

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.

Unitarian Church of Underwood

206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Services

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Beginning June 4

*June 4 - John Minge -
"Reflections on
Learnings"*

*June 11 - Rev. Roger
Parks - "Eager to Love"*

*June 18 - Musician,
Johnsmith -
"Honoring Dad"*

*June 25 - Phelps Mill
"Summer Solstice
Celebration"*



***June 2017
Newsletter***

**Services Begin at 10:00 a.m.
year- round beginning June 4,
2017**



June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Florance Thompson's bd party 12-10 pm City Wide Rummage Sale 8 am – 2 pm
4 John Minge – “Reflections on Learnings” Florance's bd party continued! 1 pm thru sunset	5 AA 7 pm	6	7 Green Committee 5:30 pm	8	9	10
11 Roger Parks “Eager to Love” (#1 of 3-part series) Adult RE: Ancient Religions program preparation 8:45 am	12 AA 7 pm	13 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group @ 3 pm @ home of Joanne Cress & Luke Anderson	14 Speakers Committee 3:30 pm Finance Committee 5:30 pm	15	16	17
18 Musician, Johnsmith “Honoring Dad” Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 am	19 AA 7pm	20	21 Board 5:30 pm	22	23	24
25 Phelps Mill Outdoor Service - “Summer Solstice Celebration”	26 AA 7 pm	27	28	29 Perham U Group Social @ Stan Carignan's 3:30 pm	30	Notes:

June Featured Speakers

June 4 – Celebrant, John Minge, “What Have We Learned”: Reflections on what was learned from the Adult Education Class Study of “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander and writings of James Baldwin.

June 11 – Rev. Roger Parks 3 Part Series: #1 – “Eager to Love,” UU Principle 1; July 23 – “Non-Dual Reality,” UU Principle 7; August 27 – “The Trinity, a Cosmic Dance,” UU Principle 7.

Note: Prior to Sunday service, the Ancient Religions class will meet beginning @ 8:45 a.m. to prepare the program they’ll be leading on June 25 (see below).

June 18 – Musician, Johnsmith, “Honoring Dad.” Johnsmith will share songs, stories and a poem in honor of his father, “Forgiving our Fathers.” He loves playing at UU churches and has sang at many over the years. He will be singing songs celebrating rural and family life, talking about the deeper spiritual meaning in each song and why and where he was when he wrote them. Please see videos at johnsmithmusic.com/videos. “From his Window” is one song about his father.

Note: Mindfulness/Quiet Time Sitting will continue to meet over the summer beginning at 8:30 a.m.

June 25 -Phelps Mill Outdoor Service – “Summer Solstice Celebration.” Members of the 2nd Sunday Religious Education Class will lead the congregation in Western European pre-Christian, indigenous, agricultural ceremony, somewhat as our European ancestors may have worshiped in the deep past (a shadow of deep memories lost). Many parts of this program involve participatory music making. We will bring drums, bells, rattles, etc. and sing simple songs together that are not in the hymnal.

May Speaker Notes

May 7, 2017 Stefan Johansson’s talk was titled **“Strains of Joy.”** He shared a few readings written by Rabindranath Tagore, an Indian poet, whose Hindu beliefs and teachings are similar to Unitarian Universalism. For Stefan, Tagore’s writings are Psalms.

Some take-aways from Stefan’s eloquent talk: We need to be open to our sorrows and joys because life exists in the tension in between. As Arlo Guthrie put it, “You can’t have a light without the dark to stick it in.” It is often in times of pain that we are most open to life’s joys. “Happiness’ is superficial and fleeting. Joy has a quality of depth that is not in happiness.” As one of Stefan’s professors said, “Happiness happens, but joy abides.” Some qualities of life are not intellectual and can’t be explained by an arrangement of atoms. We need to be open to and embrace the joys in our lives.

Attendance: 45

May 14 – Bob Worner, “We Are the Seeds,” UU Principle # 7. Bob opened his talk discussing a book that he read that describes 400 years of history of the Red Lake Band, which inhabited a large area of NW Minnesota. The last 200 years have been spent battling the encroachment of whites. Ann Gibbs, a reservation elder and healer and dream interpreter, summed things up by saying “Every time they tried to bury us, they didn’t realize we were the seeds.”

At this point in time, as we see much of what is important and valuable to us being threatened, we wonder if we can make a difference. However, we are the seeds of the future. Although it feels like our seeds are being planted in hard, unhealthy ground, together we will grow. Bob offered the comparison of the variety

of plants to our diversity and contributions. Radishes grow quickly and are like acts of kindness. Raspberries grow and develop more slowly, and are perennial – similar to love and equality.

Bob closed his talk reading “Elegy” by Maya Angelou which includes the line, “I lay down in my grave and watch my children grow.”

