

THE UUS NEWS

2022 | March



From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

This month our Soul Matters theme is *Renewing Faith*. At a time when we're coming out of winter (or really are in that in-between time of not-depths-of-winter, not-yet-spring), and beginning the third year of a pandemic that keeps challenging us to adapt, focusing on renewing faith seems particularly important. Many of us have found at least parts of our faith wearing thin. And so, knowing that faith is not stagnant but grows and changes and needs to be recharged at times, our theme invites us into reflecting on what our faith is and on renewing it.

This month we'll be doing this work together in many exciting ways. One of these is continuing our exploration of Unitarian Universalism's Sources, which we began at the end of February and will be continuing through April. Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition that draws from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. The Sources we draw from are currently written as:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

You may have noticed that I said this is how our Sources are currently written. That's because Unitarian Universalism is in the midst of a periodic process of reviewing our Principles and Purposes. And so, even as we explore our Sources together, reflect on how each of them resonates for us and has or hasn't enriched our lives and faith, we'll also be wondering about how we talk about the sources of our living tradition.

Another part of renewing faith we're engaging with is discussing the proposed 8th Principle for Unitarian Universalism as part of the process of deciding whether, at our May 22nd congregational meeting, UUS will adopt the 8th Principle and join other congregations in encouraging Unitarian Universalism as a whole to adopt it. The 8th Principle says: *We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.* You can find more information about how UUS is engaging with this process elsewhere in this newsletter.

I'm excited to begin engaging in this deep work with you this month as we explore what our religious movement is now, how it may change to lead us into the future, and as we renew our faith.

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Diana

Upcoming Services

Join us at 10 am on Sundays,
in-person or virtually

March 6th:

“Celebrating Muslim and Jewish Mysticism”

Join us as we continue our exploration of the Sources that our living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from. This week we’ll celebrate and explore the Sources of wisdom from the world’s religions, which inspire us in our ethical spiritual life, as well as continuing our exploration of direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder.

March 13th:

“Celebrating Humanist Traditions”

Join us as we continue our exploration of the Sources that our living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from. This week we’ll celebrate and explore the Source of Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

March 20th:

“Celebrating Earth-Based Traditions”

Join us as we continue our exploration of the Sources that our living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from. This week, as we celebrate the spring equinox, we’ll celebrate and explore the Source of spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

*Find more information on upcoming services
and how to join us [on our website](#).*

Past Sunday Attendance

January 30th: Spirited Sunday: Tai Chi

65 virtual participants

**February 6th: Justice and Community Building
Through Music-Making**

108 virtual participants

**February 13th: What if I Only Had
30 Days to Love?**

94 virtual participants

February 20th: Widening the Circle

81 virtual participants, 18 in-person

From Your Board President

Alan Swanson

The waning of COVID from pandemic to endemic seems to be at hand, and we are cautiously considering this as good news as congregants are increasingly eager to return to our UUS building. Positive tests are declining precipitously, and with appreciation for the detailed and thoughtful work of the original COVID Task Force, we have constituted a small new advisory group, the Safe Gatherings Task Force, for guidance as we move more rapidly toward reopening. We are a highly vaccinated, health-aware congregation. The Board now believes responsibility for many COVID-protection decisions can fall to individuals rather than be provided in a set of phases.

The multiplatform services we’ve now grown accustomed to as necessary in COVID times are very likely here to stay, but with good purpose—a new paradigm enabling people to attend online when they’re out of town, ill, disabled, face local transportation difficulties, or have family circumstances that periodically prevent attendance.

The Board-initiated Balance and Growth Initiative (BGI) group, following its two-year plan’s approval at the December Congregational meeting, is now working cooperatively with the UUS Mission and Vision Committee to devise means of measuring progress this year and in 2023 in the effort to balance the UUS budget by 2024. Part of that plan is to enhance elements of our mission and vision, and one of the areas of that focus will be social and racial justice initiatives to increase the impact of our programs and to encourage wider involvement from our congregation.

Related to the above is a national UUA effort to “widen the circle of concern.” As part of this, many UU congregations are adopting or endorsing the “Eighth Principle (<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>).” At the February Board meeting, the trustees decided to play a leading role in this effort, working with the Racial Justice Team and Rev. Diana to discuss with the congregation the positives of adopting the Eighth Principle, and then including it on the ballot for the Congregational Meeting in May.

Finally, I’m proud and gratified that the results of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign have surpassed its ambitious \$420,000 goal even before a final few pledged amounts have come in. Your Trustees appreciate the extra boost that came this year from several generous challenge gifts. We also laud the Stewardship Committee, which helped orchestrate and inspire a reassuring result. And, most important, we thank the congregation for your generous and vital support of the UUS operating budget, which is the lifeblood of our meaningful programming and outreach.

