

Issue

February 2022

The Foreword



UU AMHERST

*Fostering Justice
and Compassion*

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
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Minister Emerita

Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

MINISTER'S HOURS

Rev. Michelle continues to work primarily from home. She is just a call or email away, except for Mondays (off) and Fridays (writing & study).

Our Covenant

*Together we promise:
To gather in compassionate community,
To celebrate diversity of thought and unity of spirit;
And to seek wholeness for ourselves, our children, and our world.*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY AT 10:30 AM

Sunday services continue to be virtual only. A link to our YouTube channel is available on our website. You can view the recorded service anytime on the channel. Invite friends and family to church!

This month we lift up and engage what it means to Widen the Circle. Who is in the circle? Who is left outside? Whose voices are being heard, or not? How can we center marginalized voices? Are we capable of holding the circle without taking center stage? These and other questions invite us into deeper reflection.

February 6 Dance For the Dead Rev. Tet Gallardo, Philippines
The Nobel Prize scientist Max Planck said, "Science advances one funeral at a time." Rev. Tet Gallardo lost her mother to Covid-19 last April. The pandemic has been exacting on her mental health especially while trying to run a church of 25 communities in a very important transition time in church history and in the world. She was only elected in 2019. It is a time of VUCA - volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. And the only thing to do is dance. And dance has been a crucial part of Filipino culture. She's been dancing for a while now. See full bio on page 2.

February 13 Side With Love
This service, created by Side with Love, is the culmination of the 30 Days of Love campaign for 2022.

February 20 Cinema Sunday - (a week late) Rev. Michelle
Join us as we view the documentary, *The Economics of Happiness*.

February 27 The Call to Faithful Membership Rev. Michelle
There is more to faithful membership than simply signing the Membership Book and making a contribution of record. Faithful membership is a sacred calling. It challenges us to align with our deepest values and to demonstrate that alignment in beloved



MINISTER'S CORNER

Happy Imbolc! Long before there was Groundhog's Day, people around the world noted the lengthening days and celebrated the nearly imperceptible rebirth of the Earth. The seeds may lie dormant under a blanket of snow, but the wheel can be trusted to turn toward spring and new life.

I note in myself the stirring of new ideas and creativity. The deep slumber of January is over and I can begin to imagine the coming season of growth. Everything has its time and season, and it is time to move into a season of Discovery, Discernment, and Design with regard to our future as a beloved community. We know where we've been, but where are we going? How will we get there? What will we carry forward? What belongs to another time? The coming year is our opportunity to experience Church in 3-D!

Look to the news in Faith Development for more context and be ready to bring your whole self to the health and growth of our beloved community. We've been doing the work of discovery and discernment with regard to our facilities - now it's time to apply these same exciting processes to the embodiment of the UU Church of Amherst - US! We are the church - and our church will be a reflection of what we love and what we value. I look forward to your enthusiastic participation as we uncover who we are becoming.

Warmly,
Rev. Michelle

February Share-the-Plate

Throughout the month of February we will share the offering to support the work of the 25 UU congregations in the Philippines. In December 2021 the Philippines were hit by a category five typhoon, known internationally as Typhoon Rai, or Typhoon Odette in the Philippines. Lives were lost, homes and farms were destroyed, and the process of rebuilding has been slowed by the pandemic. The 25 UU churches under the ministry of Rev. Tet Gallardo have struggled to rebuild and care for those whose lives are still impacted by the effects of the typhoon. We can help. Simply write a check to UU Amherst with "Philippines" in the memo line. All designated donations during February will go to support the work these UU churches are doing in their communities. Thank you in advance for your generosity and care. If viewing the newsletter online, click [here](#) to view photos.

