



From Your Minister

Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

I'm writing this from Pittsburgh, where we're partway through General Assembly, which is the annual national gathering of Unitarian Universalists. We finished Ministry Days, which is the annual national gathering of Unitarian Universalist ministers, a couple days ago. These gatherings are important because they're where we conduct our business together – this year one of the main pieces is reviewing amendments to the draft UU Principles and Purposes statements. And they're also important because they're a time when we get to reconnect with beloveds from around the country. And they're a time when we put language to, craft meaning around what is happening in our country and in Unitarian Universalism. As we do this, we engage in crucial discernment together about where we're going. And so, this year our theme is Faithfully Becoming.

As we have these conversations about what Faithfully Becoming means in these times, one of the recurring themes is joy. You might be thinking, "Really?!? In these times? Joy?"

And yes, joy. And yes, we're talking about, we're giving language to rising extremism, to rising fascism and processing our response. I strongly encourage you to watch Rev. Cecilia Kingman's Berry Street Essay to learn about this (<https://uuma.org/berry-street-essay/2023-berry-street-essay-the-reverend-cecilia-kingman/>).

As part of that, please make sure you watch Rev. Elizabeth Steven's response, which starts at 1:19. Rev. Stevens is the minister of our congregation in Moscow, Idaho. She brings us a word of hope. She describes how their congregation is thriving because of how they're responding to oppression and extremism, to rising fascism. She tells us about making sure everyone knows who the UUs of the Palouse are and what they stand for. She tells us about how rest is resistance, how joy is resistance, how living well is resistance. She tells us about being obnoxiously UU.

Being obnoxiously UU has come up a lot in the past few days. It's an interesting term that's been shorthand for being out in the wider community and being loud about our values, about how Unitarian Universalism sides with love and with the oppressed. It means talking about and taking actions to support our beliefs that every body is sacred, especially in this time of so many attacks on bodily autonomy, and that we all have inherent dignity, worthiness, and power. It also means being devoted to right relations and mutual respect while not being held back in the work of faithfully becoming. It means noticing our power to transform ourselves, our situations, and our communities. And it means cultivating the things that sustain us on the journey – deep relationality, learning, community care, grief work, delight, and joy.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Services

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

July 2nd: *The Delight of Repetition*

Join us for a service focused on exploring (and remembering) the delight that repetition brings to our lives through beauty, love, and connection. UUS member Kezia Walker-Cecil preaching.

July 9th: *The Delight of Community Care*

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to support and care for one another, and what a delight that is in our lives and in our congregation! And yet, caring for each other well often requires preparation. Join us to explore the ways we prepare to care for each other and keep each other safe. Towards the end of our worship service, we'll practice a fire drill, which will be followed by popsicles and (hopefully!) a visit from a fire truck! Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

July 16th: *Faithfully Becoming*

In this time of great change without and within, congregations that are focused on faithfully becoming, where everyone in the community knows who Unitarian Universalists are and that we stand for love, liberation, and justice, are thriving. So what sustains us as we do this work? Join us to learn lessons from our national General Assembly of congregations about cultivating community care, rest, joy, and living well as resistance. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

July 23rd: *Delighting in Each Other*

Delighting in the Other: How do you learn about someone? I mean, really learn about what they're passionate about, their joys and their sorrows, moving past the usual questions about what someone does for work or where they're from. Join us for a special experimental service where we learn and practice new ways of being radically welcoming and creatively delighting in the other. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

July 30th: *Roses*

How among all the flowers roses speak to me loudest through my life's journey. May you rediscover your favorite flower or may you explore a new one. Fanny Carver preaching.

The 5th Sunday donation on July 30th will benefit a special organization or need. Look in the Wednesday emails for details.

