

Announcements

- There is a UU congregation in Long Island in need of help via GoFundMe after their facilities burned down.
- The Midwest Region UU's business meeting is June 20, 2018.
- The next Adult RE session will be held June 10th at 9:15.
- Cindy Reed's yoga class begins next Thursday.
- David Britton has signed the Membership Book.
- A key was found in the Landscaping change fund jar.

Call to Order

Approval of the May 2017 Minutes

- Minutes read by Robert Auchter
- Doris Pierce motions for approval
- Seconded. Motion passes.

Reports

President

- Mr. Auchter is searching along with anyone else interested for a suitable deaf and hard-of-hearing transcription service (software).
- There is a new printer for UUFMC use.

Treasurer

- The UUFMC checkbook current balance is \$32,500.
- Approximately \$14,700 has been put aside for a new pulpit, paving, and landscaping.
- UUFMC has \$17,800 left over for expenditures.
- The UUFMC mortgage is a 25-year loan, set to mature in 2031.
- UUFMC continues to pay an extra \$100 per month on the principle of the mortgage.

Committee Reports (in alphabetical order – Nominations Committee shall go last)

- Adult RE: Submitted by Debbie Washington
- Back 40/Landscaping: Submitted by Hobert Ellis and Debbie Washington
- Caring: Submitted
- Closers: Will start at the end of the summer
- Communication/Social Media: Submitted
- Greeters: Start up again in the Fall
- Kitchen Witches: Submitted by Joan Boewe
- Maintenance: Submitted by Rob Auchter (Is in the process of being redefined to being building specific)
- Membership: Submitted by Ann Stebbins. There are currently 54 members.
- Music: Submitted by Joan Boewe
- Programming: Submitted
- RE/Nursery: Submitted by Rob Auchter
- Small Dinners: Submitted by Ann Stebbins
- Trailblazers: Submitted by Matthew Durham
- Ministry of Fun: Submitted by Robert Auchter from a message from Dandelion Perfect
 - The Ministry of Fun was a good idea at the time, but it never got off the ground. Ministry of Fun will be taken off the list of committees.

- Transportation: Submitted; needs members
 - Kara Stebbins proposed to “Combine Transportation and Caring Committees”
 - Karen Janssen adds that the committee “needs more members”
 - Diana McDowell wishes to urge members to “step up” to serving on the committee
 - Rachel Gough suggests we “Pre designate Car Pool Groups”
- Nominations: Submitted by Doris Pierce (Ballots distributed to congregation. No nominations from the floor)
- Results:
 - Vice President – Stella Gibson, to serve her first two-year term
 - Treasurer – Hobert Ellis, appointed initially to complete the term of Chris Taylor, now elected to his first two-year term
 - Member-at-Large – Wayne Goodwin, to serve his first two-year-term
 - Nominating Committee – Debbie Washington, to serve her first two-year term

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- Rental Coordinator Report, Diana McDowell
 - There have been no rentals this year. The previous rental rate for UUFMC facilities was \$350, which is under market value. The board approved an increase to \$550.
- The Feel of Our Space, Doris Pierce
 - The primary concern is lighting; perhaps UUFMC could replace the current bulbs with LED bulbs and strive for more neutral lighting.
 - Acquire stain resistant carpet.
 - Replace windows and valances.
 - Paint the sanctuary.

Old Business

- Pulpit/Table Project
 - Pursuant to congregational vote on April 8, 2018, Amish Originals was chosen to work on the new pulpit and matching service table.
- Paving Project
 - It is not necessary to replace the entire lot. Current estimates are approximately \$35,000.
 - Doris Pierce makes the motion to reallocate the extra \$100 per month on the mortgage to the Paving Project. Seconded, but the motion does not pass.