Attendance: 41

May 21 – Rebecca Davis, “Music for a Sunday Morning.” Rebecca chose UCU for her “once again return” to performing. Rebecca is a critically acclaimed concert pianist who has performed all over the world. She graced us with four pieces with the extra treat of special music and received a standing ovation for her seemingly effortless efforts transforming each piece with emotion!



Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad

Note: For Rebecca’s full bibliography, see the May Newsletter.

Attendance: 60

May 28 - Bob Worner, “Investment Opportunities.” Bob gave information from the Atlantic Monthly that 67 million Americans are “unbanked.” 46% surveyed said it would be difficult to come up with \$400 for an emergency. People are not saving now unless it comes with the chance to win a prize. UCU is fortunate because of the Ellison estate from which we provide \$10,000/year in Empowerment Grants. Our offering gifts are investments in our Program, Facility and Community Outreach. Investment here is no lottery- we are involved with our investments in UCU and that gives us long-term gains. Our greatest investment is in our children as we send them off to invest in themselves: 1) can invest by assisting in their teaching and care; 2) make the future visible to them; 3) Listen to them.

Two words from investment:

- 1) Investigate – decide what’s true and what’s not
- 2) Investiture – a) installation in an office – opportunities at UCU; b) put on the clothing of your office – Stand up – show attitudes that reflect our living our UU Principles.

Attendance: 57

Children’s RE and potluck picnic were held at Phelps Mill. Eleven children participated and many attended the picnic and shared delicious food.



Underwood City Wide Rummage Sale

Saturday, June 3, 2017 8 am-2 pm

Drop off items at church Friday, June 2, 4-6 p.m. No clothes, non-working items or appliances with plugs. Contact Kris Warhol at mwarhol7up@gmail or 218/826-7540 Proceeds will be combined with funds from the Lions' pork chop dinner (Friday, June 9, 5-7 pm @ Centennial Park) and the Underwood Women's Study Group to go towards additional playground equipment @ Underwood Centennial Park.

Help Needed!!

The Technical Team and Communications Committee need help to edit & transfer recordings of Sunday talks to Mp3 and then to Google Docs for members and friends to access the recordings. If you have interest and skills in this area, please contact: Tere Mann or Norm

2017 Fall U Groups

Stan Carignan & Luke Anderson have stepped up to lead the U Group Facilitators for the coming year. Thank you!

Perham U Group Socials: June 29, July 20 at Stan & Lisa Carignan's

Battle Lake/Underwood U Group studies continue 2nd Tuesday 3 p.m. at Joanne Cress' in Battle Lake. The Group is planning to serve lunch at a future date at the Churches United Homeless Shelter in Moorhead. Details as plans progress.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: maryanderson8380@msn.com.

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/mailling: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.

Paintings: Mickie Edmonds

Note: The www.ucofu.org website is updated regularly to include the monthly newsletters and other current items of interest.

Facebook Page & Newsletter Standards:

- Content shall primarily promote activities occurring at the Unitarian Church of Underwood, activities that members of UCU are participating in and events in the greater Otter Tail county area that are recognized by UCU that meet the UU Principles and Living Traditions.
- Other content may include personal comments, authorized use, non-copyright photos related to UCU, Unitarian Universalism, social and environmental actions participated in by UCU members/friends.

"Like" UCU on Facebook: see www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Wi-fi Now Available at UCU

**One year pilot approved by
Board of Directors**

Please return the UCU Stewardship letter with your estimate of giving and please consider direct debit. Your gifts support and sustain the mission of UCU through Program, Facility and Community Outreach. Thank you!!

Cheer

*Let's all stand and give a cheer
For yourself and others here
'Cause what you do is truly great
We'll tell the world you are first rate.*

*Even dashing through the snow
It's April, don't you know.
Folks like you, doing your best.
All the rest of us feel so blessed.*

Hope

*Oh, I envy those who do their best
The things required to make the lives of
others better*

*Without regard to the brain waves
Wearing down the thoughts of self-
sacrifice*

*Like pebbles sloshing in the surf
Instead you are the tectonic plate
Building up the mountain of humanity
As rivers of need try to erode your spirit
The moon's tidal pull refills
Your bays and estuaries with hope.*

Written by John Miersch for the Volunteer
Appreciation Event

Welcome Back!

Former Celebrant, Richard Kaagen informs us he and his wife, Anna are returning to the area where Anna will be assuming Presidency of the West Central Initiative. After their four-year absence, Richard is looking forward to rejoining friends at UCU.