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

(Minister's Report continued)

Even though most of you aren't here at General Assembly with me, I hope that in the coming weeks as we continue to explore our summer theme of Delight, you engage with the idea of Faithfully Becoming and how that connects with community care, with being obnoxiously UU by living our values, with delight. How might we cultivate joy in how we live Love out loud in the world, in our justice work, in the times that we're resisting rising extremism, as well as in the times that we're socializing and having what we traditionally identify as fun? I hope you'll share your ideas with each other, with me, with the rest of the staff, and with congregational lay leadership.

Because the growth and innovation that these times require need all of us – all of us together, with our passion, our perspectives, our listening, our learning, our caring for each other, our rest, our joy, our delight. All of us together, faithfully becoming.

Love and Blessings, Rev. Diana

July Offerings Benefit Inside Out Reentry Community

Based in Iowa City, Inside Out serves people returning to Johnson County and elsewhere after incarceration. Starting before release and continuing, there is help with re-entry plans, including work, a place to live, and connecting to community resources. Learn more at <https://www.insideoutreentry.com/>

All cash donations collected during or for the Sunday Services offerings benefit our monthly community partner, unless otherwise earmarked on a donation envelope. Checks for the offering baskets should be made out to UUS and have "Inside Out" or on the memo line. You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/UUSPartner>, text "GivetoUUSIC Partner" to 73256, or mail a check to the UUS office.

From Your Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Nic Kaplan

In July, RE continues to be “one room schoolhouse” style for ages 3 and up. We will spend Sundays outside learning more about the UUS Mission Statement while we explore, discover, and play outside.

Because we'll primarily be outside, play clothes and shoes are strongly recommended

Interested in helping guide Religious Education at UUS?

This past year, the members of the RE Team have been instrumental in making sure that I have felt welcomed and have been supported. They've met about once a month on Zoom to discuss our mission, values, and how those are playing out in our spaces. They gathered together to make the beautiful chalices for our Bridgers and teachers. They have helped connect me with the congregation. And so much more.

If you would be interested in joining the RE Team this coming year, please fill out this form. Whether you're interested in guiding programming for 3, 13, or 30+ year olds, there's something for everyone and you don't have to be a practiced teacher to be right for the job.

Youth Group

Youth Group is not meeting regularly over the summer. Youth and their families should keep an eye out for messages about a couple of pop up events over the summer. We'll resume our regular meetings in mid-August.

Summer Camp is in Full Swing

You may have noticed that you're not seeing me around the building nearly as much on Sundays. That is because summer camp is in full swing and currently taking up my entire 40 hour week (plus some!). We're having a wonderful time caring for our gardens, climbing trees, searching for caterpillars, and scrambling up and down the boulders.

I will be out of the office the first week of July visiting with family and then July 10th the musical theater camp begins. I hope that everyone can join us for our camp performances of Seussical Kids! on July 22nd (times TBA).

Check out these photos from our first three weeks of Nature Camp!



Learning Space Registration is Open!

The Learning Space is now open for registration for the 2023-2024 school year! The Learning Space is a safe, supervised environment for your student to complete their classes, socialize with others, and participate in special programming! We currently have space for 50 online or homeschool students in 1st through 12th grade who are trans, hold marginalized identities, and/or who are active allies and accomplices are encouraged to register. Families will not need to pay for their student(s) to attend the Learning Space, but they will need to provide lunch. Students will also be able to participate in extracurricular activities like Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality education programming, music activities, and more!

If you are interested in signing your children or youth up for the Learning Space, please fill out the [Registration Form](https://www.uusic.org/uus-learning-space/) (<https://www.uusic.org/uus-learning-space/>.) If you would like more information about the Learning Space and registration, please email Nic Kaplan at education@uusic.org.

