

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis Annual Reports: 2016-17

1. Program/ Committee/ Group Name:
2. 2016-17 Chairs:
3. 2016-17 Committee Members/ Main Volunteers:
4. List of 3 Major Accomplishments: July 1, 2016 through June 2017 (recommended 100-200 words)
5. Are you looking for new members/volunteers? If so, whom, for what?
6. Submitted by:
7. Chair for coming year (if known):

### **I. Staff: Senior Minister, Rev. Beth Banks**

This year has been a time of a different kind of growth for our congregation. Like many liberal religious communities, we have a revitalized understanding of the importance to welcome those who feel unsafe in society, to create community together, and to act on our values in the larger world.

The build-up to the national elections and their unexpected outcome was central to the 2016 – 2017 church year. Almost everything in our country has been affected by Donald Trump becoming our president. As a denomination and as a congregation, it has made us much more intentional in how we interact together, greet those who are new to our congregation, and how involved we have become in promoting policies that reflect our values as Unitarian Universalists. If you want to get more involved, please let us know. There are many opportunities to participate in Membership, Social Justice programming, and other positions in the congregation.

Our worship has been focused on supporting us spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. In a message to our congregations, Pacific Western Regional Lead, Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto, cited research about how congregations survived or thrived during the crises of the Vietnam War. James wrote that the congregations that thrived during those difficult years had worship that supported the congregants emotionally, and spiritually, at the same time showing an awareness of what was stirring in society. The worship sometimes focused specifically on controversial issues, but more often reminded people that they were strong, compassionate, and could find creative solutions.

In addition, the thriving congregations always had ample opportunities to study and engage effectively with social justice. Members and friends could join together in community to make a difference, offering whatever skills they possessed. This is the model we are striving to follow at UUCD.

Currently, we are inundated by crises in the news. Sometimes we need a place to remember the importance of everyday relationships, to share our losses, celebrate love and new children, come together over good food, and sing. We need strength to continue week after week with our commitments and for the hard work of participating in the process of change, whether that is in our own lives or for an issue in society.

Many thanks to all those who have helped create our worship services throughout the year, including our new choir director, Alison Skinner. Thanks to Nancy Lower, who continues to be our accompanist, and helps shape the liturgy of the Sunday worship. Some Sunday, make a conscious choice to notice all the times she pulls together the worship by artistically weaving themes of music throughout our hour. Thanks to Barbara Meixner and Linda Birse, who teamed together to direct the Juliebells. Thanks to the AV team, which works behind the scenes to produce everything we see and hear. I also call our attention to members of our staff who are rarely seen by congregation members unless you come to the church during the week. Mandy Dawn Kuntz, our Congregational Administrator, makes all the administrative aspects of church life runs smoothly. Our Facilities Manager, Chris Hendrix Chupa, goes above the call of duty to support the congregation. Debrah Whitehurst, our Bookkeeper, meticulously cares for our accounts.

This is our first year with Rev. Morgan McLean. Morgan's experience and skill has been evident in the programs she has helped to organize with her new perspective, clarifying questions, and leadership. She asks, "What is the most effective?" and this year we have reassessed some of our procedures and past traditions. It has been a very fine first year leading

worship with her. Although I couldn't be present for the Easter service because of my injury, I received many pictures of the lambs in our worship service. Now, that's an example of the delight that Rev. Morgan has brought to our congregation.

This has been a good year for our internship with Elizabeth Assenza as our Intern and Campus Minister. Although our Unitarian Universalist Thursday meetings with students have not had a large attendance, we have added an innovative way to do campus ministry. We have established a stronger outreach to specific Centers on campus with the AB540 Undocumented Student Center, and we have begun conversations with the LGBTQI Center at UC Davis. These are important relationships that we hope to strengthen in the year ahead.

I end this Annual Report from the Senior Minister with a message of gratefulness. These last two months have been difficult, following what I have come to call *The Big Dive* that resulted in a full shoulder replacement for me.

Both the congregation, and specific individuals within the congregation have been very generous with their time and a wide variety of gifts. I'm looking forward to being fully healed and anticipate that we will have a rewarding summer of worship services, and a very engaging next year.

It is an honor to serve this congregation.

### **I. Staff: Assistant Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Morgan McLean**

Adult Religious Education Committee: ARE offerings are being planned 3-months at a time, offered by a variety of lay leaders, clergy, and community members.