Caring and acting together,
Alan Swanson

We are thrilled to share the news that UUS has met our 2022 Stewardship Campaign goal of \$420,000 to support our operating budget. As a community, we had to stretch to reach this amount and with the commitment of each of you and our challenge matches, we've done it! The generosity of this community continues to inspire us.

—Your Stewardship Team: Pete Brokaw, Jeffrey Ford, Diana Miller, Michael Schmitz, and Liz Swanson

UU 8th Principle

In February, UUS's Board of Trustees endorsed the process to adopt the proposed 8th Principle for Unitarian Universalism and work with the congregation on deciding whether, at our May 22nd congregational meeting, UUS will adopt the 8th Principle and join other congregations in encouraging Unitarian Universalism as a whole to adopt it.

The 8th Principle says: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." (Read more at www.8thprincipleuu.org/)

The Board, Rev. Diana, and members of our Racial Justice Team will be leading education and discussion sessions about the 8th Principle in March, April, and May.

Our first session will follow the service on **Sunday, March 20th, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm** in the Conference Room and on Zoom (dual platform). Look for more meeting dates and times on the website and in our weekly emails.

Offering Donations in March Benefit The Center for Worker Justice

The Center for Worker Justice's priority issues include defending workers' rights to proper payment and safe work, improving housing options for low-income residents, confronting discrimination and ensuring equal access to community services, and providing assistance to those affected by immigration policies.

All cash collected during the Sunday service offerings benefit our monthly community partner, unless otherwise earmarked on a donation envelope. Checks for the offering baskets should have "CWJ" on the memo line. You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSPartner>, text "GivetoUUSIC Partner" to 73256, or mail a check with "CWJ" on the memo line to our office (2355 Oakdale Road, Coralville, IA 52241).

You can also donate to our Operating Budget on Sundays. Donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSOperating>, text "GivetoUUSIC Operating" to 73256, or mail a check to the office with "operating" on the memo line (also write "pledge" if you'd like to apply to an existing stewardship pledge).

Join us in Celebrating Our March Birthdays:

*Dick Anderson
Philip Beck
Aiden Bettine
Wendy Brown
Reed Cheyney
Lois Cole
Laurie Cummins
Kay Eginton
Betsy Fischer
Audrey Friestad
Rochelle Honey-Arcement
Jean Hood
Caleb Hoth
Spencer Johnson
Kathleen Kingman
Jodi Linley
Jan Locher
Rory Marshall
Diane Martin
Shelby Myers
Alison Oliver
Katherine Otto Simmering
Jenny Reynolds
Linda Rice
Susan Salterberg
Etta Schons
Jane Slaymaker
Barbara Staib
Maya Tallman
Sullivan Turner
Mary Vasey
Nickolas Westergaard
Jerry Wetlaufer*

To have your name added or removed from our Birthday list, contact Peggy Garrigues at dcce@uusic.org

From Your Religious Education Coordinator

Anna Rode

In March, we shift our focus to the Soul Matters theme of *Renewing Faith*. We'll also be exploring our faith's Six Sources over the next several weeks. I will email the Soulful Home packet to all families at the beginning of the month, some activities extracted from the Soul Matters curriculum mid-month, as well as continue to post event reminders and additional ways to engage with our themes on the UUS Families Facebook page.

We are very happy to return to multi-platform services. You can continue to enjoy the Sunday service from home via Zoom, or if your family is comfortable attending in person, **we will offer an RE activity for kids in the RE Commons space during service on Sunday mornings.** Activities will be related to our monthly theme and/or the sermon that day and will be geared toward elementary-aged kids.

We are also excited to announce a permanent welcoming space for children at the front of the Sanctuary. We ask that parents/guardians plan to sit nearby if their child would like to be in the children's area. We will offer soft/quiet toys, activities, books and fidgets as well as a large carpet and floor cushions for the children to enjoy in this area.

The nursery will remain closed for now; however, we continue to assess the need to offer this service for our families. If you would like to attend in-person, and are interested in dropping your 0-3 child in the nursery, please email me. We will continue to have clipboards and activity baskets with coloring materials and fidgets at the table outside the Sanctuary.

Preschool

Alice Atkinson and I continue to co-lead our Parents of Preschoolers (POP!) support group on Zoom. This program is designed to help parents and caregivers understand spiritual development in our young children, create rituals to support that development, and see ourselves as spiritual teachers. Each month we work through the monthly content at our own pace, and then convene at the end of the month, share what we have learned, ask questions, and get support. **Our next meetings will be on February 27th and March 27th, at 12:30 pm.** I will email a Zoom link to participants no later than the Wednesday prior.

