

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana, Inc.

Annual Report to the Congregation Sunday, June 12, 2022

Current Membership: 562 Certified Membership: 561

Board of Directors, 2021-2022

Stuart Yoak (President), Abby Gitlitz (Vice President), Steven Gilbert (Secretary), Rich Slabach (Treasurer) Julie Lawson, Jane McLeod, Drew Schrader (At Large)

In February, Julie Lawson resigned from the Board; Linda Pickle was appointed as an Interim At Large Board Member. Monthly Board meeting minutes are posted here: ubloomington.org/about-us/board-of-directors

Ministers

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior Minister
The Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Minister of Story and Ritual

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana



Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World Approved Congregational Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2021

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Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Modified Slide Deck
- B. Senior Minister's Report
- C. Minister of Story and Ritual Report
- D. Consulting Interim Minister's Report
- E. President's Report
- F. Vice President's Report

Call to Order

President Stuart Yoak called the Zoom meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Guidelines for Conducting the Virtual Congregational Meeting

Vice President Abby Gitlitz reviewed the procedures for the meeting and outlined the agenda.

Introduction of Parliamentarian

President Yoak introduced Parliamentarian Guy Loftman.

Chalice lighting and Opening Words

Reverends Dave Clements and Emily Manvel Leite lit the chalice and provided the opening words.

Quorum Report

Board Member Julie Lawson reported that meeting was attended by well over 57.2 members, the 10% of the total membership required.

Motion to Proceed Under Emergency Rules

President Yoak moved to proceed with the meeting through Zoom under emergency rules. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jane McLeod and carried through an online show of hands.

Motion for Approval of Minutes

President Yoak moved for the Board of Directors to approve the June 13, 2021 Congregational Meeting Minutes at a future Board meeting. Jane McLeod seconded and the motion carried through an online show of hands.

Senior Ministers' Report

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin provided the Senior Minister's report, shown in Attachment B.

Minister of Story and Ritual Report

Rev. Emily Leite provided the report shown in Attachment C.

Consulting Minister's Report

Rev. Dave Clements provided the report shown in Attachment D.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Next Steps Transition Team

Jane Mcleod presented a tentative timeline for reopening UUCB facilities (Attachment A slides 1-3).

Planned Giving

Charlotte Appel reported on the current state of Planned Giving (Attachment A slide 4).

Racial Justice

Martha Oakley reviewed key activities completed by the Racial Justice Task Force (Attachment A slides 5-9).

Right Relations

Jack King reviewed the purpose and membership of the Right Relations Committee (Attachment A slides 10-11).

Social Justice

Jackie Hall cited prominent activities of the various task forces in the Social Justice Circle.

Special Purposes Fund

Andrew Appel reported income and expenditures of the SPF (Attachment A slides 12-14)

Leadership Cultivation Committee

Dan Wiseman reported on the membership and activities of the LCC (Attachment A slides 15-18) and presented a slate of candidates for three positions (Slide 18).

Motion to Approved the Slate of Candidates

President Yoak moved and Jane Mcleod seconded that the slate of candidates be approved by congregants. The motion carried though an online show of hands.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Slabach outlined two alternate proposed budgets for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (Attachment A slides 19-26). Actual budgets will depend upon success of ongoing efforts at fundraising, and may be revised at the UUCB December meeting if necessary.

Motion to Approved the Proposed Budgets

President Yoak made a motion for the approval of the budget proposals, with the provision that the budget may be revised in December if necessary. Jane McLeod seconded and the motion carried with an online show of hands.

Vote to Select the 25% Plate Recipient for 2021-2022

Abby Gitlitz guided the vote for selection of the of the 2021-2022 25% Plate Recipient from among the three candidates shown in Attachment A slide 27. The vote was conducted through an internet poll. The results were not available prior to adjournment. (FOR THE RECORD Board Member Drew Schrader reported later that the New Hope's Early Childhood Care and Education (The Nest) won the vote).

President's Report

President Yoak provided a report focused on upcoming events, particularly the timeline for finding a new minister (Attachment E).

Vice-President's Report

Vice President Abby Gitlitz provided the board's response to concerns about changes in the UUCB Religious Education programs that resulted in the ending of Adrienne Summerlot's position and the RE component of Reverend Leite's position (Attachment F). Vigorous discussion included expressions of support and opposition to the changes in RE, but much attention focused on alleged mistreatment of Adrienne and her job loss. Roxanne Smith moved that UUCB Board should provide Adrienne with six months of severance as opposed to the nine weeks proposed. The motion was seconded and more discussion followed, including questions regarding the ability of the congregation to vote on what was an administrative personnel issue. Roxanne modified her motion to make it advisory and the change was seconded. Despite continued concerns as to the vote's validity, the board allowed the vote by a show of hands. That vote being too close to count online, an online poll was taken. The results were not announced prior to adjournment. (FOR THE RECORD Drew Schrader later announced that the motion was soundly defeated 52-28 with 20 abstentions.)

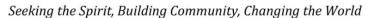
Closing Words

Rev. Macklin provided the closing words

Adjournment

President Yoak adjourned the meeting at around 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana





Approved Congregational Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER	2
CHALICE LIGHTING AND OPENING WORDS	2
INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN	2
GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING THE VIRTUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	2
MINISTERS' REPORTS	2
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORTS	2
QUORUM REPORT	3
COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE UPDATES	3
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RIGHT RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND MOTION TO REVISE COVENANT	3
SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND COMMITTEE	3
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ADJOURNMENT	4

Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Modified Slide Deck
- B. Senior Minister's Report
- C. Minister of Story and Ritual Report
- D. Board Report

Call to Order

President Stuart Yoak called the Zoom meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Chalice lighting and Opening Words

Abby Gitlitz lit the chalice as President Yoak led the congregation in the opening words

Introduction of Parliamentarian

President Yoak introduced Parliamentarian Guy Loftman.

Guidelines for Conducting the Virtual Congregational Meeting

Vice President Abby Gitlitz reviewed the procedures for conduct of the meeting and outlined the agenda and procedures for voting. Practices votes were conducted.

Ministers' Reports

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin provided the Senior Minister's report, thanking our temporary part-time ministers for stepping in following Rev. Clements's departure, Hans Kelson and Andy Beargie for their efforts in tech support and members of the NEST committee for monitoring the situation in regard to the Pandemic. See Attachment B.

Rev. Emily Leite reviewed her activities as Minister of Story and Ritual including reimagining elements of these activities for services and other church activities. See Attachment C.

Rev. Bill Breeden expressed his pleasure in being asked to be part of the ministry team and optimism in serving the congregation.

Religious Education Reports

Rev. Michele Townsend Grove reviewed her role as Interim Religious Education Consultant, urging congregants to become involved in upcoming opportunities to influence the shape of future RE at UUCB.

Stephanie Kimball discussed her role as Religious Education Coordinator. Including her efforts to build resilience into the current and future program.

Quorum Report

Board Member Julie Lawson reported 129 attendees, exceeding the 57, or 10%, of the total membership required to conduct business. This number was later revised to 84 due to a misunderstanding but still exceeds the quorum required.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Green Building Committee

Molly O'Donnell reported that UUCB continues to make progress in its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint (Attachment A slides 1-3)

Next Steps Transition Team

Abby Gitlitz represented the NEST committee (Attachment A slide 4), reporting that the committee continues to monitor the pandemic situation, attending to UUA and CDC guidelines as it makes decisions to reopen elements of UUCB programs.

Planned Giving

Charlotte Appel reported on the current membership and activities of the Planned Giving Committee, including options for giving (Attachment A slides 5-7).

Right Relations Committee and Motion to Revise Covenant

Amy Makice introduced the members of the RRC and asked that the congregation approved changed to its previously adopted covenant with the congregation (Attachment A slides 8-10). These changes add language to operationalize the 8th Principle adopted by UUCB at the June meeting. The revised covenant would add the italicized text:

- (We affirm and promote right relations through) the goal of dismantling racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions, and
- (Thus, we at UUCB covenant to affirm and promote right relations through)
 striving to examine our own cultural systems of hierarchy and harm with
 courage, vulnerability, and accountability. We strive to be inclusive in our
 relationships and our community, and to seek out and honor the perspectives of
 others.

President Yoak moved and the motion was seconded to accept this change in wording. The motion was approved by the congregation with a show of hands.

Social Justice Fund Committee

Denise Ogren introduced the social justice fund committee members, the social justice grants made in Fall 2021, and the current state of the funding raised through plate donations (Attachment A slides 11-14).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rich Slabach reviewed proposed changes to the 2021-2022 budget based on changes in both income and expenditures since the budget was adopted in June. These changes may be seen in Attachment A slides 17-20.

Motion to Approve the Revised Budget

President Yoak moved for approval the changes to the budget. The motion was seconded and approved by the congregation in a show of hands.

Motion to Authorize Board Approval

President Yoak moved and it was seconded that the congregation should allow the board to approved these minutes at a future board meeting. The motion was approved by the congregation with a show of hands.

Board of Director's Report

President Yoak called for a rousing cheer for Ann LeDuc, our Community Relations Coordinator, who is leaving at the end of December. An appropriate silent cheer was provided.

President Yoak and Vice President Gitlitz gave the director's report, primarily focusing on the next steps in UUCB's ministerial transition process. Several questions from meeting participants were fielded in a short subsequent discussion. The written report is included as Attachment D.

Closing Words

Rev. Macklin gave the closing words

Adjournment

After a motion and second, President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

UUCB Leadership Cultivation Committee

2021-2022 LCC members: Pat Brantlinger, Suzanne Fodor, Beth Hollingsworth, Nicole Motz

The LCC mission statement is to cultivate and support leaders through leadership development, and to nominate candidates for leadership positions in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.

The Leadership Cultivation Committee met monthly the 2021-2022 year by Zoom. Leadership conversations were held both in the fall and spring. Members of the committee met with old and new congregation members.

Suzanne Fodor led a conflict engagement workshop, including a panel of four, in April. There were 23 attendees, and requests for additional workshops.

The LCC began identifying open positions for the church year 2022-2023. They included LCC and the Board of Directors. The Special Purposes Fund committee did not need new members. Potential members to fill open positions were contacted, and when they accepted, their names were submitted for nomination at the congregational meeting in June.

Nominations for Elected Office June 2022

1. ELECTION BIOS

LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION COMMITTEE

Denise Breeden-Ost

Denise found UUCB through our high school youth group, and became a member in the 1990s. She is a past UUCB Office Assistant and has served the church in many areas, including the Board; Sunday Services Committee; Green Sanctuary Task Force; Religious Education for adults, children, and youth; and the choir. Denise has completed Conscious Feminine Leadership Training with Women Writing for (a) Change Bloomington.

Dalton Gibson

Dalton has been coming to UUCB since 2017 when he was admitted to IU. Dalton values being part of the Unitarian Universalist community at-large and has previously served as a Sunday School Teacher for Religious Education, as well as working with Emily and Adrienne in Religious Education during the interim period between Kitty and Stephanie. After leaving his position in R.E., Dalton took the official step of becoming a member of the UUCB by "signing the book". Dalton hopes to bring the type of insights and passion that will be needed to keep our congregation healthy and growing in the years to come.

Carol McCord

Carol McCord has been a UUCB member for 35 years. She has served on the Board, the Right Relations Committee, has taught RE and OWL, and worked on Long Range Planning groups. She loves this congregation and is looking forward to working to ensure continued outstanding leadership.

Michael A. McGregor

I moved to Bloomington in 1985.

Celeste and I married in 1998, and between us we have four sons and twin grandsons.

Since joining UUCB in 2014, I have sung in the choir, participated in several Chalice Circles, and helped with various activities.

My community service includes escorting for Planned Parenthood, working at the Interfaith Winter Shelter, and delivering for Meals on Wheels.

I retired in 2016, and I heartily recommend it.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regina DiLavore

Regina DiLavore has been a Unitarian Universalist for 28 years, first in Raleigh, NC, before joining UUCB in 2001. In both churches she participated in a number of committees including the care committee and the Green Sanctuary. She also served as an RE teacher and currently serves on the safety committee.

