

# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | June



## From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

As we move into the summer, changes and opportunities for rest and community-building are upon us! Our theme this summer is *Compassion*, which seems fitting for this time of connection, meaning-making, play, and restoration.

For our summer term I'll be continuing to experiment with offering community office hours (see page 4). I'll also be beginning a *Lectio Divina* with Poetry offering (see page 4). If it's successful, I will likely offer it every other week this fall. And I'll be continuing to take our initial group through the Trans Inclusion in Congregations class, which we hope to offer to more members this fall. We'll also have exciting happenings like our LBGQTQA+ Pride events (see page 4) and opportunities to engage with social action and justice, as well as play together.

In June, we'll be moving to our summer worship service schedule. Most of the summer worship services will be led by Worship Associates with guest speakers who are members of the congregation. In addition, since our music staff's hours are reduced in the summer, members will also be serving as song leaders and we'll have fewer guest musicians since we will have less capacity to coordinate special music. This change of pace will be exciting. We have quite a few members, many of whom were part of the sermon-writing class this spring (I plan to offer it again in winter 2024—yes that's a plug!), who will be sharing their perspectives on how the practice of living compassion, which is something we often talk about in this congregation, plays out in their lives. I hope you enjoy hearing about their journeys as much as I have!

In June we'll also be welcoming our new Director of Religious Education, Nic Kaplan, and saying goodbye to Anna Rode in her staff role as our temporary, part-time Religious Education Coordinator. You can find out more about our welcome and goodbye events on pages 4 & 5.

I will also be moving into my summer schedule, which is an opportunity for me to rest, restore, and plan for the coming year. From June 19th to 26th I will be attending Ministry Days and General Assembly. These annual events are an opportunity for me to meet and learn with other ministers (Ministry Days) and gather with Unitarian Universalists from all over the country to learn and develop our living religious tradition (General Assembly). During this time, I will be available to respond to urgent matters, although my response time will be delayed due to being at two busy conferences. From June 27th to July 8th, I will have some vacation time to visit friends, camp, kayak, and simply rest. During my vacation, staff and the Pastoral Care Team will be responding to most urgent needs. I will be reachable if there is an emergency.

I'll be back at UUS from July 9th to 17th teaching classes, meeting with staff and teams, leading a worship service, and performing weddings. I'll be away on vacation from July 18th through the 24th. Then I'll be on study leave from July 25th to August 7th. Study leave is a very important part of my year. It's when I have the chance to do some of the reading and planning that I don't get to do during the regular course of ministry. It helps me plan our programming for the fall and early winter. So that I can have time to reflect and plan when I'm on study leave, staff and the Pastoral Care Team will be responding to most urgent needs. I will be reachable if there is an emergency.

I look forward to connecting, playing, learning, and growing with you at a different pace this summer. May this summer be one of restoration, renewal, and resilience for all of us.

Love and Blessings,  
Rev. Diana

## Upcoming Services

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

### June 5th: "Blessing of the Animals"

Bring your animal companions and join us at UUS for a short worship service celebrating interdependence and the creatures we share our lives with! Small animals in cages/containers, as well as service animals, are invited into the sanctuary for the service.

After the short service (no more than half an hour and shorter if it's quite hot), Rev. Diana will head outside to bless animal companions of all kinds - particularly larger hairy or hooved ones who couldn't come inside.

### June 12th: "PRIDE!"

Join us for our annual LGBTQIA+ Pride worship service, as well as to welcome new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) Nic Kaplan and say goodbye to RE Coordinator Anna Rode! 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@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org).

### June 19th: "Reflections on Fatherhood and Juneteenth"

Two UUS members will speak about what being a father means to them. And, a UUS Racial Justice team member will tell us about Juneteenth activities in the area.

### June 26th: "Reimagining Radical Faith Community"

Join us for a General Assembly worship service from GA in Portland. Stay tuned for time and other details. The service will be followed by a bring-your-own-picnic event outside (See page 4 for details).

Find more information [on our website](#).

