



THE UUS NEWS

August 2021

WE ARE A WELCOMING, SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE HOME. WE ACT ON OUR VALUES:

- * HONOR THE EARTH
- * ADVOCATE FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- * NUTURE DEEP CONNECTIONS
- * EMBRACE THE ONGOING QUEST FOR MEANING

Upcoming Sunday Services

Join the Virtual Service via Zoom each week at bit.ly/UUSVirtualService. Meeting ID: 422 482 660, Passcode: 006311

Or join via phone: Find your local number: bit.ly/UUSServicesFindZoomNumber.

Each week the Zoom meeting will open at 9:50 am, with the service beginning at 10. A time for virtual fellowship will follow.

August 1st: "Everything is Sacred: Lessons from the Path of Tantra" **Andy Douglas**

UUS member Andy Douglas will share with us information on his spiritual practice, which is rooted in the Indian spiritual tradition of Tantra (closely related to yoga), and which encourages us to see all of creation as sacred.

August 8th: Rev. Diana Smith

Rev. Diana Smith will lead her first service back at UUS after her summer time away. More details will be shared soon.

August 15th: "Ebb & Flow," Kim Friese

UUS member Kim Friese will lead this service. More details will be shared soon.

August 22nd: Rev. Diana Smith

Rev. Diana Smith will lead this service. More details will be shared soon.

August 29th: Rev. Diana Smith

Rev. Diana Smith will lead this service. More details will be shared soon.

August's Social Justice Offerings Benefit The Free Medical Clinic

In its 50th year, the Free Medical Clinic (FMC) continues to provide its patients with quality and compassionate medical, specialty, and basic dental care, as well as prescriptions. Close to 300 volunteers from various disciplines provide thousands of hours of services to the clinic each year, helping to make primary healthcare possible for those without insurance.

Check out their website (freemedicalclinic.org) if you are interested in volunteering or donating needed items such as vitamins, cold medications, toothbrushes and paste, etc. Our generosity helps staff and volunteers to help patients. Thank you!

Cash or check donations can be given [online through Realm \(onrealm.org/uusic/-/give/SIOffering\)](https://onrealm.org/uusic/-/give/SIOffering) or mailed to the office. (Write checks to UUS, with FMC on the memo line.)

Past Sunday Service Attendance

July 4th: "Loved Into Being," UUA Stewardship Service
~66 Participating Zoom Accounts

July 11th: "Compassion and Resilience: Welcoming Asylum Seekers to the UU Society," Sally Hartman & The Immigration Action Team
~98 Participating Zoom Accounts

July 18th: "Friends to Me Gathered Round"
Lynette Marshall
~107 Participating Zoom Accounts

July 25th: "Can You Forgive Life for What It Has Asked of You?" Winnie Ganshaw
~105 Participating Zoom Accounts

August UUS Birthdays

Tim Adamson
Barbara Beaumont
Allison Bettine
Peg Bouska
J Cheyney
Alexandra Curtis
Peggy Dietrich

Meghann Foster
Al Hood
Susan Kaliszewski
Margaret Kinsman
Cari Malone
Cameron Miller
Tony Miller

Mo Mosell
Jim Norris
Julian Oliver-Shaw
Kim Palmer
Abigail Patterson
Ron Pile
Beah Rode

Deb Schoelerman
Charlie Simmering
Heidi Sinderman
Ada Turner
Dana van der Heide
Mira Wilmot-DiCarlo
Star Wojciak

If you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter (or removed), contact dcl@uusic.org.

From Your Board President, Alan Swanson

At our first board meeting of 2021-22, we welcomed Rochelle Honey-Arcement as vice president and Diana Henry and Hazel Seaba as trustees at large after bidding farewell to Amy Fretz, Paul Pomrehn, and Colleen Higgins with gratitude for their UUS board terms of service. On the nine-member board Joe Rasmussen now serves as past president, Mike Pavelich continues as treasurer, John Raley as financial trustee, and Julia Audlehelm as trustee at large. In late June we regretfully accepted the resignation of gifted board trustee and secretary Carol Adamson. The Leadership Development Committee seeks a replacement.