From Your Congregational Administrator, Emma Barnum

Safety Updates

As we return to more in-person events and look to new programming like the Learning Space, the UUS staff and leadership are committed to providing a safe environment for our members, friends, and visitors. Last fall we held a CPR and AED training for the congregation (our AED machine is located on the atrium wall by the nursery and handicap door). There are also maps posted throughout the building that highlight storm shelter areas, fire extinguisher and first aid kit locations, and evacuation routes. We will be adding wall mounted safety manuals with clear instructions for dealing with safety concerns, including our tornado and fire procedures. Look for those to be posted in the next few week ahead of our **special July 9th fire drill service** where we can review and practice these skills together. As the summer progresses, we will also be looking into creating procedures, policies, and training opportunities on dealing with disruptive or hostile visitors- look for more information and how to get involved in future weekly emails and newsletters. If you'd like to be involved with our Safer Congregations Team, please contact Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org).

Join Us in Celebrating Our July Birthdays

Bruce Alexander
Sharon Booker
Alan Brink
Monique DiCarlo
Dave Gallaher
Winnie Ganshaw
Andy Lopez
Janet McKee
Marcy Neumann
Jenna Supp-Montgomerie
Alan Swanson
Steve Van Abbema

Save the Date(s) to Support UUS!

UUS Rummage Sale, August 12th

Start going through your closets! We are excited to announce that the Rummage Sale will be returning to UUS this year on the morning of Saturday, August 12th. The Rummage Sale focuses on smaller consignment/garage sale items, such as kitchenware, small (working) appliances, household goods, tools, toys, books, games, puzzles, and clothes. Items must be in decent shape.

If you have furniture or more valuable items to donate that could sell for more outside of a rummage sale, let us know- we have a few volunteers and are compiling a list of others who would be willing to help sell items online to benefit UUS or pick up and deliver larger items to Stuff Etc. for our consignment account there (you can always donate there and at Houseworks under our name!).

Look for more details on how to donate and volunteer with the rummage sale in the weekly emails and August newsletter. Contact Sue Kann (kann.sue@gmail.com) with questions.

Save the Date(s) to Support UUS!

UUS Treats and Talents Auction, September 16th

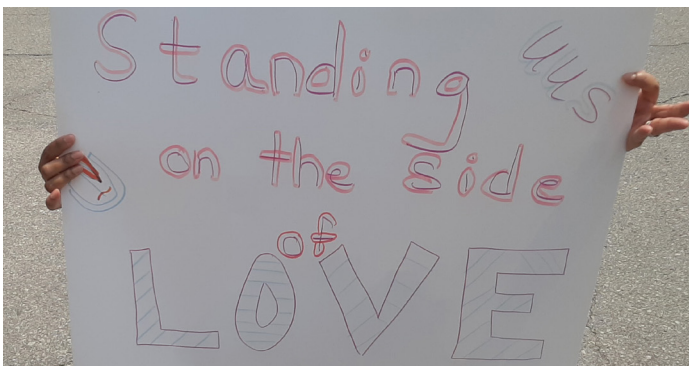
This year the annual Treats and Talents Auction is trying something new! On Saturday, September 16th, join us for a free, open-to-the public afternoon of entertainment, games and activities for all ages, food, and a variety of fun ways to support our operating budget, including our annual silent auction (which will begin earlier in the month online as normal). Following the family-friendly afternoon festivities, an elegant evening program with music, desserts, and wine (as well as delicious nonalcoholic drinks) will be held in the Fellowship Hall accompanied by our popular Live Auction event.

Details on the Auction programming are still coming together, but please start thinking if you have a unique or valuable item, event, or service to donate for the silent or live auction. (This year we are asking for people to donate home good items to the Rummage Sale instead of the Auction.)

We will also need members and friends of all ages to share their treats and talents during our afternoon program (can you juggle, do magic, play a fun instrument, or have another fun talent to showcase? Can you donate gently used toys or a dessert for game prizes? Can you volunteer to run a game or table?). We'll have more details and signup information in the coming weeks and months- keep an eye on the weekly emails and newsletters! Contact Judy Tokuhisa (judy.tokuhisa@gmail.com) with questions or if you'd like to join the Auction planning team!