Two Small Group Ministries which began in February and March, each meeting six times, wrapped-up in May. The hope is that there will be a continual cycle of opportunities for people to join a Small Group Ministry.

Co-chairs: Rev. Morgan McLean and Jack Whitsett; Ted Swift, Doug McColm, Janis Nicholes, Catlyn LeGault

2016-2017 Goals: 1. Develop a schedule of ARE offerings that are both broad in subject matter and deep in content with graduated levels for continued exploration.

2. Use national resources of UU Small Group Ministry Network to build on the UUCD TIE Group model to encourage deeper connections in the church.

### Children's Religious Education Committee

There have been many improvements to the facility use, including posted signs and a new bulletin board at the Bridgehouse. Multigenerational worship experiences are being planned for broad involvement and have been successful. Conversations about new systems have been thoughtful and fruitful.

Co-chairs: Suzanne Kimmel, Meghan Kelly (RE Coordinator), and Rev. Morgan McLean; Alexandra Lee-Jobe, Jenny Kobold, Mair Winger, Ginger Gee, Matt Seelke, Donna Sachs

2016-2017 Goals: 1. Integrate the children's programming into the larger life of the congregation.

2. Create new systems and work flows with new staff configuration.

### Caring Council

The members of the Caring Council have developed portfolios to give focus to many areas of the church. "Becoming a Caring Companion" introductory session was successful and many people have signed up to be more active in the care of the congregation. Both the "caring friend" booth and the all-church potluck is special effort to broaden the definition of, and increase connection with, "care" in the congregation.

Co-Chairs: Rev. Morgan R. McLean and Jill Pickett; Joan Stek, Carol Corbett, Jeanette Robertson, Chuck Halsted, Claire Richards

2016-2017 Goals: 1. Establish system for tracking pastoral care needs, offerings, and activities.

2. Offer a variety of levels of training through the ARE program to encourage church members to feel more comfortable as Caring Companions, while offering advanced training for Pastoral Associates.

### **I. Staff: Administration**

2. & 6. Mandy Dawn Kuntz, Congregational Administrator

3. Volunteers: Ann Halsted, Policy Development; Amy Moore, Sunday Deposits; Karen Naliboff, Finance Officer; Marty West, Stewardship. Staff: Chris Hendrix-Chupa, Facilities and Rentals Manager; Debrah Whitehurst, Bookkeeper.

4. a. Administratively supported Senior, Assistant, & Campus Ministers, Music Ministry, Social Justice Co-Chairs, Stewardship, congregants, and church groups. Worked in collaboration with Operations Co-Chairs to address issues as they arose.

b. Supervised and work in collaboration with Facilities Manager as he performed maintenance, repairs, and rentals.

c. Worked with Operations and volunteer Water Distribution Operator, Marie Graham, to meet new CA Chromium 6 compliance level; returned to EPA Federal standard in May 2017.

### **I. Staff: Facilities Manager**

2 & 6. Chris Hendrix-Chupa

4. Draft list:

Water System—Daily Demand 30 Day Records; Water System Description

Septic System: Cottage Septic Clean-out & Drain Field Line Repairs; Established Septic Clean-out Schedule with Hauser and Franks

Capital Asset Component Inventory: Asphalt; Roofs; HVAC Systems; Water Heaters

Ministerial and Sunday Services Support: Secured chalice to pedestal, obtained chalice flame supplies; Hired, trained Sunday Coffee Attendant; Added Dish Trays to improve efficiency in Main Kitchen; Added Floor Mats to improve safety in Main Kitchen

Rental Support: Purchased 8' Wide Projection Screen for use in Social Hall, Bridgehouse or Cottage; Developed Invoicing process for long-time, frequent renters; Added Girl Scout Troup to renters

Plant Improvements or Repairs: Added new storm windows and replaced/repared window screens for Cottage; Bridgehouse HVAC Replaced; Jockey Pump Controller Replaced; Wifi Service obtained for whole church site with Winters Broadband; Ceiling Fan obtained and installed in Cottage

Safety & Security: Completed Violence Prevention Webinar provided by Church Mutual

### **I. Auction Team**

2 & 6. Autumn Labbé-Renault

3. Steve Burns, Carol Corbett, Lucas Frerichs, Sharon Hale, Liz King, Odessa MacLean, Mari Perla, Karen Russell

4. a. Pulled off a successful live & silent auction netting about \$26k.

b. Likewise, successfully generated \$21k in funds for Build a Need.

c. Maintained good humor & enjoyed the event.

