



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.



(Photo courtesy of Susan Groff, October 2015)

January 2016 Newsletter
Unitarian Church of Underwood

206 North Main Street
Underwood

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~ January 2016 ~						
◀ December						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	2
3 Adult RE 9:15 – 10:15 Prophets led by John Minge (LL) Child Care Open TALK Bob Worner, “No Promises” U Group Facilitators 12 N	4 AA 7 p.m.	5	6 Green Team 5:30 p.m. @ church	7	8	9
10 Childrens’ RE 10:30-11:30 a.m. U Kids & U Teens TALK –Patrick Holliste, Active Living Plan to Grow TF 12-2 p.m.	11 AA 7 p.m.	12 Worship Committee 9:30 a.m. @ church Battle Lake U Group @ Worners 3:00 pm Erhard/Fergus Falls U Group @ Carole Mitchell’s 7 – 9 p.m.	13 Alexandria U Group 7 p.m. @ Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg Celebrants @ Katy Olson’s @ 6 p.m.	14 Perham U Group @ Mary Anderson’s 3:30 p.m.	15	16
17 Mindfulness Setting 9-10 a.m. (Ellison Rm) Child Care Open Talk: John LaForge, “Nuclear Heartland”	18 AA 7 p.m.	19 Fergus Falls U Group @ Tere Mann’s 6:00 p.m.	20 Board of Directors 6:30 p.m. @ church	21	22	23
24 Adult RE 9:15-10:15 a.m. Old Testament - Bob Worner, (LL) Children’s RE – U Kids 10:30-11:30 a.m. TALK – Stephanie Porter, Land Stewardship U Group Facilitators 12 N	25 AA 7 p.m.	26	27 Membership Committee 5:30 p.m. @ church	28	29	30
31 Adult RE 9:15-10:15 a.m. Old Testament - led by Bob Worner (LL) Talk – TBA U Women 12-2+	Notes: Meeting Notices should be sent to maryanderson8380@msn.com by the 28th of the month for the next month.					

More about January Speakers

January 3 – Bob Worner, "No Promises," addressing UU Principle #Principal # 2 Justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

January 10 – Patrick Hollister – "Justice, Equity, and Compassion in the Transportation System." Patrick Hollister is the Active Living Planner with PartnerSHIP 4 Health, a collaboration of community and public health partners in Becker, Clay, Otter Tail and Wilkin counties. The goal is to prevent chronic disease through sustainable changes that increase physical activity and healthy eating, and reduce tobacco use and exposure.

Patrick will address his work in Otter Tail County to promote biking and walking, in terms of both infrastructure and behavior. Transportation is a very important aspect of our lives and presents all of us with an excellent opportunity to practice the second principle, "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Patrick will speak about how making our communities more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly helps make our transportation system more just, equitable, and compassionate.

U Kids (6th grade and under) and U Teen (7th grade and older) will meet from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

January 17 – John LaForge, "Nuclear Heartland: The End of the Land-Based Missile System."

John LaForge has worked on the staff of Nukewatch, a nuclear watch dog and environmental justice group in Wisconsin, since 1992 and he edits its *Quarterly* newsletter. His articles on nuclear weapons, reactors, radioactive waste and militarism have appeared in *Counterpunch*, *New Internationalist*, *the Progressive*, *Earth Island Journal*, opinion pages of the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the Miami Herald, and elsewhere. He is a regular contributor to Counterpunch.org, Peacevoice.org and the Duluth Reader Weekly.

John has testified before British and Dutch parliamentarians on the outlaw status of depleted uranium weapons used widely by the United States. He's been a member of rural Plowshares Land Trust near Luke, Wisconsin for 26 years and has served over four years in jail and prison for nonviolent actions against nuclear power and weapons.

In 1987-88, he and Barb Katt visited all 1,000 U.S. land-based missiles and their 100 launch control centers. The account of their research was published in *Nuclear Heartland* (1988). Their account also appears in the newly published *Nuclear Heartland, Revised Edition* (2015) that he co-edited with Arianne Peterson.

January 24 - Stephanie Porter- Land Stewardship

The Green Team will have a flyer with a list of local CSA producers, some of whom may be available with further information in the Ellison Room following the Sunday Service.

U Kids (6th grade and under) will meet from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

January 31 – To be announced – watch the bulletins.

