



The UUS News

September 2023

From Your Minister Rev. Diana Smith

Dear Ones,

Our new congregational year has begun!

We celebrated a beautiful Ingathering together, including our water communion, backpack blessing, commissioning the Board of Trustees, and an ice cream social. And as I write this, the Learning Space has just opened with first day excitement, smiles, and wonderings.

I'm excited this year to be engaging with a Vision of Ministry that centers hospitality, welcoming, homecoming; nourishing resilience; and nourishing our congregation's health (see page 4 for more information). Our staff and members have already been engaging with this vision as we've developed our stewardship campaign, which launches September 24, created our week of Ingathering events, and developed religious education programming for all ages.

As part of our focus on nourishing resilience, there will be quite a few spiritual practices/mind and spirit opportunities this coming year.

- Worship associates are working with me on developing a simple monthly **vespers service** on 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

- After All Ages worship services on 3rd Sundays we will have **All Ages religious education** with 3 types of activities: an arts, crafts, or hands-on activity; a discussion or forum; and music, meditation, and more.
- **Lectio Divina with Poetry** with me will be back on Wednesdays from 12 - 12:30 on Zoom.
- A monthly **sound bath and meditation** experience on 3rd Wednesdays from 6 - 7 pm.
- **Soul Matters** covenant groups, which you can learn about and sign up for here. [Learn More and Sign Up Here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-fOLdpUqOYN1-V8-68-Wb7XPIVzOTG42xRc4jx-pHyNQ5GF0qQ/viewform) <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-fOLdpUqOYN1-V8-68-Wb7XPIVzOTG42xRc4jx-pHyNQ5GF0qQ/viewform>
- Opportunities through the **Buddhist Sangha, Secular Humanists, UU Mystics, and CUUPS** (see the calendar for details).

I'm particularly excited to invite you to save the date for our Equipping for Action event on October 6 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm and October 7 from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

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Upcoming Services

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

September 3rd: Life Is All About Balance, and I Fall Down Putting My Pants On

We hear constant messaging about work-like balance and how we must work to live not live to work. What does that mean in today's society where everything appears "on" 24/7. How do we ensure we are allowing for self-care and self-compassion? Tending to our spiritual and emotional needs as well as our financial? Is Capitalism driving detrimental and insistent messaging if as UUs we are called to create Beloved Community? Balance is important but perhaps the idea of doing-being should guide our desire to be present in the moment, not multi-tasking (which isn't actually real.)

This exploration will serve to dive into the idea of balance and what it might look like for every one of us juggling multiple roles, ideas, commitments and jobs today. Are we authentically showing up as we need to have fulfilling lives of love, friendship and meaning or is the one with the most toys the winner? UUS member Quanda Hood preaching.

[Watch YouTube live stream here](#)

September 10th: Welcome and Belonging

What is a congregation? How is the space we create here a counter-cultural one that creates more space for us to be who we are without cutting off parts of ourselves to get or keep access to privilege? How can we cultivate this kind of space for each other? Join us to explore and celebrate the many ways we can cultivate communities of welcome and belonging here at UUS and in the wider community. Rev. Diana Smith preaching. [Watch YouTube live stream here](#)

September 17th: Nourishing Resilience

Join us for a special All Ages worship service as we explore UUS's Vision of Ministry for the 2023-24 congregational year: Cultivating welcoming, hospitality, and homecoming; Nourishing resilience; and Nourishing our congregation's health. We'll reflect on what this could mean in each of our lives and how we can help live into this vision of ministry as a congregation. We'll also begin exploring one of the open questions that the Board of Trustees will be discussing with the congregation this year.

After the worship service, we will have All Ages religious education. Each month on the 3rd Sunday, after our All Ages worship service, there will be at least three diverse activities to choose from that will engage participants in the theme for the month. This month, for the discussion activity the Board of Trustees will be leading open questions discussions. There will also be an art, craft, or hands-on activity and a music, meditation, and more activity. Rev. Diana Smith preaching.