**Florance Thompson's
90th Birthday Celebration!**

June 3rd - 12pm to 10pm
(Main Gathering at 2pm)

June 4th - 1pm through Sunset
(after church)

- Music & Dance!
- Food & Pie!
- Drink!

at Leon Lake
32569 288th Street, Underwood, MN
(near Phelps Mill)

*Thank
You*

**Fergus Falls U Group for the
brunch they served May 21 to so
successfully raise funds for United Way
Back Pack program.**

**Adult and Kids Religious Education
Leaders: John Minge, Sandy Barnhouse,
Bob Worner, Katy Olson, Betsy Wells,
Stan Carignan.**

**Tere Mann & Connie Stigen for leading
the U Group Facilitators the past years!**

2017 SVERDRUP CEMETERY WALK & CONFIRMATION REUNION

<p>SATURDAY JUNE 3 2-5 pm Cemetery Walk Picnic Lunch</p>	<p>RESERVATIONS PREFERRED</p>	<p>SUNDAY JUNE 4 9-12 pm Church Cake & Coffee</p>
--	--	---

A minimum fee of \$1.00 will be charged for a set of maps to guide you through sections A,B,C,D where 25 family stories will be shared.

A \$5.00 fee will be charged for a booklet with maps & stories.

A \$10 picnic lunch will be available from 2-5 pm Sat. afternoon at Sverdrup Cemetery one mile north of Underwood.

Mail check to:
Sverdrup Lutheran Church
PO Box 70 209 Southern Ave
Underwood, MN 56586

SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH is on

WEBSITE:
www.sverdruplutheran.org

*Join the Sverdrup Cemetery Walk
With stories of 20 early settlers
June 3, 2-5 p.m.*

Every child deserves a village
Written and Provided by
Sandra Barnhouse
As Published in the Fergus Falls Journal

I'm not from around here.

I grew up mostly in Denver—and moved around after I left college. I stumbled on Minnesota accidentally, by getting married during the year I lived in and near San Francisco, to a Minnesota farm boy stationed at Travis Air Force base. He was amazing. He knew how to do everything, mostly because he'd grown up on a Minnesota farm; and the Air Force had taught him all about electricity, and he knew how to work on big power lines.

When I first arrived here, even in February in southern Minnesota, I thought I had come to a national park, compared with other places I'd experienced. Now I'm a transplant, and you'll have to pull hard on this weed to ever get me to leave. I'm as ingrown as the Norwegian grassy stem spiral that clogs my gardens.

It's not only that I found Minnesota beautiful all year long, but what really kept me here was the character of the people I came to know. I also noticed the average Minnesota high school graduate was way "above average," compared with the other five states I'd previously called home.

The State of Minnesota became my support system when I became a single mom, as well as my employer, in St. Cloud, as I raised my family. In the 1970s, the early years, I got the impression the state had a streak of socialism—from the northern cultures of Scandinavia, where caring for everybody is vital for survival; and my children grew up “above average.”

I brag to my city kids about Fergus Falls and the school in the Village of Underwood, and beg them to move my grandchildren here from the cities. I want my youngest granddaughter to grow up near the three-year-old boy from a neighboring clan, so they’ll meet in high school and fall in love. Otter Tail County has people I would like my kids to know, like grandma Katy Olson.

I call Underwood the “Village of . . .” because I think the town itself represents the future, if public education is to survive. Giving it that distinction is my way of honoring the whole town as a place to be educated, not just the school, because I think the secret of school success depends on the ways of the village. This likely is true of Battle Lake, on which I also should bestow the designation of “village.”

Many of the things I like about the small communities we find in the region have to do with the kind of educational places they are for kids. I’m looking at out-of-classroom opportunities.

An early discovery during my first years in Otter Tail County was the local kids’ interest in and respect for art. Battle Lake has Art of the Lakes (AotL), a superior gallery for a town that size, and an active arts organization since the early 1960s. Periodically, Annette Hochstein gets the community, including kids, cutting and assembling glass mosaics, which now grace the sidewalks as resting places along the main business section, and more can be seen at the high school. AotL artists regularly offer direct art experiences to students, like the Battle Lake school lunchroom mural, thanks to Ila Osman.

Our greater area “village” also has:

- In Pelican Rapids, Marguerite Andrews has told me about teaching English to aspiring Americans from other countries, something high school kids can do.
- We have writers’ groups, book groups, piano salon, and we’ve got so many talented musicians, there’s no way to name just one of them.
- We have a superlative school of dance in Fergus Falls, thanks to Ramona Jacobs and her artist husband, Chuck Christianson.
- We have the Kaddatz, Lake Region Arts Center, and Center for the Arts, all close together, in the middle of Fergus Falls.
- The lucky kids who grow up on any local farm learn myriad skills. This is why Minnesota once was heavily recruited for the Peace Corps.
- There are farmers’ markets, the most prominent in Fergus Falls, thanks to Diane Johnson and others, where kids can bring their spring and summer produce to sell.