The board has authorized a new strategic group, the Balance and Growth Initiative (BGI), chaired by Rochelle Honey-Arcement, to work with the board on a plan that will balance the UUS budget as soon as reasonably possible, while keeping our vision and mission at the forefront. The BGI will interact with members of the congregation, staff, and others to gather input and ideas as we proceed. The BGI and the board will come to agreement and execute the plan.

As we emerge from the pandemic—when it's agreed we can be safe and inclusive—we want to increase traditional support while finding new income avenues. We also, of course, must continue to hold steady and reduce program costs wherever feasible. The "balance" referred to in the task force's title means 1) carefully looking at numbers while at the same time 2) strengthening our programs of mission and vision. We want to grow connections among our congregation while better communicating with those outside our congregation who might share our values and want to join us.

Helping our current talented staff reach our goals will be key new replacement staff, bringing their own energy and ideas to help us maximize our mission and vision.

The long period of pandemic uncertainty has brought us new ways of interacting that are partly here to stay. We are working to continue and enhance the advantages of multi-platform capabilities we didn't have before. Although our sanctuary is not yet open for services, we continue to promote involvement and close connections. (ASIDE: I want to mention that our Publicity & AV Coordinator, Jeff Walberg, is eager to find additional volunteers for Sunday morning Zoom/audiovisual assistance. See his report for more information.)

Caring and acting together, Alan Swanson, President

Land Ministry Report: Bio Cell Update

The repair work on the drainage system in bio cell #2 has been completed. The bio retention cells at UUS are important in stormwater management and keeping our streams and rivers cleaner. The City of Coralville requires that new construction include bio cells and we received some cost-share funds from the Soil Conservation District of Johnson County for the construction.

The underground part of the bio cell is a mixture of sand, mulch, and gravel that filters and cleans the stormwater as it drains off the large roof of our building and the parking lot. The runoff flows through the bio cell to the tributary at the bottom of the hill, which then flows into Muddy Creek and enters into the Iowa River.

UUS is doing its part in keeping Iowa's waters cleaner!

Family Night to Welcome Marsha, August 14th

All are invited to help us welcome our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Marsha Thrall at our next Family Night, which will be held at UUS on Saturday, August 14th, from 6 to 8 pm. Feel free to drop in as your schedule allows.

We will provide pizza* (along with a single person to safely serve) and ingredients to make s'mores. YUM! Families are encouraged to bring chairs and their own table service (plates, utensils, plus drinks). Outdoor games and toys will also be available. *Please RSVP to Anna Rode with the number attending and include any special dietary requirements (dairy-free, gluten-free, vegan), so we can ensure we have enough pizza for everyone. RSVP to re.assistant@uusic.org or through the [UUS Families Facebook page](#).

Masks are required (regardless of vaccination status). Please see UUS's Phased Reopening Plan for further details.

From Your Publicity & AV Coordinator, Jeff Walberg

Multi-platform Services Coming This Fall!

When the new church year begins in September, UUS will be presenting live services to both in-person and virtual audiences. This will allow members and friends to stay connected to the community while they're unable to attend services in person for any number of reasons.

To support this effort, the Board has invested in a full set of live streaming equipment and added hours to my staff role to coordinate and support the process. My current thinking is that there will be three AV roles to fill each week:

- **Livestream manager:** Manage the content for both the sanctuary TV and the virtual audience from a new AV workstation.
- **Livestream assistant:** Run the camera(s) and manage sanctuary sound and mics, primarily using an iPad at the AV workstation.
- **Zoom host:** Manage Zoom waiting room, chat, and other audience interactions behind the scenes while muted, using a laptop from any location.

I have made a short recording that gives a preliminary overview of how the setup and process will work: [UUS Livestream Walkthrough](#).

If you are interested in learning more about how you help us support multi-platform services, email me at publicity@uusic.org. Training, documentation, and support will be available, and the goal is to make these important support roles interesting, fulfilling, collaborative, and valued.

