

**183rd Annual Meeting**  
**First Unitarian Society of Chicago**  
**Sunday, May 20, 2018**



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## **Mission of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago**

*First Unitarian is a diverse congregation joyously united  
to address personal and societal challenges with passionate action  
for the healing of the world.*

## **Covenant of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago**

*Love is the Spirit of this Church and Service its Law.*

*This is our great Covenant:  
To dwell together in peace  
To seek the truth in love, and  
To help one another*

### **The keystone of our covenant—**

When we join this community, we enter into sacred relationship with one another.

As members of this community, we strive to:

Genuinely hear one another. We do this by actively listening to each other and assuming each person's good intentions.

Express our ideas respectfully. We do this by offering our best insights with humility and speaking civilly.

Seek the truth together. We do this by remaining engaged with each other and the world around us as we explore meaning from diverse perspectives.

Use our time, talents, and resources to serve each other and the community with compassion.

Intentionally honor the duality of our uniqueness and sameness.

Be aware of and take responsibility for the ways that our words and actions affect others.

We promise to practice our covenant, hold ourselves accountable to it, and learn from each other.

**183rd Annual Meeting  
First Unitarian Society of Chicago  
Sunday, May 20, 2018**

**AGENDA**

- 11:15 a.m. Sign in; Review of Documents
- 11:30 a.m. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words—Ministers  
Call to Order—President Joan Pederson  
Covenant & Overview of Meeting Procedure\*—Joan Pederson  
Adoption of Agenda  
Approval of Minutes—Annual Meeting, May 21, 2017  
Special Congregational Mtg, June 15, 2017  
In Memoriam; Greetings to Past Ministers  
Overview of Written Reports  
Oral Reports  
Congregational Vote—Elections of Officers, Board Members,  
Council Chairs, Nominating Committee  
Congregational Vote—Election of Lay Delegates  
Congregational Vote—Approval of Bylaws Amendments  
Congregational Vote—2018–2019 Budget  
Presentation—Multiracial Unity Award (from Racial Justice Task  
Force of the Social Justice Council)  
Recognitions of Exceptional Service to First Unitarian  
Other Business  
Closing Words—Ministers  
Adjournment\*

\* As noted in the Call, this meeting cannot remain in session past 1:00 p.m. due to the Meadville Lombard Theological School commencement.

If it has become clear that this meeting's business cannot be concluded by 1:00 p.m. today, a motion to move the meeting into recess until 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 3 will be in order as of 12:50 p.m.



**First Unitarian Society of Chicago**  
**182nd Annual Meeting of the Society**  
Sunday, May 21, 2017 11:30 A.M.

Parish Clerk Evelyn Johnson reported that a quorum was present at 11:35 a.m. Rev. David Schwartz offered opening words while Rev. Teri Schwartz lit the chalice. President Joan Pederson called the meeting to order at 11:40, presented an overview for presenting motions and participating in discussion, and noted that the meeting was constrained to end no later than 1:00 p.m.

The Agenda was accepted as printed. (Motion: Bette Sikes; second: Beverly Bennett)

Minutes of the 181st Annual Meeting of the Society, May 22, 2016, were approved without objection. (Motion: Richard Pardo; second: Finley Campbell)

The Senior Co-Ministers led the congregation in remembering the members who have died since the last annual meeting: Rev. Neil Gerdes, Judy Moore, Rev. Viola Moore, and James McLarty-Lopes.

The congregation extended greetings to our Minister-at-Large, Rev. David Arksey.

Reports were offered, most of them in written form in the 2016 Annual Report. Oral reports were offered, augmenting written ones.

- The Senior Co-Ministers reported the enrollment of twenty-three new members since the last Annual Meeting, a fifteen percent rise in membership. The Capital Campaign has been initiated. Pledges have increased by seven percent. The Religious Education program sponsored a Harry Potter Camp. The Christmas Eve service recorded the highest attendance in recent memory.
- Anita Orlikoff, outgoing Chair of the Social Justice Council, reported that Social Justice work has been growing in our church, and that while this was the end of her three years as Chair, she was very excited about the people nominated to succeed her as Co-Chairs. Aware that most members only know a small amount of the Council's work, she challenged church members to really get to know what it is doing in order to better introduce it to newcomers interested in social justice issues.

Joan Pederson introduced current trustees, council chairs, and members of the Nominating Committee, then all of those nominated by the Nominating Committee, and asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. All positions were for one year beginning July 1, 2017, except for the three trustees, whose terms are for three years.

- Officers: Joan Pederson, President; Jim Proctor, Vice President
- Trustees: John Eatinger, Joseph Harrington
- Alternate Trustee: Christine Harrell
- Council Chairs or Co-Chairs: Betty Holcomb and Cheryl Wegner (Program Council), Mary Claire Bietila (Religious Education Council), Andrea Freerksen and Evan Freund (Social Justice Council)
- Nominating Committee: Kris Barker, Lisa Christensen Gee, John Saphir

The congregation directed that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the nominees,

without objection. (Motion: Rosemary Snow; second Rev. David Arksey).

Finance Committee member Michael Grosse presented the budget proposed by the Board of Trustees for the 2017–2018 church year, beginning July 1, 2017. Discussion of the proposed budget noted satisfaction that it allowed hiring a part-time Membership Coordinator and a first-time raise for our Senior Co-Ministers and included a request but not a motion that \$600 for Social Justice Council expenses be added. The 2017–2018 was approved as proposed without objection. (Items placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees require no motion or second.)

Joan Pederson presented a proposal by the Board of Trustees to amend the Bylaws by substantially replacing Article X Fiscal Affairs and modifying the first sentence of Article XII, Section 1, concerning the Burial Crypt. The text of the amendments appears in the 2017 Annual Report beginning on page 38. The amendments were approved without objection.

The resolution that First Unitarian affiliate with Community Renewal Society was approved without objection. (Moved: Evan Freund; second: Lisa Christensen Gee)  
Approved without objection.

The resolution of the Social Justice Council that First Unitarian affiliate with Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition was approved without objection. (Motion: Andrea Freerksen; second: XXX Nina?)

The resolution of the Denominational Affairs Committee concerning possible action at the 2017 UUA General Assembly concerning the proposed Eighth Principle was introduced (Moved: Finley Campbell; Second: Margaret Huyck):

Resolved: That First Unitarian Society of Chicago is opposed to the addition of the 8th Principle as proposed by the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective without the two–three year period normally required for such a change, and we further recommend to our delegates to the 2017 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association that they vote against any attempts to bypass this normal procedure.

Due to a clear division of opinion on the matter and the attendant time that would be required to address it, a motion to table the resolution was made and carried. (Moved: Jim Proctor; second: Joan Staples) *[NOTE: See minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of June 18, 2017, where the resolution was discussed and acted upon.]*

All four members who had been duly nominated by petition were elected to serve as the society's lay delegates to the 2017 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 21–25: Marie Cobbs, Finley Campbell, Ellie Hall, and Allan Lindrup. *[NOTE: Upon learning in June that the society was entitled to only three delegates in 2017 rather than four, and that off-site delegates were not eligible to serve as alternates, Ellie Hall resigned from the delegation.]*

Marie Cobbs, on behalf of the Racial Justice Task Force of the Social Council, presented its fourth annual Multiracial Unity Award to Dr. Kenneth Christiansen for his leadership in the struggle against neo-racism as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Caucus, an active participant in Icare (a local multiracial anti-racist organization in Florida) and his useful

research into the value of asset-based anti-racist/anti-oppression work. The award was accepted by Joan Staples on Dr. Christiansen's behalf.

Joan Pederson, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, presented one of two Recognitions of Exceptional Service to First Unitarian to Anita Orlikoff for her continuous commitment to this congregation, her creative and firm leadership—particularly in serving as chair of the Program Council and then the Social Justice Council over the past several years—the depth of her knowledge and wisdom, and her warm friendship.

*[NOTE: The second recognition was presented on June 4 at the Membership Celebration to Madeira Myrieckes for decades of embodying radical hospitality that includes and involves us all, keeping a watchful eye on the condition of our building, making sure that those of us needing care get the support they need, and helping make our light shine in this world, both figuratively and literally.]*

In other business, Vice President Jim Proctor encouraged attendees who had not yet voted to complete ballots for the four quarterly 2017-18 recipients of the Give Away the Plate program before leaving. The six nominees were **Chicago Community Bond Fund, Coder DojoChi, Su Casa Catholic Worker, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, Ujima Village Shelter, and Friends of Whittier.** *[NOTE: Electronic and paper ballots were tallied by Parish Clerk Evelyn Johnson later in the week. Names of the winning nominees appear above in bold type].*

Rev. David Schwartz and Rev. Teri Schwartz offered closing words.

Joan Pederson adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Kris Barker, Secretary Pro Tem

### **First Unitarian Church of Chicago Minutes of Special Congregational Annual Meeting, June 18, 2018**

Parish Clerk Evelyn Johnson reported that a quorum was present at 11:35 a.m.

President Joan Pederson called the meeting to order and led a unison reading of the congregation's Covenant and Keystones.

Rev. David Schwartz and Rev. Teri Schwartz offered opening words and led a unison affirmation.

J. Pederson reviewed the rules of procedure, which had been distributed in writing, then introduced the sole item on the agenda: conclusion of the debate, tabled during the Annual Meeting on May 21 due to time constraints, on the resolution to ask the congregation's delegates to the 2017 UUA General Assembly, June 21–25, to oppose departing from usual procedure if action arises to add final adoption of a proposed 8th Principle to this year's agenda, and then action on that resolution:

The First Unitarian Society of Chicago is opposed to the addition of the 8th Principle as proposed by the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective without

the two–three year period normally required for such a change, and we further recommend to our delegates to the 2017 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association that they vote against any attempts to bypass this normal procedure.

J. Pederson reported that the number of lay delegates that could represent First Unitarian for the 2017 General Assembly (GA) had been discovered after May 21 to be three rather than four due to a dip in voting membership, and that one of the elected delegates, Ellie Hall, had resigned to allow the other three to serve. As a result, the lay delegation affected by the resolution, should it pass, now consisted of Marie Cobbs, Finley Campbell, and Allan Lindrup.

Cindy Pardo moved, with second by Finley Campbell, that the motion be removed from the table so that debate could resume. The motion passed by a clear majority of hands.

The debate included many voices on both sides of the issue.

- Points in favor of the motion included sticking to existing procedure as a form of democratic process, lack of familiarity with the issue making immediate adoption premature, and the conviction that the 8th Principle is too important to be rushed.
- Points opposed included the unlikelihood that UUA procedure would be overturned, opposition to advising our delegates on voting before they can make and hear other delegates' points during GA, opposition to the content of the 8th Principle, and the failure of the UUA to make good on past promises to overturn systemic racism within it and its congregations.
- Points of information included these: immediate adoption of the 8th Principle is not on the 2017 GA agenda; current intentions are to propose study of the 8th Principle during 2017–2018 rather than proposing immediate adoption; the congregation has not directed or advised its delegates on how to vote before this; Black Lives of UU is not the same as Black Lives Matter, it is a separate thing.

Hank Henriques moved to close debate; there was a second. The motion passed by a vote of 28 in favor, 8 opposed.

The vote on the motion followed. **The motion passed with 34 in favor and 13 opposed.** Four visibly abstained from voting.

Several of those present who had not had a chance to speak sought that opportunity after the voting was done. Pointing out that their comments could no longer affect the vote, J. Pederson invited them to voice their views. Points made included hope that the 8th Principle would be adopted following regular UUA procedure; the view that the 8th Principle would be superfluous; that our delegates feel the support of the congregation; that the vote count be reported (it was not clear to whom); that the matter before the congregation had not been the content or merit of the 8th Principle but about whether to advise our delegates on the procedure for possibly considering it at GA; and excitement that the congregation seemed ready to move into more difficult discussions and issues.

After those who had sought a chance to speak before debate was closed had been heard, J. Pederson accepted a motion to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 12:50 p.m.

Julie Larson, Secretary

## **Report from the Senior Co-Ministers** **by Rev. Teri Schwartz and Rev. David Schwartz**

Our philosophy is to focus on doing a small number of key things well, instead of a larger number only adequately. At the beginning of each year we select 2-4 key areas of church life that need our deepest focus to lead to success over the medium and long term.

As two people sharing one full time equivalent position, we don't have the capacity in any given year to do everything that we and everyone wants to do—including projects or committees that are near to the heart and hopes of some members. There are many worthy things to be done which are not the most important things to do right now to set us up for the future. As a congregation, we have to choose a few things to do well. Our future depends on it. To us, the key considerations are: What issues are critical now for our church's future survival and thriving? What can the church offer our community that no other institution can offer? What is our unique niche?