Rev. Tet Gallardo Bio

Rev. Tet Gallardo is the President of the UU Church of the Philippines which has 20 congregations and 5 fellowships. 95% of their members are struggling farmers or small farm owners. Her ministry has been focused on climate action, democratic governance, and leadership development. She was the Balazs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry in 2016-17 and has been a social justice worker since her teens as part of the bloodless people power revolution that toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. Since then she has supported 40 NGOs with different advocacies for the environment, women and reproductive rights, farmers, and other social justice work in Nepal, Burundi, Myanmar, East Timor, Hong Kong, and Standing Rock.

BOARD REPORT

Dear Friends,

An increase in COVID at the end of December led to closing the church for the month of January. We followed the guidelines of the medical team and what science was telling us. It was not an easy decision but one we made for the well-being of our members. Hopefully we will be able to re-evaluate soon and perhaps reopen to some in-person events. We were at a 20% infection rate on Erie County when the decision was made.



The facilities focus group has completed its initial task with the architects. Bruce Becker and Don Tucker will take the helm into the next phase.

In alignment with the idea of a future capital campaign, we have opened a brokerage account to invest in our future capital improvement needs. We plan to take 5% of revenue and invest it. If you would like to consider a direct donation to the capital fund, write a check to UU Amherst and in the memo line designate capital fund. This is not in competition with the Endowment. It is just wisely using our resources to maximize our return while keeping the money available as needed. Banks were offering less than a ½ % while charging us for our checking. We will be needing the Endowment's support down the road, so please consider a contribution.

For too long, we have band-aided problem areas or ignored them and now we are in rough shape (boilers from 1954, aging furnaces in the day care, and so much more). We are grateful to the architects and engineers for clarifying our mechanical condition. Now, the future is up to us!

Our technology Chalice Lighter grant is moving along slowly and steadily. Joce has needed to take the month of January off so there will be no home visits. If you are someone who has not been able to connect to church because you do not have internet or a device to access the internet, please let me know (Karen Thompson). If you know of someone who may not read the newsletter or be well connected to church and its members, please let us know. There are solutions available to you through our grant! We have no idea what the future holds. At the very least we will be virtual and at the very best, we will be hybrid (virtual and in person). The goal is to leave no one behind. This has been a good learning for our church. The good news is we were moving in the right direction. The Villages were the foundation and then the programs that were developed over Zoom enhanced that. The Chalice Lighter grant was timed perfectly. Supply chain has been a challenge and things are moving a little more slowly than preferred, but we are light years ahead of other churches. Thank you Les and the tech team!

The 3 foci are moving slowly due to COVID. The sign team has been meeting and trying to get quotes. Just like the rest of the world, we are dealing with people under stress and less available than we would prefer. They had a demonstration with one of the vendors on how the resolution of the electronic portion of the sign is impacted by the number of pixels. They have had a few quotes for the electrical line needed. The quotes are impacted by the bedrock we have. The trenching could be quite expensive. The task force is working hard to keep the project moving. In the interim, the old sign has been repaired. This is a temporary fix.

The facilities group has been very productive. The architect's reports are in and the leaders are working on next steps to bring in the whole congregational voice. This is challenging. You will be hearing more from them in the near future.

continued on next page

Continued from page 3

The Living Green team is postponing the festival until we have a better handle on the pandemic and know when we can have a large in-person event. They have been planning but the dates have been pushed forward. Stay tuned.

I hope that you weathered the recent snow storm well. The depth of snow was certainly a challenge. Getting our dog, Buddy, outdoors was a no go. He ventured over the lip of the garage entrance to find himself up to his neck. Our neighbor was kind enough to create a snow path dog run with his heavy-duty snow blower. We are very fortunate to be surrounded by amazing people... Please look around and see how many amazing people you have in your life as well as your church circle of friends, and reach out. We are on this life journey together and we are better for the companionship. I'm glad you are in my circle!

Stay well and be safe!