Iowa's UU State Action Network (IUUWAN)

Social justice action across the state just got a boost! The Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) received a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility to hire a part-time organizer. Starting in September, this individual will reach out to all the Iowa UU Congregations and unite us in the quest for social justice. IUUWAN will be forming partnerships with other nonprofits, hosting a fall conference, and providing opportunities for social justice involvement. Should you be interested in serving on the IUUWAN Board, or would like additional information, contact Sally (sallyahartman@hotmail.com).

Immigration Action Team Report

UU Society Sponsorship: The UU Society begins a new chapter in immigration justice through a congregational sponsorship. We welcome Ko Ko Lwin, an asylum seeker from Myanmar, who arrived July 4th. Due to a military takeover, conditions in Myanmar became increasingly violent and dangerous for him. We offered safe haven by connecting with the UU Service Committee's Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers. We are supporting other asylum seekers through Circle of Friends, but now we are a sponsoring congregation, which requires a different type of support.

This support includes housing, supplied by David Kramer, assistance with adjusting to a new environment, and the embrace of a beloved community. On July 11th, Ko Ko participated in the worship service on resilience. In August, Ko Ko will be invited to Covenant Group events to become acquainted in an informal setting. Later in the fall, we plan to have a reception so that the wider community can become acquainted with Ko Ko. We are privileged to have him in our midst.

Circle of Friends: The five immigrant families we assist have become increasingly independent, although they encounter occasional bumps along the road. Many Iowa City landlords raised rents, so consequently, four of the families are moving this month. We have assisted with security deposits and will be helping the children prepare for the school year, including registering them in their new schools. Contributions for school clothes and supplies can be made on Realm, under Circle of Friends.

We welcome newcomers Juan Carlos and Yetma to our Circle of Friends Community. They came here from Cuba via Mexico, and are supported by their hosts, Adam and Bridget Ingersoll. As asylum seekers, they left because of poor working conditions, scarce medical care, and a yearning for freedom. Eager to become acclimated, they are enrolled in intensive English classes at Kirkwood. Soon they may be looking for language partners!

Covenant Group Report

In July groups reviewed "The Movies That Made Us." Everyone likes movies, right? They're wonderful entertainment, but of course so much more. They permeate our culture and our consciousness, both reflecting and shaping our ideals, values, and beliefs. They distract us from a world of cares but also help explain that world to us. At their best, movies can teach us ways to tell good from bad, and right from wrong.

Think about the movies that are most important to you. How have these movies shaped and influenced you? What types of movies do you like? Why do you think you like these types of movies? What do they tell you about yourself and your understanding of the world? And something further: If you were to make your life into a movie, what kind of movie would it be? What would its themes be? Its most memorable scenes?

There will be no formal meetings of covenant groups in August, although they may choose to meet socially.

The covenant group program offers the opportunity to share your views and deepen your understanding of a wide range of issues while creating closer ties with other UUs. Learn more by contacting Jan Locher (354- 6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Secular Humanists Present Staff Attorneys from Freedom From Religion Foundation, August 31st

All are invited to join a special UUS Secular Humanists virtual program featuring Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) Staff Attorneys Joseph McDonald and Sam Grover on Tuesday, August 31st, at 7 pm via Zoom ([Link to Join](#), Meeting ID: 851 2816 3219, Passcode: 759979)

[Joseph McDonald](#) is the Patrick O'Reiley Legal Fellow at FFRF and the newest member of the Legal Staff and has his Juris Doctor and Master of Public Health from UW-Madison. Prior to joining FFRF, Joseph was a public school teacher and principal, a health policy analyst for the Population Health Institute, and has taught Public Education and Law in the UW-Madison Department of Education. [Sam Grover](#), also a Staff Attorney with FFRF, has been our guest speaker once prior to the Covid pandemic. Sam advocates for freethinkers across the country while specializing in legislation for church/state infractions, religion in the military, religion and public health, and religion in prisons.

As the "new kid on the block," Joseph will share his story, which eventually led him to his FFRF position. Sam and Joseph together in May hosted a virtual event, Coffee and Conversation, where they discussed the many legal intersections between Freethought and Public Health. It was excellent and included how the Catholic takeover of America's hospitals could affect Freethinkers' and the LGBTQ+ folks' care and wishes.

