



THE UUS NEWS

June 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. Meeting ID: 422 482 660, Passcode: 006311
 Or join via phone: Find your local number: bit.ly/UUSServicesFindZoomNumber.

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

June 6th: "Blessing of the Animals," Rev. Diana Smith

Bring your animal companions and join us online or outside at UUS for a short worship service about interdependence. Those who join us outside at UUS will be able to watch the short online service together on a screen, after which Rev. Diana will head outside to bless animal companions of all kinds. This will be our first experiment with projecting services outdoors. As we learn more and get tech set up we may be able to have fully outdoor worship services. Help us with this experiment by joining us at UUS on June 6th!

June 13th: "PRIDE!" Rev. Diana Smith

Join us for our annual LGBTQIA+ Pride worship service! If you're interested in participating in the service (giving a reflection, doing a reading, being part of a photo montage of what being a queer family looks like, etc), please contact Rev. Diana at minister@uus.org.

June 20th: "Transitions," Rev. Diana Smith

During this worship service, we'll say goodbye to our beloved Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Jessica Zimmer. See the page 3 for more information about goodbye events.

June 27th: "Circle Round for Justice, Healing, and Courage," General Assembly

We'll watch the General Assembly Sunday morning service from First Universalist Church of Minneapolis. Find more information on the UUA's website: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>.

Past Sunday Service Attendance

- May 2nd:** ~126 Participating Zoom Accounts
- May 9th:** ~118 Participating Zoom Accounts
- May 16th:** ~114 Participating Zoom Accounts
- May 23rd:** ~113 Participating Zoom Accounts

June's Social Justice Offerings Benefit Table to Table

Table to Table (T2T) builds vital connections between abundance and hunger in Johnson County by transporting wholesome food that would otherwise go to waste to community agencies who feed those in need. From donors such as restaurants, warehouses, local farms, grocery stores, bakeries, farmers markets, and food cooperatives, volunteers pick up food and deliver it to food pantries, shelters, after-school programs, daycare centers, community centers, etc.

Since beginning in April 1996 volunteers (with a specific day and route) have rescued and distributed over 20 million pounds of food to area agencies. Watch for the T2T delivery trucks and call out a thank you to the driver. And thanks for your contribution.

Cash or check donations can be given [online through Realm \(onrealm.org/uusic/-/give/SIOffering\)](https://onrealm.org/uusic/-/give/SIOffering), or mailed to the office. (Write checks to UUS, with T2T on the memo line.)

June UUS Birthdays

Dayna Ballantyne	Virginia Melroy
John Bowman	Carol Nordquist
Mirabelle Clark	Joan Raley
Steven Connelly	Shona Roeder
David Curry	Ari Schmitz
Rob Dietrich	Vicki Siefers
Jim Ephgrave	Lydia Smith
Dan Gall	Sharon Thomas
Peggy Garrigues	Jim Trepka
Max Gerlach	Kaye Winder
Peggy Grimmer	Mabel Wittenkeller
Peggy Houston	MaryAnne Wolfe
Marta Little	Lenda Zelinskas
Kaylee Lopez	
Nancy Lynch	
Caryl Lyons	
Ian Martin	
Tom McMurray	

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



From Your Minister

Dear Ones,

As we move into the summer, many changes are upon us. Our theme this month is Resilience, which seems fitting for this time of transition, meaning-making, play, and restoration.

We've been through fifteen months that have changed us, and many of us are only beginning to understand how. That's understandable—when we're going through an overwhelming or traumatic experience it's extremely difficult for our minds to make meaning of it. To engage with meaning-making, we need some time and space once our mind and body have begun to adjust and aren't in such a heightened state.

While we know the pandemic is not over and this new phase of it is presenting new challenges, we're also entering a time when some more meaning-making is possible. Reflecting on the ways we're resilient and what helps us be resilient is part of that. In June I'll be leading several worship services celebrating different parts of our lives. When we move into July (and I'll be on vacation), members will be offering a wonderful array of lay-led services about resilience.

This summer we'll also be encountering some major transitions. In June, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Jessica Zimmer, will be leaving us. Jessica has led UUS's religious education programming with creativity, heart, and passion. I've deeply appreciated working alongside her this past year. We'll be very sad to see her go. Please see page 3 for more information on how to participate in goodbye activities for Jessica.

In August, we'll be saying hello to our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Marsha Thrall. Please see the box on page 3 for more information about Marsha. We're delighted that she'll be joining us to help shape what our religious education and family ministry are becoming.