## Past Sunday Attendance

**May 1st: We Shall Come Together Singing**  
43 virtual participants, 72 in-person

**May 8th: Growing, Together!**  
26 virtual participants, 55 in-person

**May 15th: The Path to the Blooming of Our Collective Humanity**  
40 virtual participants, 65 in-person

**May 22nd: Becoming People and Places of Resilience**  
40 virtual participants, 66 in-person

## June Offerings Benefit Table to Table

The mission of Table to Table is to keep wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing to those in need through agencies that serve the hungry, homeless and at-risk populations. Since they began in 1996, Table to Table volunteers have rescued and distributed over 25 million pounds of food to area agencies.

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

### Support our Operating Budget

You can make a gift or pledge payment to our Operating Budget through the Sunday offering basket (cash should be in an earmarked envelope, checks should have "operating" or "pledge" on the memo line). You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSOperating>, text "GivetoUUSIC Operating" to 73256, or mail a check to the office.



## Join Us in Celebrating Our June Birthdays:

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



# From Your Board President

## Alan Swanson

On May 22nd, the UUS congregation voted whether to endorse the Eighth Principle for adoption by the UUA. At the time of this writing, I have high hopes for its passage, but the vote has not yet been tallied and is not scheduled to be announced until Sunday, May 29th. If it is a Yes vote, we and other UUs are setting an example that will 1) encourage the UUA to adopt the Eighth Principle or its essence during the Article II reexamination of our national bylaws that occurs every 15 years, and 2) activate the intent of this motion here and now at UUS: to begin discussions, radical welcoming, and other actions to improve our open acceptance and support of the marginalized as a congregation and as individuals—inside our programs, and outside in the community and beyond.

The Board-created Balance and Growth Initiative (BGI) task force led by Rochelle Honey-Arcement has been an excellent consortium of ideas, progress, and, soon, measurement toward balancing the ongoing operating budget shortfall that has troubled us since 2016 but has been exacerbated during COVID years. By meeting with leaders of other MidAmerica UU churches online every Wednesday for more than a year, I have come to realize we're far from alone with this issue, but these contacts have confirmed for me that we are tackling the problem more systemically and optimistically than many congregations. A key thing to remember is that the BGI plan is not about saving expenses and raising funds alone, but also keeps a steady eye on furthering our mission and vision, for example in areas of social justice.

The Board's five committees have been especially active in recent months.

1) The Governance Committee, chaired by Joe Rasmussen, in a long-term, ongoing process, has continued to focus on locating and documenting new (and reviewing prior) policies and procedures to provide standardized-format, word-searchable sections of the online UUS Shared Ministry: Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures manual that now has the most recent change date on its cover. This manual, which also has UUS's bylaws, is to be found on the [uusic.org](http://uusic.org) website under "For Members," then scan down to "Board & Governance," then "Bylaws and Policies."

2) Personnel matters are now the province of the minister, but the Personnel Committee, chaired by Rochelle Honey-Arcement, assists Rev. Diana as asked, such as in the review of staff policies or participation on search committees, which have been very busy this year, and the final open (part-time) position of Communications Coordinator will be filled this month.

3) John Raley has ably led the Finance Committee, which cooperates with the Treasurer, the Endowment Committee, and the Stewardship Committee and broadly oversees UUS financial policies, assisting the board in its fiduciary responsibility.

4) The Right Relations Committee, currently with Julia Audlehelm as the temporary liaison between the Board and the committee's most recent past members, is being reconstituted and will promote engagement between UUS "communities" and between individuals to proactively avoid issues—but also to help resolve conflicts if they arise.

5) The Mission and Vision Review Committee co-chaired by Hazel Seaba and Diana Henry, is currently working on measurement tools that will be valuable to the BGI effort described in the second paragraph above—and valuable beyond that to help us chart UUS's progress.

The UUS is proud to have certified delegates Dave Martin, Paula Miller, Joe Rasmussen, and Donna Simonton to the UUA MidAmerica Region Conference at the end of April and Dave Martin and Donna Simonton to the UUA General Assembly at the end of June. We are well represented by these members and others who attended, including Rev. Diana.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the three members of the Board whose terms end this month: Past President Joe Rasmussen, Financial Trustee John Raley, and Secretary Paula Miller. These UUS members have served the congregation with real distinction and I'm sure they will continue to do so. They have been invaluable to me. Invited to preview our Board activities, the three new trustees for whom you voted at the Congregational meeting, may attend the June Board retreat and Executive Committee and Board meetings. Beginning in July 2022, they are Vice President John Bowman, Financial Trustee Jerry Wetlaufer, and Secretary Christine Etler.