[Watch YouTube live stream here](#)

September 24th: Growing Our Story

We'll kick off our annual stewardship campaign with a special worship service about the seeds of our heritage, our hopes for the future, and what we are bringing to growing our story as a congregation. Learn more about the stewardship campaign at <https://uusic.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>. Rev. Diana Smith preaching. [Watch YouTube live stream here](#)

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

September Offerings Benefit Shelter House

More than a roof or a bed. Since 1983, Shelter House (shelterhouseiowa.org) has provided safe shelter and helped people improve the quality of their lives as they move beyond homelessness. Shelter House operates a 70-bed emergency shelter in addition to four homes and an apartment building through which they provide over 60 permanent supportive housing units. Shelter House focuses on programs and support services including housing, employment, and mental health recovery that help hundreds of adults, children, and families each year to get back on their feet. They aim to be a voice for systemic community change through excellence in service, financial stewardship, and the development of strong community partnerships.

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 have "Shelter House" 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.



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We will have the privilege of having [Abena Imhotep of the Sankofa](#) Literary and Empowerment Group and [CB Beal](#) of Justice and Peace Consulting coming to share three powerful workshops about bearing witness to ourselves and each other and how we facilitate and take action for liberation.

I will also be continuing to have community office hours away from UUS twice a month on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (see the calendar for times and locations). Or if you'd like to meet with me at UUS or on zoom, you can still schedule a meeting with me using my electronic calendar.

During this month of focus on Welcome (our Soul Matters theme for September), I hope you'll join me in reflecting on and sharing what welcoming means to you, as well as how we can cultivate hospitality, welcoming, and homecoming as a congregation.

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Diana

2023 Auction Update

This year we will be offering a scaled down, online-only Treats and Talents Auction. Currently we have food items made to order, a sunset cruise, dinner events, gift cards, gardening, hauling, organizing, and sharpening-type service offerings. We are still accepting, and in fact seeking, any of your wonderful treats or talents. Because the auction will be online only we will not be accepting physical non-consumable items that need to be held at UUS. If you're planning on offering a physical item please make sure it's consumable, and/or that you can arrange delivery directly with the winning bidder. Send your donation information or questions to Judy Tokuhisa at auction@uusic.org.

The auction will be opened and available for viewing and bidding on Sept. 13th. Bidding will close on Sept. 19th at 9PM CT. Look for information on how to access the auction through Auctria in the coming weeks.



Photos from the 2023 Rummage sale

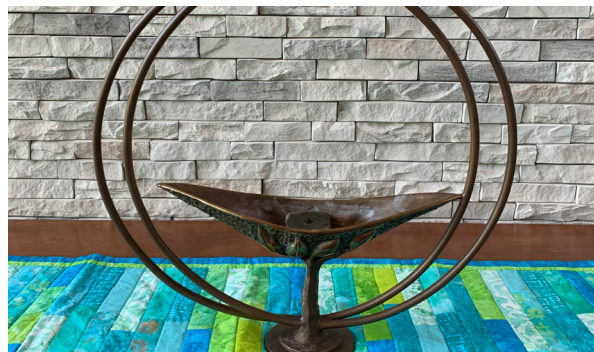
Save the Date: September 24th Kickoff Sunday for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign

We are "Growing Our Story" as we commit ourselves to both sustain and broaden the programs and services at UUS in 2024 and beyond.

Our pledge goal this year is \$400,000. Remember that our pledges support two-thirds of our operational budget.

This year, we are sending a Stewardship letter to some and visiting others. Please watch for your letter or call to set up a visit. Your gifts are vital to our congregation!

Learn more at <https://uusic.org/2024-stewardship-campaign>.