During the summer we'll also say goodbye to Dave Rowe, who has provided wonderful music for online worship services as our Online Music Leader, and we'll welcome a new Music Director. That hiring process is ongoing, so look for updates via email in June.

This summer we'll also be planning for what congregational life, including worship services and religious education, will look like in the fall. We have a great team working on this, from figuring out numbers of people and healthy practices in different settings, to technology and building needs, to worship and religious education, to small groups, to helping us learn how to navigate closeness again. With so much changing, this work asks much of us, and as we do it, we'll continue to listen to the needs of the many different members of our congregation. We're committed to keeping UUS a welcoming environment for people who can't be vaccinated for COVID, have family members, including children, who can't be vaccinated, or who are immune-compromised.

As we move through all these transitions and changes, I'm thankful to be here, navigating them and making meaning with you. This congregation is a beautiful, strong, resilient one. Thank you for all you do to make it so. May this summer be one of restoration, renewal, and resilience for all of us.

Love and Blessings,

Rev. Diana

From Your Board President, Joe Rasmussen

Final Thoughts

My term as your pandemic church president soon ends and I will take this opportunity to share some observations. The past year leaves me with some satisfactions and one large regret. I shared the Board of Trustees' work in the Annual Report, but it is important to reinforce that. This past year the Board implemented a new governance structure and planning process. It involved long meetings and sharing of opinions. You will find revised and complete new church policies and procedures on our website. The systemic UUS financial imbalance remains a focus. The May Board meeting included the approval of forming a Board fiscal policy task force of nine persons centered around our Finance Committee with Board oversight. This will be more than a budget committee. We are looking to reinvent our income stream with new resources and revision our program expenses. I invite everyone to reach out to Board members with ideas. The one regret I have is that I missed the opportunity to engage on a personal level with our members. Zoom and email are not the same as talking with you before and after church services and at events and volunteer work days. We will become re-engaged in our New Normal during 2021 and I look forward to seeing everyone.

Thank you's are also in order at this time. Thank you to the Board members for enduring the long meetings and multiple special meetings. We accomplished much for the first time, but it was often a process of persistence and patience. Thank you to Reverend Diana, Emma, Peggy, Jessica, and other staff members and volunteers who assisted me and our mission and vision during a most unusual year. The work of a church is not the task or effort of one person. It involves all of us. Special thank you's to Paul Pomrehn (our Hotchkiss guru and conscience) and Colleen Higgins (our Covenant of Right Relations) as they leave the Board for their service to UUS. Amy Fretz, our past president, deserves more than a thank you. She chaired our Governance Committee and spent countless hours compiling and editing the policies and procedures that are now in effect. Amy also chaired and represented the Board on COVID Task Forces and Teams. More importantly to me, she has been a great resource, and her support during the past year was essential to the Board's success.

Finally, a thank you to the members of UUS. Every so often I would receive an email "atta boy." That simple show of faith was greatly appreciated. That faith now needs to support our new President Alan Swanson. We have worked well together this year and I have faith that Alan will guide us to a new and better tomorrow. PEACE.



Farewell to Our DLRE, Jessica Zimmer!

After a total of six years as UUS's Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Jessica Zimmer will be leaving at the end of June. Jessica has led UUS's religious education programming with creativity, heart, passion, and commitment.

Please join us to say goodbye to Jessica at one or more of our planned goodbye events:

- Outdoor Family Movie Night, Friday, June 18th (with 19th as a rain date) at UUS. Open to all. (Jessica's family will also be available at this event to say their goodbyes).
- Worship Service, Sunday, June 20th, online at 10 am followed by a short virtual goodbye coffee hour.
- Drive-through Goodbye at UUS, Sunday, June 20th, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the UUS parking lot.

Look for more information on these and other possible events in our upcoming weekly emails.

Summer Common Read: *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*, Discussions on July 19th & 27th

This year's UUA Common Read is Imani Perry's *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*. From the UUA Bookstore:

"Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues an unflinching challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition.

"Perry draws upon the ideas of figures such as James Baldwin, W. E. B. DuBois, Emily Dickinson, Toni Morrison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Ida B. Wells. She shares vulnerabilities and insight from her own life and from encounters in places as varied as the West Side of Chicago; Birmingham, Alabama; and New England prep schools.

"With original art for the cover by Ekuia Holmes, *Breathe* offers a broader meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well-lived and is also an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience."

We have copies of the book available for \$11 or pay what you are able. Email Jessica, education@uusic.org, to get your copy.