This is my last newsletter message to you as UUS president. Even more than in the past, I have grown to appreciate the kindness, limitless energy, creativity, and high aspirations of this congregation and staff, and I thank each of you.

Caring and acting together,  
Alan Swanson

# Upcoming Events

## Lectio Divina with Poetry Group

Lectio Divina is a practice of reading a text in a way that allows you to meditatively enter into a deeper understanding of the text, what is happening in your emotional, mental, or spiritual life, and reflect on where or what you might be called to do in your life in the coming day(s) or week(s).

This summer, Rev. Diana will be convening a group to practice Lectio Divina with poetry. You can attend just once, every time, or once in a while. Our sessions will be dual platform in the conference room at UUS and on Zoom ([link to join](#), Meeting ID: 923 9960 6629, passcode: 224467).

We will meet on the following Wednesdays from 12 to 12:30 pm: **June 1st, June 15th, July 13th, and August 10th.** This is a drop-in/come when you can group. No registration required.

## The Music Outreach Program Presents The Iowa City Flute Choir

Join us on **Saturday, June 4th**, for a concert by the Iowa City Flute Choir, a semi-professional community music ensemble made up of local professionals and adult amateurs in Iowa City and the surrounding areas. The flute choir is inclusive and open to the community, welcoming fellow flute players regardless of past musical experience. Their instruments range from piccolo to contra bass flute and they enjoy demonstrating these different instruments during the performance. They enjoy exploring and performing music created by a variety of composers.

The concert will be held in the UUS Sanctuary at 4 pm. This event is part of the UUS Music Outreach Program series, and is free and open to the public. [Freewill donations](#) are gratefully accepted to support the Music Outreach Program and UUS.

Questions can be sent to Hsin-Hui Liu at [music.outreach@uusic.org](mailto:music.outreach@uusic.org).

## Rev. Diana Community Office Hours

Now that the weather is warming up, Rev. Diana will be experimenting with holding community office hours twice a month. These are times she'll be at a location in the community for members and friends to stop by and chat about whatever's on your heart or mind. You don't need to have an appointment. She hope you'll stop by to say "Hi!" This month, her community office hours will be:

- **Tuesday, June 7th**, from 10:30 am to noon at the Iowa City Bread Garden on the pedestrian mall (outside on the patio if it's clear, inside if it's raining).
- **Wednesday, June 15th**, from 4 to 5:30 pm at City Park near the pond/playground area (under a nearby picnic cover if it's raining).

*Find more information on these and other upcoming events on our website: <https://www.uusic.org/upcoming-events>.*

## Celebrate LGBTQIA+ Pride with UUS!

### Pride Worship Service Sunday

Join us to celebrate Pride during our worship service on **June 12th!** If you're a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and are interested in being part of the service by participating in sharing a reading, a story, etc, please contact Rev. Diana at [minister@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org) by June 4th. She has readings that you can choose from or you can suggest one.

### Iowa City Pride Festival

Join us to celebrate Pride in the wider community! On **Saturday, June 18th**, UUS will have a table in the Iowa City Pride festival and will be marching in the parade + unity march. The parade + unity march will begin at noon. The festival will be from noon to 8 pm with setup at 11 am. We'll have fun, welcoming activities and will be sharing information about UUS. If you're interested in helping staff our table, with set up, or with prepping materials please contact Anne Schons at [aeschons@gmail.com](mailto:aeschons@gmail.com).

## Welcome DLRE Nic Kaplan and Say Goodbye to RE Coordinator Anna Rode

On **Sunday, June 12th**, we'll be welcoming Nic Kaplan as our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) and saying goodbye to Anna Rode in her staff role as our temporary, part-time Religious Education (RE) Coordinator. During our 10 am worship service we'll be formally celebrating this transition. Then, at 11 am following our worship service, we'll be welcoming Nic and their family with festivities. Weather permitting, children and youth can bring their wheels for fun on the patio and paved north side of UUS. Frozen treats to be served to participants (RSVPs are appreciated but not required: [bit.ly/WelcomeWithWheels](https://bit.ly/WelcomeWithWheels)).