With that in mind, our focus this year was on three program areas: Worship, Membership, and the Capital Campaign.

### **Worship**

The Sunday service is the primary focus of the church, the hub of our community, and the primary experience of church for many members. High quality worship is the center of church life. We strive to create services that give an experience people can't find anywhere else: space for silence and reflection, beautiful music to listen and participate in, a message that will afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. Church is the primary and often only institution for worship.

We were glad to welcome to the pulpit **Joe Harrington, Christine Harrell, Lorraine Richardson** and **Amos Biggers** to share Dr. King's words at our MLK service, and to have **Christine Harrell** and **Ivan Lappin** share reflections for the *This I Believe* service.

Our thanks to those who have served as worship associates during the year: **Elena Stern, Joseph Harrington, Margot Horn, Alina Biggers, Paloma Delgadillo, Joyce Swedlund, Kristina DeGuzman, Ezrina Bradley, Kathryn Guelcher, Christine Harrell, Lorie Rosenblum, Jim Proctor, Kris Barker, Joan Staples, Carrie Hedges.**

We performed three memorial services, one interment service, two baby dedications, and four weddings. We are heartened by engagement with worship: Our Easter service saw the highest turnout yet of our ministry here with 174 in attendance, and the Thanksgiving Dinner service was one of the largest, if not the largest in the event's history.

We are profoundly grateful for the collaboration of Music Director **Jeff Hamrick** and impressed at the musical growth of the choir and their sound. And we are grateful for the collaboration with our new Director of Religious Education, **Beth Moss**, especially for the pageant in December, and the spring intergenerational service in May.

### **Capital Campaign**

Five years ago, you called us partly because we believe in the enduring value of institutions, and the necessity of transformation to ensure the survival of an institution. We are here at 57th and Woodlawn because past generations have given us this church home which makes our mission possible. It is in our hands now to keep faith with them, and with the hundreds of people who

will be members years and decades from now: people we may never know, but for whom this capital campaign helps to secure their church home.

With the services of Pratapas Associates fundraising counsel, we completed a feasibility study that indicated the congregation is capable of raising \$1,000,000 for building improvements that are necessary for the structural integrity of the building, as well as greater functionality, aesthetics, and comfort. This is also a critical opportunity to build positive momentum and vision for the future mission of our congregation that our physical church makes possible.

We recruited Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, **Lisa Christensen Gee** and **Jim Proctor**, and worked with them and board leadership to facilitate a congregation-wide visioning retreat and then to recruit the Capital Campaign leadership team:

Vice Chair of Marketing: **Margie Gonwa**

Vice Chair of Events: **Grace Latibeaudière-Williams**

Vice Chair of Stewardship: **Evelyn Johnson**

Vice Chair of Capital Projects: **Richard Pardo**

Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation Phase I: **Cindy Pardo**

Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation Phase II: **Ivan Lappin**

Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation Phase III: **Kristina DeGuzman**

Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation Phase IV: **John Martin-Eatinger**

Graphic Design: **Julie Larson**

Starting in the spring, we have worked closely with this talented team, starting with training and extensive pre-campaign planning: from conceptual work, to action plans, to implementation, culminating in the forthcoming campaign kick-off on June 10th. The campaign will continue for another 6-9 months and will conclude with a celebratory event and the beginning of construction.

We are deeply grateful to this talented team who is capably serving our congregations present and building its future—literally!—with deep commitments to you with their gifts of talent and treasure.

## **Membership**

A special challenge grant from an anonymous donor supported the church's ability to realize a dream of many years: hiring a membership coordinator.

We benchmarked the membership coordinator role with other churches, crafted a job description, and assembled a hiring team of **Margot Horn**, **Grace Latibeaudière-Williams**, **Tim Arehart**, and **Christine Harrell** who reviewed resumes, conducted phone interviews, and ultimately gave their unanimous support to hiring our new membership coordinator **Myles Brady Davis** who began in his position this spring. It was a pleasure to have him join the new member class and help welcome the nine new members joining this spring.

This position is specifically focused on how to enable the newcomer to cross the bridge from outsider to insider—to belong, not just attend. The substance of that belonging is to be fed in heart, mind, and spirit, to participate in the work of the church (which does not necessarily mean joining committees), and most importantly, to be in relationship.

Most of the folks who will read this annual report are the most committed, longest-serving, longtime members of this church. Many of you have carried this institution through decades, sometimes with blood, sweat and tears, often with committees, and meetings, hard decisions. And the only way to ensure its survival is to give it away. Your legacy, for those of you who are thinking about your legacy, will be defined by how well we expand the boundary of who “we” really means.

People don't stay in the church who aren't in relationships—even if they share our values and are fed by worship. Myles can facilitate and communicate and connect. Teri and I and the staff team can lead and welcome and invite. But the *substance* of belonging has and will ever only be owned by you. You have the power to invite in, and you have the power to push out. What will we choose? How will you hold each other accountable to welcome?

This summer and fall, Myles will work with us and a new team of members to chart the course for belonging over the next three years.

### **Issues of Power, Race, and Generations**

Earlier in the year, we lifted up an issue of concern in the life of the church: dynamics of power and race and generation raising tension in the church. It's important to name this and not to avoid, minimize, or deny this conflict. These are not new dynamics but were brought forth most recently by the congregational meetings in May and June of 2017 regarding the resolution to not support immediate adoption of the proposed 8th Principle at General Assembly:

*“Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”*

In May of 2017, the Denominational Affairs committee had initially proposed a motion that would direct First U elected delegates to vote against the adoption of the principle; this was later modified that the vote would inform the delegates, but not be binding.

Many congregants understood the resolution to be purely procedural—they wished to ensure a new principle to be subject to a multi-year period of review, regardless of the content of its content. Other congregants—and it's important to name this included every person present under fifty, as well as some older members—found the focus on procedure was dismissive of their deep concerns about race and power in the UUA, as well as in our congregation.

For some of those members, procedure was a stumbling block to urgent and timely change. Others felt that resolution was being proposed so that at GA it could be used to suggest that we, as one of the few multi-racial UU churches, were against the 8th principle itself, not merely the procedure—which was indeed the impression given to some at General Assembly. Still others, knowing that the congregation was widely unfamiliar with the proposed principle or Black Lives of UU or the process for amending the principles, and hearing that BLUU had no plan to move forward with it at GA, felt bewildered and frustrated at a vote taken in ignorance.

Divisions along race, generation, and power are not new. There were varieties in the 1940s when the church voted to integrate and in the 1960s and 70s as part of the empowerment controversy within the UUA unfolded inside this congregation. This is the most recent manifestation of a persistent question in community life. It points to a larger set of questions: whose church is it? Who are we? Who do we mean by “we”? Who decides?

What does it mean when a majority of congregants don't see a sizable minority is hurting—particularly across generational lines? We have a choice. One choice is to minimize, avoid, and deny. It is a choice is to say that unkind words and hurt feelings are simply “robust discussion.” It is a choice to say that rudeness, deliberate misrepresentation, and raised voices are merely a side effect of a “contest of ideas.” It is a choice to declare that those who genuinely think differently than us are ignorant or overreacting.

People who feel unheard, frustrated, and overlooked need time and space to process their grief without having to defend or justify it. This fall, at a Black Lives Matter task force meeting, a member in attendance who wasn't part of the Task Force was asked to leave so that the rest

could do just that. Put to a vote on the spot, the group reversed itself, decided not to ask for that private space to process. It was a moment of a conflict of two competing values we all hold: on the one hand, open congregational meetings and the free flow of ideas, on the other hand respect for the very real emotional and personal needs of people in conflict to have space away from that conflict to process their emotions before returning to the whole group.

As your minister, we lift up the very real humanity of every person in that room, and in this one.

This church is not a battlefield of analysis in which competing ideologies fight each other for supremacy. That way of doing church is antithetical to what Unitarian Universalism is. Our tradition has spent two hundred years learning how to be a plural church instead of a singular ideology: we need not think alike to love alike. This is not the time to back away.

The covenant we make with each other—the promises we make to each other which form the basis of our relationships here—are not a covenant to think alike, to see the world alike, or to volunteer for participation in an argument. Our covenant is one of behavior. Of relationship. Of the way we treat each other, and those needs vary from person to person and generation to generation. A covenant that being in respectful and compassionate relationship is more important than proving the other person wrong.

There are no easy answers; but there remain difficult feelings. We aren't here to give a solution, but to say the thread to follow through the labyrinth is kindness and compassion. If you have that, you are not lost in whatever conversations or conflict might happen. Without it, we have no road onwards as a community.

We are grateful for two events this year which help point the direction. First, the Third Principle Project task force which led a 50+ person event at the end of October, inviting participants to talk frankly from their own experience of race. Our thanks to **Jean Hester, Cindy Pardo, Bobbi Campbell, Evan Freund, Anita Orlikoff, Andrea Freerksen, Aneesah Ali, Grace Latibeaudière-Williams, Joe Harrington** each of whom helped to shape or facilitate the event.

In mid-May, we held a forum for 40+ members to hear the history of the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle from Rev. Darrick Jackson, and responses to the proposal from UU Class Conversations Coordinator and minister Kellie Kelly, and from our own **Allan Lindrup, Jean Hester, Dolores Cross, Finley Campbell** (in writing), and Rev. David. With no vote at planned at GA this year, we hope that this is just the beginning of our congregational conversations around the principle.

## **Other Comments**

*Denominational Involvement and Professional Development.* We continued professional development, meeting monthly with our coach, Rev. Roger Bertschausen, and with the Chicago Area UU minister's group, which David will be the president of in this coming year. Teri attended the Central Midwest UUMA Chapter fall retreat. David attended UU Collegium, and annual gathering of UU scholars. Teri served as chaplain Meadville Lombard Theological School during their January intensives and spring intensives. David facilitated a half-day preaching workshops for Meadville Students, as well as stepping in for Rev. Bill Schultz to lead a week-long preaching intensive course in January. David was elected to serve as president of the Chicago-area UU ministers group in the coming year.

Teri was invited to participate with a small group of select Chicago clergy in “the Chicago Commons,” a project coordinated through the U of C Divinity School in which early-career clergy across denominations gather to deepen their connection and commitment to an expansive vision of the “commons” in our city. Through eight 2-day meetings over two years, she develops connections across the city.

*Beverly Unitarian Church.* After spending the first three and a half years working at First Unitarian half-time and in HR at Target three days a week, David left corporate work and began serving Beverly Unitarian Church half time. While it’s challenging to be away two Sundays a month instead of just one, there are potential opportunities for collaboration just beginning. We invited members from Beverly to our Service of Laments. Beverly hosted a Passover Seder extending the invitation to us. It’s exciting to think about places where we are stronger together: whether one or the other of the two churches doesn’t have the capacity to tackle something individually.

Our DRE is meeting with DREs from Beverly and Park Forest to explore collaboration on a Coming of Age program and trip to Boston next year. In the coming year, we’ll invite Beverly folks to our Thanksgiving dinner service, and bring some of our people down to their annual “Castle” Christmas tree sale.

*Sabbatical.* After our fourth year of service, we became eligible to take sabbatical which accrues at a rate of one month per year – a time for us to rest, recharge, and refocus our ministry. The wisdom of our colleagues and mentors is to take this time of rest to renew that we can better serve the church; which is why it is a standard component of all UU ministers’ contracts.

In planning for our sabbatical, our top priority is the health of the congregation, starting with a successful conclusion to the capital campaign in the coming year. We don’t yet have firm dates, but we are considering dividing our sabbatical time: first in Spring of 2019 after the conclusion of the capital campaign, a second phase would occur at some point in the 2019-2020 church year. We are considering splitting sabbatical into two three-months periods because could better serve the church than a continuous six-months. For the sabbatical to provide the respite it is intended to do, we must both be on sabbatical at the same time.

To ensure continuity in the worship life, pastoral care, and staff supervision, we will hire a colleague to serve as a sabbatical minister during the time we are away (rather than, say, going without a minister, or only cobbling together pulpit supply). The Board will appoint a sabbatical committee in the Fall to work closely with us in planning. The congregation has prudently been setting aside money each year to pay for the cost of a sabbatical minister so there will not be an impact to the operating budget.

*Student Minister.* This year, First U served as a teaching congregation for student minister Thom Thomas. Over the course of the year, Thom has discerned that other aspects of his ministerial formation need time and attention beyond what he can do here. As his teaching congregation, rather than requiring him to stay here a second year when his path lies elsewhere, we gave him the time and space to focus on these aspects of ministerial formation, so he can be successful in the future. We wish him the very best on the road ahead.