Underwood’s village is enhanced by the Lions Club, famous for their pork chop sandwiches at many events, and also by the Woman’s Study Club, which has been functioning since 1934 for educational enrichment and community enhancement by the women here. It’s my belief that these organizations, plus high turnout for city governance, and the Lutheran and Unitarian churches, all contribute to the “village” designation. In Underwood, moms seem to know each other’s kids, probably well enough to correct their manners.

Both Battle Lake and Underwood schools have won multiple national awards in recent years. Parents from elsewhere aspire to send their kids to these village schools, not realizing that it isn't just the school.

Note: For Sandy's other publications, see www.fergusfallsjournal.com.



Environmental Justice

Enbridge, Canada's largest pipeline company, is proposing to abandon its old leaky "Line 3" pipeline through northern Minnesota and build a higher capacity pipeline along a new route. It will carry Canadian tar sands oil, an extremely dirty fossil fuel. This project won't improve our energy security. It will threaten Minnesota's waters and wild rice. The state is currently going through Line 3's permit process." "Tar sands (or oil sands) are a low-grade petroleum deposit, a very viscous mix of clay, sand, water and oil-rich bitumen (think asphalt)." Sierra Club, North Star Chapter (MN).

What are the environmental impacts of tar sand, mining and processing?

They cause greenhouse gases, air pollution, destruction of Canada's Boreal Forest, wasting and contaminating water, and treaty violations. Deceptive language has been used throughout the development of this pipeline. The pipeline #3 will NOT be replaced. The old line will be left as is and a new line, twice the size, will be installed in Minnesota. The proposed line, that crosses Indian land, will very likely pollute the watershed that will impact the Mississippi River.

What is next?

The [draft environmental impact statement \(EIS\)](#) for the proposed Line 3 pipeline project was issued on May 15, 2017. A [public comment period](#) on the draft EIS runs through July 10, 2017. Also, twenty-two public hearing have been planned throughout June taking place in Minnesota.

What can you do?

- * You can submit a comment regarding the proposed Enbridge Pipeline #3 installation.
- * Attend a public hearing. (see full schedule in Enbridge Energy's Proposed Line 3 Pipeline Project, MN Department of Commerce <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3/>)

The Public Hearings closest to Fergus Falls:

- June 9th Wadena 11:00 am -2:00 pm (54 miles, 1 hr.)
- June 14th Staples 11:00 am -2:00 pm (67 miles, 1 hr. 13 mins)
- June 14th Little Falls 6:00 - 9:00 pm (105 miles, 1 hr. 46 mins)

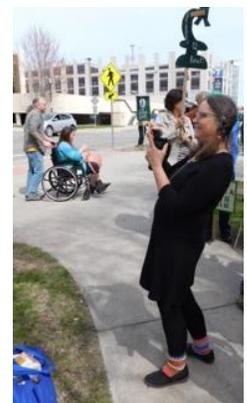
For more information or to get involved, contact:

Judy Carpenter, OTCI Climate Change judymcarpenter@gmail.com 218-280-5278
Shannon Smith, OTCI Climate Change shannon.smith20@gmail.com 320-630-6229

See the Sierra Club North Star Chapter website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/mn> and Facebook: SierraClubMN

Moorhead Pro-Planet, Pro-Science March April 29, 2017

“Concern for climate change drew in two handfuls of Underwood Unitarians to a pro-science, pro-planet march in Fargo, Saturday, April 29. Others, and some of the same people pictured had previously marched the week before in Alexandria. The demonstration is tied in with Indivisible, a freshly minted organization inspired by an action guide published on-line earlier this year. Judy Carpenter, Carole Mitchell and Shannon Smith have been active in Fergus Falls, organizing the resistance that seems to have been energized by the most recent election outcome.” *Sandy Barnhouse*



Photos courtesy of Sandy Barnhouse

UCU attendees included: Sandy Barnhouse, Judy & Lowell Carpenter, Carole Mitchell, Connie Stigen, Kathy Stofer, Deb Wallwork, Bob & Mary Worner and a number of friends

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood via Janell Miersch, Community Connector,

Last week, President Trump met with Pope Francis who gifted him a copy of *Laudato Si*, the Pope's Encyclical on climate change. This week, world leaders are scrambling to convince the US not to pull out of the climate agreement. **The stark moral contrast and call to action couldn't be clearer. [The time for action is now: we must protect the Paris Climate Agreement.](#)**

As Rev. Dwight Wagenius of Mayflower United Church of Christ in Minneapolis says: *"Pulling out of the Paris Accord goes against all we have worked for. It puts the interests of the fossil fuel companies ahead of vulnerable people and international relationships. Pulling out is not in the interest of people who care about their neighbors all over the world."* **The good news is that the deal is not sealed.**

The Trump Team is so divided about what to do, they had to cancel the planning meeting where Ivanka Trump was scheduled to meet with Scott Pruitt. Ironically, along with other fossil fuel company leaders Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, former CEO of Exxon Mobil, is hoping that Trump will not withdraw from this important international agreement.