Elementary

In March, we are hosting a pet food drive for the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center; there will be a box in the atrium. Related to this drive, our next service project/event for elementary kids is on Sunday, March 20th, 12-1:30. Children in grades 1-6 are invited to come to UUS to create toys and blankets for the animals at our local shelter. Please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/UUS-Animal-Service-Project>; there are options to sign up your child (drop-off is okay), sign up to be a parent volunteer, OR if you'd like to donate fabric/supplies to make the toys and blankets.

Youth

Youth will gather on March 6th and 20th from 1:30 3 pm (after OWL). They will continue working on art projects advocating for endangered species and will also be creating an outdoor cornhole game together.

We are delighted to offer fun and meaningful opportunities for our junior and senior high youth to gather. We welcome all youth and hope to see even more new faces in the coming weeks and months. Please spread the word!

Your youth leaders are Jim Trepka, Dave Tokuhisa, Deb Schoelerman, and Sally Hartman.

We continue hosting **Junior High OWL** this year, which began in December. Participants meet every Sunday, 12-1:30. Information for each session is emailed to all OWL families and volunteers the Monday prior.

If you have any questions about the Religious Education program, or if you'd like to volunteer, please email me (education@uusic.org).

—Anna Rode

UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar

The 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar is hosted by the UUA Office at the UN (UU@UN) in partnership with Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), and Side With Love, and is part of UUMFE's Spring for Change - A Season of Sacred Activism, whose message this year is "Get Rooted, Get Ready!"

Continuing the 2020 and 2021 Seminar theme "All In for Climate Justice," the 2022 Seminar will focus specifically on climate-forced displacement, human rights, and building community resilience. **It will take place online April 22nd through May 1st.** The UU@UN and 2022 Seminar Planning Team have spent many months deepening our understanding of this complex theme and how the Seminar will address it.

The Intergenerational Spring Seminar aims to instill in Unitarian Universalist youth and adults a commitment to global engagement and the skills to take action locally to address global issues. The intergenerational seminar is an opportunity to collaborate with others while learning how to be a global activist. Through workshops, peer and expert-led panel discussions, community building activities, and worship services, you will undergo a transformative process of learning, reflection, and growth while exploring some of the most challenging issues facing humanity today.

Registration is open now through April 3rd, (with flexible rates). Learn more about this exciting seminar here: <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar>

Upcoming Events of Note

International Women's Day Celebration

Join in a virtual celebration of International Women's Day, **Tuesday, March 8th, at 6 pm.**

This event will feature multicultural music and spoken-word presentations and honor three women-led organizations in Johnson County that are advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Inside Out Reentry Community, Iowa City Compassion, and Open Heartland.

Tickets are \$25 or \$10 for students and those hard-hit by the pandemic. Proceeds will benefit these organizations plus the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Can't attend? Donations gratefully accepted.

To purchase a ticket or make a donation please visit johnsoncountyuna.org. This event is hosted by the Johnson County Chapter of the United Nations Association and co-sponsored by 25 community groups, including UUS!

UU Secular Humanists

Seth Andrews is a popular atheist podcaster, video producer, public speaker, and author. But that's not the path he originally started on. In his autobiography *Deconverted*, Seth describes his deeply conservative Christian upbringing, a successful career in Christian Radio broadcasting, his growing doubts and the eventual abandonment of his faith, and how he came to use his unique combination of storytelling and technical skills, plus his irresistible warmth, compassion, insight, and humor, to build a large online freethinker community under the name The Thinking Atheist.

On March 15th at 7 pm, UUS Secular Humanist member Peter Nothnagle will walk us through *Deconverted* in a talk titled "Meet Seth Andrews." [Join us via Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 872 4240 8646, Passcode: 725581.

For questions, contact group leader Daniel Valentin at secularhumanists@uusic.org.



UU Buddhist Fellowship Retreat

The speaker scheduled for this year's Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship Retreat, David Loy, has graciously agreed to lead a half-day online retreat on Saturday, **March 19th, from 11 am to 2 pm.**

David's dharma talk will be "The Refuge of No Refuge: Staying Un/Grounded in a World that Seems to be Falling Apart."

The day will include guided meditation and time for discussion groups. This program is offered freely. There will be an opportunity to make dana offerings.

Please register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYkceusrDwjHNLuvv7nQvtGg2QnBGzwiok>

Covenant of UU Pagans Lunations

The UU Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) invites you to join us as we use the lunar cycle as a guide to practice connection with beings outside ourselves.