## BYO Summer Picnic

All are invited to join us after the service on **Sunday, June 26th**, for a summer bring-your-own picnic on our back patio and lawn! Each individual/family/household should bring their own food, dishes, silverware, and serving utensils. The Hospitality Team will provide beverages in compostable cups, paper napkins, containers for compost, recycling, and garbage, and warm soapy water for washing your own dishes by hand if you wish. There are several patio tables, or you may wish to bring a blanket or camp chairs.

We will not be moving indoors, so you can decide if the weather is pleasant enough to eat outdoors.

The dates for the other summer BYO picnics are July 17th, August 14th, and September 4th (Labor Day weekend).

If you would like to volunteer to help make sure that our hospitality teams have enough volunteers for beverages and picnics, please contact Kim Palmer [kalpal2@brentopalmer.com](mailto:kalpal2@brentopalmer.com) or Peggy Garrigues [dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org).

# From Your Religious Education Coordinator

Anna Rode

In June, we will explore the Soul Matters theme *Celebrating Blessings*. We begin with an all-ages Blessing of the Animals service on June 5th; bring your pets or stuffies for a special blessing from Reverend Diana! On June 12th, join us for our annual LGBTQIA+ Pride worship service; we will also welcome new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) Nic Kaplan and thank our outgoing RE Coordinator, Anna Rode. On June 19th, we will celebrate Juneteenth and Father's Day. And finally, on June 26th, join us for a General Assembly worship service from GA in Portland: Reimagining Radical Faith Community (watch the weekly emails for additional details). Following the June 26th service, we will enjoy our second "bring your own picnic" event outdoors (beverages provided, please bring your own table service).

I will be out of town through June 4th on an extended family road trip. Abby and/or experienced RE volunteers will be present on Sundays for service. I will check email on Wednesdays and staff know how to reach me should there be some sort of emergent question or issue. On June 12th, we welcome our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE), Nic Kaplan! I will remain on staff through June to help ensure a smooth transition for Nic.

We have returned to multi-platform services. You can continue to enjoy the Sunday service from home, or if your family is comfortable attending in person, we welcome you all at UUS! The sanctuary is set up with some social distance built in, as well as divided into 3 sections (green, yellow, and red, based on your comfort level with distance to other attendees). Toward the front left side of the Sanctuary, we've created a space for children & families; this space includes a large carpet, floor cushions, lap tables, coloring supplies and focus toys for children to enjoy. We kindly request parents/guardians plan to sit nearby if their child prefers this children's area. There are also clipboards and activity baskets with coloring materials and focus toys at the table outside the Sanctuary, available for all to enjoy.

Families may sit anywhere in the sanctuary they feel most comfortable, as well as in the RE Commons. On Sundays when the service is all-ages, children remain with their families in the Sanctuary.

When the service is not all-ages, we will sing the children to the RE Commons/Area, where they can engage in an activity (related to our monthly theme and/or the sermon), geared toward fun, learning, and community-building; children should be picked up after service.

## Junior & Senior High Youth

On Sunday, June 5th, the 2021-22 Junior High OWL youth will celebrate the completion of their workshop. What an exciting accomplishment for all the youth and volunteers involved! I want to extend a very sincere "Thank you!" to the volunteers who stepped in and committed to make the junior high OWL workshop happen this year (listed alphabetically): Marsha Cheyney, Dan Gall, John Lanaghan, Brenda Linley, Tony Miller, Alison Oliver, Abby Patterson, and Sarah Ross. THANK YOU!

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to volunteer with the Religious Education program in any capacity, please email Anna Rode at [education@uus.org](mailto:education@uus.org).

## Welcome New DLRE Nic Kaplan & family -With Wheels!

(Weather permitting; please watch weekly emails for rain date if needed).

Please join current RE Coordinator Anna Rode (and family) on June 12th from 11:15 to 12:30 pm as we welcome our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Nic Kaplan, along with their spouse and 8- and 4-year old children!

All are welcome to bring whatever wheeled fun you wish! A portion of the paved area surrounding UUS will be blocked off so we can all enjoy tricycles, scooters, bicycles, roller skates, roller blades, skateboards, wheelchairs, unicycles, hoverboards—oh my! We will provide frozen treats (dairy-free, gluten-free) along with some outdoor activities.

Please sign up at [bit.ly/WelcomeWithWheels](https://bit.ly/WelcomeWithWheels). Although sign up is not required to attend, it would be really helpful for planning treats. Thank you!