5 & 7. Autumn won't have the time needed to chair the auction again but will be happy to pass on ideas.

### **I. Audio/Visual (A/V) Team**

2 & 3. Members: Jack Whitsett (co-administrator), Rich Bradley (co-administrator), Bill Lower, Ted Swift, Matt Pagel, and Walt Fulde. Elliot Steissberg has been a student assistant for the 2016-17 Church year. We are in the process of recruiting one or more new student assistants for the 2017-18 Church year. We have been told, however, that no students may be interested or available.

4. Generally, congregants have been pleased with the audio and video provided by the A/V Team. We are doing fine at producing PowerPoint slides shows (both for showing slides with photographs and slides with song lyrics and readings).

5. We also need to recruit at least one additional regular member for the A/V Team. We have concluded that it is necessary to always have two A/V team members at the Sunday services, when the video camera is being used. Operating the video camera and handling all of the other A/V functions requires two persons. Student assistants are generally not available for the 11:15 AM services.

Further, we have determined that additional paid help is needed for A/V. The person(s) hired would be trained to help with A/V at various church events (when volunteer A/V staff is not available), and would be available to provide A/V services for rental events.

6. Jack Whitsett

### **I. Board of Trustees**

2. Mari Perla, Chair; Carol Corbett, Vice Chair

3. Members: Barbara Bower, Walter Fulde, Karen Klussendorf, Odessa MacLean, Matt Seelke; Donna Sachs, Board Secretary

4. In addition to performing the duties specified in the bylaws for the board, the board members also completed the following actions to update the board's policy governance model:

a. The board members rewrote the board covenant: We covenant to speak, listen and act with vision, honesty, and integrity. We strive to fulfill our responsibilities with commitment to our UU values while acknowledging our shortcomings.

b. The board members reviewed the first 6 of 11 chapters in Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership by Dan Hotchkiss. It is a book now used by many UU congregations as it is well-suited to promote effective leadership in non-profit and congregational boards. The use of this book as a guide for board leadership will enhance the partnership between the board and clergy in their duty to carry out the mission of the congregation.

c. As a result of reading Governance and Ministry, the board reviewed the UUCD Mission, Vision and Ends Statements (Goals), and decided that the UUCD Mission statement is clear and that it applies to the UUCD congregation in 2017. The board decided to revise the Vision statement and Ends statements (goals). The new Vision statement was approved by the board in April 2017. It will not be presented at the annual meeting to allow for the congregation to vote on the proposed UUCD Covenant prepared by the Committee on Ministry.

d. The 2017-2018 board members will continue the work and revise the UUCD Goals, the changes will be presented to the congregation. The UUCD Vision statement approved by the 2016-2017 Board is:

We seek to create a radically inclusive and loving community through vibrant programs, meaningful worship and courageous action for social justice.

6. Mari Perla

7. Carol Corbett

### **I. Campus Ministry Committee**

2 & 6. Herb Garman

3. Dawn Student, Kyria Boundy-Mills, Jacob Sacks, Janis Nichols, John Ashby

4. Coordinated 24 meals and the opening and closing barbecues for Campus Ministry students

Provided 12 gift bags for first semester exams

Coordinated congregation member art show as a part of Campus Ministry student's worship service.

5. Yes

### **I. Committee on Ministry**

2. Susan Steinbach and Lisa Oakes

3. Kirk Ridgeway, Stefan Harvey, Hiram Jackson, Liz King, Susan Steinbach, Lisa Oakes

4. a. ushering the congregation through a discernment process in revising the all church covenant of member relations, to be voted on at annual meeting in June 2017. Kirk Ridgeway took the lead on this, and along with Lisa and Hiram arranged for focus group input as well as congregational participation of all ages. Final format of covenant reads: "We affirm our commitment to creating and living within a spiritual community with actions based on respectful conversation, receptive listening, and openhearted presence."

b. organizing a Sanctuary Discernment Team to provide leadership in exploring and assessing the congregation's point of view about how/when/why it might participate in the Sanctuary movement. Disseminating the Sanctuary Tool Kit prepared by the UUA. Team leaders: Paul Wilson and Liz King. Team members: Pat Moore Pickett, Kathy Robertson.

c. welcoming and supporting our ministers, including new minister Morgan McLean.

5. Stefan and Susan rotate off the committee in summer 2017. Two new members will come on board in August or September 2017.