Vision of Ministry for 2023 - 2024

As you may know, each summer the Board of Trustees and the minister develop a Vision of Ministry for the coming congregational year. The annual Vision of Ministry provides goals and direction to the minister, staff, ministry teams, and board committees as they develop programs and initiatives. The Vision of Ministry builds on conversations that the Board has had with members and friends of the congregation the previous year, information from the staff, and what we are seeing as trends and needs in the wider community.

We're excited to share with you our Vision of Ministry for August 2023 - June 2024, which the Board drafted at our retreat in July and adopted at our meeting on August 16, 2023. This vision is intended to serve as a framework to guide and inspire more than a checklist of to-do items, and we hope that you'll join us in engaging with and developing programming to support this vision.

2023-24 Vision of Ministry

- **A Year of Welcoming, Hospitality, and Homecoming** - including sharing responsibility for welcoming and integrating visitors, making creative use of our building, encouraging more member-developed and easily-accessible programming
- **Nourishing Resilience as a Community** - including joyful resistance to extremism, building bonds with each other and allied groups, engaging in creative conflict, deepening and respecting diverse spiritual practices, and adapting to climate change
- **Practicing Personal Care and Compassion for Others** - including recognizing the effects of the pandemic and political realities, cultivating sustainable practices, practicing patience and setting realistic expectations, focusing on the positive, and resisting perfectionism

Alongside these themes, we also developed two key questions for staff and members to use when developing programming:

- **How can we make it easy for people to engage with programming?**
- **How can we invite UUS groups into enacting the vision of ministry?**

We are also encouraging staff and leaders to use the basic Vision of Ministry from the last two years as a framework to develop programming that addresses the overall vision:

- **Connecting with oOurselves** - engaging in meaning-making; developing our understandings of who we are as Unitarian Universalists and engaging with Article II (draft new Unitarian Universalist values, principles, and purposes); and cultivating joy, resilience, and sustainability within our justice work

- **Connecting with Each Other** - cultivating welcoming and hospitality, getting to know people you don't already know; developing opportunities to resist oppression, create joy and love, and change together; asking "How are we serving each other's growth?"; and nourishing multiple communities within UUS
- **Connecting with the Wider Community** - connecting key groups into our building (JCIC, Backyard Abundance, Quire, and similar); operating The Learning Space; being more more visible and known in the wider community (prioritizing how we do outreach, groups we connect with) especially in Coralville, Tiffin, North Liberty, and with BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities; and connecting through different kinds of community-creating programming like Summer of the Arts

We also developed two multipart open questions, which the Board will be using this coming year to gain insights that will help us plan for the future, including developing our Vision of Ministry for next year. Please look for communications from the Board about the open questions and ways to engage with them. The first opportunity will be after our All Ages worship service on September 17.

Again, we hope you'll join us in thinking about how we can all work together and develop programming this year that expands our welcoming, hospitality and homecoming, nourishes resilience, and practices care and compassion for ourselves and each other. We're excited to work with you towards these goals!

In Community,
Rev. Diana Smith, Minister
Jeff Walberg, President of the Board of Trustees



Save the Date! Andy Douglas Reading from *Song of the New Dawn* on Sept. 17th

The UUS Mystics invite you to join us on Sunday, September 17th, at 11:45 AM in the Sanctuary, where UUS member Andy Douglas will read from his new book: *Songs of the New Dawn*. These are translations of spiritual/ecological poetry, in the vein of Rumi or Hafiz, originally composed by a Bengali poet and spiritual teacher. Andy will read, share artwork created for the book, talk about the translation process, and there will be music as well. Come prepared to enter a time of sacred exploration and creativity.

Replanting in the Bio Retention Cell on September 23rd

Volunteers are needed to help plant 175 shrubs – serviceberry, elderberry, viburnum, ninebark, sage leaf willow, and chokeberry. These shrubs are pollinators and will replace the weeds and annual grasses now growing in the base. Shrubs will make maintenance of the bio cell manageable for our grounds' volunteers.