## From Your Director of Congregational and Community Engagement, Peggy Garrigues

*(This is a slightly edited excerpt of Peggy's longer sabbatical report posted in the April newsletter).*

I will be on sabbatical for one month from May 12th through June 11th. My current plan is to combine several aspects of renewal and refreshment with some study and learning time, attending my son Isaac's seminary graduation, volunteering at a retirement community with a farm, visiting a couple other UU membership professionals in other states, learning a bit about natural building, and finishing my certification as a UU membership professional. I will be back for a week or so, then off to General Assembly and a little vacation.

In my absence, the Membership Associates will be taking on a few of the tasks with visitors that I normally do, and we will have a volunteer event host for a couple of the larger rentals scheduled while I am gone. Congregational Administrator Emma Barnum will handle rental requests that come in during that time, and she and Administrative Assistant Nik Jakob will cover a few other necessary tasks for me. Some other things I normally do will just have to wait until I return. UUS has great staff and volunteers, so I am hopeful that there won't be too much of an additional burden on anyone while I am gone.

## Immigration Action Team

### Afghan Refugee Family Sponsorship

After much waiting, we are welcoming the Azizis, the Afghan refugee family that UU Society is co-sponsoring. The Azizi family includes three children ages 2, 3, and 4, and will be living near Mark Twain Elementary. They had been waiting in the United Arab Emirates to come to the US for seven months. UU Society members Andy Douglas, Mary McMurray, Tom McMurray, and Sally Hartman make up the support team, or Sponsor Circle. If you wish to become involved, there are opportunities to provide transportation or tutor English. Contact Andy Douglas (andy.c.douglas@gmail.com) or Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com).

The Faith United Church of Christ (1609 Deforest Avenue, Iowa City) is hosting a benefit concert for the Azizi family on **Saturday, June 11th** at 7 pm. Musicians include Larry Mossman and Kathy Maxey as well as O'Keith and McFiddle. In addition to the music, desserts will be available and baskets of goodies have been donated for a silent auction. A free will offering will be collected at the door.

## Social Justice Team

### Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN)

IUUWAN, the Iowa organization that has created a social justice network among UU congregations across the state, is gathering for an Appreciative Inquiry workshop this month. Outcomes of the workshop will be long-range planning and connections between congregations to work collaboratively on social justice issues. The May IUUWAN newsletter highlighted the partnerships our various congregations have forged in our communities. The June Newsletter theme is LGBTQ+. To submit an article, contact Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com).

## Covenant Group Facilitators

In May, covenant groups considered what it means to be a people committed to "Nurturing Beauty." Perhaps the best known saying about beauty is that it resides in the "eye of the beholder." We all think we know what beauty is—that is, we know what we think is beautiful. But what about what others consider beautiful that we don't? How do we see beauty through the eyes of other beholders? And what is our responsibility to beauty, once found in the world around us? According to Rev. Sean Parker Dennison, "The ability to see beauty is the beginning of our moral sensibility. What we believe is beautiful we will not wantonly destroy." Do you think that's true? Does beauty have any effect on you? Is it healing, restoring, inspiring, entertaining? Do you find beauty mainly in art or natural scenery, or do you appreciate beauty in simple, ordinary things, too? Perhaps there are more sides to "beauty" than you originally beheld!

If questions 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).

## Green Sanctuary Team

### UUS-Johnson Clean Energy District collaboration complete

In April, the Green Sanctuary team and Johnson Clean Energy District (JCED) presented a pilot "community-purchase" program for UUS members to take "Step One" in upgrading the energy efficiency of their homes. Installing LED light bulbs and low-flow showerheads are two simple, powerful ways to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, both for under \$50. During the pilot, we learned that most UUS members have already made these upgrades! Our thanks to all who participated and to generous individuals who donated to purchase energy efficiency kits for low-income households at UUS and other congregations.

The Green Sanctuary Team is now working with JCED to plan Steps Two and Three in our efforts to assist homeowners transition to clean, renewable energy. These steps look at the house itself and at its largest appliances. A key strategy in combatting climate change is to "electrify everything" over the next 10 to 15 years, using clean, abundant solar and wind as the energy source.