Adult Religious Education

The Old Testament Class, which did not meet in December, will meet twice in January, the 24th and 31st. We will look at the Book of Job in both instances. We continue to use Harvey Cox's book, HOW TO READ THE BIBLE, in this case - Chapter 4, and the obvious Old Testament book. Bob has a few other books to share beginning in the coming year.

The Month that Was

Special thanks to Bob and Mary Worner for providing us a Christmas tree each year that stands in the window during the season, visible to all our community.

December 6 - Katy Olson addressed the first principle "The inherent worth and dignity of every person". She offered a broader perspective – that, we need to believe in and act upon a principle of the belief in the inherent worth of everything in the world around us. And the destruction of our planet is tantamount to slavery. (Full text of Katy's talk was enclosed with the correction to the December 6 Church Report).

December 13 – Ashley Horan, Executive Director, MUUSJA, "Black Lives Matter: Revolutionary Universalism and Our UU Faith." In preparing for the past two Thanksgivings with her family, Ashley was reminded beforehand of Ferguson when the jury declined to indict for the death of Michael Brown, for Eric Harris, and just recently in Minneapolis, the shooting of Jamar Clark. Ashley's relatives do not share her politics and there was a "Facebook Friend Fight." But because of her UU beliefs, she had decided to show up, speak loudly and last year "waddle" in protest (she was pregnant). This year she asked her cousins to go with her and to her surprise, they consented and saw people as protesters that were gathered exchanging stories, singing songs.

The movement behind Black Lives Matter is not new but "three queer black women" got together and coined the term. It started through social media that is becoming real in the street. – the time is now to dismantle white supremacy. The fact is "deadliness." Black people are dying. BLM centers voices, has decentralized leadership, gives to others and to Uuers a chance to live a radical truth. When black people get free, we all get free.

Liberal, white, middle-upper class are a privileged demographic group. To topple long time structures/our culture of white privilege, we have to show up, listen. BLM uses many tactics, including interrupting comfort and convenience to get the attention, get power of position for the voices to be heard. Business cannot continue as usual when people are regularly dying.

96.3% in our area are white but still we can put up a Black Lives Matter banner, read "Waking Up White" and the "New Jim Crow," others' news stories, "lovingly interrupt" when we hear racist remarks or conversations, donate money, and unpack our own identity to figure out how

we have benefited, taken for granted our entitlements. None is free until all are free. (For more information see: www.muusja.org).

After service Curry Dinner: Nearly 60 people stayed to attend the 3rd annual delicious, curry dinner provided by John Minge with assistance from the Perham U Group and other helpers. Thank you, John & company!!!

December 20 - UCU Teens and Kids RE Program “The Holidays through the Eyes of Our Children.” Bonnie Bell led the program. It began with everyone singing Jingle Bells followed by Susan playing Jingle Bells Rock for the offertory. The teens and kids responded to the congregation with what Christmas means to them – tree, fun with friends, family, getting together, and good food. They performed a play-let about the joys of the season that included decorating a tree, hanging stocking, and playing Charades. Then, Budd Andrew’s dancing dolls came out followed by a bag of treats given to each participant.

Betsy Wells was recognized for her organization of the program this year as well as her contributions to the RE program for many years.

December 24 - Traditional Christmas Eve Service was led by **Ellen Eastby** with music by pianist, **Mary Worner**; tubist, **Ken Hamrun**, and bassoonist, **Ericka Andersen**; and fiddlers, **Katy Olson and Deb Wallwork**. Readers included: **Lee Becker, Stephanie Sanderson, Kris Warhol and Mary Anderson**. The program flowed together beautifully through the readings and songs with a traditional candle lighting – all of which emphasized the season, our bonds of togetherness, and our wishes for peace. Ellen also provided the luminaries outside that added so much to the welcoming atmosphere.

A special offering was collected for the Church of the Larger Fellowship Prison Ministry Program. The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is the largest Unitarian Universalist congregation in the world, offering an online spiritual home beyond walls or geography. Through contributions CLF can offer a free membership to any prisoner who chooses to join CLF. There are currently about 700 incarcerated individuals involved in the program. CLF mail their prisoner-members publications such as UU World and Quest, monthly reading packets, correspondence courses for personal growth and spiritual enrichment, and a letter-writing match with a non-incarcerated UU. For more information see: <http://www.questformeaning.org/programs/prison-ministry/>

December 27 - Jill Fazio spoke about the Fergus Falls **Kinship Program**. Both Kris and Wally Warhol are Kinship mentors as is John Minge with the Perham Kinship Program. Kinship has also received Empowerment Grants from UCU that has been used for books and special activities of all the kids enrolled in Kinship, whether or not they have an assigned mentor.