As always,
Karen Thompson, Chair
UU Amherst Board of Trustees



Karen Thompson



Don Tucker



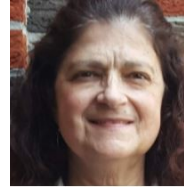
Bruce Becker



Linda Gardner



Emily Garrett



Laurie Kasnicki



Jeanine Moyer

Contributing to UU Amherst

1. The **Giving** option on the church website (uuamherst.org)
2. A NEW phone app "**GivePlus+**" for your phone
3. Texting a donation to phone # **833 987 1968**
4. Mailing a check [remember to fill in the Memo]
5. There is the traditional Sunday Plate
6. Don't forget Legacy Giving – in your will

REFUND THE PANTRY

TIRED OF
RETURNING
YOUR CANS?

email refundthepantry@gmail.com if you would like your bottles and cans to be picked up and brought to a bottle redemption center, with the money made donated to the amherst little free pantry!

The collection bins are being put away for the winter. However, Bob & Kathy Wack's granddaughter, Mariel Gousios, will continue to pick up members' CLEAN bottles & cans from their residences. If interested, contact her at refundthepantry@gmail.com.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

“Institutions in our society need reinventing. Time has come for a new dream. That’s what being a revolutionary is.” - Grace Lee Boggs



Dear members and friends,

Reverend Michelle and I have been meeting weekly for over 3 1/2 years. We talk in threes a lot. Do any of these combinations sound familiar? Streamlining, Simplicity, and Spaciousness. Belonging, Meaning, and Purpose. Relationship, Context, and Service. And questions. Always more questions. These come in threes, too. Maybe these three questions sound familiar: To whom or what are we responsible? What do we believe? Whom do we serve?

In our last in person service on January 2nd before January’s closure, Rev. Michelle said, “The only resolution you need to make is to slow down and live your life. . . Valuing unencumbered time is counter cultural. It’s just the kind of thing a church of groovy outliers would embrace. Thank goodness we found one another!” Now, as we resolve to embrace slowness, I am so pleased to introduce to you a year long FD program we have named **Church in 3-D: Discovery, Discernment, and Design.**

This latest Big Idea emerged from our involvement in the work of the Facilities Task Force over the last two years. As this task force has moved through their engagement with an architectural firm, the question of our future as a congregation has become more pronounced.

Our slow and thoughtful movement through this first trimester of Discovery will entail gathering answers to questions that will help us look at our Past, Present, and Future. How did you find the UU Church of Amherst? When have you found your connection to this community most valuable? How does your church community support your life? When you envision this place in the future, what does it look like? Who is here? What does it feel like? Who are we serving now? Who do we serve in the future?

We are beginning to assemble a Team of compilers to help us on this 3-D Journey of Faith Development. You all will be invited to think about these questions, and to share your answers. The invitation may come through your Village, your covenant group, your ministry team, from Rev. Michelle or myself, or some other way we haven’t thought of yet. We truly seek to hear as many voices as possible, in order to truthfully illuminate our collective essence. We will Discern what our answers have in common, and we will strive to Design our future reflect the shared values that we Discover.

In Service,
Angela Warren, UU Amherst Director of Faith Development
Angela’s days off are Monday and Friday.

Help When You Need It

This is a reminder that if you are experiencing financial hardship, you can reach out to Rev. Michelle, minister@uuamherst.org, for assistance from the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. This Fund is made possible by the generosity of fellow congregants, and just one more way we demonstrate that no one is alone. We care for one another. ‘

Don’t forget to call your minister!

With health privacy laws, hospitals no longer call churches to let us know when someone has been hospitalized – so it is up to you to contact us if you or someone you know is experiencing health challenges and may want to be contacted. When in doubt, call! Rev. Michelle can be reached on her cell at 716-499-8343.

FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: All church activity is now temporarily back to virtual. Zoom links for general church groups are published in the Weekly Update unless they are hosted on a private account. Zoom events taking place in the Zadmin, Zfd, or Zrev rooms are identified with the abbreviation. ***require passcode**

Tuesday, Feb 1st (monthly 1st Tues)
7:00 pm: Talk Back with Board

Friday, Feb 4th (monthly 1st Fri)
7:30 pm: Adult Story Hour* Zrev

Saturday, Feb 5th
11:30 am: 30 Days of Love Discussion*

Sunday, Feb 6th (monthly 1st Sun)
12:00 pm: Little Free Pantry Meeting* Zadmin

Tuesday, Feb 8th (monthly 2nd Tues)
7:00 pm: Board Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 9th (monthly 2nd Weds)
1:30 pm: Caring Team
7:00 pm: Covenant Group
7:30 pm: Green Justice Team* Zfd

Thursday, Feb 10th (monthly 2nd Thu)
7:00 pm: Kent Covenant Group Zadmin

Saturday, Feb 12th
11:30 am: 30 Days of Love Discussion*

Sunday, Feb 13th (monthly 2nd Sun)
11:30 am: Poetry as Practice D. Bofinger

Wednesday, Feb 16th (monthly 3rd Wed)
1:00 pm: 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group
5:00 pm: Finance Committee
7:00 pm: Bofinger Covenant Group D. Bofinger

Thursday, Feb 17th (monthly 3rd Thu)
7:00 pm: Ministry Council Zrev

Sunday, Feb 20th (monthly 3rd Sun)
11:30 am: FD Team Meeting

Sunday, Feb 27th (monthly last Sun)
12:00 pm : UU Amherst Book Group

Continued

RECURRING:

UU Universe-ity Sunrise Sessions continue
M-F, 8:30 am Zfd Link provided in Weekly Update

Sundays, Feb 6-27
10:30: Church service—watch on UU Amherst YouTube channel

Mondays, Feb 7-28
7:00 pm: Lighthearted Larches (2/14, 2/28)
D. Tucker
7:00 pm: Tulip Crabapple* Zadmin (weekly)
L. Marcus
7:30 pm: Marvelous Maples (2/14, 2/28)
D. Bofinger

Tuesdays, Feb 1-22
12:30 pm: Women's Group Lunch — Zoom

Wednesdays, Feb 2-23
10:30 am: Willow Village* Zadmin (2nd & 4th Weds: 2/9 & 2/23) J. Senders
7:00 pm: Sage Circle* Zfd (2nd & 4th Weds: 2/9 & 2/23) S. Christ
7:00 pm: Northtowns Village (2/16)

Thursdays, Feb 3-24
12:00 pm: Lunch with Friends* Zadmin (weekly)

Saturdays, Feb 5-26
9:30 am: Shared Caring Circle Zrev
7:00 pm: Birch Bunch* Zadmin (weekly)
V. Snider

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: administrator@uuamherst.org
For Newsletter: by 10:00 am on the 16th
For Website: two weeks prior to event
For All Church list serve: daily during the week.
For Weekly Update: Fridays by 10:00 am

Administrator/Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday—9:00 am to 2:00 pm



BECOME A CHALICE LIGHTER

A chalice lighter responds to three calls a year for contributions that are pooled to fund special grants for UU churches in the Central East Region (CER).

Contributions can be in any amount—\$20 or more per call is recommended, but whatever you can afford will be thankfully accepted. As our congregation is receiving a grant of \$20,000 to upgrade our technology, you can see how your contributions are valuable. Helping neighboring congregations to realize their dreams is a splendid way to cooperatively grow the faith. To sign up just go on line to: www.uua.org/central:east/programs/chalichelighters/cerclsignup



UU Amherst Book Club

We meet Sunday, January 30 at Noon to discuss the book *State of Terror* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny. This meeting will be via Zoom.

For February, we plan to read books by Hispanic authors. This is a topic month, so each participant can choose their own book, fiction or nonfiction. Watch the *Weekly Update* to see if the February 27 get-together will be virtual or in person in the church Dining Room.

Lending Library

Looking for a free book to read during the long winter evenings?

If you're at church for a service or meeting (when the church is open for in-person gathering), check out the Lending Library in the glass curio cabinet at the north end of the Emerson Room fellowship hall. Sign out whatever you'd like in the spiral notebook. Lending Library books tend toward spiritual themes, both fiction and non-fiction; sacred texts, memoirs, and best-practices guides.

