



*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)

## ***July 2016 Newsletter*** **Unitarian Church of Underwood**

**206 North Main Street  
Underwood**

**Phone: 218/826-6553**

**Website: [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org)**

**Note: Summer Services June 5 – August 28, 2016 begin at 9:30 a.m.  
Child Care will be provided each Sunday during the summer.**

July 2016						
◀ June						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Bob Worner, "Revolutionary Thinking."	4  AA 7 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Victoria Creek, "Creating a Soul Welcoming Environment."  PHOTOS	11 Safety Committee 6 pm @ Cafe  AA 7 pm	12 Battle Lake U Group @ Joanne Cress' 3 pm	13 Executive Committee 5:30 pm @ church	14	15	16 Ride for Refugees  <small>shutterstock · 131497868</small>
17 Bernice Johnson "Chicken Dance Learning"  Mindfulness Sitting 8-9 a.m.  PHOTOS Board Meeting 12:30	18  AA 7 pm	19	20 Speakers Committee 5:30 pm @ church	21	22	23
24 Rev. Roger Parks, Spiritual Reformation series, part 2	25  AA 7 pm	26	27	28	29	30
31 Chris Hyslop "...The Point?"	Notes: Please get articles and notices to <a href="mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com">maryanderson8380@msn.com</a> by the 28 <sup>th</sup> of the month for publication in the next month's Newsletter.					

## Summer Program

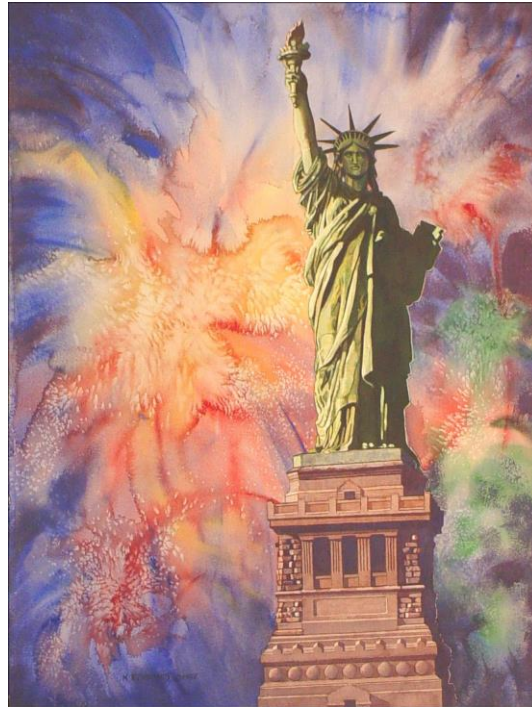
Children's Religious Education and Adult Education Classes are not held from June- August. Mindfulness sitting will continue the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, June, July and August from 8 – 9 a.m.

**Sunday service begins at 9:30 a.m. June – August. Child Care will be available.**

Battle Lake U Group will meet at Joanne Cresses July 12 at 3 p.m.

The Board of Directors will meet July 17 following Sunday Services. Board Meeting are open so members are always welcome.

### "Sweet Liberty"



By Mickie Edmonds

## Speakers/Programs for July

**July 3 - Bob Worner, "Revolutionary Thinking."** Bob will reference the Living Tradition: "Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit."

**July 10 - Victoria Creek, "Creating a Soul Welcoming Environment."** Victoria, who is in process of receiving her EdD degree, conversed with us a year ago about "Hosting Self and Others." She currently lives in Underwood, is married and has two almost grown children. She is employed at MState in Fergus Falls.

**July 17 - Bernice Johnson, "Chicken Dance Learning"** - founder of the Schools for Shan Refugees, speaking on UU Principles 4 & 5, will update us on her work with the Shan children and current and related events in Myanmar. She will include a story about a party she attended that the teachers put on for the children. "The only running water to their little encampment is not safe to drink and merely fills the equivalent of stock tanks, where cattle might normally drink and where the refugees must bathe en-masse, wearing their clothing for modesty. The only electricity is a few bright overhead light

poles, but such deprivation seems to mean little to the children who were having a wonderful time at the party,"

Bernice taught English to Shan refugees from Burma in 2001, 2002, 2003, and has continued to work with them until the present time. In 2008, she formed a 501(c)3, of which she is president. Their primary purpose is to raise money to help Shan children get an education. (The UU Underwood Church and the support of its congregation members have been most helpful in those efforts.) Each year Bernice travels to the camps to visit the schools and helps prepare a budget for the coming year.

**July 24: Rev. Roger Parks, Spiritual Reformation series, part 2: "Core Principles of a Reformed Christianity."** Roger will focus on what would be the core understanding that could make up the essential message of Christianity in the future.

**July 31: Chris Hyslop, "Making the Point or Winning the Point?"** This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> installment of the International political and social conundrum series related to Chris' work for the United Nations to bring peace and stability to conflict zones. Chris will address when saying the right thing leads to the wrong results, with lessons from Sudan and Myanmar."

Chris grew up in Fergus Falls. He and his family spend their summers on Swan Lake. He has been working overseas since 1995, first as a US Peace Corps volunteer then as a humanitarian aid worker in the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Asia and Africa. For the past ten years he has served in the United Nations in Iraq, New York, Sudan and Myanmar (formerly Burma).

### **The Month That Was**

**June 5 - John Minge** gave his presentation on **"Prophets, Civil Disobedience.** Prophets and prophecy was the general topic suggested by him for this past year's Adult RE. The class was more interested in talking about some of the modern-day prophets and less interested in a somewhat academic exploration of prophets and prophecy. So, the focus of the class was the "prophets" themselves.

