

Unitarian Church of Underwood January, 2014 Newsletter

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people where our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.

Coming Up in January

Sunday Morning Service Begins at 10:30 a.m.

January 5 – Bob Worner – “Where Do We Go From Here?”

January 12 Joseph DeMasi, “From Placebo to Eureka. My journey to UUism

January 19 – Stefan Jonassen – "Looking Ahead Through the Rearview Mirror"
& 125 Year Anniversary Celebration Kick Off

January 26 – Steve Nagle - The War on Poverty, The Local Front 1965 to Present

Sunday Morning Meetings Begin at 9:15 a.m.

January 5 – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. Adult RE

January 19 - 9:15-10:15 a.m. The Use of Metaphor in Spiritual Writing

Other Meetings:

January 5 – 11:45 a.m. U Group Facilitators

January 8 - 12 Noon Facilities Committee

January 12 - Following Sunday Service- Board Meeting

January 15 - 5:30 p.m. Speakers Committee Meeting

Note: AA Meets every Monday evening @ 7 p.m. at UCU

More about January Sunday Speakers

January 6 – Bob Worner “Where Do We Go From Here?” Using the 4th principal “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,” Bob will speak to the New Year, the 125th anniversary, and the five year plan.

After Service - Lasagna from the Larsons!

January 12 – Joseph DeMasi "From Placebo to Eureka. my journey to UUism!" Born into a Catholic family, Joseph will explore the path he took leaving his religion of birth and the adventure of finding his inner truth. Joseph DeMasi is an award winning singer/songwriter and entertainer. He grew up in New York City. For the past twenty years he has traveled the country with his group (Chris Burke and Joe and John DeMasi), promoting inclusion and ability awareness for all. He has performed at over 50 UU churches throughout the US as a solo artist. Joseph is a member of the FMUU of Fargo, ND, the state he now calls home.

January 19 – Stefan Jonassen "Looking Ahead Through the Rearview Mirror"

Author Neil Postman observed that "imagined futures are always more about where we have been than where we are going," suggesting that what we need to learn from the past might just "show itself through the windshield if we look hard enough in the rearview mirror." We live today in an era largely characterized by historical ignorance and revisionism. What can we learn from our own history in order to live more fully in the present and move more confidently into the future?

Note: There will be a potluck dinner following this Sunday service.

January 26 – Steve Nagle – “The War on Poverty, the Local Front 1965 to Present.” Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council had a remarkable tenure serving Otter Tail County. The project, although often controversial, had major local impacts. Sometimes, OTWCAC led the nation or the region with initiatives. The agency, once known as the "Moo Cap" for its agricultural projects, ebbed and flowed with the presidential administrations from LBJ to Barack Obama. Otter Tail Wadena CAC has now closed their doors after nearly 50 years of fighting poverty but the legacy will live on. This talk will trace the history of Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action.

Steve Nagle, an Iowa native graduated from Mankato State, began working for Otter Tail-Wadena as an outreach worker/community organizer in 1975. Eventually, Nagle served as the Executive Director until 1998 when he left to serve as the ED of a sister agency, West Central Communities Action in Elbow Lake. Nagle received a Masters Degree in Public and Non-profit Management from Moorhead State in 1990. Nagle lives in Friberg Township near Edwards and splits time between Otter Tail County and Shoreview with his wife Debra Carpenter. Steve has been a member of the Underwood Unitarian Church since the mid 1990's.

More with Joseph DeMasi

On January 11 and 12, folksinger Joseph DeMasi will be in the area. When he did a program at UCU in March, 2012, we were mightily entertained.

On January 11, from 10-11 a.m., he will be doing a show for families at the Fergus Falls Public Library. This is free and open to the public.

That evening, he will be doing a house concert at the home of Ron and Barb Graham. It will begin at 7 p.m., and attendees can make a free will contribution. Invite your friends! For more information, contact Ron and Barb.

