report, and Financial Summary.*

## COMMITTEE UPDATES:

• **Mission & Vision Review:** Pomrehn reported that the committee met on March 15th and discussed its function in connection with the Hotchkiss Annual Cycle of Planning Model and the process of engaging the congregation in discussing Open Questions. Board members discussed the Committee's report.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

• **Building Re-opening:** Rev. Smith and Fretz presented the COVID Team's revised Benchmark and Phases for UUS Building Re-opening. The revision was needed because the State of Iowa changed the way it reports COVID cases. The revisions also fall in line with the CDC's guidelines. *Pavelich made a motion, seconded by Swanson, to adopt the revision of the 2020 Benchmarks and Phases as presented. The motion carried.*

• **Land Ministry Proposals: Endowment Committee and Finance Committee Recommendations:** Board members reviewed the Finance Committee's and Endowment Committee's recommendations for the funding of the Land Ministry Proposals which include: Pathway & Limestone Outcropping Steps: \$7,542; Memorial Garden Pathway: \$1,668; Memorial Garden: \$15,279

The Finance Committee, by majority vote, recommended funding be postponed until December and then reconsider funding in 2022 or 2023. The Endowment Committee voted unanimously to fund the Land Ministry proposal by using existing Memorial Funds for the Memorial Garden Pathway with the remainder to be funded from the Jean Reese Fund.

*Pavelich made a motion, seconded by Swanson, to table the decision on funding the Land Ministry Proposal until December 2021. After a lengthy discussion, the motion failed 2:6.*

*Pomrehn made a motion, seconded by Higgins, to fund the Land Ministry Proposal as recommended by the Endowment Committee. There was no further discussion. The motion carried 5:3.*

## NEW BUSINESS

• **Fellowship Hall Gift Proposal:** An anonymous donation has been offered to fund the installation of a cedar wood ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. The Finance Committee has recommended the Board approve this project funded by the anonymous donation. *Swanson made a motion, seconded by Fretz, to accept this gift and proceed with the contract for the work. The motion carried.*

• **Endowment Committee Interim Appointment:** Kris Canfield has resigned from the Endowment Committee. *Fretz made a motion, seconded by Raley, to appoint Carmen Griggs to the Endowment Committee. The motion carried.*

## CLOSING

There were no process observer or guest comments. Pavelich provided closing words, and the chalice was extinguished. *Raley moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Pomrehn. Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm.*

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, April 21st, at 7 pm.

—Carol Adamson, Secretary

## Treasurer's February Financial Report Excerpt

Overall our bank accounts have gone down by another \$10k while our Endowment stock accounts are up by \$20k. The former is in keeping with the drop we might expect for deficit spending while the latter is well within the normal +/- fluctuations in the stock market. It is too early to identify any trends in the former.

The Board had asked the Finance Committee to discuss and offer their recommendations on two financial issues: a proposed gift to complete the Fellowship Hall ceiling and the Land Ministry (LM) requests for Reese Endowment funds. Both were discussed in detail and summarizing memos were sent to the Board. The proposed gift was supported with suggestions for oversight. The majority of committee members recommended funding be postponed for the LM proposals until we see how finances work out this year. In a previous meeting, the Endowment Committee had recommended that funding go forward. One has to love these real-world, pluses and minuses on both sides questions. We thank LM for offering this test case.

The outline of a plan for how we might handle the Operating Budget deficits was presented and questioned. The Treasurer and Financial Trustee will flesh this plan out and present it for Finance Committee discussion in April.

—Mike Pavelich

## Congregational Administrator's February Financial Report Excerpt

In February, pledge income was up compared to budget by ~\$1,780. This is interesting because we set the monthly budget by dividing the pledge total by 12, and typically February falls short by at least 2-3k. This year's divergence from that pattern is likely in part due to more people switching to a recurring monthly payment, which is a good sign that our monthly income will hold steady moving forward. Our total operating income for the month was slightly favorable to budget (by about \$1,075). Year-to-date we are ahead of budget income-wise by about \$5,700. Our Endowment Accounts saw slight increases across the board.

In February UUs raised \$1,201 for our various social justice agencies, including \$750 for United Action for Youth (February's justice partner), \$285 more for the Abbe Center (January's partner), and \$166 in additional donations for the January 5th Sunday offering to the Clear Creek Amana Better Way Forward Library Diversity Fund.