New Business

- Community Plate for 2018-2019
 - July-September 2018: *Kentuckians for the Commonwealth*
 - October-December 2018: *Hospice*
 - January-March 2019: *Planned Parenthood*
 - April-June 2019: *Meals on Wheels*
- Congregation Recognition – *Sarah Clara Barton Award*
 - Joan Boewe
 - Ann Stebbins

Next Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 10:45 AM

Adjournment

Landscape / Back 40 Committee

Our Spring work date was 4/21 in which we did landscape maintenance and plantings around the building and did clean up in the back 40. Maintenance will continue as needed during the year.

Our future goals:

Landscape portion

Sloping area at end of wall: decided to plant 7-8 creeping junipers in that area so won't need to mow.

Gina Smith will assist David Fields in lawn maintenance and mowing.

Long range plan to design and plant all along driveway wall.

Back 40 portion

Continue mowing, access paths and flat area, remove Japanese honeysuckle and other intrusive vines, keep hillside a wild space adding more milkweed, Joe Pye weed, and iron weed to hillside,

Plant assorted flowers in 6'-8' wide swath just before rear tree line for monarchs, pollinators and hummingbirds.

Obtain and plant a few American hollies maybe around shed once honeysuckle bushes removed.

Adult Religious Education

Adult Religious Education referred to as Adult RE meets usually on the third Sunday of the month.

We began last Fall with a new program, which is an approved UUA program, called *Building Your Own Theology*. Both myself (Debbie Washington) and Diana McDowell lead this group.

We have from the beginning of this program read these agreed- upon sentences before each meeting:

"We agree to speak from our own experiences and perspectives and to present our statements as our thoughts rather than as indisputable truths. We agree to listen respectfully and intently to the experiences and perspectives of other people. We agree to pay attention to the group process, making sure that everyone has the opportunity to speak and to listen. We agree to use this time as an opportunity for ethical, religious, and spiritual discernment. (not political statements.) "

This helps us to keep focused on the task at hand.

Some people come every month! And that is great for continuity of the program. Others of us have missed a session or two, here and there. That is ok, too! We all have busy lives.

It is a group with many personalities. Some of the people in the group are usually quiet, in the main assembly (in here I mean) and it has been worthwhile and interesting to get to know them. Some come with questions, and we like that, too. Some come from years of being Unitarian, and they have much to offer. Some have only come to identify as a Unitarian recently. It's all good. We are getting to know each other, respect our difference, embrace our sameness, and learn from each other as we go along with the series

If you think you would like to join us, let Diana or me know, and we can send you the required reading before the session. It is also posted on line through our newsletter, or on the sharing table now located in the foyer.

Submitted: Debbie Washington

Landscaping Committee,

The Landscaping workers enjoy Saturday mornings for sprucing up the place with new plants for color and beauty We also engage in pulling up weeds for maintenance of the lawn. Ann Stebbins and Hobert Elis are always ready to get things going by inviting volunteers to join in on this activity. We have taken away some plants and added others along the sidewalk. I'm sure you've noticed how attractive it is.

For mowing the lawn: This Summer David Fields is joined by Gina Smith in mowing the lawn and keeping it looking presentable for members and guests. When you drive up for Sunday service, please know that these two are giving of their time to keep it looking both presentable and pleasant. As some of you know David will need to be mowing less and less and so we are actually looking for someone else to join this team. If you think you could join this group, and be helpful to our Fellowship, let me know by phone or email and we can get you started on this much needed adventure.

When anyone drives up to our Fellowship, the appearance of the building and the grounds says a lot about the pride in our place. The well kept lawn and landscaping welcomes each of us, as well as newcomers and visitors, to our Fellowship.

Thank you to all who give of your time to the landscaping and to the mowing.

Submitted by Debbie Washington

Subject: Communication and Social Media

From: ed@kysounds.com

To: robertaughter@yahoo.com; jlboewe@att.net; mckennarevel@gmail.com; wghe@qx.net

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10:48:00 AM EDT

Please read as committee update. Thank you and forgive me for any typos.

Dear Board and Congregation. The update on the Communications and Social Media Committee is nothing but positive. The newsletter has 2 people that work on it. Bekah is the main person but Gill is the backup. The weekly announcements email seem to be working out. Gill is working on the emails and Bekah is the backup.