Each lunar cycle, we'll each choose a being, an animal, plant, or landscape feature, to come into greater contact with. During the waning moon (full to dark) we descend into knowing the being we've chosen—deepening awareness, learning information, absorbing ideas, gathering connection. As the moon waxes (dark to full) we rise newly connected or with a renewed connection to the being bringing with us blessings, awareness, knowledge for ourselves that radiate through our daily rounds, weekly routines, lives and into our communities. Journal, meditation, investigation, and thought prompts will be provided each cycle to help guide your journey into connection with each being.

We will meet monthly on or near each full moon for three purposes; to share what we learned about and our connection with each being, hold ritual to offer blessings from the being to each other, and commit to another cycle with another being. This month we'll meet on **Wednesday, March 16th, at 8 pm.** [Join us via Zoom](#): Meeting ID 224 2736 597

We encourage you to plan to participate through all or multiple cycles to support the creation of a working container and connections with other participants, though you may join at any time. Find the full schedule of monthly meetings [on the UUS website](#).

For questions, contact group leaders Marsha Cheyney and Dawn Marshall at cuups@uusic.org.

Find a full list of upcoming events and group meetings [on our website](#).

From Your UUS Free Lunch Team

Our February 11th Free Lunch shift was served by UUS volunteers wearing nifty new green aprons, provided by Donna Simonton. One guest, seeing the UU logo, asked if it was the Olympic cauldron!

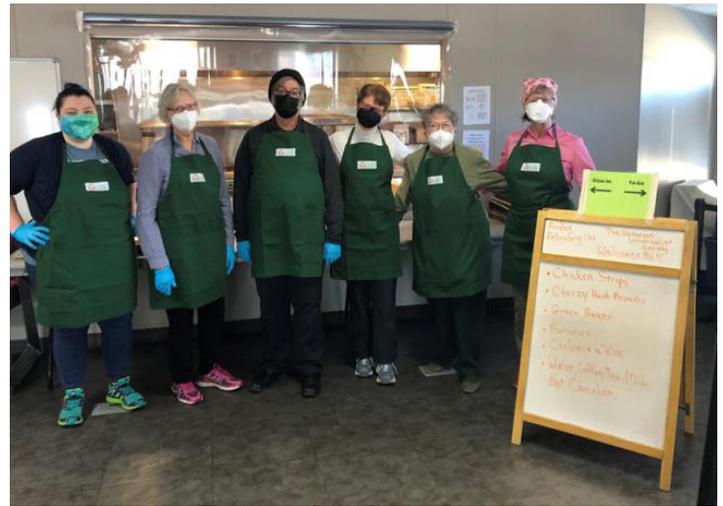
Which it could well have been, as our kitchen volunteers do indeed deserve medals! Volunteers for this meal included coordinator Bonnie Penno, Anna Schons and her father Doug Slauson, Lori Marshall, Theresa Ullerich, and Donna Simonton.

Donna also brought a Simon and Garfunkle CD, so guests dined to music appropriate for a (pre-) Valentine's meal, one that included—in addition to our usual nutritious fare—Valentine cookies and candies.

Guests and volunteers alike wore masks, and meals were distributed from behind a pull-down shield at the serving counter. Everyone was comfortable with pandemic protocols that limited the number served in the dining room at one time, maintained social distances, and called for everyone to wear masks when not eating. In all, 126 meals were served, more than we had anticipated – but volunteers responded with their usual ingenuity and extended the supply by making additional PB&J sandwiches and heating green beans.

The photos to the right show Ann Schons, Teresa Ullerich, Doug Slauson, Bonnie Penno, Donna Simonton, and Lori Marshall (top); and Ann Schons and her dad, Doug, at the serving counter with its shield (bottom).

If you would like information on how you can be involved in UUS's second Friday of the month Free Lunch, please contact Carmen Griggs at csgriggsiowa@gmail.com.



From Your Covenant Group Facilitators

In February, covenant groups considered expanding our horizons by discussing "Widening the Circle." Although many of us try to engage with different viewpoints or experience different things, it's often hard to do so. Too often we listen only to opinions we already agree with, or fill our days with familiar activities. Partly this is because we lack the time (or energy) to seek out new ideas or experiences on a daily basis. But it's important to stop every now and then and make the effort—important to step outside our "circles of comfort." You can challenge yourself by doing something as simple as eating a type of food you've never tried before, or pursuing a new hobby or sport. Or as difficult as reading a book on a topic you know nothing about, or which expresses a viewpoint you don't share. Whether pleasant or painful, chances are you'll learn something about the world around you, and in the process, about yourself.

If topics like these intrigue you, you might be ready to join a covenant group. 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).