We will have two opportunities to discuss the 2020-21 UUA Common Read:

- Monday, July 19th, from 1:30 to 3 pm ([Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID: 930 8661 8016; Passcode: 284279)
- Tuesday, July 27th, from 7 to 8:30 pm ([Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID: 951 2292 6439; Passcode: 48751)

Registration for the Common Read Discussions is not required but appreciated. [Sign up here](#).



Welcome UUS's New DLRE, Marsha Thrall

After an exhaustive search, which included restarting UUS RE visioning process to discern what our hopes are for family ministry and lifespan religious education, UUS has hired Marsha Thrall to be our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education.

Marsha will join us in August 2021. She comes to us from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, MD where she was Interim Director of Religious Education for two years. Prior to her work at UUCSS, Marsha spent a year as the Interim Religious Education Coordinator at Unitarian Universalist Church in West, in Brookfield, WI.

Though Religious Education within the UU context is a relatively new experience for her, Marsha is following a vocational call to Religious Education that began in earnest with almost a decade of volunteer service to Religious Education programming within the Christian Methodist Episcopal church. While serving as the Director of Children's and Youth Church at St. Matthew CME church in Milwaukee, WI, she entered seminary with the intention of becoming a religious education professional.

Marsha received a BA in Theology and Philosophy with Peacebuilding certification from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, a Master of Theological Studies degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, and is currently in Ph.D. pre-candidacy in the Religion, Ethics, and Cultural Studies program at Chicago Theological Seminary.

As a life-long Wisconsin resident, Marsha is excited to be moving back to the Midwest. Marsha's adult son and daughter-in-law live in Rice Lake, WI, and her daughter lives in St. Paul, MN while doing graduate work at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. In her free time, Marsha enjoys traveling—especially to places with mountains, visiting farmer's markets, crocheting, and preparing delicious meals while singing off-key. Marsha lives with her American Brown Dog companion, Luna, and perpetually hungry feline friend, Benedict Cumbercat.

Summer RE

Following the model of our Summer worship services, this year's Summer RE program will remain asynchronous. Like this year, we will continue sending home monthly RE kits to families with children who will be going into PreK-6th grade next fall, and we are looking to have some family get-togethers outdoors. Packets will be mailed, and you can email Jessica Zimmer, education@uusic.org, to opt out.

We do not typically have summer RE for youth, but they will be getting a special end of the school year/summer kit in June. Common Read, July 19th and 27th.



Congratulations

Rev. Lois Cole!

Reverend Lois Cole, Stead Family Children's Hospital Chaplain and our Community Minister, was awarded Full Fellowship status by the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) on May 1st, 2021.

This recognition of her accomplishments by the MFC marks an important milestone

in Rev. Cole's professional journey as a UU minister. Our denomination has very high standards for its ministers. In order to begin the preliminary fellowship process, Rev. Cole had to meet the MFC requirements for entry that includes completing a Masters of Divinity program, a ministerial internship, and clinical pastoral training. In addition, she had to demonstrate to the MFC in writing and personal interviews that she achieved competence in 16 specific areas related to ministry. She also had a required reading list of 100 books to read prior to being accepted into Preliminary Fellowship.

For the last 3+ years, while serving as a full-time chaplain at UIHC and as our community minister, she has also written monthly reports of her ministerial activities, met monthly with her local Ministerial Formation Team and her chosen ministerial supervisor. At the end of each preliminary fellowship year, she has been required to complete an elaborate self-assessment of her ministry for that year. Her assessment, along with an evaluation by her Ministerial Formation Team, were then submitted to the MFC.

Each year, after several months of waiting, Rev. Cole would hear if the MFC assessed that her work was of sufficient quality that she continue into the next year of preliminary fellowship. At the end of last month, she received a letter from MFC commending her for completing her third and final year of preliminary fellowship. Her evaluations for all three years have been exceptional. One reviewer summed it up by writing "Congratulations on another successful year of ministry, and welcome to Full Fellowship with the UUA."