(Secular novels and books about social justice issues can be found in the church Living Room on the bookshelves. These are for sale for a free-will donation that benefits the Amherst Little Free Pantry.)

Adult Story Hour

Friday, February 4, 2022 7:30 pm, Via Zoom

We resume the relaxing and thought-provoking practice of listening as a story is read. We'll pick up where we left off with the story of Job as creatively shared by David Bumbaugh in his book, *The Education of God*.

Zoom Link

Link is clickable if viewing the newsletter online <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82779773140?pwd=SIBEcmdheGE5OW1aZXhORkYySGtQdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 7977 3140

Passcode: Story

Ministry Council

The Ministry Council meets via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you'd like to attend the meeting, contact Rev. Michelle for the Zoom link. Any proposals for activities should be sent to Rev. Michelle (minister@uuamherst.org) at least one week prior to the next Council meeting, and a representative from the proposing group must attend the meeting to answer questions and help the Council say 'yes' to your idea.



Computer Technical Support for UU Amherst Members

Joce Kofke is our technical support person who will help you with computer issues—anything from how to get on Zoom to connecting your laptop to a printer. To set up an

appointment, email them* at tech@uuamherst.org. If you don't have email, call Elaine in the Business office at 634-3010 and she will provide Joce with your contact information.

*Joce's pronouns are they/them

THEATER LOVERS –Marie Evans

Barring another Greek-letter variant causing postponement or cancellation, I'm planning a **group outing** to Jewish Repertory Theatre in Getzville for **Sunday, February 20**. The show is at **2:00 pm**, and we'll go to dinner together (pay-your-own-way) at 4:00 pm at Lebro's.

Contact me if you'd like to be included, and also if you plan to attend a different performance (Thursdays, Saturdays or Sundays). Individual discount order forms are available, which I can send by email or postal mail. Box office price is \$42; we're able to order tickets at \$30 each, compliments of Hadassah Buffalo.

THE TREASURER, by MAX POSNER, Directed by Saul Elkin, running February 3-27. This darkly funny, sharply intimate portrait chronicles the strained ties between a son and his aging mother. In the wake of her husband's death Ida Armstrong is broke, lonely and fading fast. After spending a large chunk of her children's money, her estranged son is forced to take on the role of The Treasurer: an arrangement that becomes untenable the more he questions his devotion to her. A hit in New York City and across the country, this poetic and thought-provoking show explores the bonds and divisions of families later in life, as well the possibilities of forgiveness and change.

-Marie Evans (evans.marie@gmail.com, 716-636-5770)

ENDOWMENT TRUST

We received a significant donation this week (January 13) and wish to share the background with you. The following email letter (Subject: Surprise Gift from a Member from 1972-1975) was received by our Office Administrator on December 21:

Members of UU Church of Amherst,

Within the next 2 weeks you will be receiving a \$3,000 check from Vanguard Charitable in our name. This is a ONE – TIME gift for your endowment fund.

The first UU Church we joined was your church in 1972 when Paul Treat II was the minister. We left in 1975 when Felix Lyon was the minister. We very much enjoyed being members of your church, but we moved because I did not like my job.

I became a memo writer. I have written several memos that may be of interest to you (they are attached). I have written many more memos on our life.

In August 2019 my wife Judy was put in Memory Care in the building I am living in. She has Alzheimer's. I have written her story with a series of memos. I could not have designed a better memory care unit.

About 10+ years ago I was in your area and stopped at the church. I talked to Hugo Radt, who was the President of the Board, if I remember correctly.

I am a retired Engineer. The best project I designed was the Thanksgiving Dinner at your church in 1972 (150 people attended) and in 1973 (175 people attended) at your church. It worked very well. No one had to wait for their food, and we started on time (2:30pm).

I wish you the best. I hope you continue to prosper and grow.