UUS Craft Fair, TBA

This winter (date TBA but likely early December) we are planning our first annual Holiday Craft Fair. This event is still in the initial planning phase, but will provide an opportunity for the artists, bakers, crafters, and creatives in our congregation and community to showcase our collective talents and spread some holiday cheer. Artisans will be able to rent booth space to sell items for themselves, or they can donate items to be sold to benefit our operating budget. Many more details are yet to be determined, stay tuned! If you'd like to be involved in planning this event, contact Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org).



Highlighted Upcoming Events

Mens' Sunday Social, July 2nd

UUS adult men are invited to gather together on the first Sunday of most months from 6 to 8 pm to socialize in a casual setting. We will be meeting at 2dogs pub in Iowa City (1705 S 1st Ave). Send questions to Nik Jakob at menssundaysocial@uusic.org, or 319-631-8126.

Prison Ministry Team, July 4th

The UUS Prison Ministry Team would like to invite you to our monthly meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, July 4th, in the UUS Conference Room. The Prison Ministry Team endeavors to become informed advocates for justice and build relationships to decrease isolation of those confined in the Iowa justice system. This will be a Hybrid Meeting, both in-person and by Zoom (Link to join, Meeting ID: 848 0842 4430, Passcode: 193553).

Racial Justice Team, June 6th

The Racial Justice Team strives to educate ourselves through various venues (reading, discussion, media, programs). We meet at 7 pm on the 1st Thursday of each month. With goals to further anti-racism, we hope to equip ourselves to be allies standing in solidarity with communities of color. Join us on our journey! Watch for updates in the Wednesday emails. For more information contact Peg Bouska and Dave Martin at racialjusticechair@uusic.org. (Link to Join, Meeting ID: 880 6065 0709, Passcode: 501124).

UU Mystics, July 9th

Join the UU Mystics on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month in the Conference Room after services (11:30 am to 1 pm). The UUS Mystics is a group for anyone who has an interest or personal experience with what is commonly referred to as "mystical experiences." We will share our stories, and explore the impact, meaning, and implications that these experiences may have in our lives and beyond. As with most groups who enjoy personal sharing, we will practice confidentiality and respect with sharing of time.

Social Justice Team, July 11th

The UUS Social Justice Team coordinates our congregation's community service, monthly community partners, and a variety of social action activities in our area. Our meetings are informal and fun, and we welcome new faces and ideas. Join us! All are welcome! Contact socialjustice@uusic.org to get more information about the team. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. (Link to Join, Meeting ID: 906 916 603 Password: 036010).

Men's Sharing Circle, July 16th

All adult UUS members and friends who identify as male are invited to join us to our monthly sharing circle. You are invited to share your joys and sorrows, practice deep listening, and offer support when asked for, all in a confidential environment. We will meet in the Hickory & Oak Rooms at UUS on the third Sunday of each month from 6-8 pm. For questions, contact Ron Pile at ronbeeguy@hotmail.com or Niklaus Jakob at uus.assistant@gmail.com



UUS Team and Committee Reports

Covenant Groups

In June covenant group members did some traveling for a change. Or rather, we shared memories of traveling when we told each other about our favorite trip, vacation, or journey, the most meaningful and memorable one of our lives. We travel for many reasons: pleasure, escape from the everyday, education, business, physical, emotional, and spiritual renewal. How did the experience of travel you remember as the best in your life change you? What did you learn, what did you feel? Did you have fun, experience a sense of play? In what ways did you understand yourself or others, or the world in general, differently when you returned? Mark Twain famously said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts." This is as true today as when he wrote it in the late 1860s. Truer!

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).

Free Lunch Program Team

We had perfect weather for the second month in a row. Unfortunately, guest count was down for both days. We served 83 meals compared to our usual of over 100 on both occasions. The main course was a hot chicken salad that has become very popular because it is so good and remarked upon by our guests and those who served it. There were the usual fruit and green veggie salads, too. The donors of those were: Sally Hartman, Carol Throckmorton, Pete Brokaw, Frank Wildensee and Virginia Stamler. Our desserts were cookies of various varieties donated by Ron Crawford, Judy Quinn, and Carrie Norton. Janet McKee and Terri O'Berry brought apple juice to accompany the usual milk, coffee, and tea served by Donna Simonton. Caryl Lyons also brought her delicious veggie lasagna. Other volunteers were: Bob Littlehale, Kim Palmer, Vicki Siefers, Gay Mikelson, Barb Stannard, Joe Rasmussen and Theresa Ullerich.