Joseph and Sam will also share recent FFRF legal successes and challenges as FFRF strives to keep that "wall of separation" intact between religion and government and the public domain. There will be time after the presentation for Q&A. We hope you can attend! Please send questions to Mark Yuskis, resdoggie@aol.com.

UU Free Lunch Program Report

UUS Team Leader, Robert (Bob) Ferguson Littlehale described Friday, July 9th, at Free Lunch as a "lovely, reasonably just-right day!" He also shared that our UUS Free Lunch volunteers (Bob, Russ Lenth, Sherry Dolash, Carrie Norton, Jan Jacobson, Mary Dix, and Vicki Siefers) were "marvelously in-sync" and "marched to the tune of camaraderie" as they assembled and served 88 clamshell container meals out a side door window at 1105 S. Gilbert, per COVID protocol. This month's main dish (chicken strips) was generously provided by Kurt Hamann and Barb Beaumont, and Lee and Sue Eberly. Side dishes of baked beans, potato salad, applesauce, fruit juice, and chocolate chip cookies were purchased with generous donations given by our large group of Free Lunch volunteers as well as other UUS members and friends. Thank you!

Our Free Lunch volunteers, still dressed in pandemic gear to assemble, serve the meal, and clean up, agreed to shed their masks at the end for a photo (see it in the July 28th, 2021 weekly email). Bob reports that several UUS volunteers also volunteered to have their pictures taken and loaded up to a social media platform when Free Lunch Program initiates its publicity project. If you would like more information on how you can support the Free Lunch Program, please contact Carmen Griggs at cgriggsiowa@gmail.com.

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

July 21st, 2021 (virtual via Zoom)

Full Board meeting minutes are available [on the website](#) or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

PRESENT: Alan Swanson (President), Rochelle Honey-Arcement (Vice-President), Joe Rasmussen (Past-President), Mike Pavelich (Treasurer), John Raley (Financial Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee). **ABSENT:** Julia Audlehelm (Trustee), Rev. Diana Smith (Minister, Ex-Officio), and Board Secretary vacancy. **GUESTS:** None.

President Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA: Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting. The Board voted and received the consent agenda and approved the June 16th Board minutes, the Board Retreat summary, the July 1st Executive Committee Special Meeting by email minutes, the July 14th Executive Committee minutes, the Treasurer report, and Minister/staff reports.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Governance:** Rasmussen reported that the committee is on hiatus until September. Also, per a request from UUA staff Sharon Ditmar, Joe is assisting All Souls Church in Indianapolis to develop policy governance. The Board approved sending them a copy of our Policy and Procedures Manual to assist them. A question has been raised concerning replacing lay members on Board committees as to whether they need to be approved by the Board. The precedent has been that the Board did formal appointments of lay members, but Governance needs to clarify this.
- **Personnel:** Honey-Arcement reported that Mary McMurray is leaving the committee in January, so the committee is looking for a replacement. Mary served as co-chair and is writing a description of the position for others to follow. See question for Governance above concerning replacing committee members.
- **Finance:** Raley reported no new issues. The Balance and Growth Initiative involves most of the Finance members and is consuming their attention.
- **Right Relations:** Audlehelm submitted a report. The minister's installation Sunday, October 24th, is their current focus.
- **Mission & Vision Review:** Seaba reported that new board member Diana Henry is on the committee, and Paul Pomrehn and Winnie Ganshaw will continue. Discussion involved the committee's responsibility to do evaluations and assessments of mission and vision programs and progress, and the committee will need to develop a plan to accomplish this, as it has not been done in the past.

BALANCE AND GROWTH INITIATIVE (BGI) UPDATE

Chair Honey-Arcement reported on recent meetings. The seven-member task force has met with senior staff Peggy Garrigues. BGI discussed how to define "growth" and asked for the Executive Committee and the Board's opinion. To grow membership UUA advises that a church should have as many visitors to services during the year as a church has members. The new DLRE may provide impetus to attract new young families.

BGI needs to develop metrics to measure growth after a plan has been developed and implemented. The "plan" may lead to establishing specific action sub-committees/teams of the BGI.

Some staff reorganization is in process now with Peggy to take responsibility for church rentals, and the new accompanist is working on bringing in musical events.