February expenses mostly stayed under or close to budget, the only exceptions being Grounds Care (due to a large Jan. snow removal bill) and the Social Justice Team's budget line (annual dues and a few one-time donations). Overall, we were under budget on operating expenses by about \$5,650 for the month.

Our budget anticipated a total net loss of ~\$4,800 for the month, and we ended up with a net profit of almost \$2,000. Year-to-date we're recording a total net loss of about \$4k, but we anticipated a loss of over \$14k, so that's good news and more data to support Mike's assertion last month that we may not need to request Endowment funds to cover budget shortfalls until the end of the year (if at all).

—Emma Barnum

## Welcome to Our New UUS Members!

Jan Jacobson and Ali Tunnicliff-Scott became members in a Covenant Ceremony on March 7th.



**Jan Jacobson** grew up in Iowa and came to the University of Iowa for her master's degree in social work. Jan and her husband (now deceased) have loved the Iowa City area. Jan is now retired from her career as a psychiatric social worker, where she worked with individuals, couples, families,

and groups. Since retiring, she has worked as a volunteer assisting children and parents. She has also volunteered at the animal shelter and has sung in the Oakdale prison choir. Jan thoroughly enjoys being a grandmother and spending time with her two sons and their families. She has grandchildren in college, one about to graduate from high school, and another entering her senior year of high school. Jan also enjoys reading, knitting, and walking her dogs.

Jan appreciates UUS's proactive commitments to social justice and reverence for the earth. She values the seven principles, the right for dignity for all people, and our nonjudgmental welcome. She hopes to share her energy through work with social justice, racial justice, prison ministry, Free Lunch, and choir. Jan looks forward to being more a part of the UUS community!



**Ali Tunnicliff-Scott** has lived in several states around the Midwest. Most recently, she was a member of the UU congregation in Oak Park, Illinois. She and her husband James moved here two years ago to be closer to family. Ali has a BA in political science from Augustana

College, where she focused on African American history. Ali is a fiber artist. She maintains an Etsy store online and has a YouTube channel called "Colors of Hope Crafts ASMR," with a special focus on relaxing while learning fiber arts—knitting, crocheting, and spinning. She also works part-time at Michaels. Previously, she worked as a substitute teacher in high schools.

Ali appreciates that UUs live out their values in their daily lives and are devoted to public service and helping others. She also likes that we encourage people to question and search for truth in many ways. She is looking for friends and a community of open-minded people who serve others and protect the planet. She has signed up for the UUA online program Beloved Conversations, which has a focus on racial justice, and hopes to bring what she learns here to UUS. Ali has had Hydrocephalus since birth and is open to talking with others about it. She would also be glad to work with Pastoral Care or UniCare, and loves teaching and working with children.



# The UUS News

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## UUS Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Diana Smith (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)  
**Publicity Coordinator:** Jeff Walberg (publicity@uusic.org)  
**Administrative Assistant:** Nik Jakob (admin.assistant@uusic.org)  
**Religious Education Assistant:** Anna Rode (re.assistant@uusic.org)  
**Building Steward:** Ron Wright (contact the office)  
**Online Music Leader:** Dave Rowe (info@daverowemusic.com)  
**Community Minister:** Rev. Lois Cole (community.minister@uusic.org)

## UUS Board of Trustees, 2020-2021

**President:** Joe Rasmussen (721-7777, uusicc.joe@gmail.com)  
**Vice President:** Alan Swanson (321-3129, alan-swanson@mchsi.com)  
**Past President:** Amy Fretz (720-207-4513, amymhere@gmail.com)  
**Secretary:** Carol Adamson (855-8625, cadamson2@zoho.com)  
**Treasurer:** Mike Pavelich (338-5168, treasurer@uusic.org)  
**Finance Trustee:** John Raley (321-5437, jraley@amfam.com)  
**Trustee:** Colleen Higgins (646-6564, colleeniris9@gmail.com)  
**Trustee:** Paul Pomrehn (594-2371, paulpomrehn@gmail.com)  
**Trustee:** Julia Audlehelm (530-4471, juliasdrawings11@gmail.com)

**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.