The following are some of the questions raised and points made during the course of the eight or nine Adult RE class sessions: Why is it that people can't recognize the truth of what they're being told until years after they're told? Why is it so easy for us to ignore the truths of prophets, whether they're spiritual prophets or, for example, environmental prophets? The effects of the resulting ignorance is broad: environmental degradation, disparity of wealth, homelessness, and so on. We are becoming way too comfortable with this economic disparity and extreme poverty in this country. It's probably true that, as we acquire more and more wealth, we notice the welfare of others less and less. Our focus on accumulating things and wealth seems to be blinding. Why do we let this happen? Perhaps our mobility blinds us to things that we might be more likely to notice if we stay put. Perhaps simple human greed has more of an outlet in this country today than it did before. Whatever the reasons, the effect is that we have become more comfortable with a few accumulating great wealth and many making significant strides in the opposite direction.

The first modern secular prophet that John found when doing online research was Vaclav Havel. Havel was instrumental in helping to free Czechoslovakia from the Soviet Union. He subsequently became the first president of the Czech Republic. He died in 2011. Havel grew up Christian but eventually

separated himself from that belief system while continuing to be a person who was highly focused on living morally and promoting the rights and welfare of others.

Who are other modern prophets? Three that the Adult RE participants all agreed on are probably the obvious candidates: Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, and Nelson Mandela. King and Gandhi had a deeply religious approach to life. Mandela was a Christian but appears not to have been driven as much by his religious beliefs as by a more general determination to free the Black population in South Africa from apartheid. While King and Gandhi advocated peaceful means of achieving political ends, Mandela was willing to consider the use of violence. (Mandela evolved on this point as we all know.) Regardless, all three engaged in civil disobedience, and all three were willing to put their lives on the line in furtherance of their goals. We all know how it ended for each of them--two were assassinated and one was almost executed because of his efforts.

King had a four-step approach to civil disobedience: (1) get the facts, (2) negotiate with his adversaries, (3) purify in preparation for direct action if the negotiation was unsuccessful; and (4) take direct action. (Purification consisted of learning how to deal with the challenges that direct action would present such as being beaten, incarcerated, attacked by dogs, verbally assaulted, and the like).

John noted that whites have been the beneficiaries of racism in a short-sighted way (just as men have been the beneficiaries of sexism).

The consideration of the lives of people like King, Gandhi, and Mandela led, not only to the discussion of civil disobedience but, also to the discussion of the racial tension that we're facing in the US today. Some of today's problems: the high incarceration rate of young Black men, the poor academic achievement of Black students in MN's public schools, and the like. These and many other related issues have to be addressed aggressively if we're to overcome them. And they must be addressed with the understanding that it will not be easy, that it'll cost something, and that it will involve inconvenience for many that should not be complained about.

John read from King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail". One of the many points made by King in that letter was that "freedom is never given by the oppressor. It must be demanded by the oppressed." And again, there will be inconvenience and cost to many along the way. To complain about that is similar to saying that something needs to be done but "not in my back yard"--NIMBY.

One of John's readings was a quote from a recent letter to the editor of the Mpls. Star/Tribune. In that letter, a 60-year-old man wrote that the advice that he gives to his three teenage sons is that they have to do what's right--that "living with a courageous heart is much better than living like a mouse hoping the crumbs will get better".

### ***Attendance: 27***

**June 12 Cheryl K. Doehly**, who served as a Lutheran pastor for 30 years, talked about **"Why Protestants Are Turning to the Orthodox Church."** She was not finding what she wanted and then found her way to the Orthodox Church.

There is a brochure, "What on Earth is the Orthodox Church?" It is the oldest of the Christian churches but new to North America. There are 223 million Orthodox Christians around the

world but only 6 million in the US and Canada. It is known as the church of martyrs. Its liturgy is to help “you put on Christ.” The church year runs from September 8, the birth of Mary to August 15, the date of her death. Cheryl showed, along with other icons, an icon of Mary, the God Bearer, shown carrying Christ in her heart.

St. Olaf College had classes on SE Asian Buddhism, Hinduism with concentration on silence. Union Seminary taught the word of God as human experience, - spiritual sense into the whole being. She referred to the book by Anthony Blume, “Beginning to Pray.” Knitting and being alone, feeling the presence of God is holy time. Slow down, listen to scripture. Mutual submission – submit to one another.

There is 1) truth, 2) the perception of truth, 3) personal preferences, 4) defamation of character. We need to listen to one another to hear truth. It is “dying to self.”

A first time visitor to an Orthodox church may be overwhelmed through the senses. There is color through the many icons displayed that are made with natural dyes, the priestly garments, smell of incense and candles burning, the light. The rhythms as the attendees stand, kneel.

“I was home.” It is not a religion of instant gratification. It has taken Cheryl 10 years to comprehend. It stimulates the spiritual imagination, healing of the soul comes when the mind descends to the heart. Perceive slowly over time, learn to listen to it with time and patience.

There is emphasis on the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit – 1 in 3, 3 in 1, God, self, neighbor. The icons are viewed not to be worshipped but as a window into heaven. The questions of the past – “if only”; of the future – “what if?” Simply BE in God’s presence. Enter the Holy mysteries with humility, not knowing – being. God does the work. Our job is to be prepared.

It was men who were first drawn to Orthodoxy. It is serious, difficult, demanding – it takes a spiritual athlete. “God became man so that man might become god.” Adapt to it rather than it adapt to you.