A special shout out to our unheralded dishwashing team. Though the volunteers vary from month to month, our usual, big league helpers are Caryl Lyons, Gary Lawrensen, Russ Lenth, and Joe Ramussen. This month we also added John Elson. These folks work so harmoniously that our team usually gets done by 1:30 pm. They are simply terrific! It is a pleasure to witness such great teamwork.

Green Sanctuary Team

Let's Electrify! Why would you want to try out an Induction hot plate in your kitchen or buy an electric vehicle (EV)? You have been hearing how burning fossil fuels like coal, natural gas, and gasoline emit CO₂, which is warming the planet, thereby causing more wildfires, derechos, and tornados. So, we urgently need to switch from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.

What we can do as individuals is to electrify everything we can in our own homes. This means gradually replacing our natural gas and gasoline powered furnaces, water heaters, kitchen stoves, lawn mowers, and cars with electric ones as they wear out.

You don't need to commit to buying an induction electric stove. You can try it out by checking out an induction hot plate from the Iowa City Public Library like some UUers are doing. Green Sanctuary (GS) Team is planning a gathering in the fall to talk about people's experience with induction cooking and share some recipes. Members and friends with electric vehicles will share their experience with others who are thinking about getting a new car.

The new Inflation Recovery Act (IRA) incentives provide a 30% federal tax credit, or rebate, for many of these purchases. The GS Team is partnering again with the Johnson Clean Energy District (JCED) to launch a Johnson County funded energy coaching program this fall. We will assist homeowners to access the IRA incentives to make their homes more energy efficient and even install solar PV panels. Stay tuned.

Prison Ministry

The Prison Ministry Team will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday Aug.1 at 7:00 in the UUS Conference Room. Topics for discussion will include approving a proposed mission statement and matching up volunteers and incarcerated individuals as pen pals. We'll also be exploring educational opportunities for the UUS congregation as a whole, such as scheduling a speaker and recommending books and other informational materials on critical issues concerning the U.S. justice system. In time, we intend to support legislation that proposes needed reforms. We invite more participants. If you know someone in prison, or are corresponding with an incarcerated individual, please come and share your experience and what you've learned.

IUUWAN

The Iowa UU Witness Advocacy Network is the social justice network across Iowa! IUUWAN connects 14 Iowa congregations through its newsletters, [website \(www.IUUWAN.com\)](http://www.IUUWAN.com), Zoom trainings, and anticipates future in-person conferences with COVID-19 dissipating.

Our social justice priorities include environmental, racial, and electoral justice. We are currently highlighting LGBTQ+ issues because of the hand that the Iowa governance dealt us. With that in mind, we launched a Faithify campaign that ends July 5th to raise money for our statewide actions to support LGBTQ+ youth and allies. Donations before July 5th can be made on [Faithify \(https://www.faithify.org/campaign/220/outreach-support-for-iowa-lgbtq-community-and-allies\)](https://www.faithify.org/campaign/220/outreach-support-for-iowa-lgbtq-community-and-allies).

IUUWAN proposes to offer speakers, resources, and yard signs to 14 congregations. A joint conference with UU Justice Florida is in the works aimed at learning together and how to address restrictions and laws by state government. Anyone wanting to help plan this conference may contact Sally Hartman at sallyahartman@hotmail.com.

Even with this flurry of activity, IUUWAN is still working on environmental justice. The IUUWAN Environmental Team meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at 7 PM. Please contact Sally Hartman if you are interested in attending.