Linda Pickle

Linda Pickle has been a Unitarian Universalist for 35 years, first in Columbia, Missouri, and then in Bowling Green, Kentucky. In both churches Linda served on a variety of committees as well as the Bowling Green church board. She attended UU Leadership School in 2004 and joined the Bloomington Church in 2012. At UUCB Linda has been a Chalice Circle facilitator since 2013 and Co-Chair of the Chalice Circle small group ministry program since 2007, as well as co-chair of Holiday Bazaar cookie sales.

2. FULL BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS FOR UUCB YEAR 2022-2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Abby Gitlitz, President Stuart Yoak, Vice President Regina DiLavore, Secretary Rich Slabach, Treasurer Jane McLeod, At Large Drew Schrader, At Large Linda Pickle, At Large

SPECIAL PURPOSES FUND COMMITTEE (SPF)

Andrew Appel Ruth Aydt Ed Long

LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Denise Breeden-Ost Dalton Gibson Carol McCord Mike McGregor

MINISTERS and STAFF

Senior Minister's Report

The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Final Report to the Congregation
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Senior, Minister
Ministry 2002-2022
Fiscal Year 2021 to 2022

I have been reading Annual Reports from the past twenty years, and I came across the following one (in italics below) from the 2001-2002 church year. A Special Congregational Meeting was held after a full week of my ministerial-candidating with this congregation, Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, in October of 2001, with the intention of being part of a new team ministry.

Special Congregational Meeting, 12:30pm, October 28, 2001

Jeff Vincent, President of the Board of Directors, welcomed those attending.

To determine if there was a quorum present, members were asked to stand and be counted. The count by Guy Loftman, Parliamentarian, indicated there were 123 members present, constituting a quorum. A membership roster of 325 members (attached) was circulated for signatures--123 members signed. The Rev. Barbara Carlson gave the Invocation.

Having determined there was a quorum, the Special Congregational Meeting for consideration of the selection of minister, The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, was called to order by Jeff Vincent, President of the Board of Directors. The meeting agenda was posted at the front of the room.

Jackie Hall presented the Ministerial Search Committee Report and Recommendation to call The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin in July 2002. The other members of the Ministerial Search Committee were introduced: Susan Bookout, Joan Caulton, Michael Denunzio, and Harlan Lewis.

Jeff Vincent called for the motion. Connie Loftman moved that the Congregation call The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin to share our ministry in July 2002. Second by Dan Quilter.

Discussion followed with various expressions of support and of concerns. One concern expressed was that there would be three part-time jobs with possible diffused responsibility, making for a possible administrative nightmare. Another was concerned with how much attention would be given to the Youth Group. One person commented that we would walk together toward the same goal. Another welcomed this co-ministry. Another spoke of when she was a teen and how well The Rev. Macklin led the Youth Group then and that she looks forward to having The Rev. Macklin here. Another stated that the fourth party to the co-ministry is the Congregation.

The Question was called. It was pointed out that the Bylaws require an affirmative vote of 80 percent of those members attending (99 members) to call a minister. **There was a voice vote. All voted affirmatively, except for one abstention.** The Rev. Carlson left the room to call the Rev. Macklin to inform her of the vote. When she returned, she stated that The Rev. Macklin said, "Let the journey begin, and yeeha Buddha!!"

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And so that adventure began. Now, twenty years later, I am writing my last annual report to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington as my called ministry to this congregation reaches its closure.

What does it mean that you called me here twenty years ago to share ministry? When a minister is called to a congregation we are asked to live among you, to make your concerns our concerns, and to the best of our ability to lead the congregation in the paths of spiritual seeking, community building, justice and peace. We are asked to speak the truth to you in love and model wisdom and kindness to all ages--- children, youth, emerging adults, adults and elders. We are asked to minister to you in times of joy and sorrow, confusion and clarity, emptiness and fullness. We are asked to demonstrate a life of courage and compassion. We are asked to lead in a way that sparks imagination as well as calls forth a collective vision. We are asked to offer service to the wider world—beyond our doors—and to work in partnership with Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith. In general, that is the sacred aspect of what it means to call a minister.

During our congregational meeting on June 12th, 2022, you, as a gathered community, will release me from this call effective June 30th. It has been an honor to serve you as part of a Team Ministry, a Co-ministry, and as your Senior Minister. Thank you for allowing me to be human, to make mistakes, to embrace imperfection as I sometimes stumbled along the way. Thank you for your support, your confidence, your gratitude, your shared tears, fears and triumphs; thank you for laughing with me, over and over again. Thank you for allowing love to guide us when we could. And thank you for course-correcting with me when we were not.

July 2021 – June 2022

In brief, here are some changes and events from this past church year

- 1) In July we had the unexpected departure of Interim Minister, Dave Clements.
- 2) In August we contracted with Interim Religious Education Consultant, Dr. Michele Grove
- 3) We asked Minister of Story and Ritual, Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, to add some hours to her ministry and Minister Emeritus Reverend Bill Breeden to be our support minister.
- 4) We also asked Reverend Barbara Child to guide our Chalice Circle program and lead a Spiritual Journaling class.
- 5) We continued with Reverend Forrest Gilmore as our Community Minister which includes his periodic presence as a guest in our pulpit.
- 6) In August we also bade farewell to Tech Guru Ned Joyner, and it was our good fortune, with Ned's help, to hire Hans Kelson to be at the helm of Media and Tech Services, with Andy Beargie as consultant. This spring we hired the very capable Brady Egan to join Hans on our tech crew.
- 7) In October of 2021 we raised \$43,000 in a Golden Sprint Event to supplement the 21-22 pledge drive and in May of 2022 we received a matching grant of \$25,000 and within a **week**, matched it with our

- Amendment Matching Grant Drive. I remain ever so grateful for the generosity of this congregation in spirit and in kind.
- 8) As a congregation, we continued to navigate the waters of being in a pandemic with our knowledgeable and wise NEST (Next Steps) team, who have helped us ride the changing waves.
- 9) In mid-February through mid-March I was able to nab the last part of my sabbatical, from a few years ago, to have some quality time with my spouse Deb Phelps, family, and Trekkers. A gift. Thank you to all staff, leaders, members and friends for pitching in during my absence.
- 10) Our Connections Coordinator, Ann LeDuc, moved to Canada with her family in December and continued to serve us until we hired our new Connections Coordinator, Anabel Watson, in May of 2022. Ann is in her last days of training with Anabel at this time.
- 11) We received a grant for an energy audit as well as a grant to supplement new HVAC systems to replace our oldest ones. Thanks to Molly O'Donnell and the Green Sanctuary Task Force.
- 12) I am numbering these things because it gives me a sense of control ③
- 13) I participated in our Coming of Age Mentor Program this year, and I consider it one of the flagship programs of the congregation.
- 14) I remain grateful to have had Chris Long as our guest in the pulpit in April and Sally Todd as our guest pianist in May---all part of celebrating my many years here with this congregation and signifying my departure. I am trying to fathom saying good-bye to Ray Fellman, Susan Swaney, and the choir who have nurtured my soul time and time again with the sacred magic of music in this place.
- 15) My deepest gratitude to our current Board of Directors whose integrity, through the ebb and flow of congregational life, continues to inspire me. And while I am at it, thank you to every Board with whom I have served as minister at UUCB. Your love and work for this congregation is immeasurable.
- 16) Thank you to ALL the lay leaders and those they have led. Your commitment to this congregation's vision of *Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, and Changing the World* will continue to give me hope long after I am gone. Bless every member and friend.
- 17) And how does one thank staff and colleagues who have shared this ministry, through thick and thin, through storms and leaks, through muddles and puddles, through communication and miscommunication, through mistakes and stellar production, through laughter and tears, through pandemic isolation and community? I don't know.... I don't know. But please raise a glass in honor of these fine folks who, from what I have observed over these many years, give their best again and again. Not perfection. Their best.
- 19) This I know----fresh ministerial eyes will benefit the vision and institution of this congregation, and a fresh ministerial spirit will offer needed guidance in a way that I can no longer provide. My time here is complete. I am being called to another form of ministry outside these walls. And so I say... Thank you. I love you. Please forgive me. If needed, I forgive you. My heart is filled with gratitude. My body and spirit seek reverie.
- 20) Letting go of control....

boldly going with love,

Mary Ann aka MAM Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Minister of Story and Ritual's Annual Report

The Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

This past year has been a time of discovery for me and our congregation as we have started to learn together what, exactly, a part-time "Minister of Story and Ritual" might be. So far, it is pretty much what it says: ministry, stories, and rituals.

I have loved continuing my ministry here this year, with deepening pastoral connections, an exploration of creative ways to connect with our monthly themes, and working on services. As a storyteller, it is an ongoing delight to find and share stories with all of you, and a particular delight to be sharing them BOTH online and in person these days.

I have also been continuing to create rituals, both in our usual congregational moments of change, such as in our water communion, thanksgiving service, and flower communion and also marking life passages for babies, first graders, Coming of Age youth, and, through our Gathering of Spirits service, remembering those who have died. I've also undertaken work to learn more about the ritual of Land Acknowledgement and begin the process of deepening that ritual practice here in our congregation.

This year, we have particularly been holding a space of awareness of the huge number of people who have died in the Covid 19 pandemic through our Covid Memorial Installation which was present in our sanctuary from November to May. By creating a physical presence documenting the enormity of the pandemic's effects, our congregation offered a unique and sacred space of witness to what has been happening in our world. Though we wrote most of the numbers in our own homes, they were collected together here for a shared time of remembering the enormity of loss and so many aching hearts. A deep thank you to all those who co-created our installation.

Finally, we are ending this year together knowing it is the last we will share with Reverend Mary Ann Macklin. Our ministry team has been through many iterations during Reverend Macklin's years at UUCB, but Mary Ann has been the constant. After so long, it is hard to imagine what things will be like around here once she leaves, so I invite you to join me and stop trying to imagine it and just look forward to being present together as we discover what is unfolding next for our beloved community.

Working with Reverend MAM has been a joy and a privilege for me, as I am sure it has been for many of you. Her creativity, playfulness, spiritual depth, and huge compassion have held our community well. AND this congregation is the wonderful place that it is because of the presence and commitment of all of you--it will not disappear or become unrecognizable as itself when Mary Ann departs. It will remain a place where we all worship, learn, play, and serve together focused upon Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, and Changing the World.

I look forward to being with you in this coming time of change--a time of loss for sure, but also a time filled with possibility.

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite Minister of Story and Ritual

Music Minister's Annual Report

Considering all the COVID roadblocks we have faced, we have had a surprisingly productive and satisfying musical year!

We were very dependent on our splendid tech team: Hans Kelson, Andy Beargie, Miles Eddy, and Brady Egan, who created audio and video recordings, set up zoom and hybrid rehearsals, made it possible to hear recorded bird songs, created supertitle projections, etc.

We are also extraordinarily blessed in our church pianist, Ray Fellman, and the 'deep bench' of substitutes who stepped in when he was unavailable: Kim Carballo, Mary Allen Lynch, Beverly McGahey, and Keaton Springfield. And Dan Lodge-Rigal also coordinated our pep band! That is a truly incredible roster.

Special events this year included the return of former pianist Sally Todd, collaborating on a service with Reverend Macklin that included Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, special music by Colleen Haas, Scott Hogsed, Sylvia McNair, Carrie Newcomer, Richard Roland, Raymond Sage, and the Cloud 7 choir. Dela Cusack, Eva Rockhill, and Katie Smith, and Anna Yeley sang beautiful duets for the Coming of Age service.

The choir premiered Amendment: Righting Our Wrongs by Melissa Dunphy, commissioned in memory of choir members Bill Lynch and Ray Murray, Listen to the Birds by Mary Goetze, commissioned in memory of choir member Maryann Cusack, and Sorrow Is Not My Name by Abby Henkel and Ross Gay, and For All Who Seek God by Deborah Phelps in honor of Reverend Mary Ann Macklin's ministry.

We also established a Music Reparations fund, to which we contribute every time we use music by unacknowledged people of color that has been absorbed into the public domain. The funds will be donated to the James Mumford Scholarship Fund at the African-American Arts Institute. Our choir collaborated with Dr. Mumford for many years on our annual trips to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility.

Rev. Dr. Susan Swaney

Church Administrator's Annual Report

Life is change. The past year has been a daily testimony to this idea. Despite the many challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to provide the most high quality church administration to the congregation that we can manage.

During the second year of Covid, here are the church administrative highlights:

- Continued our transition to a new, more efficient, more useful church database.
- Managed church business in all its varied forms from home offices and occasional visits to the church building, and beginning in May 2022 having several days a week of office hours at 2120 North Fee.
- Appreciated the work of custodian Jeff Stone and office assistants Monica Overman and Mandy Skinner, in addition to contract custodial help from Eryn Cusack and Jonathan Leite.
- Provided assistance to various committees and task forces of the church as they began to meet in person in the building, with training on use of our Owl-pro multi-platform equipment.

- Organized rental of a scissor lifts three times this year to change the round window insert.
- Facilitated a building oversight walk-through with building committee leaders in May 2022 for the first time in 3 years. Happily, the building is in pretty good shape. We'll do some painting this summer.
- Began scheduling non-church rental events in the building, as well as memorial services in person for members and friends of the congregation.
- Made sure all staff, task forces, and committees had the resources they needed for their projects.

Plans for 2022-23:

- Complete our transition to our new database.
- Arrange for exterior painting of the building in the areas most in need of it.
- Compile hiring procedure documenst so that all staff members who hire employees understand the process.
- Welcome our new interim minister when they arrive in late summer, and be supportive.

Church Administration Beyond 2120 N. Fee Lane:

In Bloomington. Met on Zoom twice with parish administrators from around Bloomington to share resources and expertise. Many thanks to UU Erica Whichello, the new parish administrator at St. Thomas Lutheran, who helped make these meetings coalesce.

In North and Central America. I have served as president of the Association of UU Administrators since June 2021, and have been asked to serve another year in this position. In the past year, our membership has grown from around 200 to over 300 members. We support UU administrators all over the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, providing training and promoting excellence in UU administration.

Goodbyes and Thanks:

We will be remembering with fondness the energy and insights of Reverend Mary Ann Macklin as she moves on to other work at the end of June after 20 years with us, and we will be missing our relentlessly cheerful Connections Coordinator Ann LeDuc, as her work with us ends in mid-June. Thank you to all the other staff members, friends, and members who have also supported the ongoing life of our congregation this past year.

Carol Marks your Church Administrator since 1992

Connections Coordinator's Annual Report

May 20, 2022

The work of this position would not be possible without the wonderful members of this congregation who generously give of their time, energy, and talents in the multitude of volunteer roles. A few volunteers who have been especially helpful in keeping our congregation connected this year are Sharon Yarber, Melinda Swenson, Arzetta Hults-Losensky, Madison Colquette, Dee Morris, Dexter Edge, Ann Kamman, and Drew Schrader. A special thank you to this wonderful group of volunteers, as well as the many, many other wonderful volunteers who have assisted with connections activities this past year.

There is a definite need for additional volunteers, especially leaders for the Greeters and Flame Keepers, as well as occasional volunteers in many areas. Please check out the sign ups on Church Center for occasional

volunteer opportunities (<u>uucb.churchcenter.com/registrations</u>) or email Anabel at <u>connect@uubloomington.org</u> if you are willing to help lead the Greeters or Flame Keepers. Volunteers are what keep this congregation alive.

Overview of 2021-2022 Connections Activities

- Organizing the New to UU classes once a month, with a new facilitator, Madison Colquette
- Offering Exploring Unitarian Universalism classes throughout the year (Zoom and in-person)
- Welcoming newcomers and connecting them with the leaders of groups and activities
- Hosting membership ceremonies
- Communicating via email, phone, and zoom with newcomers to teach them about Unitarian Universalism and get to know our church
- Maintaining membership and attendance data and providing reports as needed
- Organizing volunteers to contact members in recognition of their membership anniversary
- Working with ministers and Lay Leaders to create on-line questionnaires as needed
- Creating Facebook posts and events
- Providing technical support as needed
- Creating new forms, event registrations, reports, and workflows using the new database, Planning Center
- Ensuring completion of the Annual Certification to the UUA

Serving Committees and Groups

This position supports the Greeters, Java Crew, Safety Team, Flame Keepers, Leadership Cultivation Committee, the Caring Committee, and Team Tend. Additionally, this year I served on the NEST (Next Steps in Transition) working group.

Throughout the year our congregation continued to welcome newcomers and new members. We have welcomed a total of 18 new members since this time last year, with a current total of 563 members.

Sunday worship service attendance has been slowly increasing over the past year, with a notable increase in attendees with the transition back to two worship services each Sunday.

Lastly, at the end of December my family moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada for my husband's new job at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. It has truly been a pleasure to be a part of this congregation and serve this church as the Connections Coordinator. I feel lucky that I was able to continue working as the Connections Coordinator from a distance for a while, but it's time to pass on the job to someone who can do this work in-person. On May 13 I began training a new Connections Coordinator, Anabel Watson. Anabel is a long time UU with experience in outreach and social justice work. I am so grateful to be passing this job onto such a talented and wonderful person. Please give Anabel a warm welcome.

Ann LeDuc, former Connections Coordinator

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Interim Religious Education Consultant's Annual Report

This has been a year of interim religious education. I have served with you since August 15, 2021, and will be with you until the end of June 2022. Normally an interim period is 2-3 years. Two to three years provides time to reflect on a congregation's past, present, and future dedication, and ideas for lifespan religious education. This is a special one year interim because leadership understood that starting in the summer of 2022, this congregation would enter a relationship with an interim minister. You are continuing interim work which is for the entire congregation. This includes lifespan religious education. The gifts of this year will feed future conversations, reflections, and dreams. Now your interim work expands to include all aspects of congregational life.

During this year, I was fortunate to have amazing partners in this work:

- Stephanie Kimball, the religious education coordinator
- Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, Rev. Bill Breeden, Rev. Dr. Sue Swaney and an amazing lay professional staff who bring their passion and gifts to this congregation.
- An interim religious education team made up of Beth Lodge-Rigal, Drew Schrader, Stephanie Kimball, and myself. This team held conversations with many groups about this congregation's view and hopes for lifespan religious education
- And an amazing group of lay volunteers who continue to step up to make lifelong learning an important part of this congregation's identity.

What did we learn?

That doing interim work while balancing the ups and down of a pandemic is tricky and messy. There were times that focus on the pandemic and safety took precedence. There were times we listened to the many ideas of how and when religious education should occur. And there were times that we made plans, only to spend the 24 hours prior completely reinventing the event to meet new pandemic safety measures. Being a congregation during COVID takes time. Time to learn, time to create, and time to reinvent.

There are many places where this community is caught between differing desires:

- The desire to be a part of the leadership and the desire to be ministered to...
- The desire to be with family in a multi-generational community and the desire to be with peer related groups...
- The desire to learn and the desire to not put one more piece of new learning into our brains and bodies.
- The desire to be a part of the dreaming and the desire to have others dream so that we can join in later...
- The desire to be only with our daily life and family and the desire to connect with the Unitarian Universalists of Bloomington, Indiana...
- The desire to be pandemic safe and the desire to be in full community doing all the things that mean so much to us.... Singing, playing, hugging, and sitting side by side.
- The desire to dream about the future and the desire to not think about the future one more time!...

These tensions played a role in this year's interim work. It was not a normal year and yet a great deal happened.

We learned that the collaboration between ministers, staff, and religious education leadership can create a lifespan religious education future. This congregation is still figuring out what this looks like, but they are well on their way.

We learned that the investment in Coming of Age, Our Whole Lives, and Adult Religious Education is strong and growing! There is more coming, thanks to this year's program and discernment.

We learned that Sunday morning religious education is needed. What we still do not know is what it looks like and how to fully staff it so that it is meaningful.

We know that this congregation has amazing volunteers. What we also know is that more are needed to live into the needs of children, youth, adults, and multi-generational religious education dreams.

We know that lifespan religious education, just like worship and congregational life, looks different and is different following the pandemic. Now, the work to figure out exactly what it looks like should continue.

There are so many amazing programs and ideas in place. There are amazing people ready to create, including a new religious education development team ready to bring dreams to reality. And in just a moment, you will learn more about the future of religious education staffing.

So much has been discovered. There is so much more to do. And knowing what I now know about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana – I have no doubt that you will bring a vital lifespan religious education program to life.

Thank you for your dedication and work –

Blessings, Michele Townsend Grove

Religious Education Coordinator's Annual Report

CONTEXT

Religious Education is in transition. This is not only due to staff changes and the resulting interim period we entered roughly a year ago, but also as a result of the COVID pandemic which has exacerbated and accelerated the changes already underway. As with most aspects of our world, we realize that with religious education there is no "going back" to the way things were before, but rather a chance to move forward – whether we knew we needed to or not.

As we know, transitions are often painful, especially when we have to abruptly and unexpectedly let go of familiar and comfortable patterns and expectations. It can be unsettling to not know what is next, or when the "new normal" will appear. And being a part of a system in flux can be exhausting, even more so when so many systems are in flux at once. However, transitional times can also be exciting times of possibility as we see our strengths and aspirations with fresh eyes and envision what we can build together. While this process is not linear, and the pain and exhaustion will continue to be felt, Religious Education is solidly on the path of rebuilding, from the ground up, in a way that will serve us well in the world we've got.

PROGRAMS

This year, we have succeeded in getting at least some degree of programming in place for all age levels. We have been able to resume weekly Sunday morning classes for children through age 13, and have begun to rebuild a childcare program. In addition, we have offered Our Whole Lives (OWL) as well as some adult religious education classes.

Sunday Morning Programming

Childcare

In May, 2022, we began offering childcare for children ages 0-5 on Sunday mornings when staff was available. Hiring has been difficult because of the general shortage of childcare workers and the availability of other part-time jobs offering better pay. Another factor has been our congregation's relatively restrictive rules regarding COVID. However, we have made progress: at the time of this writing, we have two childcare team members on board through the summer, and three who have expressed an interest in applying. Meanwhile, we have revised and updated our policies, and have developed a new Childcare Handbook.

Spirit Play

Starting in September, 2021, we held Spirit Play in our newly established outdoor classroom in the woods, on a monthly basis. These sessions were attended by 6-10 children and many of their caregivers. The outdoor space was a blessing during the months when it was not yet safe for children to be indoors together, but it was also challenging: extra volunteers were needed to help set up canopies, tables, and all the activities for children of all ages – and then to put it all away again at the end of the session. In addition, the noise from the highway made it difficult to hear, and the openness of the space added some safety concerns. However, it was good to be together and to begin to reconnect with children and their families.

We held two Spirit Play sessions indoors, in November and December, when it was too cold to continue in the woods. Our intended move to weekly classes in January was delayed by the Omicron surge, but we were able to start meeting weekly in February.

Spirit Play was made possible by trained facilitators, some of whom taught on a regular basis (Mary Beth O'Brien, Christy True, Mary Mahern, Gigi Kirkley, and Jamie Kirkley) and others who stepped up as urgently needed substitutes (Bill Lonnberg, Mary Bent, Laura Jesseph, Maggie Talmage, and Avram Primack).

IMUU

When we began weekly RE classes indoors, we launched a new class for 7-13 year olds called I Am UU (shortened to IMUU). This group focused on our eight principles along with spiritual practices that can help a person stay grounded and calm in challenging times. This class was designed with two main aims: 1) to allow people the freedom to choose the types of activities that suit them best and work at their own pace; and 2) to build connections among the children (and their teachers) and a sense of belonging in the class. We attempted to make use of multiplatform technology so that people could participate from home as needed, but these processes need additional work in order to be effective.

IMUU was made possible by the following volunteer teachers: Amy Money, Martha Nord, Catherine Shipp, and Autumn Harff.

Youth Programs

OWL

This year we offered Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for 8th and 9th graders. Eleven youth participated in this intensive course. We are now working to recruit additional facilitators willing to be trained this summer so that we can expand our offerings next fall and beyond. OWL was facilitated by Eve Cusack, Guy Loftman, Drew Schrader, and Margie Schrader.

Coming of Age

Rev. Emily Manvel Leite facilitated the Coming of Age program for high school youth. Nine youth participated in this capstone program, along with nine adult mentors. This year's mentors were Barb Berggoetz, Dan Lodge-Rigal, Heather Craig, James Thurmond, Mary Ann Macklin, Nicki Stewart Ingersoll, Nicole Motz, Stephanie Serriere, and Steve Mascari.

Adult RE

This spring we were also able to introduce several classes for adults, led by a mixture of staff and lay leaders. They were:

- Widening the Circle of Concern, led by Marth Oakley, Ruth Aydt, Michele Grove, Emily Manveil Leite, and Stephanie Kimball
- Building Your Own Theology, led by Barbara Child
- Drugs, Mind and Society, led by Brian O'Donnell
- Exploring UU Past, led by Stuart Yoke
- Backpedaling Through the Principles, led by Michele Grove

CHALLENGES

Religious Education faces several significant challenges in 2022, including the following:

- Low attendance, due to many factors including ongoing concerns about the pandemic, changes in families' Sunday morning habits, general exhaustion, limited offerings as we gradually reopen, and an uneven of awareness of what is available
- Lack of volunteers to adequately staff the level of programming we used to offer
- Difficulty getting the word out about events and opportunities, because of shifts in communication patterns, communication overloads, and staff time required to engage with multiple platforms for every announcement
- Increasing demands on people's time and energy in all aspects of people's lives
- Shifting patterns of engagement with church communities in general.

As mentioned above, all these challenges existed before the pandemic started, but have been exacerbated by the realities of the last twenty six months. By naming this past year as an interim year of transition, we have had the opportunity to ask ourselves what we as a community value about religious education (see Michele Grove's report for more on this topic).

In the face of these challenges, we have had to resist the urge to try to return everything to the way it was pre-pandemic and instead find where the energy and enthusiasm is now. It's clear that Sunday morning

programming for children is important to this congregation, both as a way to expose children to the basic tenets of Unitarian Universalism and also to provide safe and fun places for children to be while their caregivers attend worship services. Currently we do not have the volunteer capacity to offer children's RE at two services, nor does Sunday morning attendance justify adding more classes. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and evolve our offerings accordingly.

There has also been a clear interest in adult religious education (ARE) programming, with 72 registrations for the five ARE classes offered in 2021-22. We look forward to building on this enthusiasm.

PLANNING for 2022 and beyond

Our response to the challenges described above consists of a 3-pronged approach:

1. Systems & Structures

First, we need systems and structures in place to allow us the capacity to grow and implement our programs. Key among these are:

- a. Communication tools. This year we have begun rebuilding our web pages, started up a monthly RE newsletter, and made use of existing congregational channels (Prologue, Friday Update) in order to get the word out about our programs, needs, news, and opportunities. Going forward, we will continue to improve our use of these tools and also hope to begin a regular blog as well as more consistent use of social media.
- b. Volunteer base. This past year over thirty volunteer teachers and mentors have worked with children, youth and adults. In addition, two volunteers built furniture for us to use in our outdoor classroom, and many helped with set-up and take down of our outdoor Spirit Play classes. We now have a Library Committee ready to get to work on the Children's Library, and an RE Development Team met for the first time in May to help guide and implement program ideas. Going forward, we hope to add a team to help coordinate Sunday morning programming, and one to assist with developing and managing materials. An important aspect of developing a volunteer program is devising ways to support people who step up. This includes providing adequate training, as well as ongoing support. In the works for the coming year is a monthly "RE for Religious Educators" program that will aim to nourish our teachers, foster connections, and encourage reflection on the themes they teach about.
- c. Varied methods for engaging in religious education, and the tools/materials needed for them. While it is a tremendous relief to be able to meet again in person, our pandemic experiences have also taught us the value of having alternate ways to engage. For instance, many have found that meeting over Zoom saves time and transportation costs, and makes participation possible for those whose family responsibilities, illness, travel, or reluctance to drive at night make in-person attendance impossible.

This year, with the help of media specialist Hans Kelson, we have begun developing an app ("WebRE") that could be useful for asynchronous programming for people of all ages. We've also begun work on digitizing our children's library, and have plans to do the same with the main library collection, so that materials can be browsed from home. Both of these will enable the development of different kinds of religious education programming, expanding people's ability to participate.

- **d. Policies.** In order to keep our programming accessible to all, it's necessary to have clear and transparent policies in place. One goal for the coming year is to develop an RE Handbook that will make our aims, values, procedures and offerings clear to all.
- e. Three-year Planning Cycle. Religious Education will use our congregation's mission statement to guide programming. Retroactively, we realized that this past year has been all about "Seeking the Spirit" as we've been asking ourselves what brings us here? What are we hungry for in RE and in church life in general? What is calling us now? Next year our focus will be "Building Community," and in 2023-24 it will be "Changing the World." Some programs, like OWL, and courses on our UU principles and sources, will be offered every year, while others that are more focused on a particular theme will be repeated every third year. This approach allows us to vary our offerings, while maintaining continuity and keeping a sense of long-range vision.

2. Robust Adult Religious Education (ARE)

Since adult volunteers are critically important for a thriving religious education program, and since there is currently interest in adult programming, it makes sense to concentrate first on developing ARE. Then, over time, the programs for children and youth can also be expanded to include special topics beyond the basic Sunday morning programming.

Adult programming will likely take several forms. There will be some one-time classes, and some that span several weeks or months. Some will be drop-in, while others will require a commitment. Formats will vary too, to include in-person, remote, multi-platform, and asynchronous experiences. Our hope is that over time, a majority of the congregation will participate in some form of religious education, so we aim to find ways to make programs accessible to all.

3. Rigorous and relevant programming

Whether considering adult or children/youth program development, there are key questions that can keep us focused on present-day needs and interests, such as:

- What skills, information, and resources are needed in order to live our UU principles in the 21st century?
- How does being a UU, and being part of a UU community, help us address the challenges of our time?
- How does UUism as a whole make a difference in our community, nation and world, and how can we at UUCB contribute to that?
- What can UUism bring to the problems our communities face?

There is no shortage of challenges for us to consider addressing: climate change, white supremacy, threats to democracy, gun violence, opioid addiction, hunger and homelessness, the erosion of women's rights, income inequality, war and nuclear weapons – these are just a few of the top concerns for people of all ages today. To discuss religion without addressing these issues means we risk becoming irrelevant. Fortunately, there is no reason to do that, as Unitarian Universalism has a great deal to say about these topics and more. The task before us is to build programs that help all of us live out our shared values as we work for a better world.

Stephanie Kimball, Religious Education Coordinator

COMMITTEES and TASK FORCES

Caring Committee

We have continued to provide services for our church community. We have started visiting church members and friends who need our services as the pandemic has lessened. We continue to provide help with transportation needs, such as medical appointments. People in our church community who need a limited time of meals due to illness, new baby, etc. can count on our UU Meal Train. Memorial receptions have been limited due to the pandemic, but this is another service to our church community. Our UU Caring Committee has collaborated with our health team even more this past year.

We want to thank all our members on the UU Caring Committee: Doris Wittenburg, Marlin Howard, Martha Dogan, Sandy Churchill, Ruth Ann Cooper, Barb Backler and Kathy Sideli. We also appreciate our coordinated efforts with our UU Health Team led by Melinda Swenson. We also thank our ministerial support along with Carol Marks and the church office.

We are so grateful for ALL of our church volunteers who we call on to meet these various needs in our church community. Lastly, we are so appreciative of Ann LeDuc, our past Connections Coordinator, for all of her support and leadership. We welcome Anabel Watson as our new Connections Coordinator. We look forward to working with Anabel as we care for our church community.

Submitted by

Sharon Yarber, Chair

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles met again this year via Zoom. Facilitator training was held via Zoom in the fall. We convened eight Circles, facilitated by several returning facilitators including Alan Backler, Sandy Churchill, Linda Haynes, Sandra Henshaw, Charlie Pickle, and Linda Pickle. We were happy to welcome Ruellen Fessenbecker back to facilitation and to add Steve Pock as a new facilitator.

Screen limitations capped our Circle size at nine each, including the facilitator; most circles were full or nearly full the entire year. We were able to add two additional folks mid-year. Approximately seventy folks participated in Chalice Circles this year; several of our participants were veterans, but some were new entirely to Chalice Circles. Due to COVID restrictions, Circles did not participate in service projects again this year.

The members of our Executive Team for the past year, Jan Armstrong, Anne Hayes, and Linda Pickle, are grateful to our Ministerial Consultant, Rev. Barbara Child, for her help and her guidance, especially during Executive Team and Facilitators Meetings. Her insight, her wisdom, and her presence greatly enriched our program.

The remaining members of the Executive Team would like to express our thanks to Linda Pickle as she leaves our CC Exec Team to serve on the UUCB Board. Her contributions over her years of service on the Team have been immeasurable. We also are grateful to Alan Backler, who has agreed to rejoin the Executive Team.

Submitted by the Chalice Circle Executive Team: Jan Armstrong, Alan Backler, Anne Haynes, and Linda Pickle

Green Building

May 18, 2022

Molly ODonnell, Building co-chair

In August 2021 an *iWave* air purification system was installed on all of our air handling units. This technology works on the principle that introducing positive and negatively charged atoms (ions) into the air can result in clumping of small airborne particles, destruction of pathogens (including viruses, bacteria, and fungi/mold), and control of odors. Installation of these units has made our air safer, not just from transmission of SARS-CoV2, but also other disease-causing microbes. Reducing the number of fine particles and odors is an additional benefit, especially in the lower RE childcare and meeting rooms, which people often used to complain smelled musty. Prior to proceeding with the installation, we had our HVAC service provider, Harrell-Fish, Inc. (HFI), calculate the air exchange rates in various areas to learn how long the systems should run before or after a space is occupied. This allowed the church leadership to feel comfortable beginning limited in-person services in September, though proof of vaccination was initially required, and masks were required until the end of April 2022. As of mid-May 2022, the building continues to be occupied at much lower levels than before the pandemic, with staff working remotely most days.

On March 2, 2022 we had a professional energy audit by Colby May of LIT Consulting, paid for by a grant from Center for Congregations and funds from Duke Energy. Our goal, as stated in our Paris Pledge agreement, is to reduce our building's dependence on fossil fuels to as close as possible to zero.

Several issues were raised by the audit:

- We discovered a large crack in the ductwork leading from the meeting room furnace that was causing
 hot air to pour into the mechanical space off the staff workroom. It was taken care of that week by our
 HVAC contractor.
- We discovered that most thermostats were set at higher-than-recommended temperatures. (We recommend that when spaces are unoccupied for more than a few hours most thermostats should be set back to 55°F in the winter. (The mini-split system thermostats in the lower RE cannot be set below 59°F.)
- The near-term needs are to replace the two oldest HVAC systems, for the nursery (1985) and preschool classrooms (1998), both of which have reached the end of their expected 20-year lifespan.
 - o In May we received a 25% matching grant through *Faith in Place* of \$5,052.50 towards replacement of both older systems, using "Paris Pledge" funds in SPF, which were created to support environmentally related church improvements and initiatives, for the 75% match. This work is planned for summer 2022, or a soon as equipment is available.
 - o HFI will replace both older HVAC systems with air-to-air heat pumps with small electric back-up heaters for times exterior temperatures fall below -7°F, in both cases replacing natural gas heat with high-efficiency all-electric split systems, with the potential to be powered by renewable energy.

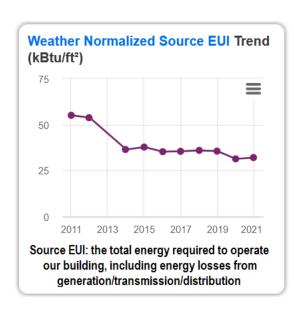
Other recommendations include:

• Replacing remaining fluorescent tubes with LED tubes in 2nd floor offices and RE rooms. Carol will request a quote for doing so in the workroom, where the ballasts buzz. The Green Sanctuary Task Force offered to replace their inefficient halogen floor lamp with an LED lamp.

- Replacing an oversized gas-powered 40-gallon water heater in mechanical room 109 that only serves
 two sinks in the lower RE restrooms and the upstairs kitchen with a 6-gallon 120V electric point of use
 water heater. However, the pipes need asbestos abatement, which was quoted at over \$4,000. Dick will
 request a second quote to abate the asbestos.
- Replacing the large old stove with inefficient pilot lights in the main kitchen.

We held our first building walk through since before the pandemic on May 18, 2022. As a result, we will be requesting quotes for replacement of damaged exterior boards, the patching and painting of several exterior areas, replacing interior lighting in hard-to-reach locations, and looking into the possibility of adding electric car chargers. Several smaller tasks will be done by Dick Stumpner or other volunteers.

As stated in the November 2021 Green Building report, our building received EnergyStar Certification in the 98th percentile for buildings of worship, based on utility data through mid-October 2021. Since our second solar array was installed in late 2017 93% of our electricity was produced or offset by solar energy, saving over \$41,000 to date. But from September 2021 to March 2022 our weather normalized energy usage was higher than in previous years. This higher usage could be due to the higher thermostat settings when the building was unoccupied and the fact that the HVAC systems may have run longer than necessary the first few months after the iWave units were first installed. We will keep our eye on this going forward.





NOTE: Molly has been updating the building records and utility use spreadsheets, and entering our solar data in Energy Stewards. Energy Stewards populates Portfolio Manager, which she used to apply for Energy Star certification each fall. She currently convenes Earth Care Bloomington, and attends Faith in Place monthly statewide and Thriving Faith Communities calls, on all of which she represents the church.

Future building chairs, GSTF members, and staff should consult and update two Google spreadsheets:

1. Building records with tabs on Summary_2022 audit; Exterior&Envelope; HVAC; sewer; Maintenance; Appliances; Lighting; Commons Coves, Finishes; and Grounds to 09/17 (when a separate Grounds

spreadsheet was started in the GSTF Google Drive, shared with Carol Marks, Dick Stumpner). https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mjW8IFK51m86l64b868s6uYAXmMFaiDilYp-BwQsZJo/edit#gid=1204126670

- 2. Building Utility Data (including solar panel generation), shared with Eve Cusack: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qnsB7r83xUogRxPpo3VEZPxTTojzl8ql/edit#gid=517433522
- 3. Utility website access, shared with Eve Cusack:

 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-OrEdHA74ZWFeAJ4OwW6AdcyWmBsXeSw/edit?usp=sharing
 &ouid=107605776006565272733&rtpof=true&sd=true
- 4. Graphs of PV production as compared to electricity usage, based on the Utility spreadsheet, is updated several times a year on the church website under "ABOUT→ Renewable Energy" (text and images are uploaded by office staff) (https://www.uubloomington.org/about-us/solar-energy/)

Green Grounds Task Force

The Green Grounds Task Force (GGTF) transforms and maintains the church grounds to be green and welcoming. Contacts: Mike Drescher, Georgia Emmert, Ann Kamman, Bill Lonnberg.

The GGTF coordinates grounds work days, and is blessed to have several volunteers who maintain specific areas of the property. Maintenance activities include trimming, weeding and mulching. Following are some highlights from the past year.

- Cleared the memorial garden which experienced excessive plant growth during the pandemic.
- Helped prep the east wooded area for RE classes.
- Started clearing of invasive shrubs from the south border.
- Planted an ancient variety of sunflower obtained from a member of the Wea people, members of the Miami nation who are indigenous to this area. This was done as a tangible land acknowledgement, first done in 2021 and to be done again in 2022.
- Planted a pecan tree and redbud tree on the west side.

The GGTF appreciates the good work of all volunteers and is always happy to welcome more in need of "dirt therapy."

Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar

The annual Bazaar in Fall 2021 was an online event for the second time, as our 2020 Bazaar was also held online. Buyers selected their purchases from the online auction site and picked them up several days later. Scores of members baked cookies and gourmet items, donated quality used items, and helped with sorting and delivery of items. Three task forces contributed to the auction site: International Outreach TF, Feed Our Hungry Neighbors TF and Habitat TF. Their earnings are included in the total Bazaar earnings of over \$10,000. We were able to piggyback onto the Procession of Giving event on December 3 and held an in-person outdoor sale of leftover items. One Bazaar customer was from Alaska, and was motivated to bid on some items after live streaming our services on Sundays.

-Ruellen Fessenbecker

Humanist Forum and Freethinkers

Humanist Forum

The Forum met on twenty six Sundays during the last year. All were by Zoom, because the Covid-19 pandemic still dealt us hot spots and high outbreaks. Three meetings were to decide our topics, democratically of course. Topics are posted on the UU website and the ten past years topics may be viewed. We use the forum format for all presentations, and the short time span used by topic presenters allows plenty of time for all participant's comments, questions, and resulting discussion. Returning to live meetings, we will test a combination Live/Zoom mode.

Freethinkers

Freethinkers met on the other twenty six Sundays, also, serving the same group of people. When we're lucky we may discuss three or four topics each Sunday, while on other days there may be a single prominent issue only under discussion. We're open to all topics. These two groups alternate Sundays. Attendance for both groups varies with time of year from eight to thirty and new participants are still welcome. Our mailing list, occasional discussion list, has increased to eighty-six.

For a link to the Humanist Forum discussion topics archive and more info on both groups, visit: uubloomington.org/getting-involved/uu-humanists-freethinkers

Library

Ralph & Annetta Fuchs Library

The committee met several times during the year, following NEST guidelines. We met sometimes on Zoom and sometimes in person so we could evaluate gift books and make selections from them. We received a number of boxes of books from the relative of a member who died last year. We were able to accept about one box of them.

In the Spring, Dr. Michele Grove, Interim RE Consultant, contacted Anne Haynes and suggested she talk with Stephanie Kimball, RE Coordinator, who is putting the Children's Library online. Anne talked with Stephanie and found out that the adult library and children's library are now under the jurisdiction of Religious Education, and we can all use the same catalog. Stephanie gave the Library Committee a demonstration of the new online library catalog and we were very impressed with how useful it will be for the Committee members and our congregation. A meeting was held with Stephanie; Hans Kelson, Media staff of the church (with approval of Rev. Breeden, his supervisor); and members of the Library Committee to discuss what equipment we would need to go forward. Hans said he would research this and give us a list of the equipment we would need with the cost. When we get that list, we will go through the proper channels to get the funds together to automate our collection. We are looking forward to this exciting move! There is much to be worked out once we have the funds committed.

Michele McCaffrey resigned from the Committee during the year, and we gained two new members, Dexter Edge and Kathy Kardynalski. We are grateful to Michele for her library experience and the imaginative way she approached the issues that came before us.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Richey, Judy Bennett, Kathy Kardynalski, Dexter Edge, Anne Haynes (Chair)

Life Stories

Over the last year we have continued in the tradition begun by Cookie and Bill Lynch, gathering together every Friday to read the writings we bring to the group. Each person decides their own method of documenting life stories. We met all year by Zoom, adding a far-flung friend from western Indiana, and also lost a couple of members as they made changes in their personal lives. One member who moved to Massachusetts is still with us in our Zoom meetings. If we go back to meeting in person this year, we will have openings for two people. The current mailing list includes eight of us; one man and seven women.

Special Purposes Fund

The Special Purposes Fund (SPF) Committee for the 2021-2022 fiscal year consisted of Andrew Appel (Chair), Rich Slabach (UUCB Treasurer), Ruth Aydt, Ed Long and Julie Lawson (Board At-Large). The committee has been operating with four members since January 10, 2022 when Julie stepped down for personal reasons. Much gratitude from the committee to Julie for her deep insights into the functioning of our congregation.

During this fiscal year SPF has received memorial donations in the name of Lois Zimmerman, Al Strickholm, Bob Devoe, Naomi Lawlis, and John Woodcock. Funds were approved for the air cleaning system to enhance the safety of our worship space, awnings/tents for the improved RE outdoor space, two Owl Pro video networking systems, an A/V computer rebuild to improve service streaming, replacement of the two oldest HVAC systems (Paris Pledge funds) and to commission musical compositions (Swaney Composition fund). In November, 2021, a total of \$3,500 in annual Social Justice grants from the Lundin Social Justice fund were approved based on requests from the Racial Justice, Habitat, Homeless and Team First Book task forces.

SPF started this fiscal year with \$517,257 in assets (endowment plus general) and stood at \$494,918 at the end of the third fiscal quarter. Currently 6.8% of the total investments (SPF plus Operational) are invested in specifically fossil fuel divested funds. Another \$10,000 will be moved to these funds as soon as a suitable investment is found. The Parnassus Fund at R. W. Baird has been closed to additional investment because they deem the Parnassus Fund to be too small to be viable.

Wednesday Walkers

During the beginning of the COVID pandemic the group visited on Zoom. Beginning in the Fall of 2021, every Wednesday morning, weather permitting, at 10 am (Fall, Winter, Spring) or 9 am (Summer), a group of UUs have met to take a one hour walk at various Bloomington parks or trails. Emails were sent out on Monday indicating the location of the walk. During inclement weather we once again meet on Zoom. There are 30 people on the mailing list, but the average number of walkers is between 4 and 15. Denise Ogren organizes the walks when in town. Otherwise it was organized by Steve and Kathy Gilbert.

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance was founded in 1959 to manage the annual fundraising bazaar, help build fellowship, and give service and financial support to the church and community projects, as voted upon by the membership. This year's officers were Doris Wittenburg, President; Kathy Gilbert, Secretary; Doris Wittenburg, Treasurer; and Sharon Wiseman and Michele McCaffrey, Program Co-Chairs.

We normally meet the first Thursday of the month at 11:30 am, bringing our lunches and sharing desserts provided by Alliance members. The COVID-19 surge, however, again necessitated our continued meeting by Zoom. We still had a variety of very interesting speakers each month.

The speakers were:

- Abby Gitlitz "Preparing for our Reopening"
- Barb Edmonds on voting rights
- UUCB Delegates to 2021 General Assembly
- Sylvia McNair "This Next Stage of Life"
- Michele Townsend Grove on life span religious education
- Sharon Wiseman and Michele McCaffrey "Time for Tea"
- Professor James H. Madison "about the challenges of racial segregation and discrimination in Indiana over the last two centuries"
- Ray Fellman and Scott Hogsed with love songs for Valentine's Day
- Ann Birch, president, League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County, and Ralf Shaw, Voter Service Committee chair, League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County
- Reverend Emily Manvel Leite shared her spiritual journey as a Transcendentalist Jewish Unitarian Universalist and some spiritual practices that are especially meaningful
- and Deborah Cohn "The Iron Curtain and the 'Language Curtain': Foreign Language Study and the National Interest during the Cold War (with a coda for today)"

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting and that you will join our group!

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Wittenburg, President

SOCIAL JUSTICE Annual Report



Social Justice permeates all programming at the UU Church of Bloomington: worship, religious education, fellowship, and special groups like Chalice Circles and the choir. Social Justice Task Forces are formed when a number of people wish to work together around a specific social justice area.

Our congregation is very active in many areas of social justice. With the pandemic, activities have changed and in some cases been delayed. In other areas particularly with hunger and homelessness, activities have increased substantially. We are looking for new energy and leadership for the End of Life and Rainbow Rights task forces. Thanks to all for your continued and ongoing commitment to Change the World!

3rd Sunday Social Justice Film Series

Program suspended due to the pandemic.

End of Life Task Force

The End of Life Task Force (EOLTF) believes that our cultural consciousness needs to change with respect to death, terminal illnesses, aging, grief, and other parts of the end of life, and will work to do so.

Contact: Tracy Turner

This task force will be reconvening – please contact Tracy or Jackie Hall.

Green Sanctuary Task Force



The <u>Green Sanctuary Task Force</u> (GSTF) promotes mindful, Earth centered living, working to educate and motivate individuals and institutions to take positive steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the understanding that it is our moral imperative to care for the Earth. Contact: Marcia Veldman

The GSTF activities have been limited during the pandemic, but we were able to keep in touch and move some projects forward.

Energy Report/Energy Star rating

In 2015 UUCB signed on to Interfaith Power and Light's Paris Pledge. This pledge commits us to working towards a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2050. While we have

already met our interim goal of a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the harder steps are ahead. Following are our activities that are underway to assist us in getting to net zero.

- For the 7th straight year UUCB has been certified in the upper 90th percentile for US buildings of worship. This year, based on data Molly supplied through mid-October 2021, we are at 98%.
- Because of our work in greening our building and grounds and engaging our members, we were asked
 to join the first cohort of "Thriving Faith Communities" (TFC), a program initiated by Hoosier Interfaith
 Power and Light (which has since merged with the Wisconsin and Illinois IPL affiliates under the name
 Faith in Place). The members of a dozen congregations met weekly by Zoom to share knowledge and
 experiences in reducing their carbon footprint in their buildings.
- As a member of TFC we were able to receive a free energy audit and apply for and receive a matching grant of \$5,053 to implement some of the audit's recommendations. The matching funds are to come from the extra funds raised for solar panels in 2017, invested by the Special Purposes Fund as "Paris Pledge" funds. This will allow us to replace the two oldest HVAC systems with highly efficient, electric air source heat pumps.

Spring Clothing Swap

The spring clothing swap returned in May of 2021 in an open air shelter at Bryan Park.

Conversation with Frances Moore Lappe

The GSTF had the honor of hosting a conversation with Frances Moore Lappe in November 2021 during her visit to IU as the Patten Lecturer. Lappe is a fellow UU and was impressed by our congregation's commitment to living lightly on the Earth.

Viewing of *Mission Joy*

In November/December 2021 we made available to the congregation the viewing of *Mission Joy*. Inspired by *New York Times* bestseller *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in* a *Changing World*, the film showcases the exchange between the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu that led to that book.

Annual Tree Giveaway

Three varieties of saplings- hazelnut, redbud and pecan – were available for free to congregants in conjunction with the Earth Day service. All remaining saplings were donated to CanopyBloomington.

Interfaith Alliance Earth Day Celebration

The GSTF supported the Bloomington Multifaith Alliance's Earth Day celebration at First United, bringing together faith communities around care for our common home.

GSTF Financial Support to Non-profits

Canopy Bloomington (\$200); Citizens' Climate Lobby (\$200); Hoosier-Interfaith Power and Light for the Faith and Climate Summit (\$500).

GSTF Members Active in Other Environmental Groups

GSTF members are active with Earth Care Bloomington, Faith in Place (formerly Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light), Bring Your Bag Bloomington, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Center for Sustainable Living.

Habitat for Humanity Task Force



The <u>Habitat for Humanity Task Force</u> strives to educate the congregation about housing needs of Monroe County, including the purpose and accomplishments of Habitat for Humanity and other related housing groups. The congregation can contribute in many ways to help provide decent affordable housing in Monroe County.

Contact: Barb Berggoetz

The Habitat Task Force during 2021-22 had a primary focus of reinvigorating some fundraising projects and building activities, as UU and the local Habitat chapter moved out of COVID19 restrictions. Habitat, which suspended volunteer building for about 1 ½ years, except for the Women Build in fall 2020, started to accept build volunteers again in May 2021.

Habitat Task Force members are: Barb Berggoetz, chair, members Kathleen Chmelewski, Jackie Hall, Mary Blizzard, Kathy Sideli, Brian and Pearl Springfield, Dian Robbins, Laura Hannam, Deb Martin, Sandy Davoren, Richard Stumpner and Licia Weber. Several new UUers have voiced an interest in joining and/or volunteering and other UUers typically participate in builds, fundraisers and contributing money. The task force usually meets between services on the first Sunday of most months, but we conducted much of our work during 2021-22 by email. We conducted our first in-person meeting in two years in March 2022.

Objectives/funds: Educate the congregation about local housing needs, including the purpose and accomplishments of Habitat and other housing-related groups; support Habitat by providing volunteers, food and raising money for builds and its needs, including equipment. As of May 2022, we had \$5,937.52.

During the 2021-22 year, the task force's activities included:

- Contribution to 2021 Women Build: We contributed \$16,000, raised over three years, to help sponsor two Women Build homes in Osage Place neighborhood. Habitat was had a harder time raising needed fuds due to higher construction costs, so we decided to support this project to help close a funding gap. This was in addition to our UU and friends team members individually raising \$16,500.
- Chili/soup take-home fundraiser: We sponsored an online chili/soup fundraiser on March 12-13, and after services, by offering several types of chili and soup, plus corn bread, made by task force members and supporters. We earned \$815.
- Social Justice Moment in March 2022: Barb Berggoetz talked about Habitat for Humanity's current bold plans for its new Osage Place, which now has three homes and will grow to 69 homes, and highlighted the chili take-home fundraiser.
- **Habitat Women Build extension in 2022**: We supplied about eight builders, including four participants from the UU Coming of Age program, to help complete two houses started in the fall of 2021.
- **UU 25% Sunday Plate Fund:** Our proposal was among the top three groups chosen for a congregational vote on June 12. We proposed funds for Habitat's homeowner education program, a series of classes focusing on financial management, home and yard maintenance, stress management and other topics, which all homeowners must take.
- Online UU Holiday Bazaar: We sold handmade crafts donated by task force members and other UUers in December 2021 and earned \$1,275.
- Habitat's fall More Than Houses event: We participated in Habitat's main fundraiser, located at Osage Place neighborhood, by sending information about Habitat to 15 UUers and requesting contributions. Several UUers attended.

• **UU Social Justice grant:** We applied for and received a \$1,000 grant for Habitat for Humanity to build a much-needed storage facility at the Osage Place neighborhood that will be used to store materials and equipment for builds and volunteers.

Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force



The <u>Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force</u> (HFOHN) engages in projects to reduce hunger in our community, including monthly College Square (Walnut Grove) Pantry, Christmas baskets for MCUM, Bountyful Sunday Food Drives, and staffing Shalom breakfast once a month. Contact: Mary Blizzard

18 members - 12 active • 35 - 40 congregational volunteers | Current Balance: As of 4/28/2022: \$6,659.69

CURRENT PROJECTS

- College Square Pantry: Our last pantry was reluctantly held in December, due to most of us "aging out" of this project. We were able to find a young crew of people from another church who enthusiastically took it over, and continue to deliver excellent service to the clients there.
- College Square Pantry Volunteer Appreciation BBQ was held on Pine Lane in August to express our appreciation to all the volunteers from the congregation that helped to keep the pantry going through the years.
- MCUM Holiday Basket Food Drive. An annual project. (November 2021)
- Monthly Food Drives: Recipients: Area 10, Afghan refugee family, Little Free Pantry (ongoing)
- Hot Breakfasts at Shalom: Financial support for two monthly breakfasts (ongoing). No face to face volunteering yet.
- Community Kitchen Help: Two shifts per month, two volunteers per shift, face to face (ongoing)
- **Support for UU Families**: planning to raise the value of these grocery cards to \$100/ individual and \$150/family, assisted by Sharon Yarbor as a liaison person. (ongoing)
- Little Free Pantry: located next to Needmore Coffee on Pete Ellis Drive. This has been an ongoing successful project. A task force committee oversees the maintenance. Distributing approximately 120 lbs/week.

FUNDRAISERS

- IU Football Parking
- Online Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar. (December 2021)

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Each One Feed One: MCUM's biggest annual food drive. Help with drop off points and publicity
- Outreach to elementary schools: Determine needy families who suddenly have a food crisis

FUTURE FUNDRAISING PLANS

- An **online UU store**, open to all task forces
- **Time for Change**: Go house to house gathering loose change from members of the congregation.
- A **Mexican meal** open to the congregation
- Buttons: to be sold at bazaar. MB can design and produce.
- Make and sell Triominoes

Homelessness Task Force



The <u>Homelessness Task Force</u> works with agencies in Monroe County to provide services and support to people experiencing homelessness, to develop strategies dealing with issues related to homelessness including hunger and unemployment, and to end homelessness. Contact: Alan Backler

This past year, the taskforce engaged in the following activities:

- A winter clothing drive for men, women, and children in need in Monroe County. We worked in association with other congregations in the county as well as other organizations and the Bloomington Fire Department. Over 130 men, women, and children picked out clothing on the final day of the drive for their use. Additional clothing was distributed to agencies serving the homeless.
- An underwear drive for school children of all ages in the Monroe County Community School System. The clothing gathered was distributed by school social workers at all community schools.
- Fund-raiser events for agencies in the county that focus on homelessness—this year we gathered funds at the church for New Hope for Families, a local agency that provides housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness.
- **Prepare breakfasts** on a regular basis in the kitchen at Shalom Community Center. Serve on committees at Shalom.
- **Gather food and clothing from UUCB members** at the church, everyday, that is distributed to Shalom Community Center and to the Hunger Taskforce for use in their programs.
- Currently, Alan Backler and Marlin Howard serve as the co-chairs of the taskforce. We have been working with Nathan Stonecipher to take over as chairperson of the taskforce in the fall of 2022.

Hope for Prisoners Task Force



The <u>Hope for Prisoners Task Force</u> (HFPTF) works on projects based on recognizing the humanity of those in prison and their families. The goal of this task force is to serve and advocate for individuals during incarceration and their return to this community, and also their families and support systems, with a major effort to support KAP, Kids with Absent Parents. Contacts: Deb Fish and Mary Goetze

- With the help of UUCB member, Phillip Stroud, our task force impacts many inmates at Pendleton Reformatory with funds sent to purchase hygiene products, coffee, etc. Many inmates in J cell house know that this is provided by funding from HFPTF.
- Funds sent to support Death Penalty Action
- Funds for the purchase of work shoes for recently released persons from MOCO so they could get jobs
- Money put on Trust Funds of UUCB incarcerated members that allows them to purchase news feed, podcast, music, and hygiene products
- Fabric donated by Nedra Carlson delivered to Wabash Valley Correctional Institution PLUS Program to be made into quilts; one quilt donated to the Spring Auction
- Connections to groups outside of UUCB:
 - o IDOC WATCH
 - o New Leaf New Life
 - o Amethyst House (men and women)
- o Abolition Coalition
- Monroe County Jail

Kids with Absent Parents (KAP) Activities 2021-2022

- KAP has been able to resume bi-monthly meetings for the past year.
- In July, we sent 10 children to Camp Rancho Framas for 3 days and overnights, providing them with a great experience and the caregivers a much needed break.
- In September we formed a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, and they provide space for our gatherings at their Lincoln Street facility
- Bob LeBien and Jean Strohm have underwritten a climbing program under the supervision of Tommy Gardener, a recreational therapist for kids 8 and older. They climbed once a month during the last school year at Hoosier Heights.
- Trinity Church hosted a holiday dinner in December, and starting May 2022 will be providing lunch once a month
- A group of music students earned service learning credit by assisting our volunteers during the spring semester. The children love having younger volunteers.
- Children will attend camp this summer, and caregivers organized a fundraiser that brought in over \$1200. We also received a \$1000 grant from Trinity Church's Outreach program.
- We have 21 children from 11 families.

International Outreach Task Force (IOTF)



The <u>International Outreach Task Force</u> (IOTF) aims to expand and improve cross-cultural and international understanding through hands-on involvement with projects fulfilling local needs in developing countries. Currently three projects are in Kenya. Contacts: Claire Robertson and Jason Blankenship

The chief task of the IOTF of UUCB is raising funds to help worthy causes in developing nations, where we have historically helped projects in Liberia, Haiti, and, most prominently, Kenya. Hence this is a report about fundraising. Due to COVID restrictions, our fundraising since 2019 has been minimal until recently. We had one yard sale. However, after the passing of Ed Robertson's mother last year in July, we did fundraising with an enthusiastic crowd of her friends (she was a big supporter) in Minneapolis-St. Paul in April and May, and succeeded beyond our expectations. Plus, because we did not go to Kenya in 2021 we did not distribute funds as usual. We already decided that we were no longer funding two of the three projects previously funded due to various problems, so that all of the money raised will go to Spurgeon School in Kibera, Nairobi, which now has some 600 students. Kenyanito Dudi, the principal, told me that during the shutdown they fed some 5,000 families in Kibera and set up handwashing stations provided with soap made by single moms, who were paid for it, so got some income. I asked him to submit a proposal, a list of their needs and he did so 2 weeks ago. Here it is, translated into US dollars – the most urgent need being buying food.

Spurgeon Budget in US Dollars

Total	\$23,896
Staff Salaries, 1 month	\$3,332
Infrastructure Repairs	\$4,400
Desks	\$4,100
Books/Teaching Materials	\$4,764
Foodstuffs	\$7,300

Thanks to the successful fundraising efforts in Minnesota, we have now made up some of our losses from the past 2 years, so we can take a shot at covering all of this, depending on how we do in the upcoming sale. Our meeting last night set up good ways to approach this, so we hope for the best, especially in publicizing the sale and attendance. We are fortunate to have generous community support.

Since we as a group have always taken a hands-on approach to projects we support, we hope to go to Kenya again in 2023. We also hope to recruit more active participants at UUCB in pursuing our motto: "Have fun while doing good!" We will resume our monthly bake sales ASAP.

Just Peace Task Force



The <u>Just Peace Task Force</u> works to promote peace and justice in the world, recognizing the essential role of grassroots organizing in creating a consensus for a new foreign and military policy. Contact: David Keppel

Because of the pandemic, the task force did not meet or hold events in person. However, we were able to continue meeting online.

The focus of the peace movement was the opportunity for a new foreign and military policy under a new presidential administration. We particularly hoped for a change in U.S. policy on nuclear weapons. In the spring of 2022, we held Zoom meetings with U.S. Senators Todd Young and Mike Braun. The meetings were cordial. Senator Young made clear that he supports the U.S. threat to use nuclear weapons first in a conflict. Thus he opposes the No First Use policy that we advocate. Senator Braun seemed much more open to the idea and invited us to meet with him in person.

Like many peace advocates, we are deeply disappointed that President Biden's Nuclear Posture Review does not contain the changes he proposed in the campaign. It is largely a continuation of President Trump's aggressive and dangerous nuclear policy.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been a terrible setback for the peace movement. While strongly condemning Putin's invasion, and supporting aid to Ukraine, we are opposed to escalation and are alarmed that the Biden administration's goals appear to be changing in such a way that there is little room for a negotiated settlement. We expect to continue speaking out in the coming year.

Racial Justice Task Force



The <u>Racial Justice Task Force</u> joins UU communities across the US, and with faith, arts, and civic organizations around the city and state, to educate, organize, and take action on racial justice issues. Contacts: Ruth Aydt and Martha Oakley

The Racial Justice Task Force continued to be guided by four major themes identified in 2021:

- We will deepen our understanding of racial injustice and its historical context.
- We will raise our awareness of current racial justice issues in our communities issues that may be invisible to many of us in our day-to-day lives.

- We will build and strengthen relationships with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our communities.
- We will engage in service activities led by BIPOC groups.

The mailing list served as the primary means of communicating information and resources. Meetings this year were infrequent and held over Zoom. Finances were reviewed at our November meeting and several groups were identified to receive support. Email was used to solicit input about other possible expenditures in 2022.

The task force received funds from the UUCB capital campaign, a UUCB Social Justice Grant, football parking fundraiser, and a generous contribution by Gladys DeVane. Grant funds received several years ago to support a trip to Lyles Station were returned to the Social Justice Special Purpose Fund, as it remained unclear when the trip might be possible with COVID-19.

Related to expenditures, the task force:

- Contributed to the Islamic Center of Bloomington after they experienced vandalism.
- Made an unrestricted gift to Black Lives Matter of Bloomington whose projects include Farm to Families, micro-grants, and holiday gifts – reaching people who may not be served by other agencies in the community.
- Applied for and received a Social Justice Grant to be a Platinum Sponsor for the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, supporting the work of the local NAACP branch and allowing task force members to attend the banquet
- Provided support to UUCB member Phillip Stroud, who continues to build relationships that acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of marginalized individuals.
- Provided funds to help cover airfare for UUCB member Whryne Reed to attend the UUA General Assembly in June 2022.
- Committed to supporting a Resilience Productions event, scheduling TBD.
- Set aside funds to support a speaker, details TBD.

Related to activities, the task force:

- Served (delicious) soul food and drink at Resilience Productions presentation of "A Soulful Thanksgiving" at the Monroe County History Center.
- Shared an invitation from Bethel AME church to attend a service and picnic and to contribute back-to-school supplies to support Fairview Elementary School. Several members attended, and our UUCB congregation donated generously to the school supply drive. We hope to invite Bethel AME members to an event at UUCB in the future.
- Task force co-chairs, together with Michele Grove, Stephanie Kimball, Rev. Bill Breeden, and Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, facilitated a spring 2022 Adult RE series focused on <u>Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change</u>. Several task force members contributed to the thought-provoking and enlightening discussions, which will continue in fall of 2022.

Rainbow Rights Task Force



The <u>Rainbow Rights Task Force</u> seeks to work with and for the congregation in the area of LGBTQ rights and concerns.

This task force is temporarily suspended – we are looking for new leadership and vision. See Jackie Hall.

Refugee and Immigration Support and Education (RISE) Task Force



The Refugee and Immigrant Support and Education (RISE) Task Force welcomes people from other countries and reaches out to support folks new to our community and form friendships. Contacts: Barb Backler and Cindy Mosca

Since December, most of our task force's efforts have gone toward sponsoring an Afghan Family. Mohammad and Shabnam Fakherduin have four children, all boys, and are expecting another boy in July. Mohammad is fluent in English, but the other members of the family are learning English. They are renting a duplex in the southwest of Bloomington until June. Exodus has been paying their rent, but they are expecting to withdraw financial support when the family moves to a different place in Green Acres. We have a wonderful group of UUs who are part of our sponsorship team. They have provided a variety of support, including:

- donating funds and a car;
- providing transportation to appointments, playgrounds, climbing wall, Wonderlab, Iftar at the mosque;
- researching job opportunities and early childhood opportunities, entertainment possibilities for the children for spring break and summer time, housing, English language opportunities;
- tutoring in English;
- setting up kindergarten roundup evening;
- providing a chance to earn some income selling the traditional Afghan bread;
- making sure they always have enough food;
- and visiting their home on a regular basis for tea and friendship.

Our team has worked closely with the Refugee Support Network (RSN), and RISE will join them in providing rent support for the next year for this family. Pete Lenzen, the operations director on the board of RSN, has been a major supporter and friend of our sponsored family. Because he is so knowledgeable about the resources in Bloomington and has close relationships with administrators of these organizations, he knows right where to go for help for refugees, and he has been a huge help to our committee as well as the Fakherduin family. He set up all the healthcare appointments for all 6 members of the family. I would estimate he has attended close to 30 medical and dental appointments with help for transportation from our team. Because the Refugee Support Network is so important to refugees in Bloomington, and because we have seen firsthand how impactful this organization is in moving families from dependency to successful independence, our RISE task force has submitted a proposal to the Social Justice Funds Committee for the 25% of the Sunday Morning Plate Fund to be awarded to RSN.

Our RISE team that is sponsoring the Fakherduin family is part of a larger Bloomington organization of churches who are also sponsoring Afghan families. We keep in touch with each other and try to share information and ideas. First United Church is sponsoring a potluck gathering at Cascades Park on May 20th which will bring all of the newly arrived Afghan families together along with their sponsorship teams. What a great opportunity for our families to meet other Afghans and for all of us to get to know these folks and develop friendships with them. It's all part of creating a Bloomington community that is welcoming to refugees.

We are still partnering with RSN to bring an asylum seeker out of a detention center. Asylum seekers are folks who are here legally, but they can't be released from detention centers until they have a sponsor. We met recently with ASSP – Asylum Seekers Sponsorship Program – to share our current interests in sponsoring a family from Africa or Central America who is currently in a detention center in the U.S.

On the Exodus Refugee Organization's website it states: "According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of **race**,

religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." Exodus is a humanitarian program, hired by the U.S. government that provides protection and opportunity to refugees fleeing persecution and war. They provide services to refugee newcomers from the point of arrival to self-sufficiency. We now have an Exodus branch in Bloomington. Erin Aquino is the Bloomington Resettlement Director. There is a Zoom meeting with Exodus every other week where we can learn the latest news about immigrants and ways to offer support. Recently we were presented with a document that shares good information on a strengths-based and empowerment model of resettlement. I sent a copy to our team members. Always the goal is helping our refugees move toward self-sufficiency. Our family is very anxious to be independent, and it's great to watch them be able to take more and more ownership of their lives.

I send out periodic newsletters to our RISE members sharing the latest about local refugee families like the Uyghur family that was reunited this year, telling the story of the Kammans, our UU church members, who sponsored a refugee family in the early 90s and how well they are all doing today, and important information about immigration policy. I just heard about a book, *Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri. I'd like to read this and discuss it with others. If there is interest, I'll purchase some copies that can be circulated to RISE members.

Reproductive Justice Task Force



The <u>Reproductive Justice Task Force</u> (RJTF) promotes an active liberal voice to educate ourselves and the community, advocates for reproductive justice, and connects with community partners to ensure reproductive justice for all.

Contacts: Nan McKinley and Cindy Lonnberg

RJTF mobilizes around the concept of reproductive justice as "the right to bodily autonomy, to have children or not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities."

Ongoing Work:

- Legislative liaison: A member monitors relevant bills during legislative sessions and reports out to the task force weekly with "action items" (e.g. phone calls, letters, testimony, committee watch/observation, rallies, etc.).
- City/County Council- supportive presence and public comments @ meetings for Planned Parenthood (PP) and All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center (AOPRC) grant submissions.
- Local PP:
 - o Escort service now run by PP, in line with national guidelines
 - o "Snack Stewards" provide snacks/drinks to patients and their support persons while awaiting abortions; staff provides access to snacks during pandemic.
- AOPRC:
 - o Promote and volunteer as peer counselors and Talkline support
 - Virtual diaper drive
 - o Annual Hoosier Abortion Fund drive
 - o promote the Practical Support Network-provides rides and other support to women seeking abortion access

- 4th Trimester Team- trains volunteers who provide postpartumsupport to members and friends of the UU community
- Monitor the implementation and work of the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, mandated by 2018's Public Law 48.

Fundraising/Donations:

- Football parking
- February Siding With Love bake sale
- Hoosier Abortion Fund donation of \$1700 by the task force plus donations by UU members brings our total to \$3323. The event is ongoing through May.
- Annual UUCB \$300 grant for PP Snack Stewards
- All Options (AO) Diaper Program donation of \$1000 from the task force (for general use) and donations by the congregation and friends to the AO diaper website in the fall.

Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC)

Fall Social Justice Grants

In October 2021, SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were recommended and awarded:

- Racial Justice Task Force: \$750 to purchase a Platinum Sponsorship at the Monroe County Branch NAACP Freedom Banquet.
- **Habitat Task Force:** \$1,000 to purchase a small storage shed that Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County would install and use at the site of its new Osage Place neighborhood.
- **Homelessness Task Force:** \$1,000 to purchase bowls, plates, and mugs for Shalom Community Center for breakfast.
- **Team First Book Monroe County:** \$750 to award grants to schools and programs with low income children to purchase books for children to take home.

Spring 25% Sunday Plate Fund

In March 2019, SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2022-June 2023. SJFC selected these three to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 2022 congregational meeting. SJFC is using multiple avenues to educate the congregation about these agencies including tabling a display between services throughout May.