### ***Attendance: 35***

**June 19 - Rev. Roger Parks**, seeing the Christian faith with too many expressions hurtful and harmful, is making the “**Case for a Reformation.**” Need core faith principles to build love and not a religion that bids one to conform to rigid set of creeds written with fundamentalist thinking. There is a dualism of “someplace else in the future” and regard that “the natural world is unworthy of our care” rather than the celebration of our present life and our earth. There does seem to be a consciousness evolving – a new awareness of the inner-connection of all life and that ancient beliefs no longer serve us. It is time for reforming the message, it is not about ME and MY salvation, it is about US and OUR love.

Roger asked us to comment on the wounds we see:

Comments ranged from a fusion of religion and patriotism, to the challenges of being Pagan and having to hide rather than celebrate the glories, the persecutions of being lesbian, the challenges of staying in a small town but deciding “this is home, where we belong.”

Roger referred to Bishop Spong, “there is no Buddhist God, no Hindu God, etc. There is God in many ways.”

Many who had comments talked about our strict upbringings in the tradition Catholic, Lutheran and other fundamental churches. How we did not agree, did not feel we belonged, Guilt and shame being used as heavy persuaders to bring us into line. Comments whether the American flag should be displayed in our church or if we should think more globally.

Richard Rohr speaks of the 1) ego structure developing with age to 2) more inclusive where we can speak and act to embrace diversity.

Roger’s question, “Why at this point do we need to make a radical revolution?” It is just in the past 50 years that the sacred manuscripts have been discovered, that the scripts are Truth, but not factual. They are the compilation of memories of people who experienced something holy years before. Their memories have been transmitted over time. That Christian life can/should be a commitment to divinity and the divine cosmos. For us not to be silent in expressing our voice of the possibilities for life.

Roger will return to continue this exploration in his next two talks during the summer.

### **Attendance: 41**

**June 26 – Phelps Mill Outdoor Flower Service.** The focus of the readings today was on respect for the earth. An underlying theme was that of creating our story. There are “creation” stories in many (most?) cultures in the world. We need to develop our own story; become the story makers as well as the story tellers.

**Bonnie Albers** did two readings. A take-away from the first, Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* “Nature Fights Back” is that “Nature controls her own.” A take-away from the second, from Calvin Luther Martin’s *In the Spirit of the Earth*, “The Illusion of Self/Non-self” is that “We are the creatures that we consume.”

**Tere Mann** read from Robin Wall Kimmerer’s *Braiding Sweetgrass*, “People of Corn, People of Light”. A take away from that is that we need to create new stories to increase our awareness of our relationship to the earth.

**Diane Johnson** read from Loren Eiseley’s, *The Night Country*, “Strangeness in the Proportion”. A couple of thoughts I had from that is that science is the servant, not the master of man (humans). Everything out there is = ourselves. And we are all in relationships of prey/predator/place.



In preparation for the flower communion, **Sandy Barnhouse** read from Loren Eiseley's *The Immense Journey*, "How Flowers Changed the World." Our existence would not have been possible without angiosperms (flowering plants).

**Attendance 35.**

### Thanks to Some of Our Special Sunday Musicians



Brass Trio – Josh Wheeler, Alvin Olsen, Ken Hamrum

And Thanks Always to Mary Worner & Susan Groff  
For Their Regular Accompaniment on the Piano



**Website Updates**



Reminder: Many people check [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org) for current information and happenings at UCU so it is important to keep our website up to date. Please check the website and make sure information relevant to your area is accurate and if updates are needed, forward the information to Website Administrator: Ellen Eastby @ [eastofellen@hotmail.com](mailto:eastofellen@hotmail.com).

### **Newsletter Submissions**

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto: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.

### **Annual Community Rummage Sale Proceeds**

Many contributed items for the successful sale at UCU during the Underwood Community Annual Rummage Sale on June 4. Special thanks to Kris Warhol for organizing and setting up with major assistance from Alisha Piekarski. Kris reports that nearly \$500 was raised that will go to Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity. Kris was especially appreciative finding that when she came in to clean-up, the leftovers had already been taken care of by play practice participants who hauled it away to their favorite charities. Good work all!!

### **Child Care**

There will be child care available each Sunday over the summer to be provided by Cedar Walters or Jewel Swanson and Britney Peterson who have been contracted to provide these services. Child Care Services had been a one year pilot project. After the evaluation and input of parents, the Board approved that Child Care Services be continued permanently due to parents' expressed need and satisfaction. There has been a range of 1-8 children with an average of 3 children per Sunday utilizing the services. Thank you to Jewel Swanson and Mary Wunderlich (and some substitutes) for their dedication over the past year.

### **Closing of Sale of Sverdrup Suites**

**June 16, 2016**



**Vice Pres: Dave Sanderson & Pres, Mary Anderson**

**Dave S, Mary A., Norm, Susan, Angie, Dave W., Bob W.**

The Unitarian Church, as of June 16, 2016, is the owner of Sverdrup Suites, the four-unit apartment complex adjacent to the church. This effort began with a conversation between Susan Groff and Mary Anderson on March 4 noting that the apartment next door had a 4 Sale sign and maybe we should find out more.

After some preliminary discussions, the first Property Expansion Task Force meeting was held March 13 when we had more questions than answers. We presented as many answers as we could at the April 17 Annual Meeting when the members voted to move forward with a purchase agreement. Once the counter offer was received and accepted with the contingencies fulfilled, we moved to a closing date, again waiting until we knew that the requested repairs had been completed.

The Board has approved the hiring of Cathy Stone who will be assisted by Tina Stone in the Property Management responsibilities. Cathy will also provide lawn mowing and grounds upkeep services.