Jill began with a definition of “kinship” - close connections, kindred spirit, and she sees those ideas reflected throughout our UU Principles.

The Kinship Program started in Perham 25 years ago with a satellite office in Fergus Falls for the past 5 years. The purpose is to match youth who need a little extra endorsement and connect them to the community with an adult with similar interests to the child. Kinship requests that the adult meet with the child twice a month at consistent times arranged with the family.

Jill gave the example of a freckled, redheaded boy who just wanted to go fishing who was matched with a freckled, redheaded man who liked to fish and could be taken in looks as the boy's uncle. After just a few months together, the boy is thriving.

Kinship mentoring is a way to give back, to "love your neighbor as yourself," to make a difference, to befriend a child. There is training and support. Fergus Falls has 5 boys and 2 girls waiting to be mentored. Perham has 40-50 kids on the waiting list.

For more information to become a mentor or a sponsor, contact: Kinship@Perhamk12.MN.US or call 218/346-7102 or kinshipff@yahoo.com or call 218/998-9005.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: maryanderson8380@msn.com. Editing is provided by Stephanie Sanderson and emailing/ mailing is provided by Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson. Mickie Edmonds usually provides one of her paintings each month for our appreciation! When you have photos of a UCU event and are willing to share, please forward them to Mary.

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

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." You can also check the UCU website at www.ucofu.org or the Facebook page.

Handicap Accessible Parking

Please be aware that the curb immediately in front of the church entry has been painted blue to designate handicap accessible parking for those with handicap parking stickers. Please extend every courtesy to assure that persons in need are accommodated.

Child Care

Child care is provided from 10:15-12:00 a.m. on Sundays when there is no Children's Religious Education (held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month). **On warm enough Sundays, Jewel & Mary – child care providers, ask that you dress your children with warm clothes so they could spend a little time outside during the child care hour.**

**Applications due February 15, 2016 for
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD
EMPOWERMENT GRANTS**

See the December Newsletter for details and the application or pick one up at church or contact: Ron Roller at 218-495-3235 or at: rollerolson@gmail.com for further information and/or assistance.

U groups

The Battle Lake U Group is sad to lose Ross (Gerry) and Mary Larson as their long time hosts. They and all of the rest of us want to give the Larsons our best wishes as they temporarily move to the cities to be closer to their sons and to get the health care needed. **Note: The Battle Lake U Group will instead meet January 12 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Bob & Mary Worner, 28424 Waterstreet Rd.** The group will decide together where to meet thereafter.

Along with meeting as small groups monthly, each U Group during the year contributes to a project at church and a project for their community. For their church project, the Perham U Group helped John Minge with the curry dinner. The Fergus Falls group has provided beautiful, winter greens for the outside urns.

The Fergus Falls/Erhard U Group is has taken on the amazing work of having one of their members assist a month at a time with U kids (children 6th grade and under). Shannon Smith describes the experience in more detail: "The U Group chose to provide this assistance to the children's hour, when the RE leaders commented that they could use adult help on their RE Sundays."

Shannon helped for the two weeks of RE in November by "being present for the RE Leaders as an additional adult, taking part in the activities for the day, and interacting with the children during circle/ discussion time. She also helped to follow up the lesson by being present for discussion with a couple of the older boys, while the regular leaders worked with the younger ones. This gave the boys a chance to discuss the lesson for the day in a way that was more meaningful to them."

Fergus Falls/Erhard U Group Co-Facilitator, Carole Mitchell says: "this whole joint experience builds or strengthens ties between the generations, and that's all good!"

Remember: the U groups are open to additional members at any time – we always have an empty chair waiting to be filled. If interested in a U group, or for more information, questions or concerns, contact: Connie Stigen at dcstigen@gmail.com or phone: 218/731-1445 or Tere Mann at teremann@gmail.com or phone: 218/205-4931.