We would like to hear from you as we design these next steps. This summer, we will solicit input on what you'll need to make a climate-conscious choice as you retire and replace old furnaces and air conditioners, water heaters, washer/dryers, stoves and refrigerators, and motor vehicles. We anticipate holding one or more potluck supper for UUS (and possibly other congregations) to help develop a program you'll want to participate in. Please contact a member of the Green Sanctuary Team to learn more!

This program is part of JCED's larger program, "Increasing Energy Efficiency in Faith Communities" which will reach out to congregations throughout Johnson County. Your assistance in these pilots will have immediate impact and help us determine the way forward.

## Free Lunch Team

The second Friday of May was Friday the 13th, but UUS Free Lunch Volunteer Coordinator Bob Littlehale reports that it was a sunny, successful day at Free Lunch! Bob and other volunteers (Gary Lawrensen, Carolyn Johnson, Donna Simonton, Vicki Siefers, Deb Galbraith, and Theresa Ullrich) served 86 meals to appreciative Free Lunch diners. Thirty meals were take-outs, and 56 guests were served from behind the plexiglass-shielded serving counter and ate in the dining room at 1105 S. Gilbert. All observed pandemic protocols. Bob reports that Free Lunch guests really enjoyed the meal, and there were no leftovers and very little compost!

Grateful thanks to Bonnie Penno who purchased the main dish of chicken strips in honor of Mother's Day. Side dishes including cheesy hash browns, green beans, bananas, and chocolate chip cookies were purchased thanks to generous donations from many UUS Free Lunch volunteers as well as other UUS members and friends.

If you are interested in learning about the ways you can contribute to the Free Lunch Program, please contact Bob Littlehale at rfsal@yahoo.com or 419-297-7812.

# UUS Board of Trustees

## Regular Meeting Minutes

May 18th, 2022 (virtual via Zoom)

**Present:** Alan Swanson (President), Joe Rasmussen (Past-President), Rochelle Honey-Arcement (Vice-President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Diana Henry (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Minister, Ex Officio), Paula Miller (Secretary), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), John Raley (Financial Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee). **Guests:** Jerry Wetlaufer.

President Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and lit the chalice. Rasmussen provided opening words.

**Board Read:** Members discussed chapters 6 and 7 of *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 April 20, Board Minutes, April 27 Special Board Email to Approve Funds for AV Digital Mixer, April 29 Special Board Email Meeting to Approve Dave Martin as UUS's 4th Delegate to the MidAmerica Region Assembly, May 11 Executive Committee Minutes, Treasurer Pavelich's report and financial summary, Emma's narrative financial report, and Rev. Diana Smith's report including highlights from DCCE Peggy Garrigues, CA Emma Barnum, REC Anna Rode, and DM Alex Heetland.

Rasmussen requested an amendment to the April Board Meeting Minutes to clarify a motion. Miller advised that a corrected copy will be submitted for the permanent record. Rasmussen moved to approve the consent agenda with the correction, seconded by Audlehelm. The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda with the correction.

### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Governance:** Rasmussen requested adding a cover page to the hard copy of the Policies and Procedures manual advising that any changes would need to go through the Governance first. He doesn't want Governance to be the arbiter of any changes, but this would be more of a reminder of the process for any changes and to make sure updates are numbered and indexed correctly.

**Personnel:** The new DLRE, Nic Kaplan, will begin on 6/12/22 per Rev. Diana. Also, they have a good candidate for the new Communications Coordinator position and are completing reference checks. Hopefully the start-date for that new hire will be 7/5/22. The official offer will be made during Peggy Garrigues' sabbatical and the hiring decision will be finalized once she returns.

**Finance:** Per Raley the Stewardship Committee is planning and setting goals for next year. The overall theme will be looking to the next steps in working with BGI and the Mission and Vision Committee.

**Right Relations:** Audlehelm advised that they will have their first Zoom meeting at the beginning of June. Rev. Diana will also attend and will have some materials prepared which will help with planning the structure of the committee.