We will work from 9:00 to 12:00 on Saturday morning, September 23rd. Come for the entire morning or just part. Even half an hour or an hour will be a big help. Please bring a shovel, and wear appropriate clothing. If you prefer to do other tasks on the grounds, there are several other opportunities. Sign up on the signup genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4facab2aa4fd0-dayofservice#/>

Due to several unforeseeable and uncontrollable events in the last 5 years, bio cell number 2 (the large one next to parking lot) needs to be replanted. The weeds and annual grasses have overtaken the native flowers and grasses. We have contractual agreements with the City of Coralville and with the Johnson County Conservation District to maintain our bio retention cells.

The "clean-out" of the bio cell will be done in August – more topsoil and mulch will be brought in in preparation for the planting. Contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com with any questions.

Highlighted Upcoming Events

Labor Day Potluck, September 3rd

The Hospitality Team invites you to participate in the Labor Day Potluck after Sunday Service! Please bring a dish to share. The refrigerator will have space available, and a warm oven, and outlets available for crock-pots or other warmers if you bring something that needs to be kept warm or cold during the service. Join us to celebrate the ending of summer and the exciting beginning of a new liturgical (church) year at UUS.

Men's Sunday Social, September 3rd

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, September 5th

The UUS Prison Ministry Team would like to invite you to our monthly meeting at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month, 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).

UU Mystics, September 6th

UUMystics will gather on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the conference room to continue our deep sharing and exploration of "Spiritual Awakening" and other related topics. Our community is self-directed with shared leadership.

If you wish to participate and cannot be present, please join us over Zoom ([Link to Join](#), Meeting ID: 826 8770 0792, Passcode: 218927).

JCIC Faith in Action Event, September 7th

We will once again be hosting Johnson County Interfaith Coalition's "Faith in Action" event on September 7th, from 5:30-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The event will be catered by Tabooleh and Royceann Porter's Soul Food Cafe. There will be music, a silent auction, a brief program, and an opportunity to provide input into JCIC's 2023/2024 goals.

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Tickets are \$50 and groups can reserve tables. You can register before August 29th at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-faith-in-action-fund-friend-raiser-registration-625682642627>. JCIC is a coalition of congregations and other organizations who organize for racial justice. UUS minister Rev. Diana Smith is the co-president.

Free Lunch Program, September 8th

The cornerstone of the Free Lunch Program is, “an open door, a full plate and no questions asked.” A hot meal is served six days a week at 1105 S. Gilbert Court, Iowa City. Since 1986, UUS has provided the Free Lunch meal on the second Friday of every month averaging 110 guests. This year we have returned from the pandemic limitations by creating the main meal using the UUS kitchen by our volunteer chefs under the guidance of Vicki Siefers. This change has reduced the costs of our offerings in the face of higher costs.

If you would like more information about how you can contribute to Free Lunch, please contact Bob Littlehale (freelunch@uusic.org or 419-297-7812).

Social Justice Team Meeting, September 12th

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).

Vespers, September 13th

Join us for a meditative evening service with music, quiet reflection, and other spiritual practices.

Land Ministry Team, September 15th

The Land Ministry Team plans for uses of the outdoor areas and leads in the implementation of those plans, including the community garden, labyrinth, children’s playscape, the woodlands and trails, and the memorial garden. Land Ministry also coordinates volunteers and contractors to care for our trees and grasses, bio-retention cells, and special projects. The Land Ministry Team meets every third Friday of the month from 10 am to noon. Contact Deb Schoelerman at landministry@uusic.org with questions.

We meet in the conference room. Join Zoom Meeting ([Link to Join](#), Meeting ID: 847 0553 5290, Passcode: 297927)

Sound Bath Meditation, September 18th

Join us for a heart-based sound meditation experience led by Tina McCoy. Discover a feeling of calmness and freedom from worries and stress as you rest and are held by soothing sounds and vibrations of singing bowls, gongs, chimes, and other instruments. This is a free-will offering event.