From Your Green Sanctuary Team

Read about our “Greenest Church in Iowa” in a [blog post written by Green Sanctuary members for the Iowa Environmental Council’s 100% Iowa Project](#), a campaign to empower Iowans to advocate for 100% clean energy generation.

Wishful Recycling

Have you ever tossed an item into the recycling bin, not sure it could be recycled but hoping that it would be? Most of us probably have.

Are wine corks recyclable? How about metal screw caps on wine bottles? Aluminum foil? Bumper stickers? Ink pens? Milk and broth containers? Plastic clam shells? Yogurt containers? Batteries? Light bulbs?

Jane Wilch, Iowa City Recycling Coordinator, and Sarah Gardner, Iowa City Climate Action Engagement Specialist, answered many of those questions in a virtual program on February 14th. Their first word of advice was “Re-use before you recycle.”

We learned that is better to air on the “side of the trash.” When we toss an item into the bin that is not recyclable, it makes more work for the sorters on the conveyor belt at the Municipal Recycling Facility in Davenport where Iowa City’s recycling is sent. When in doubt (about recycling), throw it out.

You can view the program recording here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3mF80a0uGs.

DO Recycle:

Things that can be placed (cleaned!) in the curbside recycle bin, if available in your area:

- Plastic containers: #1 and #2 plastic are best for recycling. #4 & #5 are “accepted” though market forces may determine if they are actually recycled. Unfortunately, clam shell containers (from berries and greens) cannot be recycled regardless of the number.
- Aluminum foil: balled into 2-inch balls. You can wrap metal lids and tops in the foil.
- Milk, broth, and juice containers without the foil lining. Leave the plastic caps on.
- Metal cans and lids
- Cardboard and envelopes with labels and “windows.” Cardboard is often quickly recycled.

Things that can be recycled at other locations:

- Natural wine cork: take to the [Eastside Recycling Center](#)
- Plastic bags: the stretchy kinds can be recycled at HyVee or other retailers; the non-stretchy kinds (like Amazon packages) cannot be recycled.
- Glass containers: rinse and take to one of the Recycling locations. Glass can be recycled over and over.
- Old clothing: can be taken to Goodwill or Salvation Army.
- Bubble wrap: can be taken to [Mail Boxes of Iowa City](#)

Community Purchases to Promote Sustainability

If you’re concerned about climate change, or just want to save money on your energy and water bills – the quickest, easiest, and cheapest thing to do is make sure the light and water in your home is as energy efficient as possible.

During the month of April, UUS is partnering with the Johnson Clean Energy District to purchase low-cost LED bulbs and low-flow showerheads for members and friends of the congregation. LEDs use 90% less electricity and last 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Low-flow showerheads reduce water consumption by as much as 60%, cutting water and energy use. If 50 households make these switches, we would collectively reduce carbon emissions by hundreds of metric tons and save millions of gallons of water.

And, because we’re doing it together, it’s cheaper! JCED is working with local distributors to get the lowest prices possible for bulk orders of high-quality products. An energy packet of 10 LEDs and 1 low-flow showerhead will cost about \$50.00 (or your ability to pay). Items can also be ordered separately.

Please join us! If you haven’t made these simple upgrades, or you know someone who hasn’t, don’t miss this opportunity! The April newsletter will contain an order form to return by May 1st, with delivery to UUS in mid-June.

For further information, please contact Craig Mosher (craig.r.mosher@gmail.com) or Deb Schoelerman (dschoelerman@gmail.com).

Do NOT Recycle – toss into the trash:

- Artificial corks for wine bottles
- Bumper stickers
- Ink pens
- Clam shells (containers for berries and greens)
- Non stretchy plastic wrap (often around rolls of toilet paper)
- Plastic utensils and straws

Batteries and light bulbs need special attention.

When mingled with regular trash at the landfill, they can break and cause fires or leak chemicals. LEDs contain a small amount of lead and CFLs contain some mercury. All batteries and light bulbs can be taken to the Johnson County Landfill. LEDs, CFLs, and certain batteries can be dropped off at Ace Hardware stores.

For more information about any of the above, please visit the following websites:

- <https://www.icgov.org/recycling>
- <https://www.icgov.org/resourcemanagement>
- <https://www.icgov.org/news/landfill-and-recycling-center>

UUS Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 16th, 2022 (virtual via Zoom)

Present: Alan Swanson (President), Joe Rasmussen (Past-President), Rochelle Honey-Arcement (Vice-President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Diana Henry (Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Minister, Ex Officio), Paula Miller (Secretary), John Raley (Financial Trustee). **Absent:** Julia Audlehelm (Trustee). **Guests:** Paul Pomrehn, Dave Martin, Peg Boushka, Kirk Witzberger

President Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, lit the chalice, and provided opening words.