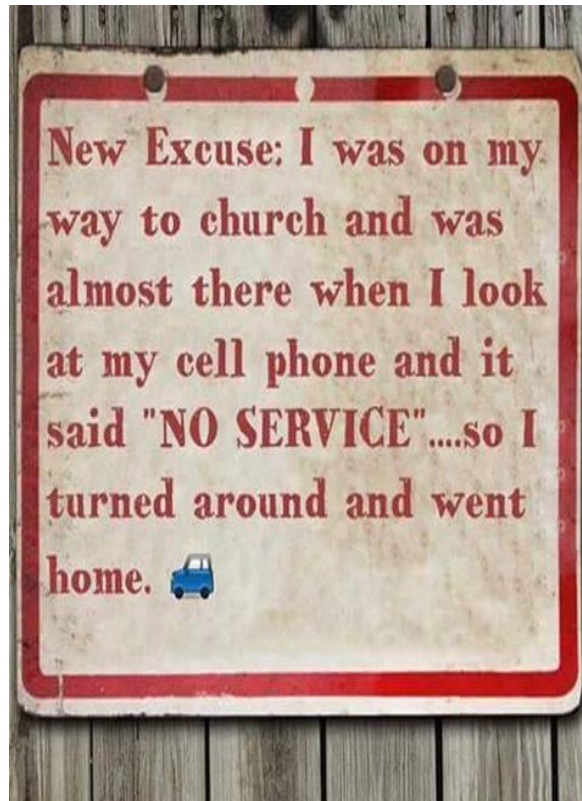
All four units are currently occupied. Letters of the change in ownership will be given to the tenants and distributed to organizations and businesses in the community to tell them of the changeover.

Now we will take some time for the transition and then regroup to think about how the property can be best utilized in the near and long term future.

We want to give special thanks the Property Expansion Task Force: David Sanderson for his information gathering of loan terms and tax information making finance terms competitive; David Wass for his negotiation skills, his early morning coffee visits and information gathering, for his and Susan Groff's knowledge of the community and the important players and for their work with the City Clerk; John Minge who provided us pro bono, his legal advice; Mary Anderson for countless emails, documenting, responding to questions, finding answers or finding someone to find the answers; John Miersch for his cautions and his humor; and the supports from Ellen Eastby, Florance Thompson, Norm Kolstad and Bob Worner. We look upon this as an amazing feat in so short a time span with such major decisions and such opportunity for the future of UCU. Thank you all for your support as well!

### **Stewardship**

Sunday collections the first quarter of the 2016-17 fiscal year (April-June), are \$ \$9,868. Our budget for 2016-17 is \$35,871.46 so this quarter's collections exceed the quarter's projected needs of \$8,967.87. Thank you for your gifts of money!! We also appreciate the gifts of your time and talents.



### **Tech Support**

Need help operating sound system For Sunday Morning Services  
Contact Tere Mann @ 218/205-4931 or [teremann@gmail.com](mailto:teremann@gmail.com)

### **U Group Facilitators and hosts For 2016-17 Fall/Winter Season**

Contact Co-Facilitators: Tere Mann @ 218/205-4931 or [teremann@gmail.com](mailto:teremann@gmail.com) or  
Connie Stigen at 218/770-7185 or [dcstigen@gmail.com](mailto:dcstigen@gmail.com)

### **Cast and Crew Requested for Fall Production Of "The Eden Play"**

Members of the Unitarian Church of Underwood have begun rehearsals to produce "The Eden Play" by local author, Lois Reff. The play will be performed for the church service on October

23<sup>rd</sup>. This comedy celebrates the Bible's creation story and entertains us on the nature of the relationships between God, Adam and Eve.

We are happily recruiting your participation. There are some remaining speaking and non speaking roles (for example; a lion, a dolphin, a cat, a cow.) Also, your interest to help with sound effects, props and costumes is welcome.

Even if you are not otherwise available to participate in preparing for the performance, RE youth as well as adults are encouraged to dress up as an animal or plant for "the parade of creation."

Rehearsals pick up again beginning Monday, August 1st, 2-4 p.m. at the church. If you are interested and want to learn more, please contact Bonnie Bell Albers, Production Director, via email at [bonniebellalbers@gmail.com](mailto:bonniebellalbers@gmail.com), or by phone at 218-731-5824.

Participating in the production is a fun and creative way to build community and get to know one another. Join us! *Bonnie Bell Albers*



## **Ride for Refugees**

### **Family Bike Ride**

### **Saturday, July 16**



Bike riders! A bicycle ride for refugees, sponsored by our church, will be held Saturday, July 16, 9am to noon. Proceeds from the fees will go to Schools for Shan Refugees. The route includes Whiskey Road, the city of Battle Lake, and Glendalough Park.

You don't do 30-mile bike rides? You can contribute by writing a check to Schools for Shan Refugees, put it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or mail it to David Wass, our Treasurer.

Another way to participate is to help the day of the ride. Call Katy Olson to volunteer.

For families with young children that prefer a shorter ride, there will be family ride in Underwood with no fee.

Schools for Shan Refugees provides educational support for children and youth who have been forced to leave their homes in Burma and live in camps in Thailand. Completing their education

gives them some hope they will be able to escape subsistence living, at the best, in the camps. Bernice Johnson, Founder of Shan Schools will be speaking at Sunday service, July 17.

For complete information see the flyer available at church or online at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org). For more information contact Katy Olson at 218-770-6681/ucurideforrefugees@gmail.com or Jo Larson at 218-405-0752. *Mary Worner, Board of Directors with Schools for Shan Refugees.*

### **Annual Potluck at the Worners' Sunday, July 24**



Members and friends are invited to a potluck at Bob and Mary Worners' home at 28424 Water Street Road, Underwood. You are welcome to bring children, houseguests, and dogs. Come out after church or after coffee. The meal will be served about noon. The Worners' will provide meat and beverages.

The directions from church are:

Go north on Highway 35 about 6.5 miles to County Road 1

Turn left onto County Road 1 and go 2 miles west to Water Street Road

Turn right onto Water Street Road and go  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north to driveway

Turn right into driveway

Questions? Call Bob or Mary at 218-826-6998.

### **Coming Late Fall Updated Church Directory**

The UCU Membership Committee is updating the picture directory of members and friends of the UCU. The intent is to re-publish the 2014 Directory and add a section of all the new members/friends and an "In Memoria" section.

For picture taking/retaking, Norm Kolstad will be available to take photos following Sunday services on July 10 and July 17. Please complete the form below to schedule a date with him. Or you can submit a favorite recent photo by July 31 for consideration for use via e-mail to: Norm Kolstad @ [kolstadn@yahoo.com](mailto:kolstadn@yahoo.com). Please email Norm prior submission for the photo criteria.

If your contact information is outdated or incorrect in the current directory, please submit the correction on the form below and give to Mary Anderson or JoAnn Larson by July 31, 2016.

We also intend to have some "In Memoria" pages to honor those who have come before us. Please submit names of those you want included in those pages to: Mary Anderson @ [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com). Please include the full name, date of birth and date of death (if known). Please also include comments if you want to make a special note on contributions made to UCU by that individual.

We will then produce a photo membership directory with Ellen Eastby doing layout. Each directory will include the previous directory pages, contact changes, new pages with pictures and contact information and the "In Memoria" pages. **To offset production costs, each directory will cost \$10.00. Place your order below.**

Prior to photo submission or photo taking, please complete an *"Authorization for Use of Picture/Contact Information"* form (below) and return it prior to your photo being taken or with your submission of a photo.

The new directories should be available sometime in November 2016.

So - Look Pretty and Say "Cheese!"

Membership Committee: Mary Anderson, Ellen Eastby, JoAnn Larson, Janell & John Miersch, Bonnie Showers, Bob & Mary Worner.

## To Correct Current Directory Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Correct: Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email to [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com) or [redswilds@gmail.com](mailto:redswilds@gmail.com) or drop completed slip in the church collection plate.

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### **"In Memoria"**

If you wish to submit the name(s) of individuals to be included in memory, please complete the information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of UCU from (dates): \_\_\_\_\_

Special contributions made by individual to UCU:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submit to: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com) or Ellen Eastby @ [eastofellen@hotmail.com](mailto:eastofellen@hotmail.com)

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### **Directory Order**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I want \_\_\_\_\_ # of Directories @ \$10.00 each for a Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to: UCU with Directory in memo line or give order form and cash payment to Mary Anderson or JoAnn Larson.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed ( ) Paid (MLA or JoL)

### **Scheduling Photo Taking**

\* Photo Shoot Time following Sunday service (select one & mark your calendar):



July 10\_\_\_\_\_ July 17\_\_\_\_\_ Need other time\_\_\_\_\_

Will submit own photo: \_\_\_\_\_ (by July 31, 2016)

\*Norm Kolstad will be available to take your pictures following church service on the day you selected. If weather permits, shots may be done outside. There will be a 10 minute allowance for each individual/group shot. Your names will be called during coffee for your photo time.

Tips: We suggest you wear solid color clothing with no logos or lettering and if a group shot, you may choose to wear complimentary colors.

Submit appointment time and order form to: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com)

To pay for Directory(ies), make checks payable to UCU indicating "directory" in memo line and give payment to JoAnn Larson or Mary Anderson. (Cash also accepted).

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### Authorization for Use of Picture/Contact Information

I, authorize UCU to use my (our) picture and contact information for the 2016 UCU photo directory. (For couples or family photo, a designated head of household may complete and authorize for the group). Please include names of all persons who will be in your photo and ages of any children. You may submit a current non-copyright photo to: [kolstadn@yahoo.com](mailto:kolstadn@yahoo.com) (inquire of Norm for photo submission criteria).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell # : \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Special

Request/Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Note: The information above will also be included as inserts in the upcoming Sunday service programs.*

## UUA News Alert

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement applauding today's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*:

"With today's 5 to 3 decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, the U.S. Supreme Court has again recognized the profound importance of access to safe and legal abortions. I applaud the court's decision to strike down a Texas law that placed unreasonable building code restrictions on abortion clinics and an undue burden on women seeking abortion—all under the guise of protecting women's health and safety. Since the law's passage, the number of clinics performing abortions in Texas plummeted from over 40 to less than 20 in one of the most populous states in our country .



Unitarian Universalists, recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of all people, have long supported women's reproductive rights. Most recently, in 2015, delegates at the UUA's General Assembly passed a statement of conscience in support of [reproductive justice](#).

In this case, the Unitarian Universalist Association joined with other organizations of faith and conscience in an [amicus curiae brief](#) in support of *Whole Woman's Health* that argued that our religious traditions recognize and support the moral right of women to make their own decisions about pregnancy. It was clear that the Texas law imposed medically unnecessary requirements that placed an undue burden on women seeking to terminate a pregnancy.

This law, and those like it being passed in other states, infringed on the dignity of women seeking access to safe and affordable abortion services by imposing restrictions that disproportionately affected the most vulnerable and marginalized among us.

Lawmakers must stop trying to regulate women's reproductive health under the guise of protecting them. If they want to protect and support women, I recommend they give generously to Planned Parenthood and other organizations truly dedicated to reproductive justice."

Read the full statement on [UUA.org](#).



## Missed our Last Convening Call?

MUUSJA's Convening Calls – monthly Zoom video conferences that are free and open to anyone – wrapped for this church year in May, and will return in September. In the meantime, if you missed any of our rich conversations, don't worry – you can view recordings, see presentation slides, and access additional resources on our [Convening Calls page](#) on our website!

*(Right click on above and open hyperlink to view)*

Have a social justice issue you'd like to learn more about in the company of other Unitarian Universalists? Is there a particular leadership challenge or skill you'd like to learn to strengthen your social justice ministry? Let us know! We're in the process of choosing topics for 2016-2017 Convening Calls, and we'd love to hear from you. Please send suggestions to next year's MUUSJA Intern for Justice & Religious Leadership to Jack Gaede at [muusjaintern@gmail.com](mailto:muusjaintern@gmail.com).

### Green Gossip

In their information gathering, the Green Committee/Solar Task Force had special guest resource, Clint Kyllonen of Zynergy attend their meeting. Zynergy is a construction company that does 90% installations of solar capacity, both commercial and residential. They are a “full spectrum” company that was established in 2007. The Green Committee is discussing a comprehensive energy plan for both the church and the newly acquired apartment complex.

A consultant from the cities has cautioned against losing the big picture, which is energy conservation. By that he meant doing things to the church that should be done anyway such as improved insulation, window replacement, etc. Considerations will be given to contact with Otter Tail Power for an energy audit.

### Composting

Did you know that cardboard can be shredded and added to your compost pile? Why? Composting needs a combination of nitrogen and carbon. Our food waste provides the nitrogen; shredded cardboard adds carbon. The best composting system has both. Not that it won't work without the mix but it just takes longer if you don't have a mix. Here is a list of what you can compost. (Remember: no meat)

## What to Compost

Material	Carbon/Nitrogen	Info
table scraps	Nitrogen	add with dry carbon items
fruit & vegetable scraps	Nitrogen	add with dry carbon items
eggshells	neutral	best when crushed
leaves	Carbon	leaves break down faster when shredded
grass clippings	Nitrogen	add in thin layers so they don't mat into clumps
garden plants	--	use disease-free plants only
lawn & garden weeds	Nitrogen	only use weeds which have not gone to seed
shrub prunings	Carbon	woody prunings are slow to break down
straw or hay	Carbon	straw is best; hay (with seeds) is less ideal
green comfrey leaves	Nitrogen	excellent compost 'activator'
pine needles	Carbon	acidic; use in moderate amounts
flowers, cuttings	Nitrogen	chop up any long woody stems
seaweed and kelp	Nitrogen	apply in thin layers; good source for trace minerals
wood ash	Carbon	only use ash from clean materials; sprinkle lightly
chicken manure	Nitrogen	excellent compost 'activator'
coffee grounds	Nitrogen	filters may also be included
tea leaves	Nitrogen	loose or in bags
newspaper	Carbon	avoid using glossy paper and colored inks
shredded paper	Carbon	avoid using glossy paper and colored inks
cardboard	Carbon	shred material to avoid matting
corn cobs, stalks	Carbon	slow to decompose; best if chopped up
dryer lint	Carbon	best if from natural fibers
sawdust pellets	Carbon	high carbon levels; add in layers to avoid clumping
wood chips / pellets	Carbon	high carbon levels; use sparingly

[http://eartheasy.com/grow\\_compost.html](http://eartheasy.com/grow_compost.html)

## Small World

Marguerite Andrews received an email from her sister, Avis Grosslein, retired librarian, who attends the UU church in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Avis was the one sending UU topics to Marguerite before Marguerite found the Underwood "tribe." Marguerite is telling the story to everyone because the mere mention of the Underwood church is making us famous!

From Avis to Marguerite and her daughter, Kate:  
 "Hi Marg and Kate --

One of our congregational members was watching the General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio yesterday and caught our own Laurel Hallman\* giving her speech of acceptance for an award.

She actually told the story of meeting me here in Falmouth, where she is our interim minister, and finding out that my sister's UU congregation in Minnesota got her to speak at an Easter service in Underwood."

Marguerite's further recollections of the story: "Old timers may remember that Laurel Hallman was so short that when she came to speak in Underwood, John Gronner built a platform for her and that platform stayed behind the upright piano FOR YEARS. But she never came back! Now Laurel is the interim minister at my sister's church in Massachusetts. Evidently, Laurel told this story at General Assembly in Columbus Ohio yesterday.

I said - I have to tell everyone!  
Marguerite"

*\*Laurel Hallman was honored Saturday June 25 2016 as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism Award, a huge honor that is given each year at GA.*

## MidAmerica Board Presents Resolution on Muslim Solidarity to Detroit-Area Leaders

*By Rev. Dawn Skjei Cooley, minister at First Unitarian Church in Louisville and MidAmerica Board Trustee*

Even though we had been urged to step into our discomfort, I still didn't know what to do or say to these Detroit area Muslim leaders. It was so much easier to stand around and talk to people that I already knew! But I could do that any time, so I summoned my courage and conviction and approached a friendly looking man wearing a kufi, standing alone. I put on a big smile and used my favorite Sunday morning technique for initiating conversation with newcomers and long time members alike: "Hello! I am so glad to see you here!" He returned my smile with a large one of his own, and we were off.

Prejudice and violence against Muslims is on the rise. And it is seemingly sanctioned by political candidates and religious leaders who continue to target Muslims with hateful rhetoric. In an effort to stand against hate, the Michigan area UU congregations initiated a Resolution on Muslim Solidarity that was passed at the MidAmerica Regional Assembly in April. As a member of the Regional Board, it was an honor to be in Detroit, presenting signed, laminated copies to the area Muslim leaders.

During the course of the evening, I spoke to and heard from many of the Imams. I was reminded of how important it is to have allies--these men were powerfully moved by the show of support not just from the Michigan Unitarian Universalist congregations, but by the entire MidAmerica Region of the UUA.

After some ritual around the presentation, we sat down together to brainstorm next steps--ways that Unitarian Universalists might reach out to support Muslims in our communities in and beyond Michigan. I came away inspired to learn more about Islam, and to contact the Muslim leaders in the Louisville, KY community, to build bridges, and to try to live into the Resolution.

The text of the Resolution on Muslim Solidarity that was passed at Regional Assembly can be found online at <https://www.midamericauua.org/about-us> and an article about the meeting between UUs and Muslim leaders in Detroit can be found at <http://www.detroitnews.com/story>.

*From Editor, Mary Anderson: Many of you remember the two Muslim foreign exchange students, Elshan and Fikri, that I hosted 3 years ago. While they were here, they came with me to UCU almost every Sunday. I thought the message above would be of interest to them. Elshan responded: "Dear Mom, I am so glad to know about the support that UU show to the local Muslim communities. Thank you for sharing this. (And I am thankful too!), Elshan"*

To regularly view the MidAmerica Messenger Newsletter, see: <http://midamericauua.org>

## ***Breathe***

By Rev. Lynn Ungar

*Breathe*, said the wind.

How can I breathe at a time like this,  
When the air is full of the smoke  
Of burning tires, burning lives?

*Just breathe*, the wind insisted.

Easy for you to say, if the weight of  
Injustice is not wrapped around your throat,  
Cutting off all air.

*I need you to breathe.*  
*I need you to breathe.*

Don't tell me to be calm  
When there are so many reasons  
To be angry, so much cause for despair!

*I didn't say to be calm*, said the wind,  
*I said to breathe.*  
*We're going to need a lot of air*  
*To make this hurricane together.*

Published in [Quest Monthly](#), May 2016  
and in *Bread and Other Miracles*, available at [www.lynnungar.com](http://www.lynnungar.com)





**"Unfortunately, this is the kind of violence that is predictable when hatred and fear are aroused by demagogues and when firearms are easily available. There are about 100 gun deaths per day in the United States. Only mass shootings are newsworthy.**

**This is madness.**

**May all people of good will, people of all faiths and no faith, renew our determination to end racism, end demonization of those of other faiths, end homophobia, and create a society where access to lethal weapons has some rational control. Otherwise we will wait helplessly for the next atrocity."**

*-Rev. Peter Morales, Unitarian Universalist Association President*

**Article Sent to Seven Local Newspapers  
That were invited to Use as much or as Little as Desired  
Unitarian Church of Underwood  
Awards \$10,000 in  
Empowerment Grants  
2016-17**



For the 9<sup>th</sup> year, the Unitarian Church of Underwood has awarded Empowerment Grants for local and international causes. This year's awards go to:

- \$1200.00 to Fergus Falls Farmers' Market (children's market days)
- 900.00 to Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity (Habitat 500 Bike Ride)
- 500.00 to Churches United (Fargo Homeless Shelter)
- 1000.00 to 4-H Children's Horse Project (Wadena-East Otter Tail 4-H)
- 2500.00 to Deep Roots Scholarship/Internship Program (Sustainable Farming)
- 1800.00 to Shan Refugees' Program
- 2100.00 to Nonviolent Peaceforce (recently nominated for Nobel Peace Prize)

Last year, the Fergus Falls Farmers' Market held a POPs Day, Power of Purchase for Kids, where they gave each of the 100 + kids participating, \$2.00 to shop for a fruit or vegetable to eat. This year with the Empowerment Grants, Farmers' Market Board Member, Diane Johnson says they'll be able to have a POPs Day each month.



Pops Day regulars



A Family Registering for POPs

Last year, Vice President, Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, Dave McRoberts participated in the Habitat 500 Bike Ride and raised \$5000 for Habitat. This year, Stan Carignan, Habitat's new Executive Director, will be riding the 500.



Stan Carignan, Executive Director  
Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity

During the year, UCU members and kids donated items to the Churches United Fargo Homeless Shelter. This grant will go toward some of the Shelter's further needs.

Member, Heather Czeck and her children, Skylar & Jewel Swanson, Sterling and Precious Czeck are part of the Wadena-E Otter Tail, 4-H Horse Project that involves 40-50 kids. The Grant with other matching funds will be used for wireless microphones and speakers, competition and gaming items, and emblem jackets for youth who earn state competition.



Precious Czeck age 3



Skylar Swanson age 15 running barrels



Mandy Quaschnick (10) from Sebeka and Precious Czeck (3) from Perham



Precious Czeck (3) on her pony, Crash





Wadena 4-H Horseman

The Deep Roots Farmer Development Program is an award-winning beginning farm educational program that is supported through the Sustainable Farming Association. The grant will help provide scholarships/internships to course participants.

Shan Schools in Thailand serves refugee children of the Shan refugees out of Myanmar (Burma). The schools were started by Bernice Johnson from Minneapolis who grew up in New York Mills. This is one of the ways UCU supports education for these Shan children. To raise further funds for the schools, the church is sponsoring a community bike ride, "Ride for Refugees," July 17, 2016.



Bernice Johnson & son, Bryon with Shan children in Thailand

The Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) is a nonpartisan unarmed peacekeeping organization with the goal to protect civilians and reduce violence in areas affected by armed conflict. Using a previous grant from UCU, NP was able to leverage \$1 million in further funds from governments and bilateral partners. The Nonviolent Peaceforce has recently been nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Mel Duncan from Pelican Rapids is the Co-Founder and current Director of Advocacy and Outreach.