Sunday morning, January 12, Joe will provide the program at the Sunday service. He promises that there will be little or no overlap from what he performs on Saturday evening.

Please note that news and information about upcoming speakers is also available on our website www.ucofu.org.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: medmonds@arvig.net and/or maryanderson8380@msn.com. Feedback is appreciated.

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

For weather related announcements, tune to Lakes Radio Family of Stations – 103.3, 96.5 FM and 1020, 1250 AM or online at www.lakesradio.net under “News” or KSA TV Alexandria, MN or online at www.KSAX.com under “weather”. You can also check the UCU website at www.ucofu.org or the facebook page.

Support Classes

Beginning Experience of the Fergus Falls area will be sponsoring COPING WITH LIFE ALONE and REBUILDING WHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP ENDS for people who are widows, separate, or divorced on January 6, 2014 from 7 pm to 9 pm for ten weeks. Call 218-998-3498 for more information or to register.

Curry & Caroling

John Minge and helpers presented us with a delicious, authentic Indian dinner on December 15. The line was long as we waited to FILL our plates! Thank you, John & helpers. This was the 2nd year so we now hope it will be an annual tradition for you to throw us this great party!

Special note of thanks also to Bob and Mary Worner for their traditional gift of a Holiday tree that this year reached to the ceiling!

Native American Truth Telling Book Collection

Don't forget this is likely the last month to take advantage of the Collection. The Northwoods UU Fellowship of Brainerd/Pine River left with us their collection of Native American Truth Telling books. The books are generally written by Native American authors and dispel some of the untruths and myths about Native American history, spiritual practices and culture. The Adult Religious Education group this year wants to gain a sense of the spiritual traditions of Native Americans so this collection is indeed apropos to this study. These books are now available for check-out but only through the end of the month. Please see Betsy Wells.

*Lord of the Starfields, Ancient of Days
Universe Maker, Here's a Song in Your Praise
Voice of the Nova, Smile of the Dew
All of our yearning only comes home to You!
Oh Love that fires the sun, keep me burning.
-Bruce Cockburn*

Applications Due for UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is pleased to once again offer funding for a new program that distributes 'Empowerment Grants'. These grants will be made for the purpose of encouraging church members to develop projects that will have a positive effect on our communities at large. These projects may be related to any number of social or environmental issues, including poverty, education, ecology, alternative energy, & nutrition, to name a few. The projects may be of varying time and cost, but all will be initiated and managed by the requesting applicant(s). This is an excellent opportunity for church members to make an impact on an issue they feel strongly about in the community around them.

Starting in 2007, we have given over \$48,000 to a wide variety of charitable organizations. Recent recipients include Habitat for Humanity, Underwood School 3-4 year old programs, the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Schools for Thai Refugees, and the Fergus Falls Food Shelf. The new deadline for grants is February 25th.

Criteria for 'Empowerment Grant' requests:

- 1) must be proposed by Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) members
- 2) must be compatible with the UCU mission/vision statement. (The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people who gather to reflect, to find refuge, spiritual renewal and intellectual growth, to improve our understanding of the world, to build bridges towards peace and understanding, and to improve lives and opportunities across our communities.)
- 3) must address one of the seven Unitarian Universalist principles
- 4) must be non-discriminatory
- 5) projects will not provide direct services to individuals or families - the project may help area charities and non-profits that provide direct services
- 6) Requests may be for total funding or may be for matching funds
Note: Matching fund requests will be given priority. The rationale for this criterion is to double the impact of UCU initiatives and also to encourage members to get involved with issues and work at raising funds.
Example: The chili dinner raises \$1,000 for the senior nutrition program. This \$1,000 could be matched by an additional \$1,000, thus giving the nutrition program \$2,000
- 7) The project being funded must be under the direction of an approved, not for profit (501c-3) organization.
- 8) Projects/groups that are funded must wait at least one year before applying for another grant or additional grants.
- 9) All grant recipients must agree to/sign an 'Empowerment Grant' contract. This includes progress reports and final report as per contract.