[The world needs to know that the US people stand firmly behind this climate agreement.](#) Last month, hundreds of thousands of us were in the streets to stand together for climate justice, from the Kids Climate March to the Science March to the Peoples Climate March in DC, Minneapolis, and Duluth.

Now we need to translate that energy into a strong message that the US needs to honor our commitment to the Paris Accord. Help us send a message Trump Administration and the world by **[sending us your best photo](#)** of what it looks like to stand up and be counted. Tell us your story and **[we'll add it to a mobilization album.](#)** You can also post it on social media with #KeepParis. By sharing our stories, we ensure that national and local leaders know that the American people are all in on the Paris Climate Accord.

Together we are strong,

Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director
julia@mnipl.org or (612) 810-1577
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
2104 Stevens Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Greening your Home's Exterior

Submitted by Janell Miersch from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency "Living Green 365," June Newsletter. See: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/bulletins/19c7a77>

Summer is the ideal time to work on home improvement that will help your home last longer, keep you healthy, and increase energy efficiency. Take a walk around your home and assess what improvements need doing this summer.

- Inspect the foundation for cracks.
- Inspect gutters and downspouts for damage or blockage.
- Remove vegetation within one foot of the foundation.
- Increase slope next to foundation.
- Install a rain barrel.
- Check the roof for damaged shingles.
- Check siding for peeling or blistered paint.
- Seal exterior air leaks.

If re-siding your home, choose long-lasting materials. Steel and fiber-cement siding are especially durable.

Upgrade exterior lights using LED

Build a greener deck or patio. If you build a deck, use:

- Wood that is certified to be from sustainably managed forests, such as that certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) program.
- Reclaimed wood that does not contain chromated copper arsenate, lead or creosote
- Recycled-content (composite) materials.

Another option is to install a patio. Compared to decks, patios typically require fewer materials to construct. Consider constructing your patio with pavers that let the water through. Pervious pavers allow water to soak into the ground, which helps to recharge groundwater and reduce pollutant-laden runoff.

Consider solar.

Upcoming Social Justice Events

Saturday, June 3 - March for Truth: Restoring Faith in American Government

There will be a march in Washington, DC organized by several groups, including Indivisible. The closest march we know at this time is: 10 AM at Barsness Park in Glenwood MN, hosted by Indivisible DFL MN CD-7
Glenwood MN 56334

<https://www.marchfortruth.info/>

June 13, 5:30-7 PM at M State. A Community Conversation about Opioid and Heroin Use. Community members are invited to help design strategies to address this issue within our community.

Minnesota Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) Events

Mary Anderson, Diana Ziesemer and Barb Honer attended the MUUSJA gathering in St. Cloud, April 22 on Islamophobia/Muslim Solidarity. Barb Honer and Joannie Ellison with others move forward in Pelican Rapids identifying some of the on-going needs of the immigrant/refugee community there.

Ellen Eastby attended the MUUSJA Summit in Minneapolis on May 18-19, "Resistance and Resilience: Sustaining Faithful Action for Justice and Solidarity in a Hurting World." One of the things she noted was from Rev. Ashley Horan, Executive Director, MUUSJA: "Resistance is our actions when we cannot morally or spiritually abide by the behaviors or policies." She also said, "all people have inherent worth and dignity, but all actions and/or behaviors do not." That is an important distinction.

Save the Dates!!

Friends, Music Lovers!



Cindy Johnson and Carole Mitchell will again offer yet another summer of SATURDAY CONCERTS in their amphitheater, 33928 County Hwy. 27, Erhard.

Mark your calendars now.

June 17 **Poetry and Jazz** by the multi-talented professors.

July 8 **Mikko Cowdery & Friends** for superlative Celtic tunes, sing-a-longs: fun for ages 1-100.

July 22 **The Tickwood Stringband**: Betsy, Doug, Katy, Ron always please our attendees.

August 5 **Bowmanville** from Chicago, Swing ("Hot Club") Jazz. Another concert you must not miss!!

August 12 **Oscar-Helen**, Dave Johnson & Jon Nordman: *The Band to Irishman*

Foy Vance; Kristopherson to Mayer, plus some originals.....

Ride for



Refugees

30 Mile Ride to Glendalough

September 30, 1-4 pm

Sponsor a rider to sponsor a child with the Shan Schools



Area UU

Workshop

Many Volunteers will be Needed!!

October 20-21, 2017

**Celtic Music Concert Oct 13, 2017
@ UCU
Watch for More Information**

Spring Joy!



The sandhill cranes on the Platte River of Nebraska.