The website is getting better thanks to Gregory. We are adding an archive section where the newsletters and weekly announcements emails will be uploaded for anyone to reference at anytime. We are still working on the calendar portion so that people do not have to wait for the email to see what is going on. They can go to the website and load their own events now. The calendar has brought multiple calendars together to centralize things. It has given us a huge presence and shows we are an active congregation to visitors.

Everything gets updated on social media and our web presence is growing.

Robert has been doing a fantastic job getting homilies and music uploaded to YouTube. Would love to have more hits on YouTube and the more we upload and get more videos the more hits we will have.

We are more than happy have to taken on the Communications between people needing rides and sign language needs. Greg is still working on the build of committees email that will help. This means someone needing a ride can still contact pr@ email but we will share with them the transportation@madisoncountyyuu.org email. (Email is not active please do not share) This email will them automatically to the emails provided by the transportation committee. This will be very helpful for all committees.

I continue the transparency model of communications by emailing the committee each 6 months the passwords and any changes.

I hope the board and members are happy with the work the committee from its genesis. There is one issue that continues and that is the calendar of events. My personal opinion is that no matter where a member or new person goes we have a calendar of events for the whole fellowship. The biggest need of support for this committee is that anytime there is a new event or an important date that they immediately email the pr@ email or preferably upload onto the calendar. It can be a very easy email with just date and name of event. We ask that if you get up and share an announcement at service also think about getting it to us via the email or calendar.

Thank you all for your support with this project this year!

Love always,

Ed

2018 Annual Meeting, Programming Committee Report

Summer 2017: “Summer of Love and Serendipity”

In the Summer of Love and Serendipity, we had the opportunity to look at love from a lot of different perspectives. In chronological order, we heard Diana’s perspective on the 60’s movement, Bill’s history of the Bible, Debbie’s questions about prayer, David’s moth metamorphosis, Alan de Boton’s TED talk about atheism, Cheyla’s mission statements, Joan’s blankets, the Vanguard’s outdoor children’s play, Joan, Ann, Peter and Dot’s book reports, Dora’s birds, Mary Ellen’s creek cleaning, McKenna’s protests, and Kara’s “Love Geometrically.” Whew, that’s a lot of love!

17/18 Regular Program Year

The Programming Committee works to create Sunday services congruent with our Principles. The biggest challenge of the 17/18 year was that, without monthly minister homilies, we needed to fill 35 Sundays rather than 26. To better fill these slots, the Committee used the Kentucky Humanities Association Speaker’s Bureau and has been exploring a sharing circle resource. All homilies presented during the 17/18 year are listed on page 2.

Summer 2018: “Sharing Circle Summer”

Let’s explore spiritual themes through the archives of SoulMattersSharingCircle.com! During the month of April we gave folks an opportunity to vote for which themes they want to present and/or listen to during Summer. At the time of this writing, the people seeking to present include Joan whose blankets “fit” under the theme “Healing” and Jack on “Compassion.” Bekah wants to do something on “Simplicity” and/or “Story.” Wayne may want to talk about (and no doubt cause) “Laughter.” Two or more people have also expressed interest in listening to someone else present the following topics: “Deep Listening,” “Letting Go,” “Play,” “Rootedness,” “Tradition,” “Wonder” and “Yearning.” But of course there are many other themes we can choose from. Who else will sign up to present? By the time of the Annual Meeting, we hope to have all 14 dates filled with at least one presenter and one theme! (Weekly updates will be posted on the white-board in the sanctuary.)

18/19 Regular Program Year—Please give input!

The Committee requests the input of UUFMC members at the annual meeting in regard to their preferences for the types of homilies to be offered during the 18/19 regular program year. Thank you for your input!

UUFMC Rental Coordinator

Diana McDowell

This is the third year I have been Rental coordinator for our fellowship hall and premises. The first year I visited wedding planners; the chamber of commerce, cake decorators and other wedding venues. Almost no rentals were obtained the first year I took the position.