The next funding cycle will be for twelve months. **The deadline for the next funding period is February 25th, 2014.** If you are interesting in pursuing an 'Empowerment Grant' you need to fill out the application at the end of the Newsletter or pick up one at church. The application must include a timeline for your project and a specific budget for the cost of the project. Please make six copies of your application for review. It would also be a good idea to talk to a member of the 'grant committee', which will be accepting applications.

The committee will review all applications and recommend or not recommend project requests to the church board of directors. The review criteria is also included at the end of the Newsletter.

Grant Committee members are Ron Roller, Stephanie Sanderson, and Steve Nagle. Please contact Ron Roller at 218-495-3235 or at rollerolson@gmail.com for further information and/or assistance.

UCU Facebook Page

Facebook is a very popular social media site. In order to use Facebook, you need to create a free account. Once you have done that, you can post pictures, videos, your thoughts, events in your life or pretty much anything you'd like. (Facebook does have some guidelines for posting. For example, you cannot post anything violent.) The people you invite to become "friends" can see what you post. It is one way to keep in touch with the people in your life.

A person can also create a page called a "group". A group is centered around a specific topic, business, non-profit agency, church, etc. Anything posted on that page can only be seen by members of the group. To become a member you must request to join the group. The administrator of the group can either approve or deny the request to join the group, and can also remove people from the group.

A few years ago the Unitarian Church of Underwood created a group. We currently have 49 members in the group. Some of those are members of our church and some are not. The administrator is Ellen Eastby. She posts information about the Sunday morning speaker each week. She also posts links to other UU related articles or web pages. One doesn't need to be an administrator in order to post. Any member is welcome to post, as long as it isn't spam or inappropriate language or content.

If you are interested in joining the group you can find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/216475333813/> or search Facebook for "Unitarian Church of Underwood". If you have any questions, you can contact Ellen Eastby at eastofellen@hotmail.com.

Seven Ways to Vacuum **by** **Luke Anderson**

1. Poor 'Lil' 'Ol Me:

Why, oh why, am I the one who always gets stuck? This screaming noise and constant rocking back and forth are driving me nuts. I always get jobs that suck.

2. Suffering Servant:

If I didn't do this vacuuming you'd have to do it. Right? You say you have better things to do. Well, I hope you appreciate how much I sacrifice for you.

3. Git'er Done:

Nobody cares about a little dust left in the corners. I'll do enough to get by, so I can pay attention to the important things. You'll never hear me say, "I should have vacuumed more."

4. OCD:

Why do I vacuum over and over, day after day, you ask? I can't explain, but the routine makes me feel clean and keeps my anxieties at bay. Now if you'll excuse me, I must vacuum.

5. Elitist:

It's a waste of my education and talent to vacuum. That work is for maids and janitors who don't have the gumption to do more with their lives. I expect it to be done when I get back from the country club.

6. Germ Warrior:

Who knows what illness lurks in filthy foot prints, pet hair, and dust bunnies. Viruses? Bacteria? Mites? Germs? Cooties? By the way, leave your shoes outside, please.

7. Pay It Forward:

I appreciate being able to vacuum while I can stand on two feet, use both arms, and still see dust. I vacuum for those who can't. I know a time is coming when someone will vacuum for me.

Unitarian Church of Underwood

Writing as Spiritual Practice

December, 2013

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to operate the sound system Sunday AMs. Please contact Ellen, eastofellen@hotmail.com or at (218) 731-0803.

The board will discontinue the coffee/chocolate sales (to benefit the UU Service Committee projects) unless someone is interested in organizing a periodic ordering of coffee and chocolate and monitoring sales. If interested and willing to take this on, please contact Dave Wass at davidfwass@gmail.com or call him at 218/826-6235.

“Gifts They Bring” Our Musicians

“Music in the soul can be heard by the universe.” Lao Tzu

For many of us, music is the very heart of our Sunday meetings. Attendees at the Area Fall Workshop were very complimentary of the music featured that day and amazed when we said that we have that same quality of music regularly. We want to acknowledge and thank our many talented musicians who are members and friends of UCU. We appreciate the many talents. Thank you all!!