Dick Ottman, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110

Thank you to Mr. Ottman, and to our predecessors for bringing about the beloved community that makes up our congregation and for having the foresight to create this Endowment.

-Marie Evans, Chair, for Endowment Trustees Joe Rautenstrauch, Elaine Cusker, Lauraine Marcus and John Thompson



COVID CORNER

Welcome to 2022! As many of you know, I love my cloth masks. They fit well, are comfortable, easy to put on and take off...and are no longer the best choice for Covid prevention. If everyone wore properly fitted cloth masks it might still be safe to wear them but...we all know there are many out there who won't wear a mask or won't wear it properly. So, how do we protect ourselves in this rapidly changing Covid world?

If everyone wore a properly fitted and positioned surgical mask there would be less transmission of the virus. A better choice would be a properly fitted and worn N95 or

KN95 masks. These masks not only catch the virus if you are expelling it but will trap 95+% of the virus when you inhale. They were designed to help prevent the transmission of TB in the 1980s/1990s when it was running rampant during the AIDS crisis. Later, contractors used the technology in dusty environments to prevent inhaling contaminated particles (that's why some masks have one way valves, they were not concerned with what was exhaled and the valve made it easier to breathe).

The ease with which the Omicron variant is transmitted and infects people, including vaccinated individuals, is causing a larger number of people in the hospitals, mainly because there are many unvaccinated or under vaccinated people in the community developing severe disease. Some fully vaccinated people also need hospital care, usually comprised individuals. We have a lot of compromised individuals in our church community, some who don't even realize they are medically compromised. That is why the Medical Task Force advised Church Leadership to go remote and insist on KN95 or better masks being worn by those individuals who need to enter the church. When will we return to in church activities? It will depend on the transmission rates in the community, the availability of at home testing, and local vaccination and transmission rates.

Am I not throwing away my cloth masks? No, I will wear them over my KN95 masks when I have to be indoors with people outside my "pod." They will serve to protect my KN95 mask so they don't need to be replaced as often.

Until the Covid situation changes for the better, enjoy virtual church and be Covid Smart.

—Barbara Gauger Kent

COMMITTEE ON MISSION

Our members are excited as we look forward to our first gathering with the Amherst Little Free Pantry team at their regular meeting, February 6th. We understand that the formation of their mission statement has already begun thanks to Doreen Park. We are anxious to hear it, as we also introduce the Circle Way of communicating.

We continue to try finding a meeting date with the Board of Trustees that is mutually agreeable. We are already missing our committee member, Diane Bofinger, who is enjoying the warmth and sunshine of Texas. Fortunately we are all well-rehearsed in using Zoom, so she will still be present at all our gatherings.

"Given sincerity, there will be enlightenment" - The Doctrine of the Mean, 200 B.C.E.
Suzanne Christ, CoM Chair



CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER RECIPES Provided by Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham

Christine Boczarska and Faith Pham are sisters and dedicated members of our Caring For One Another group. They provide occasional meals to church members on an as-needed basis. With the meal they generally include a “goodie bag” and a card on behalf of the Caring Group. Each month you’ll find one of their healthy recipes here in *The Foreword* often incorporating fresh vegetables and even gluten-free.

Brown-Butter Orzo with Butternut Squash

By Melissa Clark, *New York Times*

4 tbsp unsalted butter
3/4 cup thinly sliced shallots (2-3) or use onion or leek
1 small (2 lb) butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 3/4” cubes (3 cups)
1 tbsp finely chopped sage or 2 tsp chopped rosemary or marjoram plus more for serving
1 tsp fine sea salt or table salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
3 cups vegetable or chicken stock
1 1/2 cups uncooked orzo
1 lemon, zested and halved
2 tbsp grated Parmesan
1/2 cup whole milk ricotta (optional)



In a Dutch oven or large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Cook, swirling occasionally, until the foam subsides, the milk solids turn golden brown, and it smells nutty and toasty, 3-4 minutes. (Watch carefully to see that it doesn’t burn.)