The second year we have two birthday parties and one wedding and memorials. However, now we have a yoga instructor offering classes and two weddings. So it is exciting to have some use of the space we have.

Last year we had increased our wedding fee from \$200 to \$350. This year we increased our wedding fee to \$550. Most wedding venues in Madison County begin at \$900 and up. We are still under market for what we are charging. Weddings are a lot of work for the coordinator. Our fee included 4 trips to open the premises and work with the bride.

Of course, our own members get some preferential treatment and pricing.

Diana McDowell

The Feel of Our Space: A UUFMC Conversation, proposed by Doris Pierce

The UUFMC purchased a building designed to be a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall. Then the fellowship hall, classroom, and nursery were added. These were big efforts! We are now seeking a design for two central sanctuary pieces: a pulpit and a chalice table. Also, having used the space for a while, some of its challenging aspects are now evident. "Temporary" pieces are looking less attractive. The building is filling rapidly with decorative objects. This is a good time to begin a conversation that moves beyond simple functionality to consider another important question: *How do we want our space to feel?*

- How can the lighting, furnishings, wall and floor treatments, and decorative objects in the sanctuary best support and reflect our congregation's pursuit of the principles? *How do we want the sanctuary to feel?*
- How can the lighting, furnishings, wall and floor treatments, and decorative objects in other spaces of the Fellowship best support our congregation's pursuit of the principles? *How do we want other spaces of the Fellowship to feel?*

Can we find consensus on some of the aesthetics of our space that might guide it to evolve into a peaceful and harmonious space? Congregational conversations could, for example, ask these questions. (Or there may be others!)

- How does the space feel to you?
- What does our space say to visitors and new members?
- Do we prefer the open, spacious, white-walled, and tall clear windows look of classic Unitarian churches of the northeast? Do we prefer our space to feel more cozy, eclectic, and homelike? Or, do we prefer some other look we have not yet identified?
- Is there any aspect of the space that we might agree on, such as: lots of visible wood grain, more simple painted surfaces, an eclectic mix of many patterns and shapes, some unifying colors, objects and textures from nature, or some other preferred look?
- Should the different spaces of the building look completely different, or similar?
- Could the space feel more welcoming?
- If you could make a few cost-free changes to enhance the look and feel of our space, what would you choose to change?
- If you had a budget to enhance the look and feel of our space, what would you choose to spend it on?
- How would you like our space to look in ten years?
- How should our space express and support our principles?

Such a conversation would take some time. It should be done in small groups, and recur so that all could easily participate. It should not be rushed or treated as a decision-making effort. It should equally consider the thoughts of all interested members. It should be relaxed and enjoyable. Ideas should be recorded for later use.

The Feel of Our Space: Summary for 2018 Annual Business Meeting

From Second Round Priority Setting and Comments on Ideas Generated in First Round Discussions

#1 We Have a Definite Lighting Problem

| No Cost | Small Cost | \$100-\$200 | More Expensive |
|--|--|--|----------------|
| | (8) Experiment with the fluorescents to soften/warm the light: colored bulb sleeves, different bulbs or fixture covers, translucent fabric over fixture covers? (2) Fix sconces [in sanctuary] so not so bright | (3) A big window on south side, onto native plants garden (2) Improve the lighting (1) Two long skylights in front [of sanctuary], slant from peak of roof to walls above the open area, one on each side (1) The lighting in the fellowship hall is horrible | |
| <p>Comments on Lighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More natural light! • No fluorescents. They cause migraines and seizures in some people. • Anything that can be done to make the light less harsh. With the fluorescent lights and stark white walls, it's actually painful. I must wear sunglasses to avoid getting a headache and sometimes the harsh light is a reason I can't attend. • Install glass block to add more light to sanctuary. • LED tubes save money. | | | |

(In parentheses, the number of times people circled those ideas as a high priority, second round of input)