Piano & Keyboard: The piano is a fundamental part of our music program. The upright was a gift to the church from Bob and Katy Hyslop. It was sold to Katrina Wass so that the grand piano could be purchased from Margaret Sanderson. For many years Catherine Gronner was the pianist and organist until she retired in the mid 80's due to arthritis in her hands. Then Susan Groff became the pianist and Bonnie Wallin played the organ with her often performing piano/organ duets. Mary Worner became our second pianist and she and Susan now alternate providing us wonderful accompaniment and special music.

We have been honored with the playing of Rebecca Davis, concert pianist who lives in Vergus and John Donohue who lives in Mexico.

Mikkel Thompson on his visits here from Sweden provides us accordion and concertina tunes, Greg Lehrke from Evansville has also played the concertina for us.

Strings:

Anders Perrson often accompanies Susan on his violin and gives us special numbers. Ken Hamrum has made the extra effort of bringing his harp to play. Shannon Smith is grateful now for her mother's earlier prodding so she can play violin accompanied by Mary Worner. We have special folk music provided by Ron Roller, Katy Olson, Betsy Wells and most recent new UCU member, Deb Wallwork. Guitarists/songwriters, Mikko Cowdery and Patty Kakac are two of our other favorites.

Brass and woodwind: Ken provides tuba and trombone music and has often brought several of his friends to play along: Carl Kuyath on clarinet and flute and 20 year old Courtney Walkup, an online college student, who plays trombone, Jerry Larson with his clarinet and Alvin Olson from Underwood who has played a lot of tuba. Our own Wally Warhol plays trumpet when he isn't away busy playing music with and for others.

Sarah Lysaker is our beautiful flutist who told us recently about the private concerts she gave to Japanese Tsunami victims she visited last year. For the next couple years, Sarah is off to Vienna and then 6 other countries on her planned itinerary.

The oh-so talented, Hazen Roller-Olson, has performed on voice, cello, and piano over the last seven years. And we've also had Sally Avant playing her bodhran (Irish frame drum).

Mel Duncan and Nonviolent Peaceforce

UCU Members, Budd and Marguerite Andrews have a special friend, Mel Duncan, who has spoken a couple times at our Sunday services. The Andrews' involvement with Mel and his wife, Georgia Duncan, included knowing her mother, Ellie, now deceased. Ellie Heller was famous for going to court and saving a child from an institution by bringing them home – in total more than sixty children. Mel and Georgia have followed the footsteps of Ellie and have a large family of adopted children.

Mel, Founding Director of Nonviolent Peaceforce, now serves there as Director of Advocacy and Research. Mel Duncan's vision began when he went to Nicaragua with the coffee/cotton brigades during the Contra war in 1984 and saw that villages were not attacked when foreigners were present and that gave him ideas for the future. Mel attended the 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace Conference. There he met David Hartsough who had long been committed to creating a better world through nonviolent means. The Quaker activist protested racial segregation in lunch counter sit-ins in the 1960s, demonstrated against the Vietnam War and nuclear proliferation, and trained civilians in Kosovo in nonviolent strategies during the 1990s. Through their talking, Mel & David soon saw the powerful symbiosis of each of their visions. By the end of the event, they, along with others who caught the vision, were organizing to lay the foundation for Nonviolent Peaceforce.

In Nonviolent Peaceforce, unarmed Civilian Peace Keepers negotiate between warring parties in a country with conflict, yet they themselves keep a neutral presence. Similar to Peace Corps, the NP workers come from all countries and several may come from the involved country itself. Successful encounters include Nicaragua, Mindanao, Sri Lanka and South Sudan. Mel and NP even tried peace negotiations in Syria for ten days in April. Mel said, "We have to try." They go only where invited. The headquarters of NP is in Brussels but Mel spends a lot of time at the UN or elsewhere in the world, but his home is in St Paul.