UU Mystics

Mysticism and its exploration is a significant part of our UU tradition. We invite you to have a look at what it means to our denomination at the [UUA website \(https://uumystics.org/\)](https://uumystics.org/). Everyone is welcome to join our own UUS Mystics gathering on the 1st Sunday of each month in the Conference Room after services (approximately 11:30 am to 1 pm). With the recommendation of someone in our Mystics group, people outside our church community are welcome to join us. If other church functions or a holiday take precedence, it will be rescheduled to another Sunday, so watch for a notice.

The UU Mystics is a group for anyone who has an interest or personal experience with what is commonly referred to as “mystical experiences,” and a desire to share in a community of support for exploring “Spiritual Awakening” or “Enlightenment.” We share our personal stories and explore the impact, meaning, and implications that these experiences may have in our lives and beyond. We may also explore historical or contemporary mystical spiritual wisdom and draw from our own UUA resources. We are a self-creating community with shared leadership. As with most groups who enjoy personal sharing, we will follow the covenant we created together to guide our gatherings. If you wish to participate and cannot be present, please use join us over [Zoom](#) (Link to Join, Meeting ID: 826 8770 0792, Passcode: 218927). Please contact Miriam Kashia (miriam.kashia@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

June Financial Report Highlights

Our total bank accounts balance remains robust with strong pledge giving and mostly normal monthly expenses. Two major one-time bills will come due in June: insurance and our annual UUA dues. However, this coming month should also reflect the savings coming from the major staff adjustments put in place recently. Overall, we are financially in a healthy position, better off than we anticipated at last December’s Congregational meeting.

We are seeing the results of the successful rollout of the Earth Festival, OWL expansion and summer camp sign-ups, as well as the crowdfunding of the Learning Space. These programs are paying for themselves, but may not generate much extra income this year as we are learning what we need to create engaging and profitable programming. Congregational Administrator Emma Barnum will be working with the rentals program and other non-pledge income streams, including the Auction, to help meet our budget goals for the year.

Finance Committee member Pete Brokaw, with John Raley as adviser, has concluded negotiating an insurance contract for UUS through Hastings Mutual of Detroit. The yearly costs are significantly lower than we were paying and there are some new features. The Stewardship Team unveiled a major new feature for the 2024 pledge campaign to invite community members to contribute to a “Challenge Pool” to match increased and new pledges. Invitation letters have gone out and the response so far is encouraging.

Operating Income Received in May:

- \$40,481.56 in operating budget pledge giving
- \$320 in rental income
- \$1,108.90 in income from Earth Festival (door donations and raffle tickets)
- \$739 in profit from two OWL classes taught at Willowwind

Justice Income Received (Highlights):

- \$125 additional raised for Table to Table (April Agency, \$1,842.04 raised total)
- \$1,194 raised for Black Women’s Maternal Health (April 5th Sunday)
- \$1,598.30 raised for Table to Table (May Agency)

Other Income Received:

- \$2,780 in summer camp deposits and fees (\$6,830 raised total so far).
- \$15,397.75 for the Learning Space (\$18,597.75 total)
- \$117.11 from a class action legal settlement with Zoom (will offset the software budget)
- \$465 in Earth Festival vendor fees and shirt sales (offset by Festival expenses)
- \$350 in Pride Iowa Yard Signs (offset by cost of signs)

UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

7 PM on June 21st, 2023

Find the full minutes on our website or inquire with the office.

Present: Rochelle Honey-Arcement (President), Jeff Walberg (Vice President), Alan Swanson (past President), Jerry Wetlaufer (Financial Trustee), Hazel Seaba (Trustee), Julia Audlehelm (Trustee) Christine Etler (Secretary), Diana Henry (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio) Guest: Monique DiCarlo (incoming Trustee starting in July)

The meeting opened at 7:11 pm. Swanson provided opening words

Consent Agenda P1 Governance Committee Minutes P2 June Treasurer's Report P3 June Finance Committee Minutes P4 May Minister's Report. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Safety Task Force: On 6/15/23, the newly formed Safety Task force met. Along with updating the Safer Congregations policy, several topics of focus have been identified, including training on welcoming and de-escalation, first-aid training, building security, cyber safety, safety practices around the Learning Space, etc. A review of fire safety and natural disaster preparedness (including evacuation) will be reviewed/presented during a July service.