Endowment donations are all locked into the corpus which cannot be spent, but half of the general endowment fund is income from those donations which can be spent to support the church in this formative time as we put a concrete plan in place to solve our budget issues in multiple ways while moving ahead with our mission and vision.

The Listening Campaign is off to a good start and needs to be represented in a BGI meeting to coordinate and avoid doubling similar efforts.

Growth implies change. One change that might be considered to coordinate and economize would be looking internally at how UUS organizes its different committees, teams, and activities, especially if UUS moves to a program budget. Metrics of elements and progress need to be established that can be presented to the congregation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Building Re-opening:** The Executive Committee approved via email an exception to our COVID rules to allow construction crews to operate in carefully set environments with some staff oversight.
The building reopening includes creating a multi-platform streaming experience. Installation of basic live-streaming equipment has been done. However, more equipment and adjustment are needed that will require additional funding beyond the initial Endowment appropriation.
- **Bio-Retention Cell and Ceiling Installation:** The bio-retention cell repair on the UUS grounds has been completed. The installation of the wood ceiling in the Fellowship Hall has begun. Completion is projected to be August 8th.
- **Minister Installation:** The installation ceremony has been moved to October 24th so as not to conflict with the start of the stewardship campaign on September 26th.
- **General Assembly Reports:** The Board received a written report from Susan Salterberg. Board members Henry, Seaba, and Honey-Arcement commented on interactions that took place at UUS General Assembly meetings that they felt were inclusive and encouraging. The multi-day Zoom experience was daunting, especially with more than one platform being used.
- **UUS Memorial Garden:** A meeting was held on June 28th at UUS chaired by Audlehelm and attended by Swanson and Rasmussen from the Board as well as Reverend Smith and Emma Barnum. Participants reviewed the projected landscape plan, discussed funding and legal requirements, and were asked to volunteer for specific tasks to implement this plan.

(Highlights continue on next page)

(Board highlights continued)

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bylaw Amendment:** A question has been raised about current language that requires elected officers to have served on a “committee.” This wording may need to be changed to include service on teams, task forces, and other groups. The Governance Committee will address this.
- **Engaging with ourselves, each other, and the wider community:** A suggestion has been made that UUS provide t-shirts with our name on them that persons can wear when engaged in any community activity to increase our public relations recognition.

June Financial Report Excerpts

- **Operating Bank Accounts** end-of-month totals = \$379,000. The bank accounts are down noticeably from last month because two of our large annual bills, insurance and UUA dues, were paid in June. The bank accounts still contain the \$50k donation to complete the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. This work began in July.
- **Endowment Funds** end-of-month totals = \$1,562,000. The Endowment Stocks rose by \$21k despite our ~\$5k monthly withdrawal because of the continuing strong growth in the stock market. Again, we thank all those who have contributed to these funds over the years. UUS has benefitted nicely from a strong stock market over the last decade.
- **Income:** Pledge income exceeded budget by ~\$4,400. UUs also raised \$2,547 for our various social justice agencies, including \$617 for Table to Table, \$572.50 for CommUnity (May’s agency), \$50 for the Abbe Center (January’s justice partner), \$127.50 for UAY (February’s justice partner), and \$177.50 for CWJ (March’s justice partner). We also received an additional \$925 for the May 5th Sunday collection for the UUS Immigration Team’s newly established Asylum Sponsorship program.

The Listening Campaign is taking shape to bring one-on-one conversations with members to identify what UUS members are embracing, seeking, and hoping—and to strengthen congregational connections.

CLOSING

There were no guest comments. Process observer comments provided by Rasmussen. Pavelich provided closing words, and the chalice was extinguished.

Raley moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Pavelich. Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 9 pm. The next full Board meeting is Wednesday, August 18th, 2021, at 7 pm.

—Submitted by Joe Rasmussen, Past President

In May and June UUs donated \$1,855 toward a congregational farewell gift to our outgoing DLRE, Jessica Zimmer.

- **Expenses:** Spending in June was ~\$4,375 below budget. Year-to-date we are \$28k under budget for expenses. We are operating at a ~\$5,560 loss when comparing income to expenses for the year so far (we budgeted for a loss of ~\$91,740 at this point).