Mel had a heart valve replacement (not from a pig but a cow) in mid November that has unfortunately cut into his work with Nonviolent Peaceforce because the last two months of the year are the most lucrative fundraising time. His medical leave ends in February when he goes to South Sudan with Peter Yarrow (from Peter, Paul & Mary fame), who Mel describes as "a sweet man."

"The phone recently rang at the Nonviolent Peaceforce offices in [Minneapolis](#), offering a gift that seemed too good to be true.

Would the nonprofit group, which sends peacekeepers to global hot spots to help prevent further violence, be interested in a free electronic billboard on Times Square in New York City for two months?

"I had to check it out to make sure it was real," founder Mel Duncan said with a laugh.

It was real. The caller represented an advertising company that had rented the Times Square billboard space to a private corporation. But the corporation wasn't ready to roll out its promotional campaign, so it decided to donate the space to four nonprofits.

How the Nonviolent Peacekeepers got on its radar screen is unclear. But by Nov. 7, electronic photos of the peacekeepers at work were being flashed for 10 seconds every hour on one of the world's busiest squares.

The display will continue through Jan. 5."

<http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/236127951.html>

For more information and ways to donate, check out: www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.

Marguerite's note to the article – "That, and he/they are friends of ours BECAUSE of NP. I could not keep my mouth shut when I heard about it. It just works out that we have become close friends after that fact."

Kids Religious Education

We had ten kids ranging in age from 3-13 years who attended the December 15 Kids RE class. And we want to say thanks to all of the families that participated in and helped with the kids' involvement in the Dec. 22 program. Everyone did a wonderful job, and the congregation really enjoyed and appreciated it.

We will be offering a monthly Religious Education experience for kids, from January through May. It will be held from 10:30-11:30 (during the regular service time.) We will start as a whole group, and then split into 2 groups during the hour. All kids are welcome; those under 3 are asked to bring along an adult.

We will be sharing some of the most well known Bible stories in the whole group, as well as doing activities and discussion in the 2 smaller groups. For more information, contact Betsy Wells.

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death."

- Nelson Mandela

Bernice Johnson & the Shan Refugees

Prior to Bernice Johnson's annual trip to Thailand for work with the Shan refugees, several UCU members made 55 hand puppets and sent 158 donated baseball hats for the Shan children Bernice supports through her establishment of "Schools for Shan Refugees." We also have supported Bernice's efforts through Empowerment Grant Awards.

We have received email messages from Bernice describing the distribution of the hats: "not only did they like the caps, but they had a lot of fun with them! Some immediately turned them backwards, American style."

In another email message from Bernice, she says: "I am enormously pleased with the results of our scholarship program. Last night I watched 4 young women teach English. Three of them were our scholarship students, from an agricultural camp where many are illiterate. They are skillful, loving teachers. The kids love them and so do I! I'll be writing a newsletter with more details."

Bernice packed the puppets in her suitcase. Bernice's immediate family members and several UCU members made contributions to pay postage to mail the 40 pounds of hats. At the last minute Bernice's friend Vicki, a current Board Member of the Schools for Shan Refugees, was willing to take an extra bag and the money paid the fee rather than postage. Bernice writes:

"Today I took the \$100.00 you gave me, changed it for baht and my friend Vicki and I went shopping for poor Shan children who live in Shan State Burma across the border from the orphanage. We hit a shop with everything we needed. The headmaster of the orphanage school said there were about 70 children just inside the border. For \$75.00 we were able to buy 70 caps, 70 pairs of bed socks and 70 pairs of gloves!!!! Good shopping, no? We've already packed them into our suitcases, but I will try to remember to take photos before we give them to the head monk of the monastery/orphanage to trek them into the jungle.

Vicki had a little money left from the \$100.00 I gave her for the cap suitcase, too, so we have also bought warm caps for the 14 students who are monks and who are not supposed to wear the other kind of caps. They will all be delighted. They are getting the puppets too. The little kids will love those.

