

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis MILESTONES IN OUR HISTORY

- 1954 Organized first meeting of founders, a small group of liberal-minded parents desiring meaningful religious education for their children.
- 1955 Held first Sunday school classes for about 50 children, with Margaret Kleiber as religious education director.
- 1957 Assisted the Unitarian Service Committee by sponsoring a Hungarian refugee family in Davis.
- 1958 Incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Chartered as a Unitarian Fellowship by the American Unitarian Association.
- 1961 Joined in vote to merge the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America to form the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).
- 1962 Received approval of the Fellowship's application to become a Unitarian Church.
- 1963 Called the Rev. Bob Senghas, our first parish minister. Ratified Patwin Road land purchase.
- 1967 Broke ground for our first building, the Meetinghouse, on May 1, after raising \$100,000 from savings, gifts, pledges, and loans.
- 1968 Dedicated the Meetinghouse March 10. Began landscape design, planted first trees and shrubs.
- 1969 Began raising money for a religious education building (the Bridgehouse) and for removal from UC Davis to our property a surplus construction shack (the Cottage).
- 1971 Called the Rev. Charles Slap, our second parish minister. Built the Bridgehouse.
- 1975 Dedicated the Great Hall (demolished in 2011 as part of our building expansion). Renamed our choir the Celebration Singers.
- 1977 Called the Rev. Joy Atkinson, our third parish minister.
- 1984 Passed congregational resolution to support sanctuary and to assist Central American refugees. Began supporting Guatemalan refugee family. Signed first agreement to share the Bridgehouse with the Redbud Montessori School.
- 1986 Called the Rev. Jay Atkinson, our fourth parish minister. Appointed Charlene Kunitz as director of the Celebration Singers. Dedicated a new Redwood Memorial Grove.
- 1987 Completed Bridgehouse expansion.
- 1988 Launched major capital campaign for new office and library building.
- 1989 Approved construction fund for new building, parking lot, landscaping, and other remodeling.

- 1990 Moved into new office and library building.
- 1994 Initiated Lifespan Learning Program. Inaugurated Buddhist Study and Meditation Group.
- 1997 Adopted congregational statement committing to affirm and support a vision of a racially diverse and multicultural church. Hired Christine Fry (later our first minister of religious education) as religious education director.
- 2000 Called our fifth parish minister, the Rev. Beth Banks, who is now senior minister. Added a second Sunday morning worship service. Initiated Worship Associates Program.
- 2001 Hired Nancy Lower as first music director and Chalice Choir director. Initiated our website.
- 2002 Became a practicing UUA Fair Compensation Congregation. Affirmed in our Bylaws our intent to make annual Fair Share contributions to the UUA and to the Pacific Central District. Joined the UU Partner Church Council and began partnership with the Daroc Congregation of Transylvania, Romania, one of the earliest sites of Unitarianism.
- 2003 Received UUA certification as a Welcoming Congregation, a congregation that publicly welcomes bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Initiated donating some Sunday collections to pre-selected charities. Committed to establish a Campus Ministry Program as part of the intern minister's portfolio. Passed a Board resolution affirming our commitment to continue being a UUA teaching congregation.
- 2005 Passed a congregational resolution calling for the California Legislature and the Governor to abolish the death penalty. Initiated Spirited Worship, an intergenerational worship service that is a model for other congregations. Became a UU Anchor Congregation, a designation recognizing our substantive commitment to young adult and campus ministry.
- 2006 Established a Building Task Force to lead us in "Building Space to Welcome Each and All." Hired Kate Raymond (now director of lifespan learning) as director of religious exploration. Approved the Rev. Gregory McGonigle, a former UUCD intern, as our first endorsed community minister. Earned Green Sanctuary designation from the UUA Ministry for Earth.
- 2007 Passed a congregational resolution declaring we stand on the side of love, supporting full civil marriage equality for same-sex couples and authorizing the ministers and Board to support marriage equality actions endorsed by the UU Legislative Ministry of California.
- 2009 Initiated a Capital Campaign to raise funds to build a new Social Hall.
- 2010 Completed construction of accessible ramps for the Meetinghouse.
- 2011 Broke ground for new Social Hall, with separate meeting room, storage closets, tabling alcove, accessible restrooms, food service areas, large kitchen, reconfigured patio garden, new entry area, new landscaping, and improved pathways, bike and car parking, and outdoor lighting.
- 2012 Dedicated Social Hall building April 7. Received renewed designation as one of 25 UUA Anchor Congregations. Hired Laura Sandage as director of our renamed Sparks Choir.

Judy Moores compiled parts of this history for our 50th anniversary celebration.