6. Susan Steinbach

7. Lisa Oakes plus a co-chair, TBD

### **Davis Community Meals: UU volunteers Kathy Boyajian, Chair**

1. Davis Community Meals (UU Night)

2 & 6. Kathy Boyajian

3. Suzanna DePalma, Stefan Harvey (cooks); Susan Jellema, Leanne Friedman, Betty Hesters, Barbara Clutter (set-up/serve); Janis Nicholes (set-up/serve/clean up); Debbie Barlow (a non-UU, set-up/serve/clean up); Karen Russell (serve/clean up)

4. • From July 2016 to present, continued to cheerfully provide set-up and serving of meals for guests at Davis Community Meals (UU Night, 2nd Tuesday of the month) at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

• In the 2015-2016 church year, we stopped providing volunteers for the clean-up shift because we could not provide enough volunteers for that shift (I was told we needed about 6 to 10 volunteers for that shift). However, for the 2016-2017 church year, we provided some volunteers (about 3 to 4 volunteers) for clean up due to the fact that Davis Community Meals has not been able to find another group to take over the clean up shift.

• Continued to donate plastic containers to be used for meal leftovers for the guests to take home with them.

### **I. Dove & Serpent Committee**

2 & 6. Robin Datel and Peg Swain

3. Sharon Hale, Julie Saylor, Joan Stek, Walt Swain, Karen Urbano, Ramon Urbano.

4. (1) Funded Melinda Simo, a Transylvanian Unitarian leader, to attend the Third International [Unitarian] Women's Convocation at Asilomar; hosted her visit to Davis, which included several activities tied to her professional interest in education and school counseling; D&S committee member Peg Swain also attended the IWC, as did Rev. Morgan McLean.

(2) Hosted Balazs Scholar Rev. Tet Gallardo from the Unitarian Church of the Philippines, who was in our pulpit and shared lunch with us.

(3) Continued discernment regarding our partnership with Daroc, Transylvania; decision made to retire that partnership and to pursue other ways of engaging internationally, including with refugee, borderlands, and women's issues.

5. Yes.

7. TBD

### **I. Landscape and Grounds Committee**

2, 6&7. Gail Jankowski – Chair (and have been for the past 12 years)

3. Walt Swain, Jerry Friis, Jim Thomas, Kathy Coulter, Ted Swift & Anne Hillman, Craig Labbé-Renault and Ellen Pescosolido

4. Major accomplishments: a. We cleaned out an area from the parking lots to the church entrance and installed landscape fabric and spread and rolled decomposed granite down the entire walkway. b. Moved about a yard of rock from behind the sanctuary and spread it along the path from entrance to church to the back door after we weeded the entire area. c. Landscape fabric and barked the area at the memorial crape myrtle tree area and in front of the church building. d. Planted new plants around the church building, in the fall, I and will run all the drip irrigation in June. (been hand watering, need help).

5. Always looking for new members to help with the beautification of our grounds, keeping up with the weeds and watering.

### **I. Finance Committee**

2, 6 & 7. Karen Naliboff

3. Rich Bradley, Steve Burns, Valerie Olson, Jack Whitsett, Paul Wilson

4. a. Regularly reviewed church finances and reported to the board.

b. Preparation of 2017/18 draft budget

c. Began the process of assessing and planning for future repair and maintenance costs. This included providing assistance with the issue related to hexavalent chromium 6 in our water.

5. Another committee member who has experience with either accounting or budgets would be helpful.

### **I. Human Resources Committee**

2 & 6. Ann Halsted

3. Herb Garman, Marty West

4. • Completed periodic updates of Personnel Policies Handbook and Human Resources Committee charge.

• Initiated review and update of staff job descriptions.

• Assisted with hiring of new Bell Choir Director, job posting for Religious Exploration Coordinator, and updating of Assistant Minister contract for 2017-18.

5. Yes, we're looking for new members.

### **I. Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter**

2 & 6. Lindsay Weston, UU Coordinator for the IRWS

3. Gail Jankowski and Pat Moore Pickett

4. Goals of Shelter adopted by the Board of Trustees March, 2013:

\* Serving the needs of homeless women and men in the Davis Community by providing cold weather shelter and food.

\* Making deeper connections with the Davis interfaith community.

\* Deepening connections within the Church's social groups through joint social action.

\* Putting our new building to use in a meaningful way to connect with the wider community.