2015-1016 U Group Schedule

- Battle Lake Afternoon Group – 2nd Tuesday of each month – in January the group will meet at the home of Bob & Mary Worner @ 3 p.m. (see above). Co-facilitators: Bob Worner, Joanne Cress and Kris Warhol
- Fergus Falls/Erhard Evening Group – 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Carole Mitchell, 33928 County Highway 27, Erhard. Co-facilitators: Diane Johnson and Carole Mitchell.
- Fergus Falls Evening Group – 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the home of Tere Mann, 1319 N Park, Fergus Falls. Co-facilitators: Bonnie Bell Albers and Tere Mann.
- Perham Afternoon Group – the 2nd Thursday of each month 3:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Anderson, 455 5th St. SW, Perham. Co-facilitators: Mary Anderson and Mary Worner.
- Alexandria Evening Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month 7 p.m. at the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg. Co-facilitators: Lee Becker, Connie Stigen, Tere Mann.

January Topic: “Understanding Differences.”

The Peace of Wild Things

BY WENDELL BERRY

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*



(photo from internet)

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again." - *Lewis Carroll*

Childrens' Religious Education Christmas Programs

We have been favored each year around Christmas time with a program presented by the kids with Children's RE. Over the past several years, there were about 7 kids regularly attending and this year, we are up to 17 kids!! There are 10-12 in U Kids (6th grade and under) and 4-5 in U Teens (7th grade and up). The pictures below give you an idea of their talents and their skills with the annual dance of the dolls provided by Budd Andrews, maker of the dolls that were introduced to him by his own father more than 80 years ago! We are delighted with the growth in our kids!!



Dancing Dolls 2011



Dancing Dolls 2014



**Dancing Dolls 2015 with Creator, Budd Andrews and wife, Marguerite in foreground and below
Photo courtesy of Connie Stigen**



Photo courtesy of Katy Andrews

**My, how they've grown!!
Christmas 2011**



Greta & mom, Katerina



Santa Jewel



Greta & Sequoia

Christmas 2015



Photos courtesy of Katy Andrews & Mary Anderson

Christmas Elves!!



**Mary Anderson & Kris Warhol,
Readers @ Christmas Eve Service
Photo courtesy of Ellen Eastby**

Plan to Grow

Of the 91 questionnaires sent to UCU members, forty surveys were returned. Thanks to all of you who returned the survey. The Task Force was a bit surprised and very pleased with the responses. With your candidness, comments and recommendations, we are better able to plan for the future of UCU. Moving forward, the Plan to Grow Task Force members will assess the results, forward recommendations to the various committees and the Board of Directors and have a plan to present to the membership at the April annual meeting. The summary compilation of the survey results will be included in the February Newsletter.

Green Gossip

The Green Team is putting together a flyer of local area Community Based Agriculture (CSAs) producers from whom members can buy shares for fresh produce, a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. Sign up starts as early as March or April so you will want to think about this opportunity soon.

Here are the basics: a farmer offers a certain number of "shares" to the public. Typically the share consists of a box of vegetables, but other farm products may be included. Interested consumers purchase a share (aka a "membership" or a "subscription") and in return receive a box (bag, basket) of seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season.

This arrangement creates several rewards for both the farmer and the consumer. In brief:

Advantages for farmers:

- Get to spend time marketing the food early in the year, before their 16 hour days in the field begin,
- Receive payment early in the season, which helps with the farm's cash flow,
- Have an opportunity to get to know the people who eat the food they grow.

Advantages for consumers:

- Eat ultra-fresh food, with all the flavor and vitamin benefits,
- Get exposed to new vegetables and new ways of cooking,
- Usually get to visit the farm at least once a season,
- Find that kids typically favor food from "their" farm – even veggies they've never been known to eat,
- Develop a relationship with the farmer who grows their food and learn more about how food is grown.

The Green Team has invited several local producers to come to church on Sunday, January 24th in conjunction with our speaker on the Land Stewardship organization. After the speaker presentation, there will be an Information event in the foyer to include the following tables:

- Land Stewardship
- CSA - Directory
- Possibly - CSA business reps - explain or register members

The flyer will also feature information on local farmers' markets, another way to get fresh, locally grown produce.

U Women Gathering, January 31

UCU women of all ages are invited to an afternoon blanket/quilt tying gathering on January 31 after church – 2 p.m. or so. This is will be the first of what we hope to be regular bi-monthly gatherings to share our experiences, aspirations and bind together. At this first gathering we will assemble small quilts from our fabric and yarn stashes to donate to good cause. We will have supplies and equipment on hand. Bring a lunch dish to share, your hands, your spirit and your readiness to laugh and enjoy. Child Care will be provided. Contact: Mary Anderson at 218/346-6638 or maryanderson8380@msn.com.