We will take the bus to the orphanage tomorrow morning. The orphanage is in a Buddhist monastery, where they have an excellent Abbott, who treks into the jungle to help poor Shan children. Thanks to all of you, we are able to help this year too. I will probably use the rest of your money to buy food for the children up there. Between Vicki and me we should be able to get some good photos, so you can share the fun through photos.

Love and hugs and many, many thanks! Bernice"

Watch at church for posting of the pictures Bernice has sent. For more information see: www.ShanRefugeeSchools.org.

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
1889-2014
125 Year Anniversary Celebration
Kick-off
January 19, 2014
Guest Speaker – Stefan Jonassan
Potluck Dinner
Special, Special Music
&
2014 Directory**

To kick off the celebrations of our 125th year on January 19, we'll have special guest speaker, Stefan Jonassan. Duets will be provided by Susan Groff on the piano and Bonnie Wallin on the organ. Other special music will be provided during our service and social hours. **Don't forget to bring a dish for the potluck following our Service.**

And then----the Directories will be distributed!! Thanks to Norm Kolstad and Luke Anderson who took most of the pictures. Thanks also to Norm who compiled and wrote the extensive and complete story of our 125 year history. From Norm: *"What I went through to compile the 125 year history, when I started, and what it's meant to me."*

"Most of the information for the history of the Unitarian Church of Underwood that I compiled came from these sources:

- Unitarian Church of Underwood board minutes
- Kristofer Janson in America – Draxten.
- A History of the Underwood Unitarian Church – Deibert
- On Our Own Two Feet – Worner
- John Gronner notes
- Various Church histories
- Nora UU Church History
- Fergus Falls Daily Journal articles

The updated history is really a compilation of many that have been written over the years, notably by John Gronner (1971), James Gray (1979), and Beth Deibert (1980). I volunteered to write this last spring because many of my ancestors were Church members; some even helping with its organization. Also I enjoy studying history and I was curious about what motivated these people to form a new church and keep it going through some pretty rough times. As a teenager, I did not concern myself with the affairs of this Church. Now by researching and writing this history, I have come to understand many of the issues they confronted. I even came to realize that I may have been the last person confirmed in the UCU."

And thank you, thank you, thank you to Ellen Eastby for the many hours she spent on lay-out of the Directory. Ellen worked more than 60 hours getting it all together. Mary Anderson did the logistics of organizing the Directory process, tracking pictures taken, orders, payments, etc. The Directory Disc is now with Perham Printing to get the copies made. For those out of the area, we will mail you your ordered and paid copy. There will be a limited number of extra Directories for sale for \$5.00/each to those who did not place an order earlier. Contact Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com to hold a Directory.

***“May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations,
And inspired to bring our gifts of love
and service to the altar of humanity.
May we know once again that we are not isolated beings
But connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe,
to this community and to each other.”
(#434 Anonymous from Singing the Living Tradition)***

U Group – Talking God Talk

“U-Groups” is the term used exclusively by the Unitarian Church of Underwood for what are more commonly known as “covenant groups.” “There are several models of covenant groups and we chose to model after the “small group ministry”. We design the group to be inclusive and in line with the principles of our church.”

Members of small groups act as the church. They actualize the vision of our liberal religion to care for one another, trust each other with our sacred stories, share emotions as well as ideas, and wrestle with the meaning of our experiences and to hear and accept how others frame their lives in terms of ultimate things. They anchor the religious life to intimate and ultimate conversations and to service to others. They can also advance other goals of the church through fostering multi-generational conversations and hospitality toward visitors and newcomers. At the core of the small group experience is to learn to be with other people in a deep way. (Note: extractions from UU SGM Network Journal).

The U Groups’ topic for December was “Talking God Talk.” Quotes from that lesson: “God does not play dice with the universe” – Albert Einstein (who is widely interpreted as referring to his belief in the constant, steady law of the universe and not a religious figure.)