Congratulations, Rev. Cole! We're so proud of you! —The UUS Lois Cole Ministerial Formation Team (Winnie Ganshaw, Paul Pomrehn, Kathy McDonald, Joel Gilbertson-White, Rebecca Benson, David Jepsen, Tom McMurray, and Rev. Diana Smith)

Secular Humanists, June 15th

We are pleased to announce that our annual discussion with members of the Iowa Legislature will be held on Tuesday, June 15th, from 7 to 8:30 pm via Zoom. This is always a popular and enlightening (sometimes frightening) meeting. Senators Joe Bolkcom and Zach Wahls will join Rep. Mary Mascher as they identify significant measures that were debated, passed, and signed into law. We will be able to ask them about issues of particular interest to UUs and to get their opinions on how they deal with divisive issues that arise. Everyone is urged to join in the discussion. For further information: contact Mark Yuskis at resdoggie@aol.com. ([Link to Join](#), Meeting ID: 851 2816 3219, Passcode: 759979)

Consider UU Wellspring for 2021-22

This coming year we will once again offer UU Wellspring, a program for those who want to deepen their spiritual practices and expand their understanding of UU values. UU Wellspring incorporates five elements designed to balance a knowledge of UU history/ theology with personal spiritual practice and engagement with the world:

- A commitment to daily spiritual practice
- Participation in a small-group community
- Individual work with a spiritual director
- Readings and resources for knowledge and reflection
- Reflection and commitment to live out our values in the world.

The program will begin with a Saturday retreat or virtual retreat in September, then meet either fully by Zoom, or with a mixture of Zoom and in-person for two hours twice every a month, most likely on a Monday or Tuesday, from September through June. There will be articles to read and/or video clips to watch before each session. We will offer information sessions in a breakout room after the Sunday service on Sunday, June 20th.

You can express your interest in considering this program by following this link: <https://forms.gle/WBFtpDUKFD1vxkVvK7>. The form includes options for both those who are new to Wellspring, and those who have previously done Wellspring, and would like to study a different Wellspring curriculum. Contact Peggy Garrigues with questions: dcl@uusic.org.



UU Free Lunch Program Report

At last, a beautiful May Day with comfortable temperatures and a gentle breeze at this month's Free Lunch on Friday, May 14th. UUS volunteers Bonnie Penno, Lori Marshall, Vicki Siefers, Ellen Junk, Robert Ferguson Littlehale, and Sherry Dolash dressed in pandemic gear for the 14th straight month to assemble and hand out boxed lunches from the side door at 1108 S. Gilbert. Grateful for the warmer weather, 81 diners lined up and were served, up slightly from the cold winter months. One guest shared with Sherry Dolash: "You do good work!"

Grateful thanks to Bonnie Penno who purchased the main dish of chicken strips from Hy-Vee in honor of Mother's Day. Side dishes of Hy-Vee baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and a dessert treat of cookies were once again provided with generous money gifts from many Free Lunch volunteers and other UUS members and friends. Thank you!

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

From Your Green Sanctuary Team

Food Waste and Global Warming

According to the book *Drawdown; the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming*, reducing and avoiding food waste is the number three solution for reversing global warming. Sadly, one-third of the food produced in the world does make it from “farm or factory to fork.” Wasted food contributes 4.4 gigatons of CO₂ equivalents into the atmosphere each year. Food waste uses up environmental resources of land, water, and petroleum products. Americans throw out as much as 40% of the food supply every year. Food waste is one of the largest components of solid waste in US landfills and generates methane gas, which is 28 times more potent than CO₂. What can you do?

- Shopping: Plan your meals and use grocery lists. You’re less likely to buy things you don’t need and unlikely to actually consume. Buy only the foods you expect to use. Avoid impulse purchases. Wait until perishables are used up before buying more. Buy ‘ugly’ produce.
- At home: Practice FIFO (first in, first out). When unpacking groceries, move older products to the front of the fridge/freezer/pantry and put new products in the back to use up older items first. Process perishable foods when arriving home from the farmers’ market or grocery store. When cooking, whenever possible, use every piece of whatever food you’re using; scrub carrots and potatoes, rather than peeling them. Cook the stems (ex. cauliflower, broccoli). Use clean, leftover vegetable discards for soup stock. Use airtight, clear containers whenever possible to make foods visible. Compost leftovers.
- When eating out: Order smaller portions or split a dish with a friend. Take excess food home; ask for a compostable container or bring your own reusable container.

As the Drawdown team suggests, we need all of the 80-100 solutions to reverse global warming. We all have a part to play.

Gardening for the Planet

After you have changed your light bulbs to LEDs and reduced your food waste, what’s another simple step you can take to help reduce global warming?

Stop buying peat for your gardens and growing containers! What is peat, you ask? Peatlands are also known as bogs or mires. Peat is a thick, mucky, waterlogged substance made up of dead and decomposing plant matter that takes hundreds or thousands of years to develop. Layers can be from 2 feet to more than 60 feet deep and contain enormous amounts of carbon.