**Mission & Vision Review:** Seaba reported that they met on Monday and spent time updating one section describing the interaction between BGI and the Committee. They will have reports back from each of the five sub-groups before the 6/4 Board retreat. They had an extensive conversation about the roles of qualitative and quantitative assessments. Rev. Diana provided information about a new qualitative assessment method. The report for the Board will describe the intent and priorities of each of these five sub-groups. They would like to start assessments and implementation next year as this year is focused more on planning. Swanson advised that we should spend at least an hour discussing BGI and the Mission and Vision measurements at the Board retreat in June.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

**BGI Discussion:** Swanson commended the good inroads which have been made so far and the collaboration between Finance, Mission and Vision, and BGI's goals.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Proposal to adopt the Eighth Principle:** Several Board members shared positive experiences from the online workshop led by Paula Cole Jones on 5/07.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**UUA General Assembly:** Dave Martin and Donna Simonton have agreed to be delegates to the General Assembly meeting, which will be held both online and in-person in Portland Oregon from Wed 6/22 - Sun 6/26. Swanson called for a motion to approve them as delegates. Henry moved to accept this motion, seconded by Honey-Arcement. The vote to approve the delegates was unanimous, and Swanson will see that they are certified for UAA GA.

**May Congregational Meeting:** Swanson requested that Board members volunteer to assist with tallying participants and with questions or motions made on Zoom. Swanson confirmed that we need to have 58 participants in total to establish a quorum. He advised that for future meetings Governance probably needs to update the bylaws to make sure that people submitting absentee ballots by mail have as much time to submit their votes as those members voting online. Emma advised Swanson that if someone who has already received an absentee ballot would like to vote online instead, they can arrange a phone call to submit their vote and then destroy their paper ballot.

**June Board Retreat:** Will be held at UUS on Sat 6/4 from 10-4. Board members will bring their own lunches. Swanson confirmed that the new Board members will also attend, and the focus will be on BGI and the 3 open questions that help form the vision of ministry.

**Stewardship Committee:** The goal for 2023 is \$440,000. Rasmussen noted that per the Board packet that the number of pledge units has dropped by almost 30. Pavelich commented that the amount pledged per unit has increased. Rev. Diana and Miller confirmed that there have been recent efforts by Peggy Garrigues and the Membership Associates Team to remove non-pledging members from the voting and stewardship rolls, so this could have some impact on these numbers.

(Minutes continue on next page)

(May Board Minutes, continued)

Pavelich suggested reaching out to members who may have reduced contact with UUS per last year's listening campaign. Rev. Diana confirmed that when members aren't pledging as they have in the past they are contacted by Pastoral Care or Membership Associates. However, sometimes these calls aren't always indicated as a call from the congregation, and there may be some things we can do to help that. This may be an opportunity to continue some of the outreach originally proposed before COVID. Swanson stressed it's important to let people know we want them to remain part of the congregation regardless of their current Stewardship support.

**Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC):** Rev. Diana has agreed to become co-president of the JCIC with Pastor Tony Smith, and they have requested to hold their annual meeting/fundraiser for the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition at UUS. Pavelich asked if this would be a fundraiser for UUS also? Rev. Diana advised that this would solely be for UUS outreach. *Rasmussen moved to approve the JCIC fundraiser, seconded by Audlehelm. The vote was unanimous.*

**Facility Rentals:** Rev. Diana advised that they have decided to move away from big one-off events such as weddings for non-members. She has discussed this with Peggy Garrigues, and while these events do bring us some revenue they also cost us and take up a great deal of Peggy's time. Their goal will now be to focus more on events supporting long-term partnerships such as the Bengali community's Diwali celebration held at UUS last year. UUS members can still use the sanctuary for weddings, but we just don't have the event staff to control large events for non-members. We will also revise the pay scale for member receptions. Her plan is to update the fee structure to be closer to what these events actually cost UUS. It might not need Finance approval. Long-term partnerships would allow us to still have big events or conferences, but since they would be ongoing we would have a better plan to resolve any problems while also meeting our goals for outreach to local organizations. When the new DLRE starts there will be some different types of day-care or pre-school options to explore, such as a "parents day out." Also, events co-sponsored by professional and eco-spiritual organizations such as Prairiewoods may help with outreach and revenue generation. Raley suggested that we discuss this further at the retreat since this is a BGI metric. Rasmussen confirmed that the one-off wedding events often pull people in from out-of-state and don't contribute to UUS' mission.