*Our staff team* is the strongest group that this church has had in many years.

- Music director **Jeff Hamrick** brings a deep technical excellence to the piano, and works the choir hard, and you can hear the result: choir, you sound the best that you have since we got here. And I want to recognize that this is the third year in a row I’ve gotten to say that.

- **Mike Knowles** is finishing his third year as our director of operations, and what most of you don't get to see, is the deep love and care that he has for all of you. You are to him not customers or cogs in the machine, but whole, full, beautiful people. Mike gets the long-term view. He knows in his bones that if we are to have long term relationships with the space users in the building, those relationships must be cultivated. We are especially grateful for the very substantial project to test renting space this coming year for a nursery program for Little People Learning Center.
- Ten months into her role, we are deeply grateful for director of religious education **Beth Moss**. We are grateful for her professionalism, insight, deep professional experience in education. She is building the foundation for a re-invigorated program with a long-term vision for the future.
- Membership coordinator **Myles Brady Davis** joined us this spring. We're delighted by his warmth and presence, his initiative in building connections, and the blind spots he's helping us to see!

And to close, thank you to you who brew the coffee and serve on committees. Thank you who teach OWL, and Religious Education, who put on parties and potlucks. Thank you to you who say hello to newcomers and take them out for lunch. Thank you to everyone who gives of time, and talent, and treasure.

And thank you to each person who comes on a Sunday morning needing relief from the whirlwind of life and shelter from the storm: this is your church.

In hope,  
Rev. Teri and Rev. David

## **Report of the Minister-at-Large 2017-2018** **By the Rev. W. David Arksey, D. Min.**

This past year has been relatively uneventful. by comparison to previous ones and for this both Brenda and I are most grateful.

During this past year, my clinical responsibilities have continued as I carry out the charge you gave me, in 1977, to provide on your behalf "a ministry of pastoral care and counseling to persons and communities beyond the confines of our immediate membership in the greater Chicago area". I provide 25-30 hours weekly of pastoral counseling and psychotherapy for families, couples, and individuals at Counseling Ministries. I have continued to provide mentoring and clinical supervision to a recent African-American female graduate of Christian Theological Seminary who is in the process of developing a pastoral counseling and consultation practice on the South Side. I am greatly enjoying the unfolding of both this relationship and her intended project.

In the midst of all of this, I have also been able to provide pastoral care and counseling to several members of the congregation. These activities have been a particular treat in terms of making the fruits of my 40 years of practicing pastoral counseling/psychotherapy available to enrich the life of our Beloved Community. I continue to be both fortunate and blessed to have

First Church as my home base. Thank you for your continued confidence and support – and the continued honor of being your Minister-at-Large.

## **Report from the Music Director**

**by Jeffrey Hamrick**

*One more song,  
We will sing one more song  
Till every song is sung by everyone  
We'll sing one more song!*  
—Joyce Poley

Joyce Poley, a UU singer and composer from British Columbia, wrote “One More Step” for a peace rally in Vancouver back in 1986. We have sung this now familiar hymn often in worship, but most of us were likely unaware of its origins and the original intent of the composer. As music director of First Unitarian Church, I work carefully with our ministers to plan music that supports and is an integral part of the message of worship services. Rather than ornament, our music is part of the substance of worship.

The First Unitarian choir remains the heart of our music program. Choir membership varied somewhat this year: We enjoyed a brief bump in membership (getting us close to 30!) in September and October, though several left the choir for various reasons. Singers this year (past and present) included Bill Bassin, Richard Blough, Jo Brill, Lisa Christensen Gee, Kristina DeGuzman, Laura Finnegan, Andrea Freerksen, Mary Lee Greenlee, Jean Hester, Margaret Huyck, Evelyn Johnson, Charlotte Juergens, Sophie Krahnke, Cindy Pardo, Richard Pardo, Joan Pederson, Jim Proctor, Barbara Randolph, Richard Snow, Rosemary Snow, Joan Staples, Patricia Stark, Joyce Swedlund, Amir Tyson, Sophia Watson, and Sky Williams. On several Sundays we were joined by additional voices from the congregation as part of our First Sunday Choir (open to all—just show up and sing). Additional singers and musicians who shared their time and talent with us this year included Vivian Beckford, Lynnette Li, Rey Phillips, and Elena Stern.

We are grateful to Joseph Harrington for regularly inviting guest musicians who add so much to the services that Joe leads. Thanks also to Joe for introducing us to Kopano Muhammad, who was our inspiring guest soloist for the service honoring Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in January. We thank Nadia Pierrehumbert for connecting us with the Morris dancers (who rehearse weekly in our building), whose festive dancing added color, sound, and merriment to our Easter celebration. We welcomed the Chicago Children’s Choir as worship musicians on two Sundays this year, including for the organization’s annual birthday celebration at First in October. Our special guest musician for the Earth Day service in April was celebrated singer-songwriter Jim Scott, many of whose works appear in our hymnal and hymn supplement. The choir and I got to provide backup music, and the singing was rousing and spirited.

I’d like to highlight two events that we participated in this past year that are part of this effort to develop a greater appreciation for “justice choir”-type singing. In January, we supported Unity Temple (Oak Park) and Second Unitarian Church of Chicago by attending their co-sponsored

workshop titled “Activism through Song,” led by Melanie DeMore, a singer, conductor, and composer. She encourages participants to raise their voices “in protest with power, determination and energy.” On March 31, we welcomed Windborne, a quartet of singers from New England, for an afternoon workshop and performance at First titled “Songs of Resistance.” The quartet taught us tunes from around the world, highlighting songs of various labor movements and class struggles.

As the church’s musician (keyboardist), I have focused this year on piano, and have performed generally more challenging repertoire. I try to include music from outside the Western canon, in addition to so-called classical music; I appreciate being able to share Beethoven alongside Nathaniel Dett and Florence Price. I am grateful to the many members and visitors alike who express their appreciation, as well as their personal tastes! Your feedback pushes me to grow and to include ever more diverse genres and composers in our music making. For lovers of organ music, I am committed to hiring substitute musicians (when I am away from the bench) who can give our beautiful Skinner organ its due attention. Patricia Spencer accompanied our Christmas eve service and has been hired to play organ for other Sundays as well. A focus for remaining funds in the 2017–18 music budget will be organ tuning and assessing the ongoing maintenance needs of the instrument.

A special focus of our choir music this year has been protest singing and learning music published under the auspices of JusticeChoir.org, though we are still in the process of discernment and discovery as to how we as a choir can best “sing for justice.” As we prepare for the coming church year, and as we continue to define and articulate our faith not just to ourselves and to each other but to our hurting nation and world, may we continue to welcome music into our lives as a means of articulating our diverse beliefs and the underlying principles that unite us!

What songs will we sing?

## **Director of Operations**

**by Michael Knowles**

It’s been another rewarding year filled with unforeseen challenges and new opportunities for First Unitarian, leading to true personal and professional growth. As our buildings age, the constant need for repairs and upgrades continues almost daily. We continue to maintain strong contracts with Little People Learning Day Care and the Hyde Park School of Dance and in addition, have added a new monthly contract with Little People Learning, Inc. to house a center for the daily care of infants and toddlers. This year we also began a relationship with the University of Chicago Panhellenic Council to house sorority recruitment and orientations in October of each year.

In addition to meetings the needs of its members, the building continues to grow its relationship with the community. Here is a snapshot of the usage of First U's building spaces, and improvements and repairs that have and will occurred in the 2017-2018 year.

### **Building Usage and Rentals**

- Monthly Indivisible South Side Presentations and Meetings
- University of Chicago Democratic Election Forum
- Weekly Piano Lessons with Audrey Wilson
- Weekly Cello Lesson with Tom Clowes
- Weekly Violin Lessons with Ethan Adelson
- 70 Chicago Children's Choir Rehearsals (Allegro/Vivace')
- 20 Girls Scout Meetings
- 216 Church-Related Gatherings and Meetings
- 147 Community, Family and Support Group Meetings and Events
- 97 Dance/Yoga Classes
- 20 Girls Scout Meetings
- 5 Concerts
- 4 Weddings
- 1 Baby Dedication
- 4 Memorials

### **Safety Upgrades**

- Installation of new fire alarm panel
- New ADA accessible ramp at the rear door of Pennington Center
- Upgraded emergency lighting in hallways
- Cleaning of all stairwells for emergency exit
- Cleaning of basement area to eliminate mold concerns

### **Building Repairs and Upgrades**

- Sealing of foundation leaks around city main in basement
- Painting of basement bathrooms to eliminate mold
- Repair of leaking pipes in basement ceiling at the entrance of Garden Room
- Thermostat repair to ensure proper heating for the Hyde Park School of Dance
- Installation of rodent-resistant door seals
- Wi-Fi extensions to Hull, Chris Moore Music Room and VOV
- Painting of Youth Room
- Conversion of RE Space to joint nursery and RE classroom space
- Installation of ecological-friendly water fountain/filling stations
- Air conditioning in Woolman Hall and HPSD office

## **Future Opportunities and Potential Challenges:**

We continue to seek more event rentals and are adding a page to Ring.com and working with WeddingSpot.com, Eventbrite and the staff of Rockefeller Chapel to secure more events. Next year, we hope to pursue closer working relationships with the University of Chicago and their events teams.

A special thank you to Senior Co-Ministers, David and Teri Schwartz. Their flexibility, patience, guidance and perspective help me manage a variety of church and life concerns.

I can't thank the volunteers enough for their continued gifts of time, perspective and skill. Their continued work on new and current member services, church communications, church financials, events, facility and renter's management are both valuable and inspirational. Thank you, Jo Brill, Richard Blough, Betty Holcomb, Evelyn Johnson, Ellen LaRue (sub), Paulette Levy, Allan Lindrup, Madeira Myrieckes, Linn Orear, Cindy Pardo, Richard Pardo, Joan Pederson, Jon Rice and Joan Staples.

I am convinced the reason I love working here is witnessing the love you have for each other and this church. Those of you who usher, lead committees or programs, ring bells and serve as support for project and event committees are owed a great deal of gratitude. Thank you, President Joan Pederson. You have amazing insight into the needs of the people and the building, motivating the board and chairs in the effort to grow First Unitarian and keep it viable and relevant. A thank you to our new treasurer, Michael Grosse. I am working hard to ensure that the obvious trust you have put in me is warranted.

Many thanks to Richard Pardo and Ivan Lappin who have given more than you can imagine of their skills in the repairs, upgrades and maintenance to the work within our church and to Vince Vitullo for his sound advice on the LPLC nursery contract negotiation, Kent Richmond and Irene Vitullo for working to keep the church such a beautiful landmark in the community.

I also want to thank Jeff Hamrick and Beth Moss for their encouragement and patience as we work to better serve their programs areas, and special thanks to our hard-working custodial staff members, Helena Smith and Eric Render.

## **Religious Education**

**by Rev. Beth F. Moss, Director of Religious Education**

**Mission:** Continue to grow and strengthen the RE program by offering high quality programming that meets a variety of learner needs

## Overview:

- Sunday Classes - Attendance was 23 kids per Sunday on average in 2016-2017. It went down to 19 in 2017-2018, but OWL kids not included in total. OWL yielded and avg additional attendance of 6 First U families every other Sunday in the Winter.
- Registration – in 2017 there were 60 active registrations (kids). This has gone up to 64 in 2018. In 2017 there were 32 families. This went up to 38 families in 2018. There were 24 teachers/volunteers engaged, with 9 people volunteering regularly. This is down significantly from last year's 35 total teachers engaged.

In August, First Unitarian welcomed me, Beth Moss, as the new DRE. I am overjoyed to have been part of this community so far, and I look forward to many bright days ahead. Classes began in September with one lower elementary class, one upper elementary class, and a Jr Youth group. Sunday attendance was 19 kids on average from Sept – January and 18 kids on average from January through April, with a total yearly average of about 19 over the given Sundays, plus 12 kids participated in OWL. This is not represented in the total due to class timing. Starting in January, the Jr Youth group and the upper elementary class began operating combined due to volunteer shortages. The focus was social justice on a variety of topics with real world application whenever possible.

As far as registration, all but one family from last year has either submitted RE forms, been present but not submitted forms, or responded to OWL invitations – this means there is overall no notable decline overall from last year placing us at 46 active registrations at count in Dec. which by the end of the year went up 64 active registrations, although many middle school students are not currently present during regular RE time Sunday mornings. By May, there were 17 total unique new registrations for the year (counted by child). This number may be slightly inflated as new nursery attendees are now required to register to use facilities.