According to *Drawdown*, peatlands “are second only to oceans in the amount of carbon they store—twice that held by the world’s forests.” But their ability to store carbon has a flip side. “These wetlands can become powerful greenhouse chimneys if disrupted. ... Drained peatlands ... produce 5 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions caused by human beings.”

Good substitutes for peat include compost, leaf mold, and well-rotted farmyard manure, and all are better than peat at improving soil. Leaf mold compost and coconut coir can be used as a growing medium, though coir must be shipped from Asia, making it less desirable.

“For millennia, peatlands have been sacred, ritual spaces...” It’s time we developed a similar reverence for these unique and special ecosystems.

Support Table to Table’s “More Than a Meal” Movie Night Watch the video *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste*

For their annual fundraiser this year, Iowa City’s Table to Table is hosting a drive-in screening of *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste*, on the evening of Friday, June 4th, at the Iowa City Airport. This informative and entertaining documentary takes you around the world, showing how 1.3 billion tons of food goes to waste each year and the people fighting hardest to prevent it. Table to Table’s mission is to keep wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing it to those in need through agencies that serve the hungry, homeless, and at-risk populations.

The UUS Green Sanctuary Team encourages UUS members and friends to support Table to Table, our community partner for June, and join us for this fun and physically distanced gathering focused on fighting food waste, or show your support from home. Go to <http://table2table.org/dinner/> for more information.

Online UU General Assembly, June 23rd-27th

The UUS Leadership Development Committee has a total of \$2,000 available to disburse for scholarships in 2021 to those who attend Midwest Leadership School and/or General Assembly (GA). Both of these events will happen virtually in 2021. Several folks already attended the winter Leadership School, but we expect there to be another round of Saturday sessions in the fall. Details on the fall Leadership School will come later.

The dates for General Assembly this year are Wednesday, June 23rd, through Sunday, June 27th. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through a democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations who certify annually are eligible to have voting delegates. UUS is allowed seven voting delegates this year.

This is a unique opportunity to attend General Assembly for much less cost and disruption to your life since it will be fully online and only costs \$200. To read more about GA, [click here](#). The whole congregation will have an opportunity to experience the online Sunday worship for GA, which is free. (Details about that will come in June.)

Regional Assembly for our region, the MidAmerica Region, will happen online on Saturday, June 26th, at 10 am (CT), during the General Assembly. You do NOT need to register in order to attend the Regional Assembly.

Those who meet one or more of the following criteria will be given higher consideration for UUS scholarships:

1. First-time attendees of GA or Midwest Leadership School
2. Those with financial need
3. Those in leadership positions in our congregation
4. Those who are willing to serve as one of our official delegates to Regional Assembly or General Assembly
5. Those who have not received a scholarship in the past.

If you are interested in attending or being a delegate to General Assembly or Regional Assembly or receiving a scholarship, please [complete and submit this form](#). If you have questions or want more information, contact: Susan Salterberg at susansalterberg@gmail.com or 319-337-4816.

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

May 19th, 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:** Rochelle Honey-Arcement, Sally Hartman, and Deb Schoelerman.

President Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA: *The consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review before the meeting. The Board voted and received the consent agenda and approved the April Board minutes, May Executive Committee minutes, staff report, Treasurer report and financial summary, and bio-cell repair neighborhood agreement.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

• **Building Re-opening:** In recognition of urgent and emerging social justice and social action needs that the UUS mission calls us to respond to outside our normal activities, the COVID Team would like Board approval for a policy of exemption from current COVID Phases and Guidelines. An exemption may be requested by contacting Emma Barnum or Mary McMurray to pass on to the COVID Team for review and approval. Those attending would do so at their own risk and are asked to follow all CDC and state guidelines.

Pavelich made a motion, seconded by Fretz, to approve the policy of exemption as stated above. The motion carried with one abstention.

• **Announcement of ASA for 2021:** The Board of Trustees have been informed by the Endowment Committee that the proposed Annual Spending Allocation for 2021 is five percent (5%) of the General Endowment Fund to be paid monthly during 2021. *The Board approves of this allocation to the operating budget of the Society.*

• **Fiscal Policy Proposal:** *Swanson made a Motion, seconded by Higgins, to create a Fiscal Policy Taskforce consisting of four Finance Committee members, Rev. Smith, and up to four additional members, that is time-bound and with a charge to be created at the June 19th Board retreat. The motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

• **Board Policy Revisions:** The Board's Governance Committee has completed its review of a new Section 3 to be added to previously adopted Section 1, Bylaws, and Section 2, Policies. This will complete the initial revision and adoption of our shared ministry governance structure.