Stir in shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, until slightly softened, about 2 minutes. Add squash, sage, a large pinch of salt, black pepper and red pepper flakes. Cook until squash is golden at the edges and begins to soften, 12-17 minutes. Add stock and bring to a simmer. Stir in orzo, lemon zest, and 1 tsp salt. Cover and simmer over medium-low heat until orzo is just tender and most of the liquid is absorbed, 12-18 minutes, stirring once or twice. Remove pan from heat and stir in Parmesan. Dollop with ricotta if using.

AMHERST LITTLE FREE PANTRY

"Category of the Month" : Large Boxes of Cereal

The Pantry does not distribute OTC medication or first aid supplies for liability reasons. Pantry donations can be placed in the two large clear bins in the back of the church outside the main entrance. Financial contributions can be made online at the church website, uuamherst.org, by clicking the Donate button and selecting the Pantry option. Checks can also be sent to UUCA, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221. Please write “Pantry” in the Memo line. For questions or comments please email amherstlittlefreepantry@uuamherst.org.

NOMINATING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Do you have ideas for ways to improve the UUCA? Are you looking for new ways to get involved in the work of the church? Would you like to get to know people here better, and maybe make a new long-lasting friendship? Do you have talent and vision and need new ways to express it? **Nominate yourself for a leadership position in the UUCA!** Or maybe you know someone who would be a great candidate to serve the church: nominate them!

There are three leadership groups where nominations are requested, with elections to be held at the annual congregational meeting. Consider which might be best for you:

Board of Trustees

There are few times in the history of the UUCA where work of the Board is more important and consequential than it is now. So much is changing! It is critical to have people with energy, talent, and vision on the Board now to lead the church into the future. Challenges and opportunities facing the UUCA leadership include:

- Covid has had a lot of impact on everything, but one of the most lasting for us is the movement to a hybrid approach to services, serving people both in-person and online. What is the best way to do this, not only to serve our current membership, but to reach new communities of people who share our values?
- It is time for major renovation of the facilities that serve us. Very exciting ideas are being formed about what to do and how to fund it.
- We are slowly but surely transitioning to a new generation of congregants. How should we change to serve the interests and needs of both new and long-established members?
- The Living Green effort continues as we work to reduce the environmental impact of UUCA's operations and show others in the local community how to do the same.

We are most interested in candidates with leadership experience, either at UUCA or other settings. Serving on the Board is a significant commitment, requiring monthly meetings over a three-year term. The work is meaningful and enriching, and has you closely involved with some of the most talented and inspiring people you can hope to know. **It is a great opportunity for both personal growth and broad impact.**

Nominating and Leadership Development Committee

The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (N&LDC) is responsible for identifying suitable candidates for the various elected leadership positions in the UUCA (you're reading our work right now!). But more than that, the N&LDC actively develops new leaders, through education and outreach to the membership. It's a good way to learn more about the people who make up the church, while developing an appreciation for the different elements of service and leadership that keep UUCA operating and fulfilling its mission.

The N&LDC term is two years. It requires meetings roughly every-other month, with additional effort to coordinate participation of UUCA members in leadership-development programs (provided via UUA and CER).

Endowment Trust

The UUCA benefits from an endowment that has been developed and grown over decades. It is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Endowment to safeguard this resource while guiding its growth and approving its use for the various appropriate needs of the UUCA.

We are interested in candidates who are financially astute and knowledgeable about investment issues and strategies. Service is a 5-year commitment, with meetings held quarterly.

You can suggest a nominee (or self-nominate) for any of the positions above by contacting anyone on the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee:

Kim Connolly (kimdianaconnolly@gmail.com)
Linda Gardner (gardnlinda@gmail.com) (Board liaison)
Laurie Kasnicki (lkasnicki@gmail.com) (Board liaison)
David Kofke (dkofke@gmail.com)
Doreen Park (dpark5981@outlook.com)
Marcia Scott (marciascott58@gmail.com)
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