This year our nursery added 2 more providers - Jessica Hall and Juliet Brown, and one provider, Natalie, choose to step back to subbing only. Juliet later decide to sub only as well. Positive changes include better curriculum that is designed to be more relevant to the wants and needs of the community. In worship, time for all ages has gone very well. Families and other members report positive engagement. Items for worship are deliberately varied to meet a wide variety of learner needs. There are stories, skits, videos, pictures, and experiences to enjoy. The DRE has worked to reach out more to families and to create engaging family opportunities, and this work will continue.

Volunteer recruitment and consistency has been the number one challenge this year. There are plans in place to make this much better in the coming year. My personal favorite part of being the DRE at First U has been getting to know some many wonderful people in the community. Thanks so much for welcoming me and I look forward to seeing what the future will bring.

**Religious Education 2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** *Alina Negomireanu, Ezrina Bradley, Kathryn Guelcher, Katie Haviland, Kathy Szoke*

## Highlights:

### Fall

- I reviewed children's books and created a welcoming parent comfort corner in the sanctuary with coloring sheets and organized materials for children and youth in need of additional engagement during times they are in the sanctuary.
- new registration form and brochure created
- Rev. David and Beth on reorganizing and cleaning classrooms 1 and 2, weeding materials not in usable condition and later working together to facilitate space usage changes.
- Rev. Teri and Beth worked to make spaces more welcoming and functional, with a focus on the Jr Youth room
- Teacher commissioning and backpack blessing held
- Halloween party had with 30+ kids and their parents and in attendance (so, about 40- 50 people in all).
- Youth collected over 100 books for Pilsen community books

### Winter

- Pageant –*Thanks to Kathy Szoke and many volunteers who helped to make this come alive.* 30 + kids participated in a reprise of Would You Like to Hold the Baby
- In January, Reverend Teri and the DRE collaborated to facilitate a chalice lighter training. This was attended by 7 youth and it great to see kids stepping up to be a part of worship.
- In place of empty bowls, Beth worked to bring the Oxfam Banquet to first U. Through that event our youth helped serve a meaningful learning meal to almost 50 people a and we raised over 200 dollars to help those in need.

### Spring

- Easter Egg hunt –Thanks to all who brought, filled & hide eggs for fun and family smiles. About 35 students participated in this fun family event
- Youth learned about animal rights issues and we made treats n toys that helped the community raise \$49 For local non-profit Hyde Park Cats
- Youth hosted a spring service on Animal Blessings and it was a success

### Curriculum used 2017-18

- Pre-K – 1st grade (*Chalice Children*): *Wonderful Welcome, Creating Home*
- 2nd – 5th grade (*Seekers*): *Harry and UU/ Luminbdorf's School for the Magical and Mystical (from Unity)*
- 6th – 8th grade (*Jr Youth*) *The Simpsons D'Oh God, and OWL*

### Thank You:

RE Council: These folks stepped up to lend their helping hands and voices: Alina Negomireanu, Ezrina Bradley, Kathryn Guelcher, Katie Haviland, Kathy Szoke

RE Teachers & Volunteers: These people said yes in a big way to teach and help our youngest members grow

Chalice Children: Ava Barker, Kathy Szoke, Sky Williams, Tim Arehart,

Seekers: Virginia Pace, Alina Negomireanu, Ane Martinez Lora, Lorraine Richardson

Jr Youth: Paloma Delgadillo, Allan Lindrup, Kathryn Guelcher

OWL: Sabrina Holmquist, Jim Procter

OXFAM+ Halloween Party: Cheryl Wegner, Cindy Pardo, Joan Pederson, the whole RE council + MANY youth who did an amazing job

Summer Teachers: Marjorie Boyles, Ezrina Bradley, Kathryn Guelcher, Allan Lindrup, Ane Marinez-Lora, Virginia Pace, Joan Pederson, Kathy Szoke

Mystery Friends: Mary Lee Greenlee, Rosemary Snow, Ivan Lappin,

Barbara Randolph, Bette Sikes, Allen Wilfred, Betty Holcomb, Vivian Burns, Linn Orear + some wonderful youth 😊

Subs, Volunteers, Program Spokespeople, Pageant help, and others not yet mentioned: Allen Wilfred, Lisa Christensen Gee, David Schwartz, Teri Schwartz, Linn Orear, Chris Berry, Leslie Davis, Laura Stern, Sara Arthur, Jon Rice, Laura Finnegan, Joan Pederson, Bill Bassin, Eileen Meyer, Jacob Bunge, Marjorie Boyles, Jennifer Randall, Nan Hobart, Lisa Martin-Eatinger, and all the other parents and families present each Sunday. Thanks everyone!

### **Plans:**

#### Goals for 2018 Year:

Goal 1 – strengthen RE council

Goal 2 - continue to increase parent communication

Goal 3 - continue to offer and expand offerings of high quality programming that meets the needs and wants of a diverse learner group over the coming year with family and community support.

Goal 4: Continue to seek PD and self-care

**Help Wanted:** Continue to build volunteer base

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** Teaching, Social Event Planning, Worship Engagement opportunities

**Contact:** Dre.firstu@gmail.com

### **Hospitality Ministry (Membership)**

**By Myles Brady Davis, Membership Coordinator**

**Mission:** Building a Community with Compassion, Service and Empowerment

#### **Mission Statement:**

*We are a diverse congregation joyously united to address personal and societal challenges with passionate action for the healing of the world.*

—Adopted by the congregation on April 25, 2010

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Senior Co-Minister Rev. David Schwartz and

Membership Coordinator Myles Brady Davis

**Highlights:**

- Hiring and onboarding of new membership coordinator
- Completed Spring 2018 new member cohort (8 adults, 3 children, and one infant)

I would like to personally thank First Unitarian minister: Rev. David and Rev. Teri. First U staff: Mike, Beth, Jeff, Eric, Helena, Carolyn, and the entire First Unitarian congregation! I appreciate the warm welcome I receive and for all the people who have reach out, made time to meet with me, and supported me and in my new role. You all have made my onboarding process enjoyable and pleasant! It has been an absolute please to serve this congregation and I'm excited for our future together.

**Plans:**

- In the summer and fall quarter, based on the recommendation from the congregational visioning session you all had before I started, I will gather a team and develop a vision and comprehensive plan for membership for the next three years.
- Starting this fall the Hospitality Ministry will start to facilitate the new PATHWAY to membership classes for new members

**Help Wanted:**

If any active members are interested in being a part of the new Hospitality ministry, please reach out and speak with me. (And for those of you that have already been ushering, assisting with data collect and attendance, sitting at the welcome table, hosting coffee hour, etc. I will be personally speaking and inviting you to join.

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** If are a visitor, guest or friend of First U and you feel that you ready to take the next step and have a deeper level of commitment. We'd love to have you join our Beloved Community. Please reach out and speak with me about next steps.

**Contact:** Myles Brady Davis, Membership Coordinator at [membership@firstuchicago.org](mailto:membership@firstuchicago.org).  
Office Hours: Fridays & Sundays: 9am - 4pm, or by appointment

**Board of Trustees**

by **Joan Pederson, President**

**Mission:** The Board of Trustees has the care, custody, and control of the real and personal property of the Society and establishes the policies necessary for the conduct of the programs and affairs of the Society.

**Leadership and Members:** Joan Pederson, President; Jim Proctor, Vice President; John Eatinger, Christine Harrell, Joseph Harrington, Margot Horn; Rev. Teri Schwartz and Rev. David Schwartz, ex officio.

Other officers: Julie Larson, Secretary; Michael Grosse, Treasurer

**Highlights:**

- Monitored church finances and developments in the Religious Education program with the help of reporting by the Directors of Operations and of Religious Education; participated in development of the proposed budget for the coming church year.
- Took notice of strain within the congregation in the aftermath of the June 18, 2017 special congregational meeting concerning the proposed UUA Eighth Principle, and both took and supported a variety of steps intended to address and alleviate that strain.
- Put certain initiatives on hold—particularly leadership development and clarification of the purpose, responsibilities, and goals of the councils, committees, and other working groups of the congregation—to free members to participate on the Capital Campaign Leadership Team (CLT).
- Encouraged and monitored the formation, development, and work of the CLT.
- With the Co-chairs of the CLT and its consultant, planned and conducted a Visionary Retreat on membership and our buildings, in preparation for both the Capital Campaign and the long-range strategic planning process that will follow.
- Continued an ongoing review of church policies. Approved: revised policies on Disruptive Members and Gift Acceptance and new policies on Misrepresentation and on Councils. Pending policy revisions: Safe Congregation, Publications, and Officers' Duties.
- Proposed bylaw revisions to offer more options for the date of the annual meeting and to update and clarify the article addressing church organizations.
- Accepted the resignation of Dennis Koehn from the Board, vacated Beverly Bennett's seat due to prolonged medical absence (while looking forward to her recuperation and return) and appointed alternate trustee Christine Harrell to fill Beverly's seat through June 30.
- Reviewed and authorized proposed projects to be undertaken with funds raised by the Capital Campaign.
- With the Capital Campaign consultant and the CLT, set plans for a joint canvass soliciting pledges for both the capital campaign and ongoing church operations.
- Held congregational information sessions on the State of the Congregation (Feb), proposed bylaws revisions (March), and the proposed 2018–19 budget (May).

**Thank You:** Julie Larson, Secretary; Beth Moss, Religious Education Director; Michael Knowles, Director of Operations; Myles Brady Davis, Membership Coordinator; and Thom Thomas, past Student Minister.

**Plans:**

Facilitate a smooth transition between this year's board and the next, particularly between departing officers and trustees and those being elected today.

Promote right relations throughout the congregation.

Monitor FY19 pledges as the joint capital-operating canvass continues, adjusting the budget if necessary in September and again in December.

Monitor use of capital campaign contributions and other funds for their authorized purposes.

Direct the development of a new long-range strategic plan upon conclusion of the capital campaign.

In concert with the working groups of the congregation, achieve clarification and documentation of the purpose, responsibilities, and goals of each such group (council, committee, task force, team, etc.) and the roles of its participants.

Continue reviewing and updating church policies and bylaws.

**Help Wanted:** Flexibility and generosity of spirit as the church moves to secure and revitalize its future.

**Contact:** Joan Pederson, [president@firstuchicago.org](mailto:president@firstuchicago.org), 773-297-1488

## **Capital Campaign Leadership Team** by Lisa Christiansen Gee and Jim Proctor, Co-Chairs

First Unitarian's Capital Campaign preparatory efforts are underway in full force. Jim Proctor and Lisa Christensen Gee (Campaign Co-chairs) are thrilled to be working with so many talented, dedicated congregants on the Capital Campaign Leadership Team (CCLT) whose names and roles are enumerated below. The CCLT has been meeting and working diligently the past couple of months in anticipation of our planned Capital Campaign to raise over \$1 million for the restoration and repair of our building and facilities. Key building improvement priorities include: ensuring the structural integrity and restoring the aesthetics of the sanctuary; increasing building accessibility; renovating the Parish House to create more functional event preparation and comfortable meeting spaces; and reducing our carbon footprint through proper climate controls and other energy efficiency measures.

Mark your calendars! The Campaign Kick-off event will follow Flower Communion on Sunday, June 10th from 11:30 am to 1 pm in Hull Chapel. The event will include good food, presentations on the goals of the campaign, a tour of key capital projects, delightful camaraderie, and *Mad Science Chicago* will host a science party for the kids!

Following the Campaign Kick-off, fundraising efforts will be conducted in five phases starting in June and running through December. These separate gift phases over an extended period of time will allow the Campaign volunteers to have personalized meetings on the goals of the campaign and about how each congregant/household can contribute.

Because the Capital Campaign is a major fundraising effort, the Board of Trustees determined it was the best to conduct the 2018 Annual Fund Pledge campaign concurrently with the Capital Campaign. In light of this, congregants that currently support the church's annual operating budget through the gift of a pledge are asked to continue giving at their current (or increased levels) until they receive an in-person meeting where they will be able to commit both their Capital and Annual Fund gifts. New members, friends, other potential first-time pledgers have been invited to make an annual pledge over the past few weeks and will be contacted later in the year about opportunities to contribute to the Capital Campaign.

We thank you in advance for your support of this important initiative for the church, and look forward to seeing you on June 10th for the Campaign Kick-off event and visiting with each of you in the months ahead.

Please reach out to Jim Proctor, Lisa Christensen Gee, or our Senior Co-Ministers.