UUS Board Meeting, September 20th

The UUS Board of Trustees holds a meeting, open to all members, each month at 7 pm on the third Wednesday. Look for an agenda and for instructions on how to join the meeting via Zoom in the weekly email or on the [website](#).

Green Sanctuary, September 21st

The Green Sanctuary Team invites you to join us from 11 am to 12:30 pm via Zoom. Together we’ll collaborate on ways to live our 7th Principle (respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part) in the life of our church community, in our personal lives, and in our world. ([Join Zoom Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 881 3226 4216, passcode: 533092)

Land Ministry Work Day, September 23rd

Please join the Land Ministry Team on Saturday morning, September 23rd, from 9am to noon, for a Work Day as part of our Day of Service activities. Come for all or part of the morning. Families, members, and friends are all welcome and needed. There is nothing like a little fun and bonding over outdoor work.

Tasks will include pulling weeds and invasive species, cleaning up our trails and gardens, and preparing our grounds for the fall and winter seasons.

While at UUS, take time to enjoy our grounds; stroll through the trails and paths, see the improvements and projects done over the summer and early fall. Hope to see you there!

Questions: contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com or Tom McMurray at tmcmurray@mchsi.com.

Full Moon Conspiracy, September 28th

Come celebrate the full moon! We gather as individuals in a community, each of us unique, combining into a beautiful harmony. We will collaboratively create a ritual of celebration and magic. Gathering will be outside on the UUS patio at 7:30 pm when weather permits and include a fire if participants desire. When weather is bad we’ll be in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring your unique spirit, altar items, a drum if you have one, snacks and/or drinks if you like, water bottle, locally sourced firewood if you would like a fire. Altar items, a kit of ritual supplies, and activities for ritual creation will be available for use.

People of all ages, spiritual paths, and physical abilities are welcome at this gathering. This gathering is hosted by the UU Pagans (cuups@uusic.org).

UUS Team and Committee Reports

Free Lunch Program

The UUS free lunch crew prepared chicken divan casseroles in August using Sue Eberly's recipe along with fresh fruit salad, green salad and cookies. 105 diners were served on site and at least 20 carry outs were prepared. There were no leftovers, and we received lots of compliments! Funds for the casseroles were generously provided by Tom McMurray in honor of Frank Wildensee.

Chefs Frank Wildensee, Barb Stannard, Bonnie Penno, Sue Kann and Vicki Siefers prepped the casseroles on Thursday afternoon. Friday's produce was supplied by Dave Gallaher, Nancy Lynch, Gay Mikelson, Carol Throckmorton, Joy Thompson, Bonnie Penno, Kim and Lula Palmer, Donna Simonton and others. Judy Quinn and Ron Crawford provided cookies. Many people helped prepare the salads on Friday and serve the meal, Reed, Hex and Marsha Cheyney, Gay Mikelson, Kim Palmer, Frank Wildensee, Ronnie Wright, Joy Thompson, Bonnie Penno, Joe Rasmussen, Barb Stannard, and Vicki Siefers. Caryl Lyons provided vegetarian lasagna. Caryl and John Elson were chief dishwashers.

The group had a lot of fun! **Consider joining us for casserole prep on Thursday, September 7 at the UUS kitchen and on site at the CommUnity building 1105 S Gilbert Ct. on Friday, September 8.** We will be making Tex-Mex Chickpea Tater Tot casseroles.

Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team has joined with the Green Sanctuary Team to offer this Day of Service. Let's show up for a UUS Day of Service on **Saturday, September 23rd!** When UUs work on Social Justice together a lot happens! Socializing, common purpose, and having fun are all a part of it, not to mention social justice! There are 3 options for sign-ups:

1. **9:00 AM -12:00 PM:** Plant shrubs in the biocell. In order to simplify maintenance, shrubs have been ordered to replace flowers and grasses for easier maintenance (see longer article).
2. **10:00 AM -12:00 PM:** Knit hats for school kids (or work on your own project) Bring needles and yarn if you have them. Some yarn will be provided.
3. **10:00 AM -12:00 PM:** Prepare casseroles in the great UU kitchen for the Bird House, the Hospice Home of Johnson County. (Sign up early for this one!)