#2 The Sanctuary Could Look Better

| No Cost | Small Cost | \$100-\$200 | More Expensive |
|--|---|---|---|
| (4) Open the blinds in the back, less closed in (3) Remove or reduce the houseplants (3) Put away equipment (3) Move the stacks of chairs to the back | (7) Take down window treatments (5) Move big paintings elsewhere (3) Move all paintings elsewhere | (6) Paint the walls (5) 4' x 2.5' nicely framed print of the Principles, hang at the front of the room | (4) Is there nice stain-resistant carpeting? (1) More wood visible |

Comments on Sanctuary Aesthetics:

- Principles print a nice idea.
- Hang the Principles print by the temperature controls.
- Seven rainbow-colored banners for the Principles.
- We already have a print of the Principles.
- Keep the plants.
- Repot ficus tree in larger pot.
- I am an allergy victim: must we have plants?
- There is no storage for chairs: this was a mistake.
- For painting, use a softer, less harsh, neutral color.
- No drinks except in closed containers.
- The windows need a small curtain but they may not need to be so long in the middle.
- Install glass block to add more light to sanctuary.
- When we get a new pulpit, we should celebrate the pulpit made years ago by Sally Jett Davis Smathers, who also started the RE program at the UUFGC. She reads all of our information in our newsletter.

#3 Inexpensive Improvements to the Fellowship Hall

| <i>No Cost</i> | <i>Small Cost</i> | <i>\$100-\$200</i> | <i>More Expensive</i> |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| <p>(4) A table, tablecloth, chairs always out, a little centerpiece</p> <p>(4) Could witch doll display be toned down?</p> <p>(1) Reduce number of quilts, just keep one</p> <p>(1) Name a volunteer gallery director to hang/manage art</p> | <p>(4) Make a gallery wall in the fellowship hall. Not enough art in the fellowship hall</p> <p>(4) A place to hang the “caring quilt,” and when it is out a notice of who has it</p> | <p>(5) Hang rainbow-colored cloth, triangle symbol to welcome LGBTQ persons</p> | |
| <p>Comments on Fellowship Hall:</p> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an “art wall” in fellowship hall. • Term limit for volunteer gallery director. • Quilts help with noise abatement concerns. • Please no big rainbow-colored cloth across the room. • Maybe the witches’ green skin could be covered/removed? • Maybe spread the witches out—one in kid’s room, a few in sanctuary, one in hallway/entrance. I love them and they make me feel as if I really am welcome here. • Put your own dishes, cups, etc. in dishwasher: empty when clean. | | | |

#4 We Need an Office/Library

| No Cost | Small Cost | \$100-\$200 | More Expensive |
|--|---|--|----------------|
| <p>(5) Move bookshelves to RE room, make a library space</p> <p>(4) Use half of classroom for a library and education area, other half used for older children</p> <p>Comments on Office/Library in Large Classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need a proper office. • Get someone to catalog the [sanctuary] books! So we know what we have and so that they are returned. Or do we care that they are • The nursery does not need to be in with the other children! That would be <u>too noisy</u> for the bigger children. • Put library in RE room. Someday we will have RE again. Toddlers and bigger kids attempting to learn something are at cross purposes. | <p>(5) Move the nursery to half of classroom, make an office and library in the nursery space by the door</p> | <p>(2) Put divider up in the classroom</p> | |

A Few Ideas for the Restrooms (2nd round only)

| |
|---|
| <p>Comments on Restrooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms: Rehang the doors to swing into the restroom. This would eliminate a traffic jam and eliminate a safety issue. • Install wall-mounted air hand dryers. Better hygiene. Improve health and disease control. Save a tree. Save money. ADA compliant. Cost (www.restrooms.com) = \$130, Tech Motion; \$330 World Dryer L-974. Also see hand-dryers-vs-paper-towels.aspt. • Women's restroom is not cozy and welcoming. Don't know about the men's restroom. • Restrooms—[would like them to be] cozy. Need another painting in women's restroom. • [Would like them to feel] clean and fresh. • I'd like [the restrooms] to feel great. • OK. Feels good. [Restrooms are] fine. |
|---|

A Few Ideas for the Lobby (2nd round only)