Status of our 2021 Deficit Spending

Recall that we have a 2021 Core Budget of \$600,000, with an expected income (pledges + endowment allowance + fundraising) of \$425,000. This leaves a deficit of \$175k that is to be filled from excess funds in the bank. This means that on average we expect the net funds in the bank to decrease by $\$175k/12 = \$14,500$ per month.

Our Bank Accounts for January through June show a total decrease of about \$67,000 or about \$11,000 per month. This is a comforting result. It looks as though the extra funds in the bank accounts will get us safely through 2021. However, we have more big bills coming up and spending may increase as we open up more and begin the fall/winter programming.

—Mike Pavelich (Treasurer) and Emma Barnum (Congregational Administrator)

COVID Team Update

(This is an excerpt from a congregational email sent on 7/26/21. [Read the full email here.](#))

The COVID Team recommends that anyone eligible receive both doses of the COVID vaccine. Getting the vaccine is in line with our values of caring for each other. In recent studies, getting both doses of the vaccine is showing 88-95% effectiveness against the Delta variant. Additionally, if you have both doses of the vaccine, and you get the Delta variant, you will reduce the severity of symptoms and in most cases do not require hospitalization.

People are gathering at UUS! To provide accessibility and inclusion for the different people and groups who are using the UUS building simultaneously, masks are still required for all indoor meetings at UUS, and at all outdoor gatherings that are open to the public. If all group members agree, closed small groups can meet outdoors at UUS without masks.

Small groups that are not open to the public can gather off site either indoors or outdoors without a mask. Please practice

deep listening, care, and mutual consent to make a decision where everyone is included. Sometimes these conversations can be difficult, awkward, and even frustrating! Be patient. Reach out to the Right Relations Committee if your group needs help having these conversations.

We ask those who are not vaccinated to care for themselves and others by wearing a mask or requesting that the group continue to meet online or use a hybrid format with some in-person, and some on Zoom.

We are planning to have in-person Sunday services indoors in the early fall at UUS. In August we will begin to have limited attendance in-person during Sunday services (mostly service participants) while continuing to live stream the services on Zoom. This will allow staff and volunteers doing the services the ability to begin working on all the moving parts of live services in a COVID world and prepare for more in-person services later in the fall.

As these plans begin to solidify, there will be more communication about how to participate, so stay tuned!

The UUS News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
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UUS Staff

Minister: Rev. Diana Smith (minister@uusic.org)
Congregational Administrator: Emma Barnum (admin@uusic.org)
Director of Lifespan Religious Education:
Marsha Thrall (education@uusic.org)
Director of Congregational Life: Peggy Garrigues (dcl@uusic.org)
Director of Congregational Music: Alex Heetland (music@uusic.org)
Publicity and AV Coordinator: Jeff Walberg (publicity@uusic.org)
Administrative Assistant: Nik Jakob (admin.assistant@uusic.org)
Religious Education Assistant: Anna Rode (re.assistant@uusic.org)
Building Steward: Ron Wright (contact the office)
Community Minister: Rev. Lois Cole (community.minister@uusic.org)

UUS Board of Trustees, 2021-2021

President: Alan Swanson (321-3129, alan-swanson@mchsi.com)
Vice President: Rochelle Honey Arcement (331-1045, rochelle.r.honey@gmail.com)
Past President: Joe Rasmussen (721-7777, uusicc.joe@gmail.com)
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Mike Pavelich (338-5168, treasurer@uusic.org)
Finance Trustee: John Raley (321-9209, jralley@amfam.com)
Trustee: Julia Audlehelm (530-4471, juliasdrawings11@gmail.com)
Trustee: Diana Henry (354-7224, savekemet@gmail.com)
Trustee: Hazel Seaba (936-6520, hazel-seaba@uiowa.edu)

Our Mission: We are a welcoming, spiritually diverse home. We act on our values: Honor the Earth; Advocate for racial and social justice; Nurture deep connections; Embrace the ongoing quest for meaning.

Our Vision: We aspire to be a more inclusive, loving, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. We will defend and celebrate the Earth, confront racial and social injustice, and nurture deep connections.

Our Seven Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.