## **FIRST UNITARIAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Lisa Christensen Gee, Co-Chair

Jim Proctor, Co-Chair

Margie Gonwa, Vice Chair of Marketing

Richard Pardo, Vice Chair of Capital Projects

Cindy Pardo, Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation

Ivan Lappin, Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation,

Kristina DeGuzman, Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation

John Martin-Eatinger, Vice Chair of Gift Cultivation,

Grace Latibeaudière-Williams, Vice Chair of Campaign Events

Evelyn Johnson, Vice Chair of Stewardship Activities

Rev. Teresa Schwartz, Senior Co-Minister

Rev. David Schwartz, Senior Co-Minister

## **Communications Committee**

**By Michael Knowles for Margot Horn, Chair**

Thanks to the work of Mary Clare Bietila, last year was a year of migration to new platforms for our email and website. This year saw a change in leadership, led by Margot Horn and great strides with the addition of Jo Brill as our webmaster and Tim Arehart as the editor of the monthly newsletter. Jo has made great upgrades and changes to the site and has made it a more robust and active site with timely updates and additions. Tim has revised the format of the newsletter and provide great leadership and coordination of content. We continue to drive individuals to the online communications form for the submission of events and announcements. This is a slow process, but we are making progress. Thanks to Linn Orear, Joan Pederson, Cindy Pardo, Joan Staples and Rev. Teri for their weekly assistance in the production of weekly emails and Order of Service, and to Jo and Tim for their timely and superior work.

## **Crypt Committee**

**by Allan Lindrup, Chair**

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Allan Lindrup (Chair), Madeira Myrieckes, plus Michael Knowles (ex-officio)

### **Highlights:**

- The Chair continued to work with the church Administrator on activities such as opening and closing of crypt niches, as needed.

- The crypt chapel drapes were taken down, taken to the cleaners for cleaning, then rehung.
- A new crypt chapel chair cushion was ordered, to replace a missing cushion.
- New, bright red slip covers will be arranged and purchased for the crypt chapel cushions before this church year is over.

**Thank You:** Thanks to Mike Knowles for the work he does with the crypt as part of his being church administrator. Thanks to Bette Sikes, who had to step down from this committee due to declining health, for her past service to the Crypt Comm.

**Plans:** We do not yet have specific plans, other than administering and maintaining the crypt and its chapel as best we can.

**Help Wanted:** We need to have at least one new member for this committee, to have the minimum of three. The committee normally meets once quarterly for 30 to 60 minutes. The meeting date and time is flexible, to accommodate all members.

**Contact:** Allan Lindrup, Chair, at 773-595-4921 and/or [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net)

## **Parish Clerk** **by Evelyn Johnson**

The Parish Clerk keeps track of who is a voting member of First Unitarian Society. Voting Membership is determined by when a person has signed the Membership Book and whether a person has (1) made a contribution of at least \$50 of record during the preceding 12 months, or (2) has applied to the Senior Minister for a waiver of the financial requirement. In addition, a new member may not vote until 90 days have passed since he or she signed the Membership Book.

The official membership figure reported to the Unitarian Universalist Association in February 2018 was 152.

## **Property Committee Report** **by Richard Pardo, Chair**

**Mission:** The Property Committee is tasked with maintaining the Society buildings and associated building utilities, and grounds, via the Landscape subcommittee and the Interiors Subcommittee.

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Madeiria Myrieckes, co-chair; Richard Pardo, co-chair; Ivan Lappin; David Puskiewicz, Michael Knowles, Administrator, Kent Richmond; Landscaping subcommittee chair.

### **Highlights:**

- Hosted two workdays during the past year: October 21, 2017 and April 21, 2018.

- Installed a second water cooler for LPLC on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Pennington Center.
- Designed and contracted with Ivan Lappin to install a new ramp at the West Pennington Exit door.
- New flooring and other improvements including plumbing and lighting for Little Peoples Learning Center (LPLC).
- A variety of repairs coordinated by Property and Mike Knowles including: Heating system, lighting, emergency lights, water leaks.
- Solar powered lights for Pennington walkway are now in place. One works well, second needs additional work.

**Thank You:** The Committee hosted two work days this past year. These days involved over 20 people in a wide variety of improvements.

**Plans:**

- We will again have two workdays during the coming church year. Keep on the lookout for the announcement of the exact dates and details.
- Prototype automatic heating controls that set temperature in Hull Chapel, VOV, Chris Moore will be installed. This will eventually be expanded to all Society buildings.
- Repair radiator valves and fix leaks in system.
- Person sensing light controls in many areas of building to improve energy efficiency.
- Finish solar light installation.
- Add electrical plugs in Sanctuary and Hull Chapel to make various activities easier to implement and safer.

**Help Wanted:** If you enjoy old buildings and the needed multi-faceted work required, please consider joining the Committee. We especially would like to ‘revitalize’ the Interiors Subcommittee. This committee should take the lead in interior improvements that include curtains, paint choices, lighting, cleaning as well as improvements that make better use of various and improve the appearance of important functional areas (kitchens, bathrooms, etc.). Also needed are volunteers for Work Days and specific activities. If you are willing to be ‘on-call’ for small projects and are good ‘with your hands’ please let the Committee chairs know.

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** Get to know us by helping on a workday. The list of tasks is always long and diverse, so no matter what your interest (gardening, painting, projects of many varieties) you can find something that is fun and productive.

**Contact:** Richard Pardo (pardo.richard@comcast.net) or Madeira Myrieckes (madeiria@aol.com)

**Landscaping Task Force of the Property Committee**  
**By Kent Richmond, Chair**

The First UU grounds continue to be source of congregation pride. And a welcoming, varied aggregation of trees, shrubs and flora, much like our congregation.

New shrubs along the Pennington walkway installed this spring to replace those which succumbed in the past two seasons. The plants include Aronia Elata, Cephalanthus 'sugar shack' button bush and Itea 'scarlet beauty'. These plants were provided by the Mind Space Company at a cost of approximately \$1090. Monies for this acquisition were donated by the Green Sanctuary Group, Dolores Cross and Ellen La Rue

The pagoda dogwood tree (located behind our sign at the corner of 57th and Woodlawn) which succumbed to the golden rust disease over the previous few years has made a resurrection. Although the tree died, the roots did not and sprouted new growth. The tree is now about 6 feet in height and apparently healthy.

Aside from the planting along the Pennington walkway, no other plant acquisition is anticipated for the upcoming year. We will continue to label our plants with markers to designate the species of the plant and the donor who made the contribution.

A long-term goal is to install paving stones along the Woodlawn parkway. Foot traffic in this area prevents grass growth and resulting in muddy mess anytime it rains, which is then tracked into Pennington Center.

Special thanks for Irene Vitullo for her years of inspiration and dedication towards the beautification of the church grounds. And we wish her well with her relocation to Arizona.

## **Program Council**

**By Cheryl Wegner**

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Betty V. Holcomb, Cheryl Wegner, co-chairs

### **Highlights:**

- Thanksgiving Service 2017. 145 members and friends sat down to our annual Thanksgiving event.
- Hunger Banquet. This year, instead of holding the Unity Party, the Program Council supported the Hunger Banquet held by the RE Director in February 2018,

**Thank You:** All volunteers who helped with the above events.

**Plans:** Thanksgiving Service in 2018, Unity Party, church picnic and regular meetings in the coming year.

**Contact:** Cheryl Wegner, [Cherylwegner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cherylwegner@sbcglobal.net)

## **Adult Education Committee**

### **By Phiefer Browne**

**Mission:** The mission of this committee is to develop, sponsor, and coordinate adult education activities for all church members and friends. The purpose of these activities is to promote ethical, spiritual, and faith development as expressed in the Unitarian Universalist seven Principles and Purposes especially the fourth, "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Chairperson: Phiefer Browne, Finley Campbell, Cheryl Wegner, Barbara Randolph, Allan Lindrup, secretary, and Richard Pardo (liaison for First Forum programming)

#### **Highlights:**

- The production and dissemination of two adult education brochures in the fall and spring of the church year.
- To provide information about opportunities for church members and friends to participate in and to offer adult education activities.

**Plans for the coming year:** To continue the coordination of adult education activities and to encourage as much church participation as possible,

**Help wanted:** We committee encourages any members and friends to feel free to offer adult education activities at the church. Please contact

**Contact:** PhieferBrowne@comcast.net

## **Auction 2018**

### **By Cheryl Wegner, Co-Chair**

**Mission:** An evening with entertainment and a chance to bid on goods, services and fun events with church friends old and new. After expenses, 10% of the proceeds go to a selected local charity and the remaining 90% go to the church.

2017-2018 Leadership and Members: Cheryl Wegner, Evelyn Johnson, Margie Gonwa, Lorraine Richardson, Laura Stern

**Highlights:** The auction was held April 7, 2018 from 6-9 pm. The main event this year was a jazz café featuring Tim Branch and Family, and Meaghan McNeal. Dinner was catered by Noodles Etc. For the first time, tickets were available online through Eventbrite. Ninety-four tickets in total were sold. After expenses, our donation to the Hyde Park and Kenwood Hunger Programs was \$723.17, with the remaining proceeds of \$6,508.53 going to the church.

**Thank You:** Evelyn Johnson, without whom the auction would not have happened; Joe Harrington for coordinating the entertainment; John and Lisa Martin-Eatinger for serving as auctioneers; Betty Holcomb and Cindy Pardo for service above and beyond; Jo Brill for publicity

and Lappin General Contracting for its generous donation. And, of course, to everyone who donated, participated and helped in any way.

**Help Wanted:** Ideas for next year's event gratefully received.

**Contact:** Cheryl Wegner, Cherylwegner@sbcglobal.net

## **Christian Group**

**By Phiefer Browne and Finley C. Campbell**

**Mission:** To carry out educational, cultural, and social events within the First U community celebrating the Unitarian Universalist Christian tradition. To support the Spiritual pluralism program in conjunction without humanist and pagan brothers and sisters. To be a framework for involving Christian and non-Christians, such as pagans, in programs which will amplify congregational participation as we to search for spiritual and rational meanings to our lives.

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Phiefer Browne, chair; Finley C. Campbell, program coordinator, John Chantry, Shirley Walker, Eileen Klees, Cheryl Wegner, Nick Shifrar

### **Highlights:**

- September 2017 – June 2018, monthly meetings held each second Tuesday, usually in Chris Moore parlor
- We are focused on a video lecture series called Christianity during the Era of the Reformation, with discussion and interpretations
- in December we did our annual film celebration of the pagan version Joshua's aka Jesus' birthday, by showing THE NATIVITY STORY and Part I of the Jennens-Handel-Klein video version of MESSIAH.
- During the Easter period we celebrated the Christian vision of the Resurrection of Joshua by showing part ii of the messiah.
- We had two Requiem programs, featuring a video version of Mozart, remembering our dear departed ones, both recent and in the past.
- We have recently instituted a Bible study program, centered on the Gospel according to St. Matthew
- Finally, we had an in-house communion service in May using a synergy of Druid and Christian elements

**Thank You:** Thank you, Nick Shifrar who brought a youthful inquisitiveness to our Bible study, and to John Chantry who stimulates our discussion with references in many fields.

**Plans:** One of our most important decisions will be to discuss the feasibility of becoming an official chapter of the chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship. Another is to bring UU Christian ideas to the larger Chicago Area Unitarian Universalists as well as to potential believers in the Hyde Park area. In addition, we are planning a retreat in June at the home of John Chantry, a movie showing in July and August dealing with popcorn theology and

instituting the Pentecostal Celebration as the climax of the UU Christian Church year, usually held fifty days after Resurrection Day. Finally, we hope to institute more UUCF spiritual practices and liturgy into our meetings.

**Help Wanted:** The opportunity to have a UU Christian church service with a minister from the UUCF and the inclusion of our program on the guest form which every new person is invited to sign.

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** By coming to our monthly meetings and to our special events around Jesus' birthday, the resurrection mythos, and our new celebration, Pentecost.

**Contact:** Phiefer Browne at PhieferBrowne@comcast.net

## **Crones Group**

**By Eileen Meyer, Facilitator**

The Mission of the Crones is in keeping with the UU tradition of the three stages of female life.... maiden, mother and crone (wise older woman). We provide a confidential and secure space for Women UU members in this stage of life (over 55) to lend and receive support, education and fellowship around issues of later life.

Active members of the group are Kennie James, Lorie Rosenblum, Margot Horn, Margaret Huyck, Ellen LaRue, Eleanor Hall, Joyce Swedlund, Kay Poyner Brown, Susan Bellmore, Eileen Meyer.

During the years we have had educational topics which have included Forgiveness, Denial, Resilience, Decluttering and status of Minority Women. We have also given support around issues of moving, health, relating to grown children, and dealing with limitations.