U Care

Several UCU members have stepped forward as available to visit other members and friends who are shut-in or have needs or concerns. If you want to be a visitor or have a visitor, please contact: Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638 or Mary Worner @ maryworner@gmail.com or 218/826-6998. One of the Mary's will help coordinate those visits.



So Long and Thanks for All ... (From Nancy Hegge, Director Coordinator from the former UU Prairie Star Region, now the UU MidAmerica Region and who many of you know).

"So Long and Thanks for All the Fish." That's the title of a book in the science fiction trilogy "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," by Douglas Adams. And those are the words that came to mind as I sat down to write this "good bye" piece for the newsletter. In the book, the dolphins have left a planet behind, and while doing so, engraved the message onto a crystal bowl.

After twenty-one years of working for congregations in Prairie Star District and then in the MidAmerica Region, I'm retiring from my position on December 31. My commitment to myself had been to continue my work through the transition from districts to region to the point where I was confident that things were stable and congregations were being well-served, and I think we're there. We've also weathered the retirement of our full time (and long-time PSD) Administrator Sarah Greene and the orientation of our new Administrator Nancy Harden, who is fully up to speed.

I can't express how fulfilling this work has been in my life. The opportunities and invitations to work with your congregations have been a blessing. The congregation members, the ministers and church staff, and the district and regional leaders I've met have been some of the most

committed, talented, and interesting people ever. Our district and regional staff colleagues across the country have shared their knowledge, insights, and perspectives. Our own regional staff team is exceptional and excellent. I will miss all of you.

People have asked me what I'll do after I retire. I intend to read, spend time with my family, and decompress after the busyness of the life I've led, especially in the last few years. On impulse, I bought a sewing machine a year ago, and it hasn't yet been out of its box, so that may provide some entertainment! And I'm sure I'll find some volunteer work to do related to the commitments I have. I will see some of you at Regional Assembly next spring. I'll listen to speakers, attend workshops, perhaps - be a delegate from my own congregation. I'll look forward to seeing you then.

So thanks for all the "fish" - that I actually got paid for doing this work that I loved so much, the confidence and trust you placed in me, the warm welcomes and friendly faces, the gratitude for my work with your congregations. It's been a blessing in my life, and I will never forget it, or you.

-- Nancy Hegge



Regional Assembly 2016
**The WHO in the New Era
of Unitarian Universalism**
April 29 - May 1 • St. Paul, MN
MidAmericaRegionUUA.org/ra

We'll be at the [InterContinental Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront](http://InterContinentalCrownePlazaStPaulRiverfront.com)
11 East Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55101

Regional Assembly Theme and Keynotes

The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism

As you may recall, last spring's Regional Assembly had the theme of "The 'New' in the New Era," building on our MidAmerica tag line of "A New Era in Unitarian Universalism." We heard from Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and Rev. Marlin Lavanhar. They told stories and discussed the racism we are attempting to dismantle in all aspects of our culture, especially focused on our UU values and the role our congregations can play in this important work.

Feedback from participants told us that a logical next theme for our 2016 RA in St. Paul, Minnesota (April 29-May 1) would build on the New Era theme, looking at WHO we want to be as faith communities in the coming years. Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Who will be joining us on this journey?

It is with great excitement that we announce our keynote presenters to help us explore these questions.

Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen

Leadership Development
Associate for Youth and
Young Adults of Color at the
UUA

Rev. Jeremy Nickel

Minister of the Mission Peak
UU congregation in Fremont,
CA

Kenny Wiley

UU World senior editor and
Director of Faith Formation at
Prairie UU Church in Parker,
CO

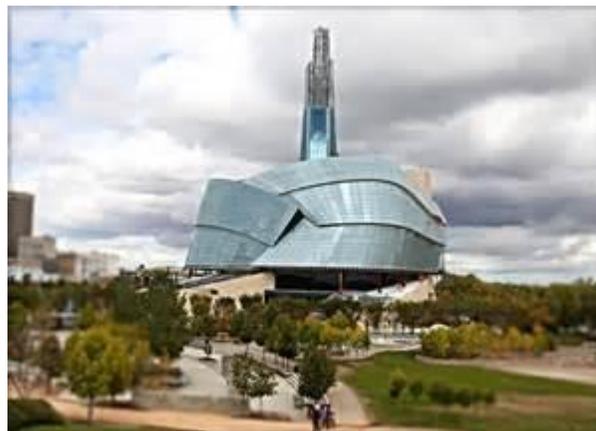
They will each present highlights of their own work as they look forward to the future of Unitarian Universalism. There will be conversations with each other, and they will take questions from participants.