**UUS Dues to UAA:** Pavelich referred to the second page of the Treasurer's report where he laid out his plan to pay \$28,000 in dues to the UUA in 2023. The UUA has asked for \$33,000, but since they counted the \$150,000 used from reserves to supplement the budget he feels that this is a miscalculation. Also, if income decreases in 2024 then we will not have overpaid. Last year the UUA did accept \$25,000 even though they asked for \$27,500.

Rasmussen asked if we are still a "fair share" congregation? Pavelich advised that they don't do that anymore: instead, they have a list of "honored" congregations. He referred to the graduated schedule to get us to where we want to be by 2026.

Henry requested that we vote on this decision: *Pavelich made a motion to give the UUS \$28,000 and to write a letter explaining how this amount was determined, seconded by Swanson. The vote was unanimous.* Pavelich confirmed that our tradition has been to give them the money at the end of their fiscal year.

#### CLOSING:

There were no guest comments. Pavelich provided process observer comments. Closing words by Raley. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm. The next board meeting will be at 7 pm, June 15th, 2022, via Zoom.

—Paula Miller, Board Secretary

## Financial Report Highlights

Our total bank balance at the end of April, \$356,800, remains high and healthy notably because our being under staffed decreases payroll. That will change in the coming two months and we will also see higher expenses because UUA dues, insurance and solar energy payments are coming due. Pledge giving was substantially down for the month which we will have to watch. Overall, however, pledge giving is ahead of the calendar. To date we have received 42% of pledges, whereas we are only 33% through the year.

#### Operating Income Received last Month:

- o \$23,193.27 in pledge giving (~\$10,000 under budget)
- o \$149.17 in non-pledge giving
- o \$1,679 in rental income
- o \$2,489.72 in unbudgeted income from the April 29th-May 1st Garage Sale

#### Justice Income Received last Month:

- o \$185 additional for CWJ (Mar. Agency- \$1,232.24 raised total)
- o \$966.74 for Domestic Violence Intervention Program (Apr. Agency- \$1,066.74 raised total)
- o \$200 additional for the Afghan Asylum Sponsorship Fund
- o \$114 were received for green product orders as part of the Green Sanctuary/JCED Community Buy event
- o An egg dying event raised \$232 for the World Kitchen's work in Ukraine

#### Other Income Received last Month:

- o \$372 from the April 30th Latin Jazz concert for the Music Outreach Fund.
- o We received a distribution payment from the UUA/UUCEF for \$374.51 which will be moved to the General Endowment Fund.

Expenses were mainly under budget for the month. There are no red flags.

At the May Finance Committee meeting, the insurance subgroup reported that work continues on a vendor recommendation. Stewardship presented their plan for the 2023 pledge campaign. Members discussed BGI action items and Pavelich presented his proposal for the 2023 UUA pledge.

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

### UU 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.

### UU Six Sources

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. 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;
6. 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.

**Our Mission:** 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.

**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.

*[Visit our website for more information about UUS: www.uusic.org.](http://www.uusic.org)*

*[Subscribe to our email list](#) for weekly updates and important announcements.*

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



### UUS Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Diana Smith ([minister@uusic.org](mailto:minister@uusic.org))  
**Congregational Administrator:** Emma Barnum ([admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org))  
**Director of Congregational and Community Engagement:**  
Peggy Garrigues ([dcce@uusic.org](mailto:dcce@uusic.org))  
**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:** Nic Kaplan  
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**Director of Congregational Music:** Alex Heetland ([music@uusic.org](mailto:music@uusic.org))  
**Administrative Assistant:** Nik Jakob ([admin.assistant@uusic.org](mailto:admin.assistant@uusic.org))  
**Staff Pianist & Music Outreach Coordinator:** Hsin-Hui Liu  
([pianist@uusic.org](mailto:pianist@uusic.org))  
**Facilities Coordinator:** Ruben Galvan (contact the office)  
**Community Minister:** Rev. Lois Cole ([community.minister@uusic.org](mailto:community.minister@uusic.org))

### UUS Board of Trustees, 2021-2022

**President:** Alan Swanson ([president@uusic.org](mailto:president@uusic.org))  
**Vice President:** Rochelle Honey-Arcement  
**Past President:** Joe Rasmussen  
**Secretary:** Paula Miller  
**Treasurer:** Mike Pavelich ([treasurer@uusic.org](mailto:treasurer@uusic.org))  
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**Trustee:** Hazel Seaba

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# THE UUS NEWS

2022 | June