Homeless population served by the UU Winter Shelter in 2017

All of our original goals were met in 2017. This was our 5th year hosting the shelter, the week of January 29 through February 5, 2017. Although the homeless population of Davis continues to increase per city analysis, across the board congregations experienced the lowest number of guests in years, often despite rainy and cold weather. The most significant differences this year, aside from number of guests, was that a larger percentage of the guests were women

and that families with minor children are no longer accepted. The new and much more hands on Board of Directors decided, reluctantly and after much research and soul searching, that because our homeless shelter is not " clean and sober" (guests can be under the influence as long as they follow shelter rules and are ambulatory), we could not guarantee the safety of minors. Families were interviewed at intake, placed in contact with service providers, and were given short term housing in a motel until other housing and services were arranged.

Given our increasing experience as shelter hosts, we didn't experience any snafus and the shelter ran smoothly, albeit with constant juggling of volunteers necessitated by the fluctuating number of guests, volunteer emergencies and just life. Chris Hendrix-Chupa was outstanding in providing for the safety of our guests, volunteers, and buildings and in anticipating problems that may arise and solutions. We are moving forward with our goal of having more volunteers in supervising roles, sharing the work and leadership, with Gail Jankowski organizing all of the cooking groups.

Our congregation continues to fund the shelter through special offerings. Also, most of our food is donated by the cooks and Karen and Ramon Urbano purchase and generously donate breakfast and snack/lunch food. After expenses, our shelter fund is \$1,565. We will make a decision this week about donating all or most of the fund to the IRWS. Finally, Marty West was instrumental in helping the IRWS become more effective in their fund raising, including helping draft a letter that was widely distributed to individuals in member congregations.

### Volunteers

We had ballpark 170 plus volunteer spots to fill for evening drivers, kitchen crew, cooks, overnights, and morning drivers. We also had congregants who did food purchasing, assisted in setting up and taking down the shelter, cleaned the social hall before church services the last day of the shelter, and helped with nightly shelter management insuring that things went smoothly as possible for guests and volunteers. Most of the volunteer spots were filled by congregants. The UC Davis Winter Shelter Internship Program, which does all of the intake procedures at the hosting congregations, also provided some of our "overnighter" spots. This year the Davis Shambhala Meditation Center asked if they could join us in providing service with about 10 volunteers helping out on kitchen crew. It was both helpful and fun working together and an invitation will be extended for this year. Our Girl Scouts, led by Ginger Gee and Heidi Lee, cooked dinner for either the third or fourth year in a row and it was fun watching them grow up in our kitchen. Many tie groups signed up for cooking dinners although we kept a number of spots open for individuals. Volunteering for the shelter is a popular way for new congregants to make friends and find out more about our church.

We hope to increase the number of people volunteering for the shelter this year, as opposed to number of volunteer slots. Many of our volunteers, especially those who are retired, serve 5, 6, or 7 days as evening or morning drivers. We think that even families, parents with busy schedules should be encouraged to volunteer, just for one evening or morning of driving, which takes just a bit of time and adjusting of schedules. It feels really good and allows children to know we can all participate. Increased participation can be encouraged by one or two short talks at a service and by just encouraging people at sign ups.

Finally, we will schedule a time within the week after the shelter for volunteers to meet and "debrief" about our experiences. We did this in our first couple of years and participants found it very meaningful, we just got behind in scheduling or had large conflicting events. Pat Moore Pickett will lead this as she has in the past.

### Davis Interfaith Community

As UU Shelter Coordinator for the past 3 plus years, one of the best experiences has been getting to know and work with people from the many different host congregations, people I otherwise wouldn't have met. The host congregations coordinators meet two and sometimes three times a year to plan for the coming shelter year and critique our shelter experiences. Increasingly, coordinators are working together to share information and help when a host congregation needs volunteers or additional support. There is a sense of kinship among the participating congregations, hands on work and sharing, that is unique and important in our community.

Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities for our congregants throughout the year and during the shelter season to work more closely with the IRWS. These opportunities, including Board participation, are on the IRWS website and can be posted in our bulletin or sign up table.

2017-2018 Shelter plans, challenges and goals

The IRWS as a whole will be experiencing changes this year in two significant areas.

The first is that the Shelter Intake will no longer be housed at The Friends Meeting House on 4th and L. After 10 years of generously providing a facility, the Friends will be saying "adios". The intake needs to be in central Davis and so far, we don't have a new site. The Board is working with the City to find a suitable location and we may be called on as a congregation to put on our thinking caps. Second, the wonderful Julie Harlow, after 10 years of being the hands on, go to person, the decider of difficult decisions, is stepping aside to let a new leader come forward. A new volunteer in our community, Patty Hobbs, will be working with all of the hosting congregations to provide the day to day support needed for a successful shelter experience. I worked with her a bit this past year and I think she will do an excellent job.