And, as always at Regional Assembly, we will have worship services to inspire us and workshops to stimulate our thinking, along with plenty of opportunities to have fun with new and old UU friends.

We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars now for April 29-May 1 and plan to attend the Regional Assembly in St. Paul. We are hoping to get a large contingency from UCU so we can go together and be together. For complete information on the assembly, see: <https://www.midamericauua.org>.

**Plan a 2016 Trip to the
Canadian Museum of Human Rights
Hope for a Changed World**



National Geographic recently named the Canadian Museum of Human Rights as one of the “Best Trip on Earth for 2016.” Donn and Marlys Siems visited Winnipeg, Canada last September and both marveled at all they took in there. The Museum is the first of its kind in the world. It is not a museum of artifacts and bones. It is “a bittersweet unraveling of triumphs and injustices – a crucible of raw and beautiful storytelling that compels us to re-examine what it means to be human.”

The Siems spent a good four hours there and could have stayed much longer to take it all in. The Museum is located at The Forks in downtown, Winnipeg. The building itself is a spectacular structure made of 400,000 year old Manitoba Tyndall stone and steel wrapped in an enormous glass cloud of windows in the image of the wings of a dove. It contains ten stacked galleries topped by a glass spire that rises 100 meters into the air.

Guided tours are available or visitors may tour at their own pace through the “path of enlightenment: - on continuous ramps of translucent alabaster stone. The galleries are built around human rights themes that highlight 100 moments in the human rights history throughout the ages around the world. For more information see: <https://humanrights.ca/>

Plan to spend several days In Winnipeg to take in this wonderful museum and the general area around, including the Museum of Man and Nature, and the Planetarium. You can walk across the spectacular new Louis Riel Pedestrian Bridge into Winnipeg’s French Quarter. There are also the Leo Mol Sculpture Gardens and adjoining English Gardens. More than 300 of Dr. Leo Mol’s works in bronze and ceramics are displayed in the Gallery and Studio Buildings as well as in the gardens. There are Jazz Series Concerts at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoons in the Gardens.

You can also visit Assiniboine Park – 300 acres of green spaces, gardens walking paths and a conservatory. Go to the International Polar Bear Conservation Centre where you can see bears swim and play around and above the people in the glass tunnel below their pool. Another interesting tour is at the Royal Canadian Mint where money is made for more than 70 countries around the world – (no free samples).

And of course, you can visit the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg (established 1891) with services Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and that is located on the beautiful Wellington Crescent Drive.

To get to Winnipeg, the Siems recommend that you take Highway 59 North. On your way stop at the Scandinavian Restaurant, the "Nordhiem" located in the town of Karlstad - which is 45 miles south of the border. Just across the street from that restaurant is an old fashioned "variety store" with an amazing amount of Scandinavian "stuff" at reasonable prices. The whole side of the outside wall on the store is a huge mural so you can't miss it.

The border crossing on #59 into Canada is not actually in a town - and is not open during the night – but does open by 8:00 AM at the latest. There would very seldom be a waiting line there. Just north of the crossing there is a tiny town called "Tolstoy" that has an interesting "drive-by" - an old

well-kept Ukranian domed church just east of the highway. And just a reminder: if your passport is not up to date, it does take some time to get a new one. The Siems: "We did it all, enjoyed it all and highly recommend this trip to all of you!" *Information provided by Marlys & Donn Siems*

Or
Another Idea for the Coming Summer
Camp UniStar

What is Camp UniStar? Think rustic beauty and simplicity. It is a camp for Unitarian Universalist individuals and families and other like-minded people, nestled in Chippewa National Forest on Star Island, surrounded by clear waters of Cass Lake in northern Minnesota. The lake encourages water activities, the forest trail attracts hikers, sunrises and sunsets invite meditation.

Each summer we welcome campers of all ages to this place out of time where the beauty of nature is rich, life is simple and community is cherished. Camp UniStar offers a week filled with new and old friends, thought-provoking programs, and memorable experiences. Each week has a theme centered around a two hour daily program on topics such as spirituality, science, sailing, social justice, self-reflection or the arts.