The Empowerment Grants are one of UCU's most noteworthy ways to live out the UU Principles of justice, equity and compassion. One other way has been the annual Chili Dinner that was held April 1 at the Underwood Community Center. This is a fundraiser for the Underwood Senior Nutrition Program and other local charities. This, the 10th year of the dinner, 130 people attended from the surrounding vicinity raising over \$900.

More information about the Unitarian Church of Underwood is available at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org).

*Article submitted by Mary Anderson for UCU who probably included too many pictures of her "cute" great grandkids!!*

### **A Look Back in Time**

Ron Roller's Board Minutes from June 20, 2007, saved as an email message by Kris Warhol, brings memories of where we were and tells us where we've come:

## **Unitarian Church of Underwood Board Meeting Minutes June 20, 2007**

Stephanie Sanderson (president) called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Present:** Luke Anderson, Ron Roller, Bob Womer, Stephanie Sanderson, Bonnie Ewert, Susan Groff, John Minge, Kati Sasseville, & Kris Warhol (coordinator).

**1. Presidents remarks:** Stephanie S. recommended that board members look at the UU publication "The congregational Handbook". She feels it will be an important resource and very helpful in moving us in a good direction in the future. It is available in either hardcopy or on-line.

**2. Acceptance of Agenda:** A motion was made by Bonnie E. to accept the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Susan G. and was passed unanimously.

**3. Minutes of May 22, 2007 Board Meeting.** A clarification was made to item #7 regarding a budget of \$12,000. The intent of the report was to create a budget for the approximately \$12,000 available from interest monies for projects. Discussion ensued about this issue, & it was felt that it would be an ongoing topic, as we have not decided on projects or spending as of yet. A motion was made by Kati S. to accept the minutes with the clarification. The motion was seconded by Bonnie E. and passed unanimously.

**4. Financial report:** A profit/loss report was handed out. There was a net loss of \$614.28 for May, 2007, but a net gain of \$2,890.91 for the fiscal year. (See report).

**5. Coordinators report:** (See Handout).

- Kris W. reported that there was an average of 37.5 people attending services last year.
- She also handed out a list of people interested in being on committees or doing work in the church.
- Kris and Bonnie E. will work on a church logo in the near future.
- It was recommended to change the newsletter name back to its old name, Light on the Prairie.
- The UU principles are up for review nationally. The UUA is asking all congregations to review the principles and make recommendations on changes on the next month or two. Discussion ensued and will be ongoing. Some members felt our participation would need to be limited due to the short time frame.

### **6. Committee Reports:**

**Gift Committee:** (report attached)

**Stewardship Committee:** (report attached). Stephanie S talked about the need for Underwood UUs to be aware of the larger UU community. It was decided that we will have an Association Sunday service on October 14, that will focus on this. Kris W. will coordinate getting someone from the regional UUA to help with this service.

**Project Committee:** (report attached). Ron R. presented a revised report of the criteria and application for special projects. The board decided to start the application process this fall church season and set a deadline of November 15 for the first round of projects. \$6,000 will be available for the first 6 months of funding. Suggestions made to the project committee were to write a cover letter for the application to request a sample budget & names of members involved in the project from applicants. The possibility of an informational brochure on the project was

7/16/2007

discussed.

**7. Old Business:** Review of action list. (see report) Stephanie S. felt that we have been addressing most of the action list items and are moving forward.

**8. New Business:** Luke A. presented a sample strategic long range plan for the UCU (see handout). Luke has a lot of professional experience in this area, and will do a 2 hour workshop on this issue at the next scheduled board meeting.

**9. Next Board of Directors Meeting** will be on July 17 at 5:30PM at the UCU. We will meet for dinner with the workshop at 7:00PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

## **Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board Minutes for May 18, 2015**

Board members present: David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Stan Carignan, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, John Miersch and Norman Kolstad. Absent: Alisha Piekarski. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President, Mary Anderson at 6:32 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation.

New board members Connie Stigen and Bob Worner were affirmed to fill the seats of Diane Johnson and Lee Becker vacated by resignation (Warhol/Miersch).

The agenda was approved (Warhol/Miersch).

The minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting were approved as printed (Sanderson/Warhol). The minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting were approved as printed (Miersch/Sanderson).

### Reports:

Executive Committee: Mary Anderson

Treasurer: David Wass

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

Finance/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson and Mary Anderson. The Board authorized David Sanderson to open a safe deposit box at Farmers State Bank of Underwood to contain confidential Church and UCU Foundation documents (Warhol/Worner).

Program Committee: no report

Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol - noise abatement.

### Unfinished Business:

Anderson reported on the progress and the tasks remaining for purchase of the Sverdrup Suites. A finance plan for 30 years with 40% down, at 4.5% interest, fixed for 5 years,

at Farmers State Bank of Underwood was ratified (Miersch/Carignan). President Mary Anderson and Vice President Sanderson were authorized to sign the mortgage agreement (Wass/Miersch).

A revised Role and Responsibilities policy was adopted in two parts: (Warhol/Sanderson), (Warhol/Sanderson).

Proposed Unitarian Church of Underwood By-Laws revisions were reviewed. Revised charge to the Solar/Green Task Force was reviewed. Discussion of Administrative Consultant contract was tabled. Other topics: child care renewal, energy audit, charity bike ride safety, Underwood community growth, survival.

UCU will join Churches United for the Homeless, form a committee to represent the church (Worner/Sanderson).

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norman Kolstad, Secretary.