We give thanks and gratitude to First UU for giving us the space for the group, allowing us to recruit when necessary and assisting with scheduling. In a broader sense we are grateful for the UU commitment to the importance of the unfolding of life at every stage.

The group is three years old and has been quite stable. Consequently, our next year goals would be a continuation of the goals we have stated. We are also willing to assist other women in starting similar groups or in joining ours as time and space allow.

When the new church year begins in September we will open the group to new friends or members who have similar needs and interests. It should be noted that in the past three years, we have only lost one member and have added 3...this is not an attempt to be exclusive but really a sign of the stability of the group.

**Contact:** Eileen Meyer, eileenmeyer@att.net; 773-348-6256

## **Humanist Group**

**By Hank Henriques, Co-Facilitator**

First Unitarian's Humanist group keeps chugging along. We have met twice monthly for at least 9 years now, and have yet to exhaust the possibilities for discussion, challenge, and learning. Our regular members hold many different worldviews and personal theologies, but they converge in agreement that our lives and fates are controlled by human agency and human possibility. Together, we process what is happening in our world and in our church through this humanistic lens and share our own struggles to cope with the issues of the day.

All should know that the second and fourth Mondays of each month are Humanist night and consider giving this a try. We meet in the Chris Moore Parlor from 7:00-9:00, and newcomers (whether self-avowed Humanists or not) are always welcome.

**Contact:** Hank Henriques at [mrgonwa@hotmail.com](mailto:mrgonwa@hotmail.com)

## **Men's Group**

**By Joseph Harrington, Facilitator**

**Mission:** Our Raison D'être is to foster friendship and provide opportunities for men to become full stakeholders in the First U mission and vision

**Leadership and Members:** Joseph M. Harrington, Amos Biggers, Andrew Greenlee, Ivan Lappin, Allan Lindrup, John Martin-Eatinger, Jim Proctor, Stephen Stern, Vincent Vitullo

**Highlights:** We see ourselves as engaging in the work and life of the church through our meetings and gatherings as well as our activities which include:

- Hosting 17 members/friends at our annual Pre-King Day Concert Gathering
- Organizing gatherings and outings around sporting events
- Providing support to other groups with the set-up/clean-up of their events

**Thank You:** As the convening/facilitating member of our group, I'd like to personally thank all our members for their continued interest and support

**Plans:** Grow and diversify our membership; continue to identify ways in which we can support each other and the church and be more actively engaged with pastoral care activities

**Help Wanted:** We don't anticipate a specific request for assistance in the year to come, but stand ready to support the work of the church and assist when called upon

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** We would like to think of our group as welcoming, open and inclusive. We are enriched and learn much about each other, ourselves and our church from the time we spend together and encourage other men in our congregation to join us in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning

**Contact:** Joseph M. Harrington at [joseph\\_harrington@att.net](mailto:joseph_harrington@att.net)

## **Young Adult Group**

**By Christine Harrell, Chair**

The First Unitarian Young Adult group (ages 18-35) meets monthly for fellowship and socializing during the church year. Since September 2017, we have had six brunches, a potluck, a table at the Thanksgiving Dinner and a happy hour. Each event had at least six attendees. At this year's Thanksgiving Dinner, twelve young adults sat at our table, the largest turn out at the young adult table to date. Five out of six brunches had at least one new participant. We succeeded in meeting regularly and providing events that were welcoming to visitors and new members.

**Contact:** Christine Harrell at [youngadults@firstuchicago.org](mailto:youngadults@firstuchicago.org)

## **Social Justice Council**

**By Evan Freund, Chair**

**Mission:** The Social Justice Council coordinates and promotes social justice activities at First Unitarian Church, develops awareness among the congregation of social justice challenges, and facilitates cooperative efforts to address social problems.

### **2017-2018 Leadership and Members:**

- Black Lives Matter Task Force- Andrea Freerksen
- Criminal Justice Task Force- Evan Freund
- Denominational Affairs Committee- Marie Cobbs
- Global Studies Group- Bobbi Lammers-Campbell
- Green Sanctuary Group (Environmental)- Allan Lindrup
- Racial Justice Task Force- Finley Campbell and Kennie James
- Spiritual Adventures: the third principle project task force-Anita Orlikoff and Jim Proctor

### **Highlights:**

- Produced a social justice activity fair for the congregation in October 2017
- Implemented the relationship with the Community Renewal Society
- Endorsed congregational participation in the Poor Peoples' campaign
- Produced a flyer with thumbnail descriptions of Task Forces for distribution to visitors and as support of the Membership Coordinator
- Discussed the Congregational Covenant and conducted meetings consistent with it
- Black Lives Matter
  - Conducted a First Forum on the Black Lives Matter national agenda
  - Invited youth groups involved in organizing the Chicago women's march and campus groups protesting against Stephen Bannon's invitation to speak at the U. of C.
  - Disseminated national news of outrages against oppressed people.
- Spiritual Adventures
  - Organized the congregational symposium on racism
  - Planned the congregational symposium on the proposed UU 8<sup>th</sup> principle

- Racial Justice Task Force:
  - Maintained consistent support for Chicago Syphonietta
  - Awarded multiracial unity awards to FLY, Faith in Place
  - Organized a First Forum on inequities in property tax administration in Cook County
  - Commemorated the Emancipation Proclamation and Martin Luther King's birth and death
- Criminal Justice Task Force:
  - Joined the no-money bail coalition to successfully return accused individuals to the community.
  - Established robust participation with Community Renewal Society for legislative changes and for Chicago Police legitimacy and support of oppressed people.
  - Engendered volunteer participation in registering voters in Cook County Jail and in observing bond court.
  - Worked with UUPMI to promote positive change in prisons
  - Supported UUANI to advocate for fair tax and criminal justice measures
  - Worked with UUSJ to establish the Interfaith Criminal Justice Task Force to include Jewish, Episcopalian, and other many congregations in reform efforts.
- Denominational Affairs
  - Conducted educational seminars on denominational politics related to diversity and inclusion
- Global studies conducted a series of discussions on North Korea and other global issues
- Green Sanctuary Group- see also separate report
  - Worked with the ministers to have 3 environmentally oriented worship services this church year.

**Thank You:** We are grateful to Allan Lindrup in creating and disseminating complete and accurate minutes of every meeting, and to Michael Knowles for supporting our accommodation needs.

**Plans:** In 2018, we plan to hold another social justice activity fair, and would like to work with the Younger Adult members to address the interests and needs of young adults. We plan to establish a Facebook page for SJC and to hold another planning retreat.

**Help Wanted:** We request assistance and guidance from the young adult caucus in the design of activities, and continued interaction with the Board of Trustees.

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** Members and guests who would like to participate in the work of any of the Task Forces should contact the head of the task force listed above.

**Contact:** Evan Freund at [evanfreund@gmail.com](mailto:evanfreund@gmail.com)

## **Black Lives Matter Task Force of the Social Justice Council**

**By Andrea Freerksen**

**Mission:** Like our congregation, the Black Lives Matter Task Force at First Unitarian is a diverse group of people, and we believe that Black lives matter. We seek to support the larger Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) by educating and connecting our congregation to movement campaigns, events, and agencies aligned with the M4BL.

### **2017-2018 Leadership and Members:**

Andrea Freerksen, Chair

Ashley Brazil, co-chair until September 2017

### **Highlights:**

- At our task force meetings in October and November 2017, we engaged in productive discussions about congregational accountability and reconciliation after controversial passing of the DAC's proposal against the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in June 2017, which negatively affected members of the task force and contributed to the loss of our co-leader, Ashley Brazil.
- We led a powerful First Forum: Training on the Policy Agenda for the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) on 1/21/18. About 40 people participated and walked away with more knowledge, directions, and resources.
- During February 2017, we collaborated with anti-fascist campus group, Black Lives Matter-Chicago, and a few other campus student/faculty groups to put on a series of panel discussions about Stephen Bannon's invitation to U of C campus and other examples of racism and harm perpetrated by U of C on people in the area, specifically people of color, low income people, and people of other marginalized identities (youth, LGBTQIAA, people with disabilities).
- Task force members Dolores Cross and Jean Hester wrote and gave powerful statements which provided context and urgency to support the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle for the First Forum on 05/12/2018.

**Thank You:** Special thanks to Jean Hester, Lorraine Richardson, Laura Stern, Andrea Lee, Allan Lindrup, Dolores Cross, Sky Williams, Joan Pederson, Evelyn Johnson, Ivan Lappin, Evan Freund, Jeff Hamrick, who have taken on leadership roles ranging from large to small.

### **Plans:**

- We hope to have at least one additional follow up event to January's First Forum on the M4BL policy agenda, perhaps to discuss more in depth and get more connected to 1-2 of the policy areas. Information is forthcoming.
- We would like to organize congregational/individual support for Black Lives Matter-Chicago's food box program, as they have asked of us, particularly the food box located at 51st and Calumet.
- Develop core leadership and more leadership support in the task force.
- Educate the congregation about the historical context of the proposed 8th principle, since it has primarily been presented to the congregational in terms of opposition or procedure.

- We would like to collaborate more with the CJTF. For starters, we can get educated and connected with the work they are doing with Black Lives Matter-Chicago, ACLU, CRS, and the Attorney General's office to increase police oversight and change police contracts.

**Help Wanted:** We are always looking for people from the church: to participate in our meetings every other month, attend outside movement actions, connect with other organizations working for the M4BL, and take on roles ranging from large to small to lead within the task force. We are particularly in need of a co-leader, note-taker, and people to coordinate collection and delivery for Black Lives Matters-Chicago's food box program. No need to be an official member of the church to get involved!

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** Come to a meeting! Contact Andrea to find out the next meeting and/or join our listserv, or just watch the service programs for upcoming meetings.

**Contact:** Andrea Freerksen, Co-leader (773) 332-7753 [afreerksen@gmail.com](mailto:afreerksen@gmail.com)

## **Denominational Affairs Committee** by Finley Campbell, Co-chair

**Mission:** To participate in and publicize those programs sponsored by the Unitarian Universalis Association at the local, regional and national levels which promote social justice activities, and which contribute to the development of social justice activities for church members and friends. This mission is based on the Seven Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism, especially the creation of world peace and equity in human relations.

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Marie Cobbs, Chair; Allan Lindrup, Eleanor Hall, Finley Campbell, Bobbi Lammers Campbell, Kennie James; Phiefer Browne

### **Highlights:**

- Presentation of reports describing our participation in the General Assembly 2017, Unitarian Universalist for Social Justice (UUSJ), Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus (UUMAC or the MAC), and the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalists Council (CAUUC);
- Regular attendance to the Quarterly UUSJ meetings with a variety of programs, such as Conflict Resolution

**Thank You:** The committee wishes to thank Ellen LaRue

**Plans:** First Forum: The continuing discussion of the 8<sup>th</sup> principle

### **Opportunities for new friends and members:**

I encourage all members and friends to consider becoming a member of the Denominational Affairs Committee.

**Contact:** Marie Cobbs at [marie.cobbs@att.net](mailto:marie.cobbs@att.net)

## **Global Studies Group**

**By Ellen LaRue, Co-chair**

This group began life at First U as the 9-11 Study Group. Back then a number of us felt we needed to understand what was happening in other places and to other people in the world. We still seek that understanding, but have changed the group name to more accurately reflect current times. This year we have read two and a half books, discussing a chapter or two at a time. The books are *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, by Lenin; *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*, by Lankov; and *Soviet Fates and Lost Alternatives, from Stalinism to the New Cold War*, by Cohen. Between books we read articles. Our discussions are spirited and interesting with many viewpoints expressed. And it turns out that besides increasing our understanding of global issues, we increase our understanding and appreciation of each other. Normally we meet after social hour on the first Sunday of each month.

**Contact:** Co-chairs: Bobbi Lammers-Campbell and Ellen LaRue

## **Green Sanctuary Group**

**by Allan Lindrup, Chair**

**Mission:** Our Purpose/Mission is to educate, inspire, organize and support congregational and personal practices that honor and sustain our planet Earth.

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Allan Lindrup (Chair), Joan Staples, Ellen LaRue, Richard Pardo and Bill Bassin are the core members. Irene Vitullo, Nadia Pierrehumbert, Kennie James and Dan Bader have had a supporting, but less active relationship.

### **Highlights:**

- Worked with the ministers to have 3 environmentally oriented worship services this church year.
- Supported the DRE with the use of the *Creepy Crawlies* curriculum during the summer of 2017.
- Organized two environmentally oriented First Forums and showed one environmental film.
- The Environmental Book Club, sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Group, met for six sessions to discuss the book *Drawdown* (on proposals to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere).
- Developed a new recycling plan for our church, with roll-out in 2018-2019, after some fundraising
- Held a collection of household hazardous waste and computer electronics, which were transported to the city's household hazardous waste site.
- Helped organize and funded about 30% of a landscaping project along the ramp leading to Pennington Center, expected to be completed around June 1.

**Thank You:** We thank our ministers for their cooperation in scheduling and developing environmentally focused work services 3 times a year. We also thank Beth Moss for the use of the *Creepy Crawlies* curriculum in the summer of 2017.

**Plans:** Some of our plans for this church year did not materialized due to the lead person's moving or finding that a particular new initiative was not advisable. Our plans for the next church year will be developed during the summer but will include rolling out a new recycling system. We hold \$5,000 for a new commercial dish washer, but installation is held back until other revisions funded by the capital campaign.

**Help Wanted:** The Green Sanctuary Group is always looking for new members. Late spring-early time is an excellent time to join, to help shape our plans for the new church year.

**Contact:** Allan Lindrup, Chair, at 773-595-4921 or at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net)]

## **Racial Justice Task Force**

**By Finley Campbell, Co-chair**

**Mission:** To carry out educational, cultural, and social events within the First U community celebrating multiracial unity. To support bearing witness activities against racism in the outside world. To be a framework for congregational participation in our efforts to dismantle racism in ourselves, in our church, and in the outside world.

**2017-2018 Leadership and Members:** Kennie James, chair; Finley C. Campbell, program coordinator, Allan Lindrup, Phiefer Browne, Joan Staples, Chuck Staples, Hank Henriques

### **Highlights:**

- There were monthly meetings during this fiscal year. There are questions about participation in these monthly meetings, leading to thoughts of changing the schedule or revising the mission.
- The Nature of Racism class was held monthly, with an average of 6-9 attending each session.
- In January 2018, the Emancipation Proclamation Pageant was held. It was revised to attract more attendance. If it continues, we propose to do more outreach to younger folks in our congregation and in the community.
- Attendance at the Chicago Sinfonietta was encouraged, in cooperation with the First U Men's Group.
- In April, we showed the movie, From Montgomery to Memphis on the 50th Anniversary of King's death. A First Forum on the race/class inequities in the Cook County Assessor's Office was also held, featuring research by Professor Chris Berry.
- In May, a "Spring Fling" was held, with an emphasis on multigenerational, multiracial and multicultural activities and planning. The party, a substitute for past Unity Parties needs additional planning and the setting of a date earlier with the office because of calendar conflicts.
- The RJTF is proposing that its annual Multiracial Unity Award go to Faith in Place this year.

- A special Nature of Racism class was held on the proposed UUA 8th Principle. Other members of RFTF are involved in discussing the 8th Principle.
- Members of the RJTF and other First UU members and friends have attended workshops at other venues, including University Church and other UU churches in the Chicago area. This is an effort to learn from others and bring back to First U new ideas for racial justice.
- Films and other activities about multiracial multicultural unity have been promoted.

We THANK others who have helped the RJTF this year: Ellen LaRue, Marie Cobbs, Lorraine Richardson, Anita Orlikoff, Margie Gonwa, Roberta Lammers Campbell, Nick Shifrar, Ivan Lappin, Chris Berry, and Mike Knowles (who kept our dates organized!).

**Ideas for the future:**

- Should the RJTF become a chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus?
- How can we recruit more young adults for this work?
- How can we reach more students?
- Should we pay homage to other historical events involving multiracial efforts?
- How can we establish an official church budget item for our Social Justice work?
- How can we encourage more folks to participate in the management of the Social Justice Table on Sunday after service?

**Thank You:** The committee wishes to thank Ellen LaRue, Marie Cobbs, Lorraine Richardson, Anita Orlikoff, Margie Gonwa, Roberta Lammers-Campbell, Nick Shifrar, Ivan Lappin, Chris Berry, and Mike Knowles who kept our dates organized.

**Plans:** This coming year, one of our most important decisions will be to discuss the feasibility of becoming a chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus. Another idea which we find important is to recruit more young adults to anti-racist/anti-oppression work, by, for example, reaching out to the U of Chicago campus. Finally, we will be discussing adding to our historical celebrations the Victory at Gettysburg; VE/VJ day honoring the multiracial, anti-racist nature of World War 2; the Chicago Labor History celebration of May Day; and Appomattox Day, celebrating the surrender of the Confederate States of America.]

**Help Wanted:** Reinstating a budget to underwrite our expenses which presently come out of pocket and having more support for our key events from the congregation at large and the overall Hyde Park community.

**Opportunities for new friends and members:** By coming to our potluck dinners, signing up at the Social Justice Council table, taking part in the Emancipation Proclamation pageant, and taking part in our varied multiracial unity outings. The Racial Justice Task Force welcomes those, both members and friends of First U and community members interested in using multiracial unity in opposing all forms of racism.

**Contact:** Kennie James at 773-752-4019 or Finley Campbell at [FinleyCampbell5222@comcast.net](mailto:FinleyCampbell5222@comcast.net).

## Nominating Committee

By Lisa Christensen Gee, Jean Hester, John Saphir

The Nominating Committee submits this slate of candidates for terms beginning July 1, 2018. Election will take place at the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, May 20, 2018, when nominations may also be offered from the floor.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term ends</b>
<i>Officers of the Congregation*</i>		
President	Betty Holcomb**	6-30-19
Vice President	Christine Harrell	6-30-19
<i>Board Members</i>		
Trustee	Kristin Faust	6-30-21
Trustee	Christine Harrell	6-30-21
Trustee	Ellen LaRue	6-30-21
Trustee (filling vacated seat)	Beverly Bennett**	6-30-19
Trustee (filling vacated seat)	Betty Holcomb**	6-30-19
Alternate Trustee	Amos Biggers	6-30-19
<i>Council Chairs</i>		
Program Council Co-Chair	Cindy Pardo**	6-30-19
Program Council Co-Chair	Cheryl Wegner	6-30-19
Religious Ed. Council Chair	Alina Biggers**	6-30-19
Social Justice Council Chair	Evan Freund	6-30-19
<i>Nominating Committee</i>		
Member	Kris Barker	6-30-19
Member	Lisa Christensen Gee	6-30-19
Member	Lisa Martin-Eatinger	6-30-19

Trustees serve for three-year terms. Dates when the terms of continuing trustees will expire:

- *June 30, 2020*: Joe Harrington, John Martin-Eatinger

\* Only continuing and incoming trustees are eligible to serve as President or Vice President. Terms of both offices last one year, but incumbents are eligible for re-election if their terms as trustees continue beyond June this year.

\*\* Denotes a nomination that was not included in the initial report of the committee and that will be made from the floor

Respectfully submitted,

2017-18 Nominating Committee: Lisa Christensen Gee, Lisa Martin-Eatinger, John Saphir

## **BIOGRAPHIES, 2018 SLATE OF CANDIDATES**

### **Betty Holcomb, President & Trustee**

Betty Holcomb's journey to Unitarian Universalism began in college at Northern Illinois University, where she experienced diverse spiritual growth going to a Methodist church different from the black sect (The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church) where she was raised. She officially came to Unitarian Universalism in 1974 to give her children a religious upbringing without "fire and brimstone." She has been a member of three congregations: Columbia, MO., Deerfield, IL and now, First Unitarian Church of Chicago, her spiritual home. Currently her partner-in-life, Reginald K. Rush, her two children, Walter A. "Butch" Anderson, Jr., Jala L. Anderson, and her granddaughter, Phoenix Rose, and grandson, Careel Rush, occupy her emotional heart. Her social action efforts are occupied by ranting for reproductive, gender, and racial justice.

### **Christine Harrell, Vice President & Trustee**

Christine Harrell became a member of First Unitarian in 2013. She has served as alternate trustee of the Board since July 2016. Previously, she participated in the Committee on Ministry and volunteered at the Talent Auction. She also served on the search teams for the Director of Religious Education and Membership Coordinator. She currently is the coordinator of the Young Adult Group as well as a Worship Associate. Christine loves First Unitarian's diversity, welcoming spirit, and commitment to social justice. Born and raised in Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood, Christine now lives in Bronzeville with her three cats: Francis, Vinnie and Salma.

### **Kristin Faust, Trustee**

Kristin Faust joined First U in 1986 and is pleased to be back in Chicago after living and working elsewhere from 1999-2014. Kristin grew up in a racially and economically integrated neighborhood in Sacramento, California, an experience which shapes her to this day and has led her through a 25-year career of investing capital in our country's low-income communities to produce affordable housing, successful entrepreneurs, and neighborhoods that are good places to live. She is currently the President of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago whose mission is to help families live in affordable homes, improve their lives and strengthen their neighborhoods. Her extensive career in community development works includes serving in executive positions at Partners for the Common Good, Enterprise Community Loan Fund, California State Treasurer, Real Estate and Community Development at the Nehemiah Corporation of California, the LaSalle National Bank in Chicago, and starting her own consulting business.

Kristin received a BA from Brown University and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is a founding member of the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders. She serves on the Board of NeighborWorks Capital. She is a co-founder of the National Community Development Lending School sponsored annually by the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank. She also serves as an instructor with the NeighborWorks America National Training Institute. She also serves as a member of the UUA Socially Responsible Investment Committee. She currently lives with her daughter, Sojourner, in the South Loop.

### **Ellen LaRue, Trustee**

Graduate school brought Ellen from Michigan to Chicago. She taught math for a number of years, trained as an electronic tech, and worked for many scientists at the University of Chicago and Argonne National Lab. She has found a lot to do and be part of at First U, including teaching religious education, serving on the Board of Trustees, participating in the Environmental Task Force, Global Studies Group, and Green Sanctuary Group, plus many other opportunities to volunteer. Out in the world, most of her participation has been environmental and social justice oriented. She lives in South Shore.

### **Beverly Bennett, Trustee**

Beverly Bennett received her doctoral degree in Adult Continuing Education. She is a resident of Hyde Park and has been a member of First Unitarian Church of Chicago for 18 years. She has served as a Worship Associate, choir member, Religious Education Committee member and as a guest speaker, giving two sermons in 2014. She has received numerous awards as a principal in the Chicago Public Schools, including the CPS Outstanding Leadership Award and the Cook County Board of Commissioners Award. As a single parent, she has had the support of family and friends to assist in raising her daughter, Paige. Dr. Bennett believes the religious education program at First Unitarian has played a very significant role in her daughter's growing years. She participates in the community by serving on the University of Chicago Service League Board and the Women's Board of the DuSable Museum. After appointment to fill the remaining eight months of a vacated term on the Board of Trustees in 2015-16, she was elected to a three-year term for 2016-2019. Although her board service was interrupted by medical issues during the 2018-19 church year, she is ready to return to her previous seat and eager to resume her service for First Unitarian.

### **Amos Biggers, Alternate Trustee**

(Bio to come)

### **Cindy Pardo, Program Council Co-Chair**

(Bio to come)

### **Cheryl Wegner, Program Council Co-Chair**

Years ago, Cheryl took an online test called "What is your religion?" It told her she was 100% Unitarian Universalist and 90% Neopagan. So, she tried them both out and liked them both. She and her daughter visited First Unitarian for the first time in December 2001. As it happened, it was the Sunday of the holiday pageant. As they stood there kind of tentatively, Colleen Grogan swooped down on us, said "We need shepherds," and whisked her then 8-year-old daughter away. She knew then that this was my kind of place (her daughter wasn't so sure!). Over the years, Cheryl has served a 3-year term on the Religious Education Council, acted as leader of the Earth-Based Group of the Spiritual Pluralism Project, and taught Sunday school for a few years. Recently, she has been attending the UU Christian group (still not a Christian, though), has helped resurrect the Adult Education Committee, has organized the annual auction (with a lot

of help), and has served as the Program Council co-chair for the past year. She thinks she has the energy to do it for another year.

**Alina Biggers, Religious Education Chair**

(Bio to come)

**Evan Freund, Social Justice Chair**

Evan Freund is an accomplished health services executive and consultant and pleased to continue in the role of Social Justice Chair at First U for another year. He served as Executive Director and COO of ambulatory medical care and HMO delivery systems in Chicago for over twenty-five years, where he focused on the development of services for underserved populations—urban and rural. He holds an MA from the University of Minnesota in Political Science/Public Administration, and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Evan has been head of the Criminal Justice Task Force at First Unitarian Church of Chicago since 2016, and a board member of Freereentry.org. Evan has extensive experience consulting charities (managing strategic planning and board development projects) and serving in many volunteer capacities, including as a volunteer employment strategist at the CARA Program, Chair of the Board of Directors of Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, and board member of Citizens for Global Solutions. Evan has been married for 48 years to Nan Freund, an educational therapist, has two married adult sons, and two grandchildren.

**Kris Barker, Member of Nominating Committee**

Kris Barker has been a member of First Unitarian Church for 15 years. She came to Chicago with her husband Lee and her daughter Ava (age 15) from Pasadena, California in 2003. She has served the church in several capacities over the years, including co-chair of the Religious Education Council, chair of the Senior Ministerial Search Committee, and as a member of the Board of Trustees. She has also taught in the Sunday School Program, served on the Mission Statement Task Force, and the Ken Schug Renovation Task Force. She is a registered Landscape Architect and owner and partner at Barker Evans Landscape Architecture, LLC. B.E.L.A. is an award-winning design studio serving clients throughout the Midwest and West on a range of projects, including commercial, institutional and residential endeavors.

**Lisa Christensen Gee, Member of Nominating Committee**

Lisa Christensen Gee has been coming to First Unitarian since 2012. She loves singing with the choir, working with the Worship Arts Committee, participating in adult education courses, and coordinating dance pieces for church pageants and events. She has served on the Nomination Committee for three years and is currently co-chairing the church's Capital Campaign. Lisa and her husband Matt live in Hyde Park where she works from home as an advocate for fair tax policies and Matt runs his business doing data analysis for social good.

**Lisa Martin-Eatinger, Member of Nominating Committee**

(Bio to come)

## **Election of Delegates to Denominational Meetings**

All of the people named below were duly nominated by petition of at least 15 members to serve as delegates. The Parish Clerk has verified that all nominees and signers are members who are eligible to serve and to sign, respectively.

### **2018 Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association Kansas City, Missouri, June 20**

The congregation is entitled to four lay delegates to represent it at the annual business meeting of the MidAmerica Region. The nominees:

Betty Holcomb  
Allan Lindrup  
Joan Pederson  
Bette Sikes

### **2018 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association Kansas City, Missouri, June 20–24**

The congregation is entitled to four lay delegates to represent it at General Assembly. The nominees:

Betty Holcomb  
Allan Lindrup  
Joan Pederson  
Bette Sikes

**Note:** Two people were nominated by petition to represent the congregation as lay delegates to the **2018 Annual Meeting of the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council on May 12 in Palatine, Illinois**. The congregation was entitled to four lay delegates. Because there was no contest, the Board of Trustees appointed both nominees: **Margot Horn** (who was elected to the CAUUC board) and **Joan Pederson**. In keeping with CAUUC bylaws, which allow any member of a congregation attending the annual meeting to represent their congregation up to the maximum lay delegates allowed unless the congregation has notified CAUUC in advance that that person may not do so, **Marie Cobbs** also served as a delegate.

## **Proposed Bylaw Revisions**

The Board of Trustees proposes revisions of two parts of our Bylaws: one affecting the date of the Annual Meeting, the other revision the article on church organizations.

Below is an introduction to each of the two affected parts, including history of consideration, purpose, and the proposed final text. The mark-up of the existing text appears after both new parts, showing all additions and deletions yielding the proposed new text.

The texts of these proposed parts have not yet been revised to match the clearer style of recent bylaw amendments. That work will be completed during the final stage of bylaw revision, when all substantive matters have been addressed. Several parts of the bylaws remain to be addressed before then.

Voting today will consider the two parts separately.

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### **BYLAWS AMENDMENT: Date of Annual Meeting**

Revision approved April 19, 2018 for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting by the Board of Trustees for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting; presented in an earlier form and discussed at Bylaws Hearing on March 31, 2018; initially proposed to the Board of Trustees by the Bylaws Committee on March 15, 2018.

Purpose: To allow the Annual Meeting to occur a few weeks earlier or later than the present restriction allows.

Background: With Memorial Day weekend ruled out, and with Sundays after church the time best able to draw appropriate attendance, only one date is feasible most years: the same date as a recurring event—the annual Commencement ceremony of Meadville Lombard Theological School—that needs the space 90 minutes after the earliest moment when the Annual Meeting can begin.

### **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held each year preferably on a Friday evening or on a Sunday. It shall be held on or after May 1 but no later than June 15. The Trustees, no later than the previous January, shall set the date of the Annual Meeting and shall publish that date by the end of February.

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### **BYLAWS AMENDMENT: Revised Article on Organizations**

Revision approved April 19, 2018 by the Board of Trustees for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting; presented in an earlier form and discussed at Bylaws Hearing on March 31, 2018; initially proposed to the Board of Trustees by the Bylaws Committee on March 15, 2018.

**Purpose:** To clarify and, it is hoped, to increase adherence to Article VII of the bylaws by moving references to particular organizations to the Policy Manual or, in the case of two that have long gone unused, to remove them from current governance documents entirely, as designated below.

## **ARTICLE VII: ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Section 1. Councils**

- a. A new Council may be created, or an existing Council dissolved by the congregation. Any resolution creating a new Council shall specify its name, area of concern, membership, and the term of office of its Chair or membership, whichever shall be elected by the Society.
- b. Each Council shall coordinate for the Society an extensive area of concern that is substantially beyond the scope of a single committee. Committees and church organizations that address matters within a Council's area of concern shall be represented upon it and/or shall include at least one of its members.
- c. Each Council shall propose policies to the Trustees and establish priorities and goals regarding the council's area of concern, and shall initiate, facilitate, and coordinate activities consistent with them.
- d. Each Council shall meet at least quarterly. Each shall report to the Trustees quarterly, to the Society at the Annual Meeting, and at other times as directed by the Trustees or the Society.
- e. Either the Chair or Co-chairs of each Council shall be elected by the Society.
- f. Each Council shall be accountable to the Trustees for matters of policy and finance and to the Society for matters of priorities, goals, and activities.

### **Section 2. Committees**

- a. Ongoing Committees may be established by the Trustees and the Councils to carry out the continuing affairs of the Society. In establishing an Ongoing Committee, its creating body shall specify its name, purpose, and procedures for reporting. The creating body shall annually appoint the Chair and members of each Ongoing Committee. Ongoing Committees may form subcommittees outside of their own memberships.
- b. Special Committees may be created for specified purposes and for specified periods of time by the Trustees and the Councils. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, the Chair and membership of each Special Committee shall be appointed by its creating body. In creating a Special Committee, the body shall specify its name, task, duration, and procedures for reporting.

### **Section 3. Other Church Organizations**

A group of members meeting regularly for some common purpose may petition the Program Council for recognition as a church organization. Recognition is at the discretion of the appropriate Council. Such recognition will carry with it representation on the appropriate Council and the privilege of meeting on the church premises. All church organizations shall be open to all members of the Society sharing their concerns and purposes.

## Revisions Yielding the Proposed Bylaw Revisions Above

Proposed deletions are ~~lined out~~. Proposed insertions are underlined.

### ARTICLE V: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

**Section 1.** The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held each year preferably on a Friday evening or on a Sunday. It shall be held on or after May ~~15~~ but no later than June ~~15~~. The Trustees, no later than the previous January, shall set the date of the Annual Meeting and shall publish that date by the end of February.

### ARTICLE VII: ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES

#### Section 1. Councils

- ~~fa.~~ A new Council may be created, or an existing Council dissolved by ~~amendment of these bylaws~~ the congregation. Any ~~amendment~~ resolution creating a new Council shall specify its name, area of concern, membership, and the term of office of its Chair or membership, whichever shall be elected by the Society.
- ~~ab.~~ Each Council shall coordinate for the Society an extensive area of concern that is substantially beyond the scope of a single committee. Committees and church organizations that address matters within a Council's area of concern shall be represented upon it and/or shall include at least one of its members.
- ~~bc.~~ Each Council shall propose policies to the Trustees and establish priorities and goals regarding the council's area of concern, and shall initiate, facilitate, and coordinate activities consistent with them.
- ~~ed.~~ Each Council shall meet at least quarterly. Each shall report to the Trustees quarterly, to the Society at the Annual Meeting, and at other times as directed by the Trustees or the Society.
- ~~de.~~ Either the Chair or Co-chairs ~~the membership~~ of each Council shall be elected by the Society.
- ~~ef.~~ Each Council shall be accountable to the Trustees for matters of policy and finance and to the Society for matters of priorities, goals, and activities.

#### ~~Section 2. Program Council [PROPOSAL: Move to the Policy Manual]~~

- ~~a.~~ The area of concern of the Program Council shall be coordination of programs throughout the Society.
- ~~b.~~ The Program Council shall consist of a regular designee from each committee or organization dealing with program, including the Councils of the Society. The Senior Minister, the Minister for and/or the Director of Religious Education, and directors of associated programs shall be ex officio members.
- ~~c.~~ The Program Council Chair shall be a member of the Society elected by the Society to serve no more than three consecutive one year terms.

#### ~~Section 3. Religious Education Council [PROPOSAL: Move to the Policy Manual]~~

- ~~a.~~ The area of concern of the Religious Education Council shall be religious education in the Society. The Council shall oversee the religious education program.
- ~~b.~~ The Religious Education Council shall consist of a regular representative of each of the committees affiliated with it and interested members and friends of the Society. The Senior Minister, the Minister for and/or the Director of Religious Education, and one Trustee appointed by the Trustees shall serve as ex officio members.
- ~~c.~~ The Religious Education Council Chair shall be a member of the Society elected by the Society and may serve no more than three consecutive one year terms. The Religious Education Council shall have the power to fill a vacancy in the Religious Education Council Chair until the next Annual Meeting of the Society.

#### **Section 4. Social Justice Council [PROPOSAL: Move to the Policy Manual]**

- a. ~~The area of concern of the Social Justice Council shall be social justice concerns of the Society.~~
- b. ~~The Social Justice Council shall consist of a regular representative of each of the committees (often called task forces) affiliated with it and interested members and friends of the Society. The Senior Minister, any other minister of the Society charged with responsibilities regarding social justice, and one Trustee appointed by the Trustees shall serve as ex officio members.~~
- c. ~~The Social Justice Council Chair shall be a member of the Society elected by the Society and may serve no more than three consecutive one year terms. The Social Justice Council shall have the power to fill a vacancy in the Social Justice Council Chair until the next Annual Meeting of the Society.~~

#### **Section 52. Committees**

- a. Standing Ongoing Committees may be established by the Trustees and the Councils to carry out the continuing affairs of the Society. In establishing an Standing Ongoing Committee, its creating body shall specify its name, purpose, and procedures for reporting. The creating body shall annually appoint the Chair and members of each Standing Ongoing Committee. Standing Ongoing Committees may form subcommittees outside of their own memberships.
- b. Special Committees may be created for specified purposes and for specified periods of time by the Trustees and the Councils. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, the Chair and membership of each Special Committee shall be appointed by its creating body. In creating a Special Committee, the body shall specify its name, task, duration, and procedures for reporting.

#### **Section 6. The Committee on Congregational Participation [PROPOSAL: Delete entirely]**

- a. ~~The Committee on Congregational Participation shall foster committee activity by promoting awareness of opportunities for volunteer service in the Society, by enlisting volunteers to serve as members and chairs of committees, and by publicly honoring volunteers who serve the Society.~~
- b. ~~The Committee on Congregational Participation shall consist of the President Elect, who shall serve as its Chair, and the Chairs of the Councils of the Society.~~
- c. ~~The Committee on Congregational Participation shall propose Chairs and members for each committee for approval by its creating body.~~
- d. ~~The Committee on Congregational Participation shall report quarterly to the Trustees regarding the levels of activity of the committees and their members.~~
- e. ~~The Committee on Congregational Participation shall propose to the Trustees a member to fill a vacancy in the Program Council Chair until the next Annual Meeting of the Society.~~

#### **Section 73. Other Church Organizations**

A group of members meeting regularly for some common purpose may petition the Program Council for recognition as a ~~C~~church ~~O~~rganization. Recognition is at the discretion of the ~~Program~~ appropriate Council. Such recognition will carry with it representation on the appropriate Council and the privilege of meeting on the church premises. All church organizations shall be open to all members of the Society sharing their concerns and purposes.

#### **Section 8. Associated Programs [PROPOSAL: Delete entirely]**

- a. ~~From time to time the Society may approve granting to an existing church program or to a new program the authority to set up an organizational structure and a staff separate from those of the Society. Such programs shall be known as Associated Programs. The purpose of these programs is to enable the Society to enhance and enrich the life of the community.~~
- b. ~~The Trustees shall bear the legal and financial responsibility for Associated Programs. For each such program they shall appoint a body which shall supervise its operation, staffing, and finances. This body shall report regularly to the Trustees, which in turn shall report at least annually on these matters to the Society.~~
- c.