Camp UniStar has a seasonal staff of 14 people. We recruit for a number of positions such as DIRECTOR, FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR, WATERFRONT DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S PROGRAM, YOUTH PROGRAM and GENERALIST.

More details including an application are available at www.campunistar.org. Contact Lynda Borjesson for details on staffing [612-483-3169](tel:612-483-3169).

Unitarian Church of Underwood
Board Minutes for November 18, 2015

Board members present: David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Stan Carignan, David Wass, Lee Becker, Kris Warhol, Alisha Piekarski, John Miersch and Norman Kolstad. Absent: Diane Johnson. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board Chair John Miersch at 6:38 p.m. JoAnn Larson shared a reading/meditation.

The agenda was approved (Becker/Sanderson).

The minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting were approved (Warhol/Becker). The minutes of the October 18, 2015 meeting were approved (Warhol/Becker).

Reports:

Treasurer: David Wass reported on bills to be paid, lag in collections from budget. One bank CD will not be renewed. The board authorized moving the current investments in the UUA Foundation fund to the newly formed UUA Limited Liability Corporation (Sanderson/Warhol).

The board appointed David Wass and David Sanderson to represent the UCU to the new LLC (Becker/Anderson).

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

Program Committee: Lee Becker reported that a worship committee was being formed, a “children’s moment” is being considered.

Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol mentioned the many projects underway or being considered by the committee.

Outreach Committee: Stan Carignan reported on aspects of a Social Justice initiative.

Speakers Committee: JoAnn Larson

Membership Committee: Mary Anderson reported on the planned addendum to the church directory, women’s and men’s meetings, and the need for resources to deal with addiction and support for caregivers.

Safety Committee: Kris Warhol listed some of their projects – fire extinguishers, keys, lift issues, CPR/AED training, inventory, insurance, and threats.

Stewardship Committee: no report

Foundation Advisory Committee: David Sanderson reported that a new brochure is coming, further Sunday short talks.

Plan to Grow task force: Mary Anderson reported that four people had joined their task force, questionnaires have started to come in.

Solar Feasibility task force: no report

Green Sanctuary task force: Mary Anderson reported coordination with other committees.

Old Business: The strategic plan and roles and responsibilities documents were reviewed.

New Business: There will be a Christmas Eve service. Attendance at the Mid-America conference was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Kolstad, acting secretary.

UUA Stewardship & Development

Making New Year's Resolutions

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As we look forward to the New Year, many of us are considering our resolutions for 2016. What will yours be? Here are some creative and meaningful ideas for New Year's resolutions that reflect our seven principles:

- 1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person**
Stand on the Side of Love for people of all faiths and backgrounds by helping to combat Islamophobia and Xenophobia in the United States. [Learn about UUs who are sponsoring Syrian refugees](#) and organizing rallies to support their Muslim neighbors. Talk with members of your congregation and others about what you can do to show support in your community.
- 2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations**
Join Standing on the Side of Love for [Thirty Days of Love for racial justice](#). From Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, February 14, 2016 people of faith and conscience will show up for Black Lives Matter and racial justice throughout the country as part of Thirty Days of Love.
- 3. Acceptance of one another, and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations**
Participate in a religious education class, perhaps one using the UUA's online religious curricula [Tapestry of Faith](#). Or use and share readings, meditations, music, and worship resources on the [Worship Web](#).
- 4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning**
Read and discuss great books about social justice, history, theology, and more from Beacon Press and Skinner House, available through the [UUA bookstore](#).
- 5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large**
Come to [General Assembly 2016](#) in Columbus, OH, (or participate virtually) to have a say in the business of our Association. Participate in

advance by encouraging your congregation to vote in [congregational polls](#).

6. **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all**
Promote world community by traveling on a service learning trip with the [UU College of Social Justice](#). Registration is open for upcoming trips to Haiti, the U.S./Mexico border, Nicaragua, and to Washington State to explore U.S. policy toward Original Nations with the Lummi people.
7. **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part**
Sign up to be a part of [Commit-2-Respond](#). This coalition of UUs invites people of faith and conscience to work for environmental justice and advance the rights of people impacted by climate change.

To support all of these programs and initiatives, [make your year-end gift today!](#)
Thank you for your generosity this year and next. Happy New Year!



In faith,

Rev. Peter Morales
President, Unitarian Universalist Association



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