Staff Sharing Idea: UUA has resources for facilitating sharing personnel between congregations. There has been some preliminary discussion People's Church in Cedar Rapids about possibly "yoking" part-time positions together, particularly RE staff from both congregations.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Policy Discussion on Policies Related to Bylaw Changes: We discussed the preliminary recommendations made by the Governance Committee to align the Policies and Procedures with the newly passed amendments to the bylaws. The Board has unfinished discussions surrounding Board structure and roles. We will discuss Trustee committee assignments at our upcoming Board retreat (7/15).

PLANNING AND CONNECTING

Inclusion & Exclusion Discussion: We discussed the planned display of Flags & Other Visual Representations of Social Justice Values. Over the past few months, the Land Ministry and staff have worked through discussions and planning to display two flags outside the building. We are now prepared to display a Pride Progress flag and a Black Lives Matter flag on our land, near the UUS sign near the road and by the solar panels. (These are 2 by 4 flags.) As there has been some disagreement about these flags, we discussed the Board's support of this action.

Honey-Arcement spoke about the ongoing sentiment that the action has prior tacit justification since, we as a congregation, decided to become an LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation, and we also recently voted to support the 8th principal. Since this is already a congregational priority, some of us feel this does not need "approval". Additionally, similar displays of support are already publicly presented through our website. There are some members who are not happy with what they see as a restricted focus of these public visual statements. On the other hand, LGBTQ and Black individuals are currently being impacted negatively by divisive actions within the community and by our state legislature. And this is a reason to highlight these groups and communicate that we are here for those being targeted.

We had a lengthy discussion about expanding our public displays to include other visual representations related to our social justice values. It is important for some of our members to include "all the things that we are" in our visual displays. We should plan to solicit ideas from the members (through an Adhoc committee, listening circles, etc.) about what they would like to add. These discussions should not be confined to the board or a limited group. We will also want to include our youth. One possibility we will discuss further is to address this issue with one our annual Open questions on how we, as a congregation, should represent our social justice values.

Honey-Arcement plans to write a message to the congregation on the flags display.

Motion: Etler moved to endorse the display of two flags (Pride progress and BLM) and plan to solicit input from a range of congregants for further ideas on visual representation of our values; Henry seconded. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

END OF MEETING

No Guest Comments beyond those contributed during the meeting were made. Outgoing Trustees were recognized during a closed executive session. Process Observer Comments were provided by Pavelich. Closing words were provided by Henry. A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 9:44 pm.

—Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary

[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.](#)

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.



2023-2024 Board of Trustees

President: Jeff Walberg
(president@uusic.org)
Past President: Rochelle Honey-Arcement
Secretary: Christine Etler
Treasurer: Mike Pavelich
(treasurer@uusic.org)
Finance Trustee: Jerry Wetlaufer
Trustee: Diana Henry
Trustee: Hazel Seaba
Trustee: Monique DiCarlo

UUS Staff

Minister: Rev. Diana Smith (minister@uusic.org)
Congregational Administrator: Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org)
Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Nic Kaplan (education@uusic.org)
Director of Congregational Music: Alex Heetland (music@uusic.org)
Membership Coordinator: Victoria Huitt
Community and Outreach Coordinator: Kaytee Rairdin
(communications@uusic.org)
Staff Pianist & Music Outreach Coordinator: Hsin-Hui Liu (pianist@uusic.org)
Facilities Coordinator: Jeremy Garvin (contact the office)
Community Minister: Rev. Lois Cole (community.minister@uusic.org)

UU Eight 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.
8. 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.

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.

The Unitarian Universalist Society

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