We've talked in the past few years of the need to share leadership responsibilities among a number of congregational volunteers to spread out the considerable work it takes to plan and provide a successful UU shelter week, to train others who may want the coordinator role down the line, and to share the satisfying, terrifying and joyful experience of running our shelter. This coming year I will be coordinator with a lot of help from Pat Moore Pickett. James Lee Jobe has agreed to help with leadership roles and planning (he worked as an "overnighter" for 5 out of the 7 nights we hosted the shelter) and hopefully Gail Jankowski will again work with the cooks. We hope to work together as a planning group for the upcoming year and encourage others who want deeper involvement to step up.

Finally, I want to thank our congregants, community volunteers, Wonderful Staff, and Board for the work we do together which makes our shelter week usually as meaningful for the volunteer as the guests. Divisions are erased, views broadened, friendships forged over shared dinner conversations and running the dishwasher. I am deeply fortunate, blessed even, to be a part of this community.

## **I. Internship Committee**

2, 6 & 7. Sharon Hale

3. Charles Halsted, Bill Lower, Carlena Wike, Karen Friis, Liz Garman

4. Support for this year's intern, Elizabeth Assenza as she met her learning/serving internship goals and her requirements for the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee. She passed the MFC's interview with a score of 1, the highest score available.

We facilitated a successful "Gather the Spirit" mid-year review for Elizabeth, in which we gathered congregation members that have worked with her and Campus Ministry students and asked for feedback. The information gathered went into Elizabeth's mid-term internship evaluation and was sent to the MFC, and let Elizabeth know how she is doing from the congregation's perspective.

We were successful in our search for the 2017-2018 Intern and Campus Minister. Danielle Lindstrom will begin with us mid-August.

5. We have a full roster of committee members.

## **I. Membership Council**

2, 6 & 7. Carol Browning

3. Council members: Linda Birse; Path to Belonging; Karen Urbano and Karen Russell; Circle dinners; Kathy Tucker and Bob Young; Ushers; Carol Browning; Greeters; Bob Hathaway and Toni Homperetz; Coffee and refreshments-- since Feb. 2017, James Lee-Jobe; At large; Joyce Takahashi, Susan Jellema; Marty West-- liaison to Stewardship

4. Conducted three Path to Belonging sessions in collaboration with Stewardship, Social Justice and clergy  
Established a database to track Path to Belonging attendees through the interview process and Membership Book signing  
Welcomed 11 new members; bios and photos were posted and in the bulletin  
Worked with Facilities to hire a Sunday morning "helper" to prepare Sunday morning coffee and clean-up  
Continued the practice of phoning all first time visitors; recruited 2 new "callers"  
With Facilities, created a new name tag board and new magnetic tags for all regular attendees

In the works:



Recruitment of a team to provide ushering for the second Service beginning in the fall  
End of year Potluck for new members—late June  
Revision of the Path to Belonging session content

Ongoing:

Welcoming presence in social hall for visitors; greeters and ushers  
Social activities aimed at new members in lieu of mentoring program  
Circle Dinners held in congregant's homes (four this year)

5. Looking for: Leadership for Sunday morning greeters. New leadership for Path to Belonging.

### **I. Music Ministry**

2/3 & 7. Barbara Meixner, Nancy Lower, and Alison Skinner

4. When the Sparks Choir and Juuliebells Handbell Ensemble are not providing music for our church liturgies, I am the one responsible for organizing the music for our Sunday services. I have asked congregants, who are music professionals, as well as musicians in the local community to provide the music. In addition to the Juuliebells, we have had an array of ensembles play various styles of music. A flute and cello duo, trumpet and piano duo, as well as a flute, cello, and piano ensemble have played Classical pieces. A local flute ensemble has played Classical pieces arranged for flute quintet. A number of soloists and ensembles have played folk music---including banjo solo, guitar solo, piano solo, and a harp and piano duo. On the Sunday close to Earth Day we had Jim Scott, a well known singer-songwriter in the UU Church, play his original songs celebrating the earth. Another Sunday we recognized Mohammed's birthday by having a Sufi musician sing Arabic songs and prayers.

On the Sunday close to All Saints' Day we even had a local mariachi band play Latin American melodies for worship.

5. I am always looking for local musicians—inside and outside the church—to bring their music to our church liturgies.

6. Nancy Lower

### **I. Music: Juuliebells Handbell & Handchime Choir**

2 & 6. Barbara Meixner, Director

3. Juuliebells: UUUCD members & friends: Ann Halsted, Anya Clasen, Barbara Meixner (leader), Carol Browning, Dawn Student, Deb Siler, Grainne Grant, Jane McKendry, Jerry Friis, Joyce Takahashi, Kyria Boundy-Mills, Linda Birse, Liz Young, Pat Ballenger, Sandy Westfall, Sarah Jones, Stephanie Klose. Davis Community Church (DCC): Diana Van Velzer, Dennis Larsen, Nancy Hall, Norma Meyer, Sue Larsen, Mike Thomas. Other: Astrid Exel (Austria)

Family Chime Choir: Clair Bradley, Heidi Li, Karina Li, Kayla Li, Kelly Range, Tamara Range, Grace Range, Billy Range, April Range, Annamarie Reichenbach, Lilian Reichenbach, Mair Winger.

4. a. Provided special music for 6 worship services and Family Christmas Eve. With donated contributions from fund-raising concerts, Juuliebells co-purchased 4 lower register chimes with Davis Community Church.

b. Studied with Fred Gramann on cruise sponsored by Bells of the Cascades (Alaska inside passage). UUUCD & DCC bell choirs participated.

c. Studied with Ellie Hodder at Siskiyou Summit Handbell Conference in Ashland, Oregon with 11 ringers from UUUCD and one ringer from DCC.

### **I. Music: Sparks Choir**

2. Staff: Alison Skinner, Director; Nancy Lower Music Liturgist; Barbara Meixner, Juuliebells Handbell Handchime Choir

4. Alison established a good working relationship with the Sparks Choir, we learned challenging and varied repertoire throughout the year, and we focused on how to integrate the choir into the worship service by creating more fluid transitions and creating a more cohesive worship experience for the congregation.

5. New people: Yes, always! All are welcome who come with interest and enthusiasm!

6. Alison Skinner

## **I. Operations**

2. Jerry Friis; Marty West 2016; Karen Naliboff, interim Co-chair 2017
3. Chris Hendrix-Chupa, Facilities Manager; Mandy Dawn Kuntz, Admin.
4. a. Support and troubleshooting for the Board and ministerial staff (including support for new hires).
- b. Navigation and management of CA water standard for Chromium 6.
- c. Addition of Broadband internet.
5. The Board will appoint a new co-chair in June 2017.
6. Mandy Dawn
7. Jerry Friis & TBA

## **I. Quilting Bee**

- 2, 6 & 7. Julie Saylor
  3. Anya Clasen, Phoebe Ford, Claire Bradley, Leanne Friedman, Jeannette Hogan, Ximena Jackson, Barbara Clutter, Jane McKendry, Barbara Meixner, Judy Moores, Jeri Ohmart, Leslie Snow, Seanain Snow, Jan Smyth, Peg Swain, Ann-Catrin Van, Mair Winger, Peggy Watterson and additional wonderful quilters who do not attend UUCD.
  4. Sewed: Five bed-sized quilts for Progress Ranch boys (over the years, 35 boys have received quilts from UUCD); Ten small quilts and four pillowcases for children in families being resettled by the International Rescue Committee (IRC); Twelve small quilts and eight pillowcases for children in challenging situations; One small quilt for Rev. Banks during her shoulder injury recuperation; 14 quilts and 3 pillowcases donated to Quilts for Kids
- Deepened friendships while learning, socializing, sewing for others in large monthly meetings and small groups. Projects involve many hands and minds.
5. We welcome new members; no sewing or quilting experience needed.

## **I. Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC).**

- 2 & 7. Robin Dattel and Stefan Harvey
3. Social Justice Coordinating Committee members include chairs of the justice ministries: Leanne Friedman, Tim Burkhart, Kathy Boyajian, Lindsay Weston, Peg Swain, and Julie Saylor. Two at large positions to be filled.
4. a. The initiation of two publications: *Bending the Arc: A Social Justice Quarterly* (written by Robin Dattel and Stefan Harvey and edited by Elli Norris) and *Activist Alerts* (frequent email communications to UUCD's activist list which now numbers about 130 individuals).
- b. A successful advocacy effort in support of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors' resolution regarding the county as a welcoming and safe county. Rev. Banks, Robin Dattel and about a dozen UUs attended the supervisors meeting in support of the resolution.
- c. Promotion of justice service opportunities during each month of the year, including MLK Day of Service; package of Bending the Arc events for the auction and announcement of a UUCD UU College of Social Justice/BorderLinks trip, Nov. 2017.
5. Yes, the SJCC is always looking for new people to be involved in our on-going justice ministries; SJCC especially seeks individuals interested in leadership roles.
6. Stefan Harvey