Board Read: Members discussed the Preface and Chapter 1 of the new Board read *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season* by Susan Beaumont.

Consent Agenda: The Board received the consent agenda which included the January Board meeting minutes, February Executive Committee minutes, Treasurer/Finance reports, Endowment Committee minutes, and Minister/staff reports. *Henry made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Pavelich. The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.*

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance: Their next meeting is scheduled for March 1st. Rasmussen is working on developing an online meeting protocol.

Personnel: Their quarterly meeting had to be rescheduled for March. Rev Diana will start reviewing DRLE applications and hopes to start Zoom and in-person interviews in March. *The Finance Committee endorsed the DLRE Search Committee's request for \$1,500 for candidate interview expenses using existing budgeted funds in the former DLRE's salary line. Honey-Arcement moved to approve, seconded by Rasmussen. The motion passed unanimously.*

Finance: Raley reported that the Committee did not meet but communicated via email in February. Pavelich advised that the Finance Committee and the Board need to discuss what to do with Ruth Muir's donation. Policy directs this to go to the General Endowment Corpus. This will be discussed at the March Finance Committee meeting and then will go back to the Board.

Right Relations: No updates.

Mission & Vision Review: Seaba reported that they will meet again on February 21st and will investigate mapping BGI items to some of the points which have come up in the assessment reports from various subcommittees.

OTHER BUSINESS:

COVID and UUS Reopening Progress: Miller summarized the discussion from the February 10th meeting of the Safe Gathering Task Force which included Amy Fretz, Marsha Cheney, Peggy Garrigues, and Paul Pomrehn. The task force concluded that a new protocol needs to be developed which moves away from the COVID phases developed at the beginning of the pandemic.

The Iowa Dept of Public Health will stop reporting many COVID metrics on February 15th, which will make it difficult to apply the metrics from the current COVID phases to new trends. Additionally, CDC guidelines advise that the risk of contracting COVID between masked, fully-vaccinated individuals is low in indoor settings and even lower outdoors. Miller noted that developing a new COVID protocol will also allow UUS groups to start planning indoor in-person events for this year without the uncertainty of another shut-down of group activities.

The task force recommended that decisions on safe reopening protocols should be made by a health and safety team which would work with the staff and Minister to make sure that activities such as the Hospitality teams and choir can restart safely. Board members discussed a timeline for removing the phases altogether, considering that services and meetings will continue to provide multiplatform gathering options. Seaba emphasized that even with very strict COVID protocols people can still be exposed, so we need to be very cautious about moving forward without a safety plan in place. *Pavelich proposed that UUS reopen on February 21st under the current Phase 3 COVID guidelines until the March Board meeting when a new timeline for developing a Health and Safety Plan can be developed by staff and members of the COVID safety team. The motion was moved by Henry and seconded by Pavelich. The motion passed.*

Proposal to adopt the Eighth Principle: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Dave Martin, Peg Bouska, and Kirk Witzberger from the UUS Racial Justice Team (RJT) provided a historical background for the new 8th Principle currently under review by the UUA. Witzberger advised that three UU churches in Iowa have already endorsed it and would welcome solidarity with other UU churches in Iowa. RJT members would like to present this for a vote at the May Congregational meeting. Rev Diana added that the 8th Principle was created when UUA leaders recognized the need to intentionally dismantle systems of oppression, an action not directly addressed in the other 7 principles. She added that if we are not intentional about how we do this work then it might not happen correctly or as quickly. Also, the UUA is charged with reviewing all principles and purposes every 15 years as part of being a non-creedal faith that is constantly developing. Bouska added that this will also support the intention of the existing principles. Henry added that our congregation's vision statement makes it known that we will confront racial and social injustice, but this is not explicitly stated in the 7 UU principles, and adopting the 8th principle will demonstrate that all UUs support this action. Rasmussen added that we need to specify if we are going to "endorse" or "adopt" this as a principle. *Honey-Arcement moved to adopt the 8th Principle and to help the congregation move forward toward a vote, seconded by Henry. The motion passed.*

(Board minutes continue on next page)

BGI Discussion: Their February meeting was rescheduled to the 23rd. They will work with DCCE Peggy Garrigues on getting the six new members who will join on February 20th matched to existing groups and teams so they can start becoming active in congregational life. At the last BGI meeting they discussed how BGI will be moving forward, including liaisons with different parts of the congregation to make sure work is not being duplicated.