Sign up using this handy dandy Sign-up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4facab2aa4fd0-dayofservice#/>. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 27! Come join some really good people! This is not a day to sleep in!

UU Mystics

The Unitarian Universalist Living Tradition draws from many sources, including mystical experience, referenced in our first Source as the "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 that create and uphold life." Our UUMystics 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, Mystical or Transcendent Experience, Discovering our True Nature," and probably other ancient or modern terms. 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 may sometimes participate in some spiritual practices led by members. 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.

As one group member said recently:

"I feel that the group is very important as an activity deeply relevant to our UU principles, especially to spiritual inclusiveness and increasing awareness and support for those members whose spiritual identities and experiences emerge from a special sensitivity to transcendent mysteries."

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at UUS in the conference room, and we make every effort to have our gatherings available on Zoom ([Link to Join](#)) for those who are unable to attend personally. Our gatherings are also open to anyone from the public who is referred by a group member and agrees to comply with our mutual covenant.

Please contact Miriam Kashia (miriam.kashia@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

7 PM on July 19th, 2023

Find all Board minutes on our website or inquire with the office.

Present: Jeff Walberg (President), Rochelle Honey-Arcement (Past-President/Vice-President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Christine Etler (Secretary) Monique DiCarlo (Trustee), Diana Henry (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio)

Absent: none. Quorum met. Guest: Sandy Keller

Meeting Opened at 7:06 pm

Consent Agenda: Motion: Honey-Arcement moved to approve the Consent Agenda; DiCarlo seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

BOARD COMMITTEES – CONFIRM BOARD DIRECTIONS:

Finance: Discussed removing the Finance Trustee role in favor of an at-large trustee. Additionally, increased clarity is needed regarding the Finance committee's role in developing the yearly budget. Pete Brokaw, Joe Rasmussen, and Jeff Walberg will work on developing policies related to the changes in the Finance committee, including removing the Finance Trustee, determining guidelines around selecting a chair for the committee and possible language clarifying the committee's roles and responsibilities. *Motion: DiCarlo moved to remove the Finance Trustee role in favor of an at-large Trustee, and to form an ad hoc committee to address related changes to the policies and procedures; Pavelich seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

Governance committee: The Past President position has been removed from the bylaws. We discussed possibly disbanding the committee and instead appointing ad hoc committees as the need arises. If we do disband the committee that, in itself, will require a policy change. Additional policies may be needed to provide guidelines for when to convene the committee on an ad hoc basis. *Motion: Henry moved to remove the Past President as co-chair of the Governance committee and to establish the Board President as a liaison to the committee for the 23/24 year; Pavelich seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

OPEN QUESTIONS

Finalize questions:

I. "What does it mean to be here in Iowa in the current climate of extremism and division? How are we called to be together and to respond as a community? How can our building contribute to our response?"

II. "How has the pandemic changed what you need from this congregation? How can we respond to those needs? How can our building & grounds be a resource? What gifts & energy do you have to share in response?"

Process and timing: We discussed the process for how we

will present the questions to the congregation and elicit conversation. We will hold a discussion after an upcoming service. 9/17 was selected as a possible date. The service can be ended a bit early and we can move straight to the fellowship hall to begin. We will discuss again at next meeting. We should try get more facilitators. Henry will ask members of the social/racial justice teams to participate. *Motion: Rochelle Honey-Arcement moved to accept the open questions as stated; DiCarlo seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

MINUTES ADDENDUM FOR BUSINESS CONDUCTED OUTSIDE OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

Jerry Wetlaufer submitted written notice (through email) of his resignation as Finance Trustee on 6/25/23.