- Tandem Community Birth Center and Postpartum House nominated by Emily Phelps
- Refugee Support Network nominated by Barbara Backler
- Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County nominated by Barb Berggoetz

SJFC Members: Denise Ogren, chair Steve Mascari, Jay Sisson, Sarah Kopper, Sandy Davoren Advisors: Jackie Hall and Bill Breeden

Members of the	Barbara Backler	Pat Brantlinger	Chris Chopra
UU Church of	Janice Bagwell	Darrell Breeden	Sandra Churchill
Bloomington	Carolyn Bailey	Glenda Breeden	Joanna Cichocka
Members on June 10,	Rhonda Baird	Bill Breeden	Anne Clark
2022	Maya Baird	Denise Breeden-Ost	Sandra Clothier
562 members	Tim Ballard	Cynthia Bretheim	Patricia Coleman
Quorum for meeting = 57	Bill Baus	Clark Brittain	Craig Coley
Debbie Acito	Andy Beargie	Debbie Brown	Madison Colquette
Julie Adams	Anna Beauchamp	Lauren Bryant	Bill Conley
Julia Adams	Elizabeth Beauregard	Paula Bunde	Mary Jo Conley
O'Donnell	Amy Beck	John Bunde	Ann Connors
Ruth Albright	Jim Beck	Scott Burgins	Michelle Cook
Thomas Albright	Avery Beck	Louray Cain	Jessie Cook
Judith Allensworth	Sheri Benham	Danny Callison	Anastacia
Robert Althauser	Judy Bennett	Patty Callison	Corbit-Clarkson
Lisa Amsler	Mary Bent	Laura Campbell	Bill Corcoran
Terry Amsler	Barb Berggoetz	Kim Carballo	Amy Cornell
Andrew Appel	Judy Berkshire	Elof Carlson	Jill Courtney
Charlotte Appel	Lauren Bernofsky	Nedra Carlson	Amy Cox
Robert Appelman	Maureen Biggers	Barbara Carlson	Jeanie Cox
Jan Armstrong	Reilly	Dora Carter	Nathaniel Cox-Thurmond
Carol Arnold	Jason Blankenship	Karen Cassidy	Heather Craig
Paul Arnold	Mary Blizzard	Doug Cauble	Mary Craig
Stephen Arnold	Kathy Boone	Julie Cauble	Dave Crane
Callen Aster	Rebekka Boustani	Joan Caulton	
Pat Aungst	Mary Boutain		Juliana Crespo
Marianne Aurich	Linda Boyle	Jon Chaffin	Jordon Criss
Ruth Aydt	Bill Boyles	Larry Cherniak	John Crosby
-	Cindy Brandes	Kathleen Chmelewski	Amy Crozier
Alan Backler	•	Allison Chopra	Kathleen Cruikshank

Eve Cusack	Jim Downey	Sue Fratianni	Cathy Haggerty
Sam Cusack	Mike Drescher	Laurette Frazier	Linda Hall
George Cusack	Rita Drescher	Sandra Freund	Ted Hall
Malcolm Dalglish	Cindy Duffy	LindaGrace Frost	Jacqueline Hall
William Daniels	Tom Duffy	Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer	Christopher Hanna
Earon Davis	Miles Eddy	Luis Fuentes-Rohwer	Jack Harlow
Jeff Davis	Dexter Edge	Chadrick Fulks	Patricia Harris
Jessica Davis	Brandi Edwards		David Hart
Murray Davis	Kate Ellis	Megan Garner-Ballard Janessa Gerber	Marcia Hart
Dennis Davoren	Ron Ellis	Lukas Dalton Gibson	Brian Hathaway
Sandy Davoren	Carolyn Emmert	Allen Gifford	Clarence Hawking
Orion Day	David Emmert	JaneAnn Gifford	Lorraine Hawking
Deborah DeChurch	Georgia Emmert	Kathleen Gilbert	Anne Haynes
Marie Deer	Judith Epp	Steven Gilbert	Christopher Haynes
Beverly DeFord	Taylor Erickson	Kevin Gill	William Hegarty
Courtney Demeulenaere	Stephanie Estell	Lynne Gilliatt	Helmut Hentschel
	Ray Fellman	Forrest Gilmore	Sandra Hernshaw
Gladys DeVane Elizabeth DeVoe	Ruellen Fessenbecker		Emily Hewitt
	Debbie Fish	Abby Gitlitz Heather Glass	Cathy Hiatt
Frank Diaz	Penny Fisher		Richard Hiatt
Jim Dietz Emma DiLavore	Patsy Flint	Mont Costs	Perry Hodges
	Sarah Flint	Mary Goetze	Scott Hogsed
Philip DiLavore	Kathy Floyd	Robinson Gonyea Jane Goodman	Carol Holding
Regina DiLavore	Bob Flynn		Lois Holl
David Dilcher	Mara Flynn	Diane Gregory	Richard Holl
Stephen Dillon	Arnold Fodor	Tom Gregory	Erin Hollinden
Martha Dogan	Suzanne Fodor	Shannon Grimme	Tom Hollingsworth
Sandra Dolby	Martha Foster	Joe Grimme	Beth H Hollingsworth
Abby Downey	Eddie Franklin	Colleen Haas	Amy Holmes

Joan Hongen	Susan Kelly	Betty Laird	Sandy Lynch
Robert Hongen	Judith Kelly	Cathy Larson	Pam MacLaughlin
Steve Host	Hans Kelson	Maria Latham	Mary Mahern
Marlin Howard	Victor Kelson	Joan Lauer	Amy Makice
Malea Hudson	David Keppel	Julia Lawson	Darja Malcolm-Clarke
Arzetta	Iris Kiesling	Gretchen Laymon	Jessica Marchbank
Hults-Losensky Linda Hunt	Stephanie Kimball	Abe Leite	Nicole Martins
	Jack King	Adam Leite	Steve Mascari
Jeffrey Huntsman Deborah Hutton	Mindy King	Jonathan Leite	Laura Mattingly
	Sylvia King	Veronica Lenard	Michele McCaffrey
Christoph Irmscher	Sarina King Criss	Steve Lessmann	Tom McCaffrey
Millie Jackson	Jamie Kirkley	Harlan Lewis	Dennis McCarty
Julie James	Gigi Kirkley	Angela Lexmond	Carol McCord
Tracy James	Sonny Kirkley	Christine Linnemeier	Sheila
Richard Janda	Harrison Kirkley	Richard Linnemeier	McDermott-Sipe
Jerry Jesseph	Judy Klein	Diann Lock	Ann McEndarfer
Laura Jesseph	Angie Kleptz	Ted Lock	Ed McEndarfer
Sarah Johnson	Philip Knieriemen	Beth Lodge-Rigal	Beverly McGahey
Darlene Jolley	Anna Knust	Dan Lodge-Rigal	Celeste McGregor
Valerie Jones	Andrew Knust	Connie Loftman	Michael McGregor
Ned Joyner	Noretta Koertge	Guy Loftman	Sally McGuire
Gayle Judd	Sarah Kopper	Ed Long	Ann McIntosh
Viola Kadish	Neil Kopper	Bill Lonnberg	Kitty McIntosh
Ann Kamman	Alan Kosinski	Cindy Lonnberg	Nancy McKinley
Linda Kaplan	Steven Krahnke	Patricia Lopes	Anne McLaughlin
Kathy Kardynalski	Laura Kress	Paul Losensky	Jane McLeod
Renate Kasak	Aleisha Kropf	Barb Lund	Sylvia McNair
Hannah Kasak-Gliboff	Thomas Kuhn	Laresa Lund	Sue Mediand
Keith Kelly	Karla Kunoff	Jim Lynch	Robert Meitus

Kathrynn Meuser	Mary Beth O'Brien	Stephen Pollitt	Cassidy Rockhill
Lisa Meuser	Matthew O'Donnell	Cindy Port	Kelly Rockhill
Jason Michálek	Molly O'Donnell	Diane Port	Eva Rockhill
Joan Middendorf	Brian O'Donnell	Robert Port	Kris Roehling
Clarke Miller	Denise Ogren	Avram Primack	Victoria Rogers
Susi Miller	Harold Ogren	Meg Prince	Richard Roland
Dotty Mitchell	Crystal Olry	Genevieve Pritchard	Kevin Rottet
Linda Mjolsnes	Don Ottinger	Vickie Provine	GK Rowe
Laura Mojonnier	Monica Overman	Maire Quilter	Barry Rubin
Amy Money	James Overman	Kelly Rauch	Linda Ruchala
Jessie Monroe	Judy Owens	Susan Rautio-Dietz	Larry Ruich
Dee Morris	Mary Jane Padron	Kara Reagan	David Runyon
Cindy Mosca	Lindsay Pappas	Mary Reardon	Deborah Rush
Eleanor Moss	David Parkhurst	Adrian Reed	Emma Rush
Nicole Motz	Doris Parlette	Daniel Reed	Amira Sabbagh
Andrea Murray	David Parsons	Whryne Reed	Sandy Sabbagh
Jeanne Myers	Sharon Parsons	Carol Reimers	Kim Sackmann
Tera Nance-Knieriemen	JoAnne Passet	Roger Reimers	Kelly Sage
Jennifer Naylor	Elizabeth Peck	Barbara Restle	Raymond Sage
Shawn Naylor	Jana Pereau	Chuck Rhoads	Sarah Sanchez
Cyndi Nelson	Laura Petersen	Michael Rhodes	Emily Sanders
Dale Nelson	Melinda Pettijohn	Ginny Richey	Ruth Sanders
Connie Nelson Laird	Harriet Pfister	Ilona Richey	Scott Sanders
Tom Nelson Laird	Emily Phelps	Thayr Richey	Dinorah Sapp
	Deborah Phelps	Madeline Rivera-Gill	Christopher Sapp
Nancy Newton Glee Noble	Tom Phelps	Dian Robbins	Martha Sattinger
Martha Nord	Charlie Pickle	Claire Robertson	Jim Sauer
	Linda Pickle	Ed Robertson	Natalia Schau
Martha Oakley	Steve Pock	Ann Robins	Susan Schneider

Drew Schrader	Floyd Smith	Sura Gail Tala	Renee Weaver
Margie Schrader	John Smith	Maggie Talmage	Kevin Weaver
Pat Schrems	Kathleen Soens	Ellen Tamura	Licia Weber
Alysa Schroff	Brian Springfield	Jim Tarnowski	Carol Weingartner
Peter Schwandt	Pearl Springfield	Bob Taylor	Dixie Welch
Barbara Schwegman	Catherine Stafford	James Thurmond	Von Welch
Kay Schwemmer	Mary Stalcup	Rebecca Timmons	Janeth Welch
Beck Scott	Veda Stanfield	Ryan Timmons	Tracy Whelan
Margaret Sears	Jan Steenblik	Clarissa Tokash	Erica Whichello
Stephanie Serriere	Nicki Stewart Ingersoll	Allison Tomusk	Gaia White
Deirdre Sheets	Rob Stewart Ingersoll	Richard Torstrick	Joanne Wilhelm
Sylvia Sheets	Matthew Stonecipher	Laura Trout	Mary Ann Williams
Hwamei Shei	Nathan Stonecipher	Christy True	Rebecca Willig
Catherine Shipp	Barbara Straube		Dan Wiseman
Eric Shipp	Lee Strickholm	Tracy Turner	Sharon Wiseman
James Shipp	Phillip Stroud	Barbara Vance	Judy Witt
Edwin Shipp	Lynn Struve	Thomas Vanderplough	Lee Witt
Margi Showman	Keeva Stucker	Marcia Veldman	
Robert Shull	Michael Stucker	Elizabeth Venstra	Doris Wittenburg
Kathleen Sideli	Richard Stumpner	Carol Ver Wiebe	Yvonne Wittmann
Samantha Sieloff	Angela Sturdevant	Charlotte Wager Miller	Amy Wolf
Dennis Sipe	John Summerlot	Erin Wager Miller	lan Woollen
Jay Sissom	Adrienne Summerlot	Jim Wager Miller	Brian Wright
Janice Skinner	Susannah Summerlot	Betty Wagoner	Mary Wright
Richard Slabach	Claire Sunkel-Spiller	Tiffany Walton	Sharon Yarber
Patricia Slabach	Sean Sunkel-Spiller	Roberta Watson	Susan Yeley
Roxanne Smith	Kathryn Suskie	William Watt	Brian Yeley
Angel Smith	Susan Swaney	Yasuko Watt	Stuart Yoak
Bryan Smith	Melinda Swenson	Ann Watzel	