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|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put table in front of windows (the curtain area). • We could get rid of the popcorn ceilings. • Lobby feels crowded. The table is too large for just papers and that old cupboard could be nicer and more space-saving in its shape. Not enough art in lobby. • Lobby feels cluttered. Lobby—[would like it to be] tasteful, attractive. Put some wood grain, some art, a warmer color in lobby. • People congregate in the lobby—too narrow—move your party into the “kitchen” area. • Lobby should be a pathway, not a destination. |
|--|

- Might want to hang a curtain to “hide” the coat room.
- I would like to see a welcome table nearer the sanctuary for greeters to have programs, name tags, and guest book available as people enter the sanctuary.
- Add a pull-down stair in the ceiling of the lobby for storage. We need storage desperately.
- [The lobby and restrooms] are generally empty for a reason. Multi-use space.
- I like the welcoming person on the door.
- I’d like [the lobby] to feel great. It’d be nice to be greeted at the door.
- I like the name tag holder.
- Similar positive comments: [Lobby is] fine. OK. Comfortable enough. I like it. Feels good.

Children’s RE: Not Pressing and Most Improvements Require Significant Remodeling

| <i>No Cost</i> | <i>Small Cost</i> | <i>\$100-\$200</i> | <i>More Expensive</i> |
|--|--|--------------------|--|
| (2) The kid space needs to feel more connected to the rest of the UU, not so separate | (2) Put one quilt in children’s space (1) The kid space is messy, can it be cleaned up? | | (3) The kid space needs more windows and a door to the outside |
| <p>Comments on Children’s RE Room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside door for Children’s RE, especially in case of emergency. • Yes more windows for kids, but no more doors for safety and security • Instead of the children’s room having a door to the outside, more or larger windows to outside and to the fellowship hall. • Not sure how to make kid’s space feel more connected to the rest of the UU space. • Fix heat (and air) in kid’s space. • Kid space may not be warm enough for nursery. • Who are we fooling? We won’t have these kids until we have their parents. | | | |

Comments on Setting Priorities for Improvements:

- Very hard to pick among these great ideas, so do all the no cost and small cost ideas plus paint and the Principles print in the sanctuary.
- I would love to do the more expensive ideas but that would probably involve some extended fund raising first. Might not paint yet if that is in the plans.
- The most important thing about our space to me is that it is neat and clean. Other changes are unimportant and I think resources and effort should be spent elsewhere—in keeping with UU principles

Paving Project Report

5/20/18

Of the five previous quotes for paving, four represented a 'cut and replace' technique of removing the distressed areas and filling with new asphalt, and then adding 1.5"-2" of asphalt over the entire lot and driveway. These quotes ranged from \$16,000 to \$18,000, later updated to \$19,000-\$31,000.

One quote stated that we should mill the existing lot down to the earth and build up anew with gravel and fresh asphalt completely. This quote came in at \$61,000.

In preparation for today's meeting, I invited the paving companies to update their quotes and provide their opinion regarding the one suggestion for a complete redo of the lot. To date, I only have one paver who has replied, and he states that we don't need to redo the entire lot for the reason that there are plenty of areas where the asphalt is still very good.

I am of the opinion that this paver's recommendation is valid. I will continue to solicit revised paving company quotes for this work, and once I have at least three, I will bring the information to the membership and ask at that time for a vote on establishing a fundraising campaign to build the funds for a summer 2020 paving of our parking lot and driveway.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Auchter

Woodworker Project report

Diana McDowell, Chair

Leslie Blackburn

Doris Pierce

After nearly two years of meeting with the UUFMC board and congregants the four woodworkers under consideration were voted on April 8, 2018. The clear choice of the congregation was Amish Originals in Westerville. OH.

At this point, Doris Pierce will have the contact with Amish Originals to begin the work on a new pulpit and matching service table. The funds set aside for this work is enough for this work to be done.

The committee has not disbanded. If there is work to be decided upon in future as the furniture is being made the committee will attend to what is needed, including if necessary bringing information back to the congregation.

Diana McDowell