CLOSING: There were no guest comments. A closed executive session was not held. Henry gave process observer comments, Etler/Rev Diana provided closing words, and the chalice was extinguished. Etler moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Pavelich. Meeting Closed at 9:38pm.

- Meeting Minutes submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary. Meeting Minutes approved 08/16/2023.



UUS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Highlights

7 PM on August 16th, 2023

Find all Board minutes on our website or inquire with the office.

Present: Jeff Walberg (President), Rochelle Honey-Arcement (Vice President), Christine Etler (Secretary), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), Monique DiCarlo (Trustee), Diana Henry (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Ex-officio)

Absent: none. Quorum met. Guest: none

Meeting Opened at 7:07 pm with check-in. Chalice lit by Diana Henry (7:24)

Consent Agenda: Motion by Pavelich: Approve the consent agenda; seconded by DiCarlo. Walberg motioned to amend the minutes; seconded by DiCarlo. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amendment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the main motion.

VISION OF MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT: The annual review of the Vision of Ministry was conducted. A document was developed during the discussion. *Motion by DiCarlo: Adopt this Vision of Ministry as written (with potential minor changes expected); Honey-Arcement seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the main motion.*

SET CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DATES: Congregational Meeting dates were set: December 17, 2023 for the Budget meeting and May 19, 2024 for the Elections meeting. *Motion by Pavelich/DiCarlo: Approve the Congregational Meeting dates for the next year; DiCarlo seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.*

OPEN QUESTION PLANNING (25 MIN): We will solicit input from the congregation on the Open Question that we finalized at the last Board meeting. Multiple opportunities will be provided, beginning with a table at the Opportunities fair (introduction to both questions) and during and after the 9/17 service (1 question, with the second being presented and discussed at a later time). The discussion focused on planning for the upcoming events.

MINISTERIAL INTERN FOR 2024-25 DISCUSSION (REV. DIANA, 15 MIN): Rev Diana has an opportunity to supervise a ministerial intern during the 2024-2025 congregational year. Although, this will incur a cost for the intern's stipend, benefits may include fresh input to the ministry and coverage for the sabbatical the Rev Diana has planned for early 2025. Additionally, there is a grant available from the UUA that may defray the costs of having an intern. The application is due in November. Generally, the Board is supportive but we will need input from the Finance Committee. We will revisit the decision at the October meeting.

RIGHT RELATIONS POLICY FEEDBACK: The Right Relations Committee has been developing draft documents for our committee charter and a procedure for Restoring Right Relations. The feedback received at this meeting will be taken back to the committee as it develops the documents further. After which, they will present to the Governance committee. The Right Relations Committee has completed their training and preparations and are ready to advertise to the congregation as a whole. An email will be sent out to members with information on the role of the Committee and a contact email (rightrelations@uusic.org).

Added Agenda Item – GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES: We briefly discussed the Governance Committee minutes, including their concerns. Rev. Diana and Jeff Walberg will be attending the upcoming meeting to continue the discussion.

CLOSING: There were no guest comments. Honey-Arcement gave process observer comments, Etler provided closing words, and the chalice was extinguished. Pavelich moved to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Henry and it was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.

- Meeting Highlights submitted by Christine Etler, Board Secretary. Full minutes will be available following the September meeting.

July Financial Report Highlights

Operating Income Received in May:

- \$22,426.56 operating budget pledge giving
- \$50 in rental income

Justice Income Received (Highlights):

- \$25 additional raised for the Emma Goldman Clinic (June agency, \$1,200.31 total)
- \$1,440.52 raised for Inside Out (July agency)

Other Income Received:

- \$5,755 in summer camp deposits and fees (\$23,175 raised total so far).
- \$110 in Pride Iowa Yard Signs (offset by cost of signs)
- \$462.07 raised for Alex Heetland's farewell gift in August (total gift was \$1,022.07)

—Submitted by Congregational Administrator Emma Barnum


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