“Dancing for Joy”

Painting by Mickie Edmonds whose work we celebrate with JOY!

General Assembly 2017 June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

Along with consideration of other matters, a new UUA President will be elected at General Assembly. Meantime, Interim Co-Presidents, the Revs. Sofia Betancourt, William Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer, share the following extracted message:

“...Moderator, Jim Fey's resignation (for health reasons) and the resignation of Peter Morales mean that when we gather for our General Assembly in New Orleans, neither of the two highest elected leaders in our faith will be with us. Other senior leaders on the UUA staff have also resigned. We will need to acknowledge these absences.

There are goodbyes to be said even as we move forward. The positive energy of our re-engagement with racism and privilege calls us to say goodbye to habits and patterns many of us have known for a lifetime. We will not grieve the ending of those patterns and the hurtful results that they have sustained, but we will certainly experience their absence.

Our deepening understanding of community requires us to re-imagine our commitment to the "inherent worth and dignity" of each one of us. We must come to understand a "We" that is as compelling as our affirmation of "I." Achieving balance between the "I" and the "We" will not be simple. It will require our time and attention and vision.

To say that change is hard may be trite, but it is true.

As we grieve our collective losses, may we hold one another with tenderness. May we resist not only the anxiety and violence of the world around us but also resist our own impulse to claim innocence. A righteous denial of the need for change will ensure that we do not move forward.

What we are embarking upon is deeply religious work. We are called to act as if love is real, and by our living make it so. We are called to insist that the Beloved Community is not just an idle dream. We are called to be present to both our past and to our dreams for the future in this faith of memory and of hope.

This and other messages are also available on UUA.org.

Note: There are three candidates running for the six-year term for UUA President: Susan Frederick-Gray, Sue Phillips, and Jeanne Pupke. The Unitarian Church of Underwood is allotted two votes by absentee ballot. Mary Anderson & Ellen Eastby submitted forms for voting credentials and with input from the Board, will cast ballots prior to June 25, 2017.

UU Bulletin

A monthly newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Association to keep you and your congregation informed.

Love Resists

The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are excited to launch [Love Resists](http://LoveResists.org), a joint campaign to protect both the values of our democracy and the humanity and rights of individuals and communities most at risk. Since the election of President Trump, more than 860 clergy members, 40% of UU congregations, and nearly 15,000 individuals have endorsed a [Declaration of Conscience](http://DeclarationofConscience.org), pledging to stand on the side of love to protect the most vulnerable, defend core values under attack, and commit themselves to speak out and to act



in support of basic human rights. Love Resists is the next phase in translating this declaration of values into action. Get involved by signing the Declaration of Conscience, exploring our resources, and taking action to support sanctuary and solidarity in your community. Visit www.loveresists.org to learn more, and share your stories of justice and solidarity with us using #LoveResists.

Message from Mandy Goheen,

Director of Prison Ministry and the Worthy Now Network

Did you know that as of today the Church of the Larger Fellowship has 783 members that are incarcerated and that number is growing every day! Just fifteen years ago, we had only forty-nine members. This growth is incredibly inspiring when you consider it happened because our members share information about the CLF and Unitarian Universalism with friends and cellmates. The CLF has never done outreach into the prison industrial complex, but the saving message about Unitarian Universalism is spreading on the inside. Hope is a gift worth sharing.

Not only are our members ministering each other, but many times we find they minister us in the free world as well. At the CLF, ministry is flowing both ways across prison walls. Because of the current political climate, we decided to ask our members inside,

who are experts in hope, "During times of major political & emotional changes, what advice can you offer us in the free world that helps keep you strong and resilient?" Forty-four people responded. I can't share them all in this email, but here are just a few:

Stand firm in your beliefs, and keep an open mind on the world around you. Change is inevitable, and change is good, change helps us see the world around us, and changes can make us all better people... - Eugene

Our life is full of political let downs and emotional confusion. Never allow the disappointment of failing politicians over throw your individual will to effect change. You have the power to be the next political power that will nullify injustice. Use feelings of anger, disappointment, and frustration as your fuel to transform the world. Each time we lose control of ourselves we give our enemy an unearned victory. Breathe, still the mind, and take calculated steps to make your life an example of positive leadership. And from your stillness the world will follow. - Russell

The one thing I have learned in prison is that no matter how bad my day is someone else's is worse. I have also learned from UU that no matter what I hear or see around me - someone loves me. That has helped me in ways that I cannot put into words. - Michael

First of all establish a strong spiritual base for yourself in times of trouble. Second of all be mindful that change is mandatory and constant for all in creation. Change is a natural event for progress, therefore being conscious of these facts helps alleviate burdens if change - just like the weather, just accept it as part of life. - Charles

Want to hear more testimonials of our members who live in prisons? Consider joining our letter writing team. By becoming a pen pal and writing just one letter a month for six months, you can make a big difference in someone's life and it just might make a difference in yours as well.