“God will not permit any troubles to come upon us, unless He has a specific plan by which great blessing can come out of the difficulty.” – Peter Marshall

2013-1014

U Group Meets:

Fergus Falls Evening Group

2nd Tuesday of the Month - 7 p.m.

Home of John & Janelle Miersch

Co-Facilitators – Diane Johnson & Carole Mitchell

Fergus Falls Afternoon Group

3rd Thursday of the Month – 4:30 p.m.

Home of Diana Ziesemer

Co-Facilitators – Bonnie Bell & Tere Mann

Battle Lake Afternoon Group

4th Tuesday of the Month – 3:30 p.m.

Home of Ross & Mary Larson

Co-Facilitators – Bob Worner & Stephanie Sanderson

Perham Afternoon Group

2nd Thursday of the Month – 3:30 p.m.

Home of Mary Anderson

Co-Facilitators – Mary Anderson & Mary Worner

Unitarian Church of Underwood Board Minutes for November 20, 2013

Board members present: Ellen Eastby, Norman Kolstad, Mary Worner, David Sanderson, Dave McRoberts, Don Siems, and Mary Anderson. Absent: John Miersch, Alisha Piekarski, and David Wass. Also present: Administrative consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ellen Eastby at 6:30 p.m.

Mary Worner offered a meditation/reading.

The agenda was approved (Worner/Sanderson).

The minutes of the October 20, 2013 meeting were approved as printed (Sanderson/McRoberts).

Reports:

Program Committee: Mary Worner
Outreach Committee: Mary Anderson
Facilities Committee: Dave McRoberts
Membership Committee: Mary Anderson
Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

Old Business: David Sanderson gave a Planned Giving committee report, presenting formal structure and policy documents that could become the basis for the UCU Foundation. These documents were deemed acceptable pending a legal opinion (McRoberts/Siems). Other topics: Area Workshop recap, membership directory, roles and responsibilities, privacy policy, budget process, Thanksgiving service, and the UCU newsletter.

David Wass joined the meeting briefly, and gave the treasurer's report. A motion by McRoberts/Sanderson to discontinue the fair trade coffee sales was subsequently withdrawn.

New Business: The January board meeting date was rescheduled for January 12, 2014, following the service and coffee time (Worner/Kolstad). Other topics: Empowerment Grants, membership certification with UUA, and snow removal.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Kolstad

**Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU)
Grant Committee**

Application for Empowerment Grant

(please add more information on additional sheet if needed)

The application deadline for the current grant cycle is February 25th, 2014

Name.....

Address.....

E-mail.....

Name of Project.....

Description/Purpose of Project

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How does project relate to mission/principles of the UCU

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Project Timeline

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How will funds be used...please attach a sample budget

Does project/funding request involve matching funds?.....

Progress Report

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Follow-up Report (on completion of project)

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Please contact Ron Roller at rollerolson@gmail.com or 1-218-495-3235 for additional information.

Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU)

Grant Period _____

Empowerment Grant Ranking Scorecard

A. Is the project proposed by a UCU member? *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

B. Does the project address one or more of the 7 Unitarian principles? *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

If yes, assign points between 1-3. 3=high correlation to UU principles, 2= medium correlation to principles, 1= low correlation to UU principles

C. Will project be managed by UCU member?

If yes, assign points between 0-2. 2=100% managed by UCU member with high level of member involvement, 1=managed by other entity but has some UCU participation, 0= no UCU member involvement.

D. Is the project non-discriminatory and inclusive? *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

If yes, assign points between 1-2. 2=highly inclusive and non-discriminatory, 1=somewhat inclusive and non-discriminatory

E. Will project funds be matched?

If yes, assign 1 pt. If no, assign 0 pt.

F. Does the project provide direct services to individuals or families.

If yes, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.

<u>Grant Application Names:</u>	<u>Total score</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
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2

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Note: The highest point score can be 8, the lowest point score can be 2.