Three Open Questions: Rev Diana provided feedback from the recent Listening Campaign to supplement the discussion of the Three Open Questions, which will help formulate the vision of ministry for the next year. Swanson added some additional questions about racial and social justice work which will address the 8th principle. Honey-Arcement agreed that we need to address racial and social justice to get more UU members involved. Rasmussen volunteered to run an email thread to the Board to help get the questions sorted out and to request additional feedback. Pavelich requested that we move this discussion to the beginning of the next Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Memorial Garden: Rasmussen provided an interment application form that the Team will need to take to an attorney for review.

Stewardship: The campaign's goal of \$420,000 has been slightly surpassed with a few pledge payments remaining to be fulfilled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Multiplatform Meeting Protocol: If the Board decides to continue with multiplatform congregational meetings and elections this may require a change to how amendments are worded. Rasmussen advised that he doesn't think this will require a bylaw change. He has drafted a new policy for Governance to review.

UUA General Assembly: The Board will need to approve six delegates for GA and also for the MidAmerican Regional Assembly. GA will be both online and in-person in Portland Oregon from June 22nd to 26th, while the MidAmerican meeting will be virtual on April 30th.

Weddings at UUS: Rev Diana reported that questions have been raised about whether fees are commensurate with practices at other churches, and if we should revisit our rental policies as we start to plan more indoor events. Planning these events does take a lot of time, and we want to make sure that UUS charges take this into account.

Fundraising Request from UUS Immigration Action Team Sponsorship Program: We have an opportunity to sponsor an Afghan refugee family of six people for three months through the Sponsor Circle program which assists with new refugee resettlement. The team has already found a partnership with a local business who would help raise some of the money. *They will be requesting donations in February and March for \$3,000, and Sally Hartman will be the project contact. Pavelich moved to support the fundraiser, seconded by Rasmussen. The motion passed unanimously.*

Green Sanctuary Team Fundraising Request: They will be fundraising in April and May to support a program which provides free energy-saving lightbulbs and low-flow showerheads to low and middle-income UUS members and to also sell them to others who wish to purchase them. The contact person is Deb Schoelerman. *Rasmussen moved to support the fundraiser, seconded by Honey-Arcement. The motion passed unanimously.*

CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. Process observer comments were provided by Rasmussen, closing words by Pavelich. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, March 16th, 2022, via Zoom.

—Paula Miller, Board Secretary

Financial Report Highlights

As of the end of January, our bank totals are up, due to solid 2022 pledge fulfillment and moderate spending, as well as the \$3,750 per month transferred from General Endowment earnings in addition to the Annual Spending Allowance that the Congregation approved in December to partially cover the anticipated Core Budget deficit for 2022. These additional funds give us space to concentrate on program development rather than financial deficits through 2022.

January Income Highlights:

- Our pledge income for the month was about \$7k lower than budgeted, likely due to people prepaying pledges in December and because we had fewer monthly deposits since the office was closed for the first week of the year.
- Congregants raised \$710.90 for the Abbe Center, January's community partner, and \$490 for the 5th Sunday offering beneficiary, Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund.
- \$133 was collected from our Stuff, Etc. account (people who sell their items for consignment there or at Houseworks can designate UUS to receive the profits).
- Ruth Muir's estate has donated \$14,700 to UUS as per Ruth's wishes. We thank her through the family. After discussions in Finance Committee and Board, these funds will most likely be added to the General Endowment corpus to remain, in perpetuity, as Ruth's working gift to the community.

2021 Giving Statements and 2021 pledge fulfillment reports were sent to all donors for tax purposes in mid-January. Any questions should be sent to the office (admin@uusic.org or 337-3443).

The Finance Committee did not meet in February. We voted by email to endorse Rev. Diana's request to move \$1,500 from the Staff Salary budget to the Staff Search budget to support the DLRE Search Committee.

—Mike Pavelich, Board Treasurer, and
Emma Barnum, Congregational Administrator

Welcome Our New UUS Members

Who Joined Us On Sunday, February 20th



Sarah Alward

Sarah grew up on the east side of Iowa City and left to attend college at Grinnell. After graduating, she married Nicholas Johnson, and they moved to Japan, where Sarah taught English for three years. Since then they have lived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Oak Park, Illinois. They returned to Iowa City to live closer to cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents while their boys—Cameron (8) and Spencer (6)—are young. Sarah has a background in biology and landscape architecture, but she is currently doing freelance graphic design.