Meg

Letter Writing Ministry

Most incarcerated members of Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) are new to Unitarian Universalism. With no access to the Internet or UU Sunday services, they can only learn about Unitarian Universalism from CLF mailings and letters. The CLF Letter Writing Ministry matches prisoner members with non-incarcerated UUs for an exchange of friendly letters on topics of mutual interest. Prisoners send letters to the CLF to be forwarded (unopened) to the non-incarcerated UU they've been paired with (prisoners are told only the first name of their pen-pal and are given no other contact information). The hope is that participants will exchange letters for at least six months, although many matches last longer. CLF staff remain available to all letter writers for advice and support. [Sign up today](#) and bring a message of hope to someone in prison.



inSpirit

Your Search for Truth and Meaning Begins Here

In *Faith for the Unbeliever*, Rev. Daniel Chesney Kanter reflects on faith with keen analysis and insightful narratives from his own spiritual journey and the spiritual journeys of others. This small but powerful book invites readers on a similar journey as they reflect on what faith means to them. [Faith for the Unbeliever](#) is available to pre-order now with books expected to arrive at our warehouse on 5/31. (And they'll be shipped out shortly after!)

***Faith for the Unbeliever* by Daniel Chesney Kanter**

"With rational analysis and poignant stories, pilgrim and pastor Daniel Kanter looks at faith through four frames: belief and doubt, trust and distrust, loyalty and betrayal, plus our lifelong efforts to form a coherent worldview amidst constant change. Read, discuss, and you will find yourself wiser and more faithful than you were before." -Rev. John Buehrens, author and past President of the UUA

The Senior Minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas shares his reflections on faith, especially addressing those who are not traditionally religious. With simple poignancy, Kanter says that we can understand faith to be less about what we believe in, and more about how we live and the choices we make. He considers what living faithfully could mean for the unorthodox among us, using four areas of focus—belief, trust, loyalty, and worldview. With lively and engaging stories to illustrate ideas, and reflection questions after each chapter, this small book of wisdom helps to make faith more accessible for the increasing number of the "spiritual but not religious."

[Pre-order your copy today!](#)

"An essential-and remarkably heartfelt-introduction to the development and blossoming of Unitarian Universalist Paganism." -Anne Newkirk Niven, editor and publisher of *SageWoman* and *Witches&Pagans*

***Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, edited by Jerrie Kishpaugh Hildebrand and Shirley Ann Ranck**

These 23 essays by some of the most prominent leaders in Unitarian Universalist Paganism bring Pagan and Earth-centered theo/alogy to life for a new generation. Featuring the writings of both clergy and laypeople, this vibrant collection demonstrates the many expressions of nature-based spirituality and the ways they feed the souls of so many. The essayists describe a broad array of practices, including Wiccan traditions, Neo-Pagan rituals and celebrations, worship of the divine feminine, and nature-based beliefs and practices that bring us into harmony and balance with our natural environment.

Contributors also describe the development of nature-based theo/alogy within Unitarian Universalism—including the organization of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, the addition of the sixth Source to the UUA bylaws recognizing Earth-centered spirituality, and the integration of Pagan practices into congregational life.

Together, these voices proclaim a passionate affirmation of a rich and dynamic tradition within Unitarian Universalism. The latest in the popular "Voices in Unitarian Universalism" series!

[Order your copy today!](#)

Unitarian Church of Underwood
Board Minutes for March 15, 2017
To be Approved at June 21 Board Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 5:32 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Warhol/Sanderson). The minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting were approved as printed (Warhol/Sanderson).

Katie Olson presented the Facilities Committee's recommendations: remodel of the lower level exit, rain gutter repair/replacement, landscaping, new kitchen counters, widen step on dais. The plan was accepted with a total cost of \$7,375 (Sanderson/Carignan). An emergency exit and deck for \$4,947 is under consideration.

Ron Roller presented the list of recommended Empowerment Grant recipients: Fergus Falls YMCA, \$1,000; Non-Violent Peaceforce, \$1,700; Schools for Shan Refugees, \$2,000; Pelican Rapids Multi-Cultural Center Refugee Program, \$1,550; United Way Backpack Program, \$500; Fergus Falls Farmers Market POP Program, \$1,000; Churches United of Fargo, \$500; Perham Kinship Kayak Project, \$750; and Habitat 500 Bicycle Ride, \$1,000 for a total of \$10,000. The recommendations were accepted (Warhol/Sanderson). Roller gave an update on the Green/Solar task force.

Reports:

Finance Committee/Treasurer: David Wass - a complete 2017-18 proposed budget will be considered at a special board meeting via email.