Pavelich made a motion, seconded by Higgins, to accept the Section 3 procedures as presented in the online document, and with the acknowledgment that these can be updated as needed. The motion carried.

• **UUA General Assembly Delegates:** UUS is allowed 7 delegates to the UUA General Assembly. The UUS Leadership Committee currently has the following members recommended as delegates: Diana Henry, Colleen Higgins, Rochelle Honey-Arcement, Miriam Kasha, Dave Martin, Susan Salterberg, and Hazel Seaba.

There is a contested election for a UUA Board Position: Rev. Sam Trumbore and Jay Kiskel. Per UUA bylaws, an individual congregation can instruct its delegates on whom to vote.

After discussion about the two candidates, Swanson made a motion, seconded by Pavelich to recommend that UUS delegates support Rev. Sam Trumbore for the UUA Board position. Board members voted 4 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

• **Immigration Action Team Request:** The UUS Immigration Action Team is requesting Board endorsement for UUS to become an official sponsor of a person (or persons) seeking asylum. Sponsorship involves enrolling in the Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers (CAPAS) which is a program facilitated by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Sponsorship will involve supporting an asylum seeker for a year by helping them find work, navigate the legal and medical system, and seeking funds and fundraising.

Higgins made a motion, seconded by Audlehelm, for Board endorsement of the Immigration Action Team's enrollment in the CAPAS program and sponsorship of an asylum seeker(s). The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board entered Executive Session at 9:40 pm for Rev. Smith to inform the Board of the final candidate for the DLRE position. The Executive Session ended at 10:01 pm.

CLOSING

There were no process observer or guest comments. Pavelich provided closing words, and the chalice was extinguished. *Pavelich moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Swanson. Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 10:03 pm. The next full Board meeting is Wednesday, June 16th, 2021, at 7 pm.*

—Carol Adamson, Secretary

Treasurer's February Financial Report Excerpt

Our net funds in the bank have effectively decreased by about \$11,000 while our several Endowment stocks increased in value by \$35,000. In calculating the former, I included that our May ASA (the monthly transfer of stocks to cash in the bank of \$5,373) was deposited on April 30th instead of May 1st.

The nice jump in Endowment stocks value is just the result of a strong stock market. Thank you to all those UU folks who established these Endowment Funds.

Any Trend in 2021 Deficit Spending?

Recall that we have a 2021 Core Budget of \$600,000, with an expected income (pledges + ASA from stocks + fundraising) of \$425,000. This leaves a deficit of \$175k that is to be filled from funds in the bank. On average then, we expect the net funds in the bank to decrease by \$14,500 per month.

Our Bank Accounts for January through April show a total decrease of about \$40,000 total or about \$10,000 per month. This is a comforting result, but we do expect that our net bank funds will decrease substantially by year's end. Along with the \$175,000 built-in deficit, the Board has approved another \$30,000 in above budget spending for 2021 for the Bio-Cell repair and as part of a Memorial Garden landscaping. These and some other, normal big bills are coming due, and spending will probably increase as we start opening up the building toward normal operations. Thus, our bank account could decrease by as much as \$200,000 by year's end.

Addressing Our Chronic Deficit Problem

In April, the Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and the Board began discussing a timeline/organization plan for addressing our systemic deficit spending problem. The commitment to resolve the problem is strong and the discussions and ideas are energetic and fruitful. We shared some ideas during a discussion with the congregation at the May 23rd Congregational Meeting and invite your questions, concerns, and ideas. Please send these to treasurer@uusic.org.

—Mike Pavelich

Congregational Administrator's February Financial Report Excerpt

In April, pledge income was almost equal to budget, just slightly below. Overall, our monthly operating income matches the budgeted monthly income. For the year we are ahead of budget by about \$3k.

Our Endowment Accounts saw increases across the board except for the Carr Fund, which is down slightly.

In April, UUs raised \$1,594 for our various social justice agencies, including \$1,229 for DVIP, April's Agency, and an extra \$365 for the Center for Worker Justice (March's justice partner).

April expenses mostly stayed under budget, with our total operating expenses almost \$15k below the anticipated spending for the month. For the year we are almost \$18k under budget. When you look at the operating profit/loss, we are almost \$50k above where we thought we'd be at this point in the year: the P&L shows a \$13.9k net loss year-to-date as opposed to a budgeted net loss of \$62k.

—Emma Barnum

The UUS News

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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

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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.