## **I. Spiritual Awakening, UU Mystics Meetings**

- 2, 3 & 7. Jack Whitsett and Rich Bradley = co-administrators
4. "On-the-Path" Meetings = On-the-Path meetings provide a context for the exploration of spiritual teachings from a Unitarian-Universalist perspective. These meetings focus on spiritual teachings from modern teachers (such as Eckhart

Tolle), from a variety of historical traditions, and from Unitarian transcendentalists (such as Ralph Waldo Emerson). The meetings are scheduled in the Library, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

"Awakening Community" = Leading these meetings is Gerry Hair, who has been a spiritual director and teacher for over forty years. Gerry's approach is based on a mix of mystical traditions, including Buddhism, Sufism, Taoism, and Christian mysticism. The meetings are scheduled on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Library.

"Satsang with Larry Melton" = "Satsang" is a Sanskrit term meaning "together in truth." In the satsang format, Larry shares some observations, and then leads a conversation on the topic. The meetings are scheduled in the Library, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.

"Additional On-the-Path Meetings" = The facilitator of these meetings, Andras Nagy, is a student of Tantra meditation and other practices. These meetings present various topics from the perspective of "East meets West." The meetings include various Eastern and Western views on enlightenment, spirituality, and mysticism. In each of these meetings, Andras focuses on a particular set of teachings, followed by a discussion of the topic for the evening. These teachings, for example, include Zen Buddhism, Taoism, and various Tantric perspectives. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM, usually in the Library.

5. Attendance at all of these meetings continues to be good, typically with about 6-10 persons attending each meeting. Over the course of the year, we have a total of about 40-50 persons attending (both regularly and periodically).

6. Jack Whitsett.

### **I. Stewardship Team**

2 & 6. Marty West.

3. Carol Corbett, Rich Bradley, Sarah Keith and Lucas Frerichs. Steve Burns was our consultant.

4. Our major activity was conducting the pledge drive from January through April to raise the necessary pledges to support the 2017-18 church budget.

As of November 2016, pledges for the 2016-17 year totaled approximately \$532,600, from 230 pledgers.

We began our pledge drive in mid January with a letter sent to the 230 current pledgers, asking everyone to consider increasing their pledge. We asked for a specific monthly dollar amount of increase from various levels of pledgers, and for a 3% increase from our top donors. We then tabled in the Social Hall after each service for the next 6 weeks, to accept new pledge forms and discuss pledges with folks. By the end of March, we had heard from most folks. We had to contact about 20 annual pledgers we had not heard from, and we continued the pledges of another 60 or so "continuing" pledgers, sending them a 2nd letter about automatically continuing their pledges. During February, March, and April, we also sent personal thank you notes to everyone who turned in a pledge form.

We received increased pledges from 75 folks, and we received 13 new pledges: our total increase was \$38,757. Unfortunately, we also received significant reductions in pledges: the reductions totaled \$42,429. Some 21 folks reduced their pledges, and another 22 folks did not pledge at all for the coming year. Some folks have moved away or stopped coming; 2 people have died. Approximately 112 pledgers continued at their same pledging level.

The average pledge was about \$2,400; the median pledge was \$1,320.

As of June 6, 2017, we have 221 pledgers for the coming year, with a total pledge amount of \$529,000 for 2017-18, \$3,600 less than for 2016-17.

5. We are looking for 3 or 4 new members for next year's Stewardship Team, to replace 2 current members and to increase our Team.

7. Marty West will continue to chair the Team for one more year. She would like a "chair-in-training" to work with her!

### **I. Uniting for Racial Justice**

2. Co-chairs (through March) Leanne Friedman and Tim Burkhart; Chair (April – June) Leanne Friedman

3. Alex Lee-Jobe, Barbara Clutter, Maryanne Perlmutter, Julie Schober

4. a. Contributed to Beloved Conversations.
  - b. Sold books (*Just Mercy*) and held discussion.
  - c. Interfaith family potluck.
6. Submitted by Leanne Friedman