Sarah values that in Unitarian Universalism everyone is free to explore their own spirituality on their own timeline. After good experiences at Unity Temple UU in Oak Park, Illinois, their family came to UUS looking to make meaningful connections and build community. Sarah has been playing violin in the UUS String Ensemble, and she would like to get involved in welcoming and supporting immigrants, as well as designing, building, and caring for our outdoor spaces. Other things Sarah enjoys include woodworking and using power tools for design projects in their home, sewing, crafts of many kinds, audiobooks (she would love recommendations!), and playing in the Iowa City Community String Orchestra (except during COVID).



Barbara Stannard

Barbara grew up in Chicago, and also lived in Wisconsin before moving to Iowa with her husband (now deceased) in 1979. She has a daughter in Colorado who will be moving back to Iowa City in the spring. Up until the pandemic, Barbara worked at Free Lunch for over 6 years, and at the Salvation Army dinners for 3 years.

Barbara first started attending and volunteering at the UU Society when it was downtown, after being invited by her friend Lois Hughes. She especially appreciates that UUs value the freedom of religious thought and our Seven Principles, which actually drew her to the UUS community. She is looking to find a sense of belonging and acceptance and is excited about all the ways that one can get more involved and active. Barb is also looking forward to meeting and getting to know other UUS members.



Paul Gilbert

Paul is a professor in the UI College of Public Health. He came to UUS looking to become part of a community and he especially appreciates the UU commitment to ongoing discovery and acting out our values. He looks forward to making deeper connections and is interested in the various social justice groups and activities.

Paul lives with his husband, Rodney Murphy, and enjoys swing dancing—the Lindy Hop and the Balboa—knitting socks, and riding his bike.



Sigmund Palasek and Lucy Rey

Sigmund loves Unitarian Universalism and has previously been active in congregations in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Las Vegas, Nevada, where he and Lucy moved from this past fall. He and Lucy met and married in Las Vegas in 1997. Sigmund currently works part time as an Uber and Lyft driver. He especially appreciates the “deeds not creeds” focus of Unitarian Universalism and is looking forward to making friends here. He and Lucy live in Cedar Rapids with their 8 year old dog, Zoie.

Lucy grew up in Oklahoma, and has lived in Massachusetts, Chicago, Berkeley, California, Indiana, and Illinois before moving to Las Vegas, and now to Cedar Rapids. Her son, David, and his wife and four children live in Cedar Rapids. Lucy has been a UU since 1970, and was active in three other UU congregations before moving here. She has a master’s in social work and a PhD, and taught college sociology and social work for many years. Lucy values the openness and inclusivity of Unitarian Universalism and appreciates the beauty of our location and of the music here at UUS. She hopes to make friends and share her interest in the issue of death with dignity. She especially enjoys and appreciates art.



Gail Ross

Gail was born in Binghamton, New York, and says she is a gypsy at heart—she has lived in Montana (2 cities), Iowa (2 cities), Wisconsin, Alabama, San Francisco, CA, Illinois, Michigan, and New Mexico. She moved to Coralville to be near her daughter Sarah Ross, and daughter-in-law Peggy Garrigues.

Gail retired as a licensed professional counselor and continues to work as a retreat facilitator and spiritual guide. She had some previous connection with the UU congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and appreciates that there in Unitarian Universalism there is no pressure to “believe.” She hopes to find community and relationships, and a team on which to serve. She would enjoy sharing her passion for evolution, “big history,” and evolutionary spirituality. Gail enjoys walking, reading, and spirituality, and is just getting back into exercising after a hiatus during COVID. She also loves to travel and to perform on stage.

*Interested in becoming more engaged at UUS, or joining officially as a member?
Want to learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism in general?*

Sign up for one of our Starting Point Class series, offered four times a year.

*Contact Peggy Garrigues, Director of Congregational and Community Engagement,
for more information: dcce@uusic.org.*

The Unitarian Universalist Society

2355 Oakdale Road

Coralville, IA 52241

319-337-3443

www.uusic.org

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

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 Congregational and Community Engagement:

Peggy Garrigues (dcce@uusic.org)

Religious Education Coordinator: Anna Rode

(education@uusic.org)

Director of Congregational Music: Alex Heetland

(music@uusic.org)

Administrative Assistant: Nik Jakob (admin.assistant@uusic.org)

Staff Pianist & Music Outreach Coordinator: Hsin-Hui Liu

(pianist@uusic.org)

Community Minister: Rev. Lois Cole

(community.minister@uusic.org)

UUS Board of Trustees, 2021-2022

President: Alan Swanson (president@uusic.org)

Vice President: Rochelle Honey-Arcement

Past President: Joe Rasmussen

Secretary: Paula Miller

Treasurer: Mike Pavelich (treasurer@uusic.org)

Finance Trustee: John Raley

Trustee: Julia Audlehelm

Trustee: Diana Henry

Trustee: Hazel Seaba