Administration: JoAnn Larson's contract was renewed following a performance review.

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

Speakers Committee: JoAnn Larson - reported on scheduled Sunday speakers.

Foundation/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson

Program/Worship Committee: Kris Warhol

Community Outreach: Mary Anderson - created social justice resource list.

Facilities Committee: David Wass, floor to be painted in June.

Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad – Child Care form approved (Kolstad/Warhol).

Sverdrup Suites: David Wass

Communications Committee: Mary Anderson - The Communication Committee's recommended Policies and Procedures for social media were adopted (Warhol/Carignan). Google Docs cloud data storage/sharing is in place; MailChimp was selected for a church email account, web site enhancements and access to speaker recordings are pending.

Membership Committee: volunteer appreciation event April 30, Fall Area Workshop (October 20-21) speakers have been confirmed, Community Center reserved. Member phone contact results to be studied.

Unfinished Business:

By-laws changes were endorsed for adoption at the annual meeting (Warhol/Sanderson). The Nominating Committee will be asked to recommend the order of the by-laws decision and the board election.

New Business:

Church service times during the summer months was discussed. The UCU Annual Meeting will be April 23, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned by Board President Anderson at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary.

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
Board Reorganization Meeting
April 23, 2017**

Board members present: John Miersch, David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Norman Kolstad, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Stan Carignan, and Bob Worner. Absent: Ellen Eastby, Connie Stigen, Kris Warhol.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President Mary Anderson.

The following slate of officers for the 2017-18 year was accepted (Worner/Miersch):
Mary Anderson, President; Ellen Eastby, Vice President; David Wass, Treasurer; and Norman Kolstad, Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2017
For Approval at 2018 Annual Meeting**

Board members present: John Miersch, David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Alisha Piekarski, Norman Kolstad, Connie Stigen, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Stan Carignan, and Bob Worner. Absent: none. Thirty-three total congregation members were present.

The 128th congregational meeting of the Unitarian Church of Underwood was called to order by President Mary Anderson at 11:51 a.m. John Miersch shared a meditation/reading.

The agenda was approved (Janelle Miersch/Donn Siems).

The minutes of the April 17, 2016 were approved as printed (David Sanderson/John Miersch).

Reports. Following remarks by President Anderson, these committee reports were received (attached): Treasurer (David Wass), Stewardship and UCU Foundation (David Sanderson), Administrative Consultant (JoAnn Larson), Membership (Mary Anderson), Communications (Mary Anderson), Technology (Tere Mann), Area Fall Workshop Planning (Mary Anderson), Program (Kris Warhol), Speakers (Betsy Wells), Celebrants

(Katie Olson), Worship (Mary Worner), Adult RE (John Minge, Sandy Barnhouse, Stan Carignan, and Bob Worner), Children's RE (Betsy Wells), Child Care (Mary Anderson), U-Groups (Tere Mann), Hospitality (Kathy Stone), Community Outreach (Kris Warhol), Empowerment Awards (Ron Roller), Facilities (Katie Olson), Sverdrup Suites (David Wass), and Safety (Norman Kolstad).

Old Business. A motion passed (John Minge/John Miersch) amending the 2016 action regarding solar panels as follows: 1) To eliminate the 2018 deadline, and expand the type(s), size, and location of energy-efficient projects that the UCU would consider that could also serve as a public statement of the UCU's commitment to encourage energy efficiency; 2) That the Environmental Committee report back to the Church - or its Board - no later than the 2018 annual meeting, and 3) That the Environmental Committee submit any recommendation to engage in an energy-efficient project to the Finance Committee for its review and comment before the submission of recommendation to the Church (or its Board if ready for submission before the next annual meeting).

New Business. Sunday church services will begin at 10:00 am year-round starting June 1, 2017 (Katie Olson/Reed Becker).

The 2017-18 Strategic Goals and Objectives document was available for inspection.

The fiscal year 2018 budget was approved as presented (Katie Olson/John Miersch).

By-laws. The published proposed revision of the Church by-laws was amended (Norman Kolstad/Janelle Miersch) to strike the word, "past" in article IV, section 2; add to article IV, section 6 that Robert's Rules of Order would govern meetings; change article VI, section 4 from "committee will be responsible for presenting" [candidates] to "committee will be consulted to fill the committee." A resolution to adopt the revised by-laws was passed by the requisite 2/3 majority (Mary Worner/Katie Olson).

Election of officers. With no nominations from the floor, the following slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee was accepted: Kris Warhol, Bob Worner, and Ellen Eastby for 3-year terms and Connie Stigen for a 2-year term (Reed Becker/John Miersch).

A motion to install Wi-Fi at the church (Sandy Barnhouse/Katie Olson) was tabled and referred to the Technology Team (John Minge/Ron Roller).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary