

*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

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

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

[www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org](https://www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org)

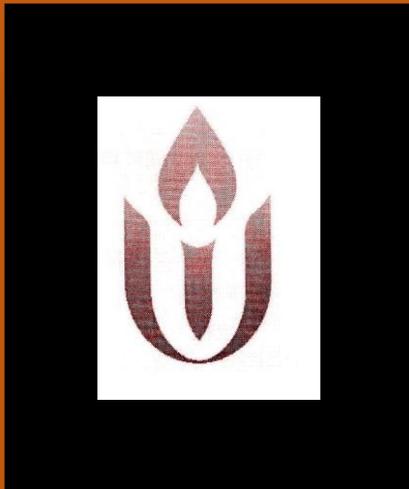
### Sunday Services 10 a.m.

May 5- Bob Worner, "Acquaintance with Grief"

May 12 – Mai'a Williams, "This is How We Survive"

May 19 – Carole Mitchell, "Change a thought, change your life"

May 26 - Katy Olson, "The End of Colonialism and the Rise of the Partnership Society"



The Gift of Mothers

## *May 2019 Newsletter*

Contact [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com)  
with ideas on how to shorten, change,  
improve the monthly newsletter.

## May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Roadside Cleanup 5 pm – Meet Co 1 & Waterstreet Rd.	2	3	4
5 Bob Worner, “Acquaintance with Grief” Adult RE 8:45 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children’s RE 10:00-11:15 am	6 AA 7 pm	7	8	9 Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan’s	10	11
12 Mai’a Williams, “This is How We Survive” Mindfulness Class 8:45 am Children’s RE 10:00-11:15 am Mothers’ Day	13 AA 7 pm	14 Stewardship Committee 2 pm @ church (Zoom) Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Steve & Linda Bergs	15 Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth... Office Bldg	16 Fergus Falls U Group @ Diana Ziesemer’s @ 6:30	17	18
19 Carole Mitchell, “Change a thought, change your life” Adult RE 8:45 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children’s RE 10:00-11:15 am	20 AA 7 pm	21	22 Record Maintenance Committee 5 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Katy Olson, “The End of Colonialism and the Rise of the Partnership Society” Adult RE 8:45 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children’s RE 10:00-11:15 am	27 Memorial Day  AA 7 pm	28	29 Safety Committee 6:00 pm @ #300.	30	31	

## Roadside Clean-up

May 1, 5 p.m.

Meet corner of Co. Rd 1 and Waterstreet Road

Bags and safety vests provided. Please bring your own work-gloves.



### U Bicycling Club

#### Starting May 5

Come and ride on Sunday afternoons with UU bike enthusiasts! Rides will be pre-planned, and you can ride as much or as little of the planned route as you want or are able to. \$30.00 per rider to join, one-time fee. All proceeds go to the Shan Schools. We have several folks who have agreed to be the route planner and lead rider so there will always be at least one person to ride with! This is a general ability-ride, and everyone is welcome! Cancellation due to weather will be posted on the church Facebook page.

Starting May 5 at noon! Come along for the ride!

Contact Ron Roller 218-770-0374 or Katy Olson at 218-770-6681 for more information.

### Speakers Coming in May

**May 5 - Bob Worner** - "Acquainted with Grief," Principle #2: Justice, Equity and Compassion in human relations.



**May 12 – Mai'a Williams, "This is How We Survive."** Mai'a Williams is a writer and artist. It was her living and working with Egyptian, Palestinian, Congolese, and Central American indigenous mothers in resistance communities, that inspired her life-giving work and art-making practices. She will talk about how we survive in the face of the ongoing destruction of the only world we have ever known. She is a former springboard artist. In 2008, she published the Revolutionary Motherhood anthology zine and the corresponding group blog, a collection of writing

and visual art about mothering on the margins, which became the inspiration for "*Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*." Her memoir, "*This is How We Survive: Revolutionary Mothering, War, and Exile in the 21st Century*" was published in 2019 by PM Press.

Mai'a Williams has experience working in conflict zones and with liberatory resistance communities as a journalist, human rights worker, and midwife, while mothering her young daughter Aza. She first went to Palestine in 2003 to support Palestinians resisting Israeli occupation. In 2006, she became pregnant in Bethlehem, West Bank. By the time her daughter was three years old, they had already celebrated with Zapatista women in southern Mexico and survived Israeli detention, and during the 2011 Arab Spring they were in the streets of Cairo protesting the Mubarak dictatorship. She watched the Egyptian revolution fall apart and

escaped the violence by moving to Europe. But three years later, she and Aza were camping at Standing Rock in protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Mai'a tells the story of her and other mothers who are doing the work of deep social transformation by creating the resilient networks of care that sustain movements and create revolutions.



**May 19 – Carole Mitchell, “Change a thought, change your life”.** Carole is a member of the Speakers Committee and will present a worship service quite similar to our U-Group’s practice as well as a modified (much shortened) Quaker worship.

If response is favorable, we may adopt this format 2-3 times per year. Please come and participate so we can (after a few weeks’ pondering) have a good discussion about that possibility.

**May 26 - Katy Olson, “The End of Colonialism and the Rise of the Partnership Society”**

### **Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol**



Grace has many faces. Gratitude has many voices. Generosity has many hands. A new church year has begun, and many opportunities are up for new leadership. Congregations strong in leadership roles succeed for one major reason: our common bond for the democratic process.

My over twenty years celebrating our membership in this community has brought both great joy and deep regrets. We think of this faith as being tolerant of other opinions. Yet I've experienced times when that hasn't been so. The message I write today is one expressed at the annual meeting: Cultivate joy.

Being President is a teaching process. Teaching me to stay in the present moment. Teaching me to let comments roll off and unanswered. Teaching me to get beneath the source of conflict and listen to what has been said. Teaching me to not react. Teaching me acceptance of my limitations. Teaching me to let the process of the conflict be organic in resolving without my fixing.

We each are just one person and one person cannot absorb everything that others dislike about our church. Together we are 10 times one person. All those collective thoughts together can bring change. We can step back from disagreeing and focus our attention outside this building. Making a difference in the greater community.

Our Board of Director’s ten members offers great wisdom and thoughtful gatekeeping of our mission and our building. Proof is in the board minutes that our workings have transformed the greater community at large. Isn't that why you are here?

With Joy,  
Kris Warhol

## UCU Sunday Volunteers for May

A monthly grid will be published in the newsletter and available on the bulletin board at church. If you see a slot open and wish to volunteer, please contact the listed coordinator or Mary Anderson to volunteer: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com) or 218/346-6638.

**Greeters, Treaters and Technical Support Needed!!**

<b>Volunteer Duty &amp; Coordinator</b>	<b>May 5</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>May 19</b>	<b>May 26</b>
<b>Adult RE</b>	John Minge	Sandy Barnhouse	Stan Carignan	Bob Worner
<b>Children's RE (Mary A.)</b>	Kris Warhol/Lee Hamness Uua #11	Ron Graham/Richard Kagan	Richard Kagan/Ron Graham	Ron Graham/Richard Kagan
<b>Speaker (Betsy &amp; Kris)</b>	Bob Worner "Acquainted With Grief" Principle #2: Justice, Equity and Compassion in human relations.	Maia Williams "This is How We Survive."	Carole Mitchell "Change a thought, change your life"	Katy Olson "The End of Colonialism and the Rise of the Partnership Society"
<b>Service Leader (Mary A.)</b>	Bob Worner	Kris Warhol	Tere Mann	Katy Olson
<b>Greeters (Kris)</b>	Carole Mitchell Kris Warhol	Katy Olson Diane Johnson	Diane Johnson Kris Warhol	Kris Warhol Lee Hamness
<b>Kitchen Coordinator (Mary A.)</b>	Alison Francis	Alison Francis	Alison Francis	Alison Francis
<b>Treats</b>	Janell Miersch/Bob Johnson Cinco de Mayo offerings	Florance/Mikkel Thompson (Norwegian Independence Day)		
<b>Hymn Accompaniment (Susan/Mary W)</b>	Susan Groff	Susan Groff	Mary Worner	Susan Groff
<b>Special Music (Susan/Mary W)</b>	Mikkel Thompson/ Susan Groff	Mikkel Thompson/Melody Shores/Susan Groff	Mikkel Thompson	Ron Roller
<b>Technical Support (Amy Beckman)</b>	Tere Mann	Amy Beckman	TBN	TBN
<b>Celebrant (Ellen)</b>	Bob Worner			Katy Olson



## Children's Religious Education

**In celebration of over one year of weekly Children's Religious Education, the children will be part of the Sunday program on June 2. They invite you after the service to Suite #300 to visit their room and see all their handiwork from their learnings from the year.**

Jon Solinger with assistance from Ron Graham led the class the first Sunday of the month using the first three activities from lesson 10 of the UUA Chalice of Faith curriculum. The activities included dancing in partners, choosing partners using pebbles like penguins do; drawing pictures of our families with a discussion of what makes a family and the different ways families are made even if not necessarily biologically related; reading a true story about two male penguins who adopted an egg and became parents.

Ron Graham continues ongoing Sunday lessons sometimes using card tricks – Lorelei can pick the right card, but can she do it consistently? (30 or so cards in a row?) Is she psychic? They've read, "Maybe Yes, Maybe no" (about a girl skeptic). Ron's thinking is that "we don't want to steal or even dampen a child's view of God - just want to give them the tools to question and move toward a grown-up faith as they mature."

On Easter Sunday, Ron & Richard talked about and read the story of Jesus dying and rising from the dead. They continued to explore real or not concerning the story and then studied the Shroud of Turin\*. They actually cleared space and used a duplicate 14' shroud that Ron had made sewing together two sheets. How it could possibly have been made with a negative image of a crucified person using no pigments. Amari got to be Jesus in the shroud They also talked about the Notre Dame fire and rescuing the crown of thorns Jesus was said to have worn. We also talked about other relics - we leaned strongly toward believing the Jesus story and not believing the actual crown of thorns existed. As Unitarians, no one tells us what we believe. We search for truth.

They finished by coloring eggs and then hid or hunted eggs for three rounds. Bonnie hid the first round, Ron and Lorelei worked as a team and Amari gave us a challenge with creative locations - a good time had by all.



Here, is Violet pictured on annual meeting Sunday, “Ron’s formidable opponent.” Ron & Richard spent extra time with the kids during the annual meeting. This was part of fun time during their 3 ½ hour session. The excitement built as the game went 4 moves after it appeared impossible to add one more.

While Violet was challenging Ron, Richard and Lorelei had their own fun. This resulted in Richard’s poem below to Lorelei.

On the last Sunday of the month, Jon Solinger led with Ron Graham assisting. The theme that day was seeing beauty in nature and using natural materials to make beautiful things. After the chalice lighting and opening words Jon showed a collection of stones cut and polished by his father, who collected rocks for making jewelry. They talked about how ordinary looking stones can be transformed into beautiful things by a skilled worker.

We read the story *Treasure Stones*, about the life of Arthur Lismer, a Canadian painter who taught people how to see beauty in nature through his art and his teaching at a college and a museum. Then did a craft project that transformed sheep's wool into colorful felt beads for a necklace. Violet and Ron had a great game of Jenga at the end of their time.

We are so grateful for these wise elders and other wise ones who are teaching our children!



### *Lorelei*

*by Richard Kagan, 4-14-2019*

*We had a marvelous time in make-believe land:  
She planted trees,  
Acted and sounded like a chicken, a cat, a dog;  
became the moon;  
soared like the sun;  
And moved furniture like a moving company.  
It was a splendid time for role-playing,  
for dreaming;*

*For feeling the presence of the sacred.*

\* The Shroud of Turin or Turin Shroud is a length of linen cloth bearing the negative image of a man, some believe and some refute, that of Jesus.

### Notes from April Programs

**Note: Please let the newsletter editor know if you wish continued in the monthly newsletter, the Sunday reports as they are sent out weekly and the repeated version may not be needed. Contact: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com). The podcast links would be continued in the monthly newsletters.**

**April 7 – “Radical Moderation” by Stefan Jonasson.** Stefan has been visiting UCU for over 30 years. He reflected on the early history of our church – how unlikely its birth – originally organized by Norwegian immigrants who wanted a liberal church in the area of the small town of Underwood, MN. When Stefan first came in 1986, Reagan was President (which seemed to many a time of extremism). However, it seems that in today’s world there is more extremism on both the right and left. One result/cause has been a rise in tribalism (embracing of one’s own points of view – narrowing of a group). In the past 30 years, he has observed in the U.S. and the world, and he has seen changes in the make-up of our congregation (it used to be more diverse politically).



Buddhists celebrate the birthday of the Buddha on April 8. One of the main tenants of Buddhism is moderation. One of the readings that Stefan shared was from the Samyutta Nikaya, which espoused that neither the extremisms of “addiction to sensual pleasure” nor “addiction to self-mortification” is healthy or beneficial to ourselves, to the community or world. Moderation is good in any area of life, because it brings balance and stability.

The late Elliot Richardson (who served as Attorney General in Nixon’s administration and resigned rather than obey Nixon’s order to fire the special Watergate prosecutor) declared, “I am a moderate – a radical moderate.” The very phrase seems like a contradiction, but is it really? Amidst the shrill pronouncements of radicals and ideologues, public discourse might benefit from some radical moderation – in religion, in politics, and in everyday life.

Moderation is not just simply the midpoint between two extremes (such as the political extreme right and extreme left). It is arrived at through being tolerant, fair, and respectful, and through the characteristics of rationality, skepticism, balance, and objectivity. It means that we constantly challenging our own perspectives, without abandoning our principles.

Ethical conundrums are not simple. However, they should not be ignored, nor should we let them overpower us.

Today, on the public media front, many issues and expressions of feelings and thoughts appear as “socially sanctioned temper tantrums”, which is not helpful in trying to find a healthy, happy wholesome balance. Moderation is the best way to respond to extremism.

Attendance: 51

Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/radical-moderation-rev-stefan-ionasson-april-7-2019>.

**April 14** - For the abbreviated program prior to the annual meeting, **Board President Kris Warhol talked about “Cultivating Joy.”** Kris referred to the writings of Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, author of *Outlaw Christian*. In her writings, Bussie talks about cultivating joy in our vocation’s callings. When we process each role, we play with other humans, it gives us more humanness. We continuously evolve by giving humanity back to the other person which brings us closer to ourselves, fully present and hopeful. As she walks to work, love awaits her (students waiting). As she walks home, love awaits her (husband waiting). The walk-through nature transforms and makes her heart sing – “Love waits for me on both sides of the river.”

Attendance: 37

Annual Meeting Attendance: 30

Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/cultivating-joy-kris-warhol-april-14-2019>

**April 21- Bob Worner "Rolling Away the Stone,"** referencing UU principle 1, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

The account of the stone to Jesus's tomb being rolled away was the central focus of Bob's message. The Biblical account of this event was written 30-60 years after it occurred.

1. What "stone" has metaphorically blocked your life?
2. What "stone" has been rolled away or removed in your life?
3. What "stone" has become a new rock on which to build anew?

Bob gave so many examples under each of the three categories, inspiring us to see with fresh eyes our opportunities every day. He cautioned us to see NEW opportunities for solid ground improvement whether it be family, education, direction, a replacement going forward. Do NOT block others, instead encourage all to expand and grow.

Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/the-day-the-stone-was-rolled-away-uu-principle-1-bob-worner-april-21-2019>.

**Attendance: 36**



**April 28 – Larry McDonough, “Wellstone: A Remembrance.”** Larry McDonough was: “Wellstone, A Remembrance.” Larry met Paul in 1984. They “agitated” together on many issues – farming crisis, poverty, etc. Larry McDonough played several original (or his adapted) compositions on the piano, sang a few tunes, and shared some readings – in honor of Paul Wellstone. His wife, Carol Bergquist accompanied him on her flute on several pieces. Larry’s presentation included:

1. “Tuscarora” – inspired by his favorite Boundary Waters lake.
2. Reading from an essay – recognizing Wellstone whose top priority was “the little guy,” thus providing a voice for all of MN.
3. Rosie’s piece – Larry composed this with inspiration from his daughter.
4. Part of essay by poet Richard Terrill, a bandmate and friend of Larry’s.
5. “We Shall Overcome” – a jazzy version.
6. Part II of essay about working with Wellstone, including on his campaigns.
7. Variations on “My Favorite Things” (inspired by John Coltrain).
8. Third part of essay - message included “lend a hand to those in need; donate money to help support those in need; support candidates who will help ‘the little guy.’”
9. Jazzy version of “Star Spangled Banner.”
10. Larry told the story of the last time he saw Wellstone. Larry played jazz music on the piano at the State Fair, next to Wellstone’s booth. It was not well received by one of the security people. So, when asked to leave, Larry asked if he could play one more tune, of which he played an extended long version.
11. “All Blues.”

**Attendance: 59**

Link to podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/wellstone-a-remembrance-larry-mcdonough-april-28-2019>



**Waiting to be Played**

## UCU Search Task Force

A Search Task Force is at work with the goal of filling the vacant position in our church. The task force is using From Starting to Parting, a UUA publication, as a guide. The guide advises us to “think big.” That means keeping our congregation’s mission in mind while we fill the position with someone who has the potential to “contribute to the vitality” of our work inside and outside of the church walls.

As of April 29, 2019, the task force has nearly completed a task analysis, using all the input received, in preparation for writing the job description. The resulting description will be presented to the board at their May 15th meeting.

After board approval of the job description, the task force will develop and share the application and interview process. The position will be posted for inside (UCU members) and outside (non-members) applicants at the same time.

The Search Task Force members are Connie Stigen, John Miersch, Bob Worner, Kris Warhol, Betsy Wells (recorder), and Mary Worner (chair). We have held five meetings with three more scheduled to finish the job description. Then will come posting, reviewing applications, talking to references, doing background checks and interviewing.

Thanks goes to the task force members and everyone that has given input to the process. *Mary Worner, Search Task Force chair*

# Stay<sup>o</sup>informED

## Adult Religious Education Classes & Mindfulness Sitting

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.** – John Minge leads discussion.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45- 9:45 a.m.** – Sandy Barnhouse leads the Ancient Religions Class using *Sacred Pleasures* as resource.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.** – Stan Carignan will lead new class using the book, *Seeing, Knowing, Being* by John Greer as a text to explore what mindfulness is, how it can be achieved, and what it does for a person. Book chapter discussions followed by 20 minutes of mindfulness practice.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45-9:45 a.m.** Bob Worner leads the discussion on the book, *Unbelievable* by Jon Shelby Spong.

**Each Sunday of the month, other than 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays (see above): 9:15 – 9:45 a.m.,** Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness Sitting @ #300 Sverdrup Suites.

Website:

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

**“Like” UCU on Facebook: see [www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org)**

**Sunday Talks available via  
PodCasts @ [soundcloud.com/user-927528278](https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278)**

Contact Mary Anderson @218/346-6638 or [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com) for Sunday announcements. Contact Kris Warhol @ 218/ or [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com) for local media notifications. Betsy Wells is handling Sunday announcements in the media.

## U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Alexandria U-Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ Linda & Steve Bergs. Facilitators: Bob Worner/Kris Warhol.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer’s, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Melody Shores.
- Perham U-Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. @ Stan Carignan’s. Facilitator: Stan Carignan.

*Each group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to come and join the group.*

To learn more or join a group, contact Lead Co-Facilitators: Kris Warhol @ [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com) or 218/205-1644 or Shannon Smith @ [shannonsmith20@gmail.com](mailto:shannonsmith20@gmail.com)  
Or 320/630-6229

## Newsletter Submissions due prior to Issuance the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com).

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/ mailing: Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

Monthly Newsletters come out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month via email. They are also posted at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org).

## *It Happened in April*

### Annual Chili Dinner



Attendance was down a bit, but fun and friendliness were up. John Minge outdid himself again preparing and cooking five kinds of chili. Sverdrup Lutheran Church volunteers came to help so this is now a collaborative event between our two churches that after expenses, raised almost \$500 for the Underwood Senior Nutrition Program. Thank you to all who volunteered and contributed!



### Empowerment Grant Check Delivery



Kris Warhol personally delivered to United Way the Empowerment Grant check of \$1200, of which \$900 was from the church with \$300 matching funds from Kris and Wally Warhol. Way to go for United Way!

## Annual Meeting

In this, the 130<sup>th</sup> year's founding of this church, thirty voting members met for the annual meeting. Reports were given by Board members, Committee chairs and other leaders summarizing the year's accomplishments and goals for the coming year. Annual reports and financials can be found at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org). Draft minutes of the meeting are at the end of this newsletter.

## Introducing New Board Members

After each having served on the Board of Directors for the past six years (two 3-year terms), we sincerely thank **John Miersch and Dave Sanderson** for their dedicated service. **John** served as Vice President, President and on the Executive Committee. He continues to serve on the Membership Committee and often serves as a service leader and greeter. During his tenure, **Dave** served two years as Vice President and Executive Committee. He continues as chair of the Foundation Advisory Committee and the Stewardship Committee. Please let John, Dave and the currently serving board members know they are all appreciated!!

### New Board Members are:



**Alison Francis** – Alison just recently became a new member of the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Through her position at United Way, she also serves as the chair-person for Friends of Friends Fighting Hunger. She enthusiastically jumped in to help with the chili dinner, kitchen coordinator rotation, and is looking forward to meeting more congregants and friends of UCU. Alison takes her new role as board member seriously, and is committed to listening, learning, and serving as best she can.

**Bonnie Showers** has been a UCU member since 2017. She was a member of the planning committee for the 2017 area UU workshop. She is currently a member of the Communications Committee and the Membership Committee where she serves on the kitchen coordinator rotation. Bonnie excels at doing dishes and she says, “avoiding eye contact.” She’s shy but don’t let her kid you. Once she’s engaged, she’s a wonder of ideas and hard work.

Executive officers will be newly elected at the May 15 Board meeting.

## *UCU Inner Workings*

Over the past several years, the Unitarian Church of Underwood has grown from a group-centered to a leader-centered organization, with the Board of Directors as the governing body. Major work is performed within numerous committees, task forces or teams. Many times, if one is not directly involved, members/visitors may appreciate the result but are unaware of the efforts that created that work. Over the next months of newsletters, some committees will be featured and given our attention and appreciation.

## Under Governance/Administration

## **Safety Committee (extracted from the Safety Plan)**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood Board has appointed at least five people to serve as a Safety Committee, whose job it is to ensure the safety of the church, employees, members and visitors, using the guidelines set forth in Safety Plan that was adopted by the Board in 2017. The Church Board gave consideration that Safety Committee members appointed were those who are regular Sunday attendees and who have skills and experience suited to monitoring and addressing potential threats. The Safety Committee is comprised of: *Norm Kolstad (Chair); Susan Groff, Dave Sanderson, Kris Warhol, and Wally Warhol.*

Few buildings represent peace and protection more than a church. For thousands of years, churches have been safe havens (sanctuaries) for all manner of oppressed, abused, or suffering people. Most religions have tenets that promise safety and comfort to all who enter their church building. Affirming the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism and the behavioral covenant, the Safety Plan provides guidelines for creating a safe-haven for its members, employees, and visitors. As reminders, the following are some provisions of the UCU Safety Plan.

### **Covenant of Right Relationship**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a place of safety and integrity for each person's mind, body, and spirit. We are a supportive and nurturing faith community, honoring and respecting the rich diversity of those gathered here. Recognizing that warmth, beauty, kindness, and passion will shape us as a congregation of goodwill, generosity, and presence, we covenant to affirm and promise:

- Honesty and authenticity in our relationships.
- Words that are supportive and caring, not belittling or demeaning.
- A welcoming and non-judgmental attitude.
- To respect each person's boundaries of mind, body and spirit.
- To listen to one another.
- To refrain from displays of temper.
- To honor the gifts and blessings of thought and deed.

This is our covenant of right relationship.

### **Conflict Resolution**

Relationships among people are at the foundation of our covenant and, as such, are central to the life of the church. Defining healthy and safe relationships through guidelines, policies, and codes of conduct is not meant, in any way, to undermine the strength and importance of personal interaction in our ministries. Rather, it is to assist in more clearly defining behaviors and practices that allow the church to more fully demonstrate its love and compassion for members in sincere and genuine relationships.

Periodically, because of the various personalities and perspectives, there may arise a conflict between individuals.

**Action:**

Individuals are encouraged to resolve these disputes or misunderstandings between themselves without involving triangular communications (telling a third party about the dispute before attempting to resolve the conflict with the individual directly).

- Talk directly with the person with whom you have the disagreement.
- If the conflict remains unresolved, seek assistance of a neutral party for suggestions and take the next appropriate steps.
- If the conflict is less with a person than with how they are performing a church function, address the concern to the proper committee chair or Board President.
- If safety is an issue, use an appropriate third party or a Safety Committee Member to provide a safe environment for the discussion.

The Safety Plan, included in the UCU Policy and Procedures Manual outlines measures we've taken to address the health, safety and well-being of our church and its members. [Here is the link to view the Policy Manual](#). See page 72 for the Safety Plan.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Please contact a Safety Committee member if you have a concern.

### **I Passed This Way**

***Written by Mary Anderson***

***April 24, 2019***

*As Chair of the **Membership Committee**, I and the committee members (John & Janell Miersch, Alisha Piekarski, Bonnie Showers and Mary Worner) spend time thinking about the growing, evolving, flowing membership of this church. We are gleeful with each new member welcomed but regretful each time a member departs. We listen intently to learn of the experiences, skills and passions of new comers to find them connections to serve. We know the statistics of aging, diminishing size congregations. We look at the “doers” and worry about who is doing too much – or not enough – to sustain us into the future. We know the 130 - year history of this church and we celebrate our current highest membership but recall those smaller numbered membership times and we don't want to be the contributors to its down-fall. If a visitor does not return, we wonder if it was something we said or did.*

*Recently, I had an “aha” moment – the Unitarian Church of Underwood has, is and will be here no matter how many it serves at any one time. It is here to serve well those who are here – though their stop be one time or many times. We don't need to worry about its future because at every time of its existence, it has had the right people serving it well for that time. This church continues to be the way-stop for members/visitors to get just what they need for their brief or long time attending. That thinking inspired this writing:*

Many, over its 130 years, have passed through the doors of the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Among them have always numbered a small long-time, stalwart, faith-keeping, group that has kept the fires burning, both physically and spiritually. Many others have come and left after a visit, a short duration or some years in continuing their spirit quest or arriving at

their journey's end. Through its doors, those who enter have sought solace, inspiration for one Sunday, several Sundays or many Sundays; the people within welcome them with warmth and acceptance.

Ours is a mobile, transient society with ever changing life cycles. There are many life phases and stages that may account for one absenting from our circle: physical and mental health challenges, aging adults in need of care, family demands, beliefs better aligned elsewhere, career callings, relationships beginning, relationships ending, grandchildren beckoning, warmer climates harkening. We answer and heed whatever calls us to where-ever.

But if/when one returns, she is hailed by those who remember him and looked on with curiosity by those who don't know them. And just for the moment, be it a regular or infrequent Sunday hour, we slow down, we take stock, we reflect, we find our source and the comfort it provides. We remind ourselves that for those ecliptic moments, they need us, I need you. We need them, you need me. And then time and circumstances move us on. This church remains an anchor for the threads woven to spin the web of connections.

As we go on, we know that there will continue to be within the church: a stalwart, faithful, dependable small group to keep the fires burning, both physically and spiritually assuring welcome to those passing through – even over the next 130 years. *Mary Anderson, Membership Committee Chair.*

## **The Unitarian Church of Underwood Celebrates 130 Years (1889-2019)**

With information gathered by Norm Kolstad, descendant of the founders of this church, we continue the narrative begun in the February & March newsletters of the struggle for the Unitarian Church of Underwood to maintain as a liberal church in a conservative area and follow the UU principles. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of correspondence during 1945-46 between John Gronner living then in Topeka, Kansas with his sister, Ethel, then a member and Secretary of the Underwood church's Board of Directors. *Church Squabbles* was curated by Norm Kolstad.

if you want the full story all at once, right click on: [Here is the link to the article.](#)

### **Part 3.**

*[letter from John Gronner to Rev. Bose; October 9, 1945]* P.s. I wonder if the two ladies that visited your church told you that there was a move on at the present time to join with a nearby Presbyterian church and hire a minister. This movement has gained considerable headway, but it must be headed off. I know that you will understand that you cannot unite two such groups with such different objectives and have anything at all. The high-bred that would result from such a union would, in my mind, revert in such a manner that the old liberal mile post would be

absorbed by those who are willing to follow the line of least resistance. I shall use my best Influence to head off this union, merger, or whatever it may be called, while I am at Underwood. I believe that you can do much to assist us, but it might be advisable for you not to indicate that you know anything about this as far as your church service is concerned. A good shot of Unitarianism or anything on the real American philosophy of life might do much more to lift our people above what some of them have been attempting to do.

*[Memorandum from the Minnesota Unitarian Conference to the Free Christian Church of Underwood; October 22, 1945]* On the above date the Rev. Arthur Foote, St. Paul, Rev. Raymond B. Bragg, Minneapolis, Rev. Konrad Bose, Willmar, and the Rev. Georg J. M. Walen, Hanska, all members of the Board of the Minnesota Unitarian Conference, met with Dr. Frederick May Eliot, President of the American Unitarian Association and Miss Hanson of the Underwood Church to discuss the possibility of establishing a Unitarian minister in Underwood.

It was learned that Mr. Bose, now minister of the Willmar Society, is available to preach in Underwood twice a month and to render pastoral services to the members of the Underwood Church. Certain conditions are suggested by the group noted above and by the Board of the Minnesota Unitarian Conference which took formal action on the matter.

The Minnesota Unitarian Conference will appropriate a sum not to exceed \$300.00 per year toward Mr. Bose's salary. The Conference will also cover all of his expenses incidental to his travel between Willmar and Underwood. In order to make possible the occasional visits of other ministers, the Conference will pay traveling expenses for such visitations providing the ministers are available within the State or not too far distant from the State. The Underwood Church, in order to secure such services, would be expected to pay \$45.00 per month to Mr. Bose.

Mr. Bose is a graduate of Union College and the Meadville Theological School which granted him a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He has had experience in the Unitarian ministry and is one of the promising young men of the fellowship.

The Board of the Minnesota Unitarian Conference suggests and urges that if this financial plan is acceptable that Mr. Bose be called to the ministry of the Underwood Church. Once he assumed his duties as minister, he would, with the Board of the Church, invite his colleagues, according to their availability and the plans of the Church, to participate in the various observances of the Church. Let it be noted here that, according to the above plan, in all such instances the Minnesota Unitarian Conference would pay traveling expenses and that there would be no expense incurred by the Church. The only expense to the Church would be the payment of Forty-five Dollars (\$45.00) per month to Mr. Bose.

Everyone who participated in the fashioning of this plan suggests heartily the endorsement of the plan and that it be submitted to the membership of the Underwood Church as the most adequate solution of the problem now confronting it.

*[Board Meeting; Sat. Oct 27, 1945]* Written resignations were submitted by Mr. Sylte and Mr. Hagen. Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Johanson gave verbal indications that they were resigning. Mr. *[Arthur]* Kolstad said that he felt that he should resign, too as he did not feel that he had fulfilled his duty. Mr. *[Elof]* Hagen then raised the question: What are you going to do? He suggested that a Congregational meeting could be called for the purpose of electing a new Board. The sec. *[Ethel Gronner]* then made the motion that all members resign and that a Cong. meeting be called for the purpose of electing a new Bd. The motion was seconded by Art Kolstad. Nov. 9 was set as a date for this meeting.

*[letter from John Gronner to Ethel; October 30, 1945]* ....As far as my own personal remarks are concerned, I am very much disturbed because I did not go ahead and speak and say what I had planned to say before Gunda *[Hanson]* made the proposal from our own group. It would be all right, however, to bring out the point that I emphasized the fact that there wasn't any reason for our being ashamed of being Unitarians when we considered the history of our nation which was built by such men as Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Horace Mann, Emerson, Lowell, etc., and by all means the fact that I pointed out that President Truman, who himself is a fundamentalist, in making his first permanent appointment, that of a member of the United States Supreme Court, chose a Unitarian. (A Moderator of the American Unitarian Association.) He is a member of the first Unitarian Church of Columbus, Ohio.

I also pointed out that in Reverend Bose's sermon at his first visit to Underwood, he quoted from a sermon or talk given by Francis G. Ricker, Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Columbus, Ohio. In other words, he quoted from a sermon given by the minister of the church of which our newest member of the United States Supreme Court is a member. If folks that attend such a church are of the caliber that are sought for members for the highest court of our nation, then the thoughts brought to us by Reverend Bose from the minister of that church should not be too hard for us to accept in our little group. At least, there should not be any need for us being ashamed of such thoughts.

I also appointed out that every individual had a right to their own beliefs and their own interpretations as far as their religion is concerned. This, however, was no reason why we should make any attempt to change the church. It has always been a free church, and the milepost of liberal religion in the state, and it must always continue to be so.

*[letter from John Gronner to Ethel; November 5, 1945]* Dear Ethel: If the question of whether we accept the offer of the Minnesota Unitarian Conference and/or the American Unitarian Association in connection with hiring Reverend Konrad Bose to serve our church or the question of entering into an agreement with the Maine and other Presbyterian churches be put to a vote, we wish to register our vote as follows:

IN FAVOR OF EMPLOYING REVEREND KONRAD BOSE

*[Board minutes; November 19, 1945]* Mr. Moen was elected vice president. E. Gronner secretary; C. Bjornstad treasurer; House and Grounds Committee; Mr. Moen - chairman, Mr.

Gilbertson, Mr. Kolstad, Cemetery Committee, A. Kolstad, Mr. Moen, E. Gronner, A. Kolstad and Conrad Bjornstad were appointed ushers.

*[from Beth Deibert Achter's UCU History]* **The Minnesota Unitarian Churches worked out an agreement whereby Reverend Konrad Bose of Minneapolis would move to Willmar, Minnesota, and would then serve both the Willmar and Underwood churches.**

**John Gronner, Jr. remembers this of Reverend Bose's ministry:** "Konrad Bose was a brilliant, personable and ambitious man. He was, however, a follower of John Dietrich and he was not acceptable to the more conservative members of the church." (Dietrich preached a humanistic philosophy.) During Reverend Bose's tenure six families left the church. The impact was great for, of these families, four of them had a total of eleven children in the Religious Education Program.

After the decision was made in 1945 to not merge with the Presbyterian Congregations, John Gronner returned to Topeka, Kansas. It was in Topeka that John met a Reverend Collins at a dinner meeting. Reverend Collins had accepted a position as Secretary of the Minnesota Congregational Conference and would soon be moving to Minnesota. Through this meeting, an association was made which later resulted in an affiliation with the Minnesota Congregational Conference.

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[Click here for more information about the Gronner family, including a transcript of an interview with John A. Gronner Jr.](#)

For the record, the scars of the mid 1940's discontent influenced Church politics for years. But these letters illustrate John's fiercely-held liberal motivations and really extraordinary efforts to balance practical considerations and Unitarian dogma....*Norman Kolstad*

Coming in the next months:

**Part 4. 1950-60's Congregational Affiliation**

**Part 5. 1970's** from members among us who came to the Unitarian Church of Underwood in the 1970's: **Marguerite and Budd Andrews, Gerry Ziesemer and Diana Ziesemer.**

## *Living Out Our UU Principles*



On April 24, 2019 in an historic vote, the Minnesota House passed the Jobs & Energy Omnibus, including language supporting 100% renewable electricity by 2050! This is a major step forward, directly connected to our movement's organizing. Huge thanks to all who played a role in this exciting outcome.

Upcoming events for MNIPL include:

May 7 at 6pm - 8:30pm at Neighborhood House (The Wellstone Center) 179 Robie St E, St. Paul. ENERGY COMEDY NIGHT – PREPARING FOR A CLIMATE CROSSROADS

May 13 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm – RALLY FOR 100% CLEAN ENERGY CAMPAIGN at the Minnesota State Capitol

May 16 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the **Hook and Ladder Theater**, 3010 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis, MN ENVIRONMENTAL ANCESTRY STORYTELLING



On April 25, 2019 twenty-nine people linked in for a conference call with Ali Tharp from Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth. The guest speaker was Freddie Lane, a tribal council member of the Lummi Tribe in the northern state of Washington and southern British Columbia. Unitarian congregations in the Bellingham, Washington area are supporting tribal journeys to return a totem pole to the Lummi Nation and paddle the Columbia River to raise awareness of the loss of orcas and salmon. During the discussion, Rita Chamblin from the Headwaters Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bemidji discussed Line 3 pipeline and the challenges environmental groups have had to engage all indigenous tribes in the area. Bellingham Washington people said they encountered the same problem. Economically the “progress” of timber sales or pipeline construction often trumps the value of preserving the earth for future generations for the struggling indigenous nations.

The Environmental Justice Practitioners Network (EJPN) monthly webinar series has special guest speakers and engages participants in reflection and discussion to deepen understanding and faith grounding for environmental justice and often includes social justice as well. You can join the call on their web site <https://www.uumfe.org>.

### **UCU PEOPLE IN ACTION**

*Note: Janell Miersch, UCU Coordinator to MNIPL and Co-Chair of the newly forming UCU Social/Environment Justice Committee reports on the first meeting of the newly forming Social/Environmental Justice Committee.*

The Social/Environmental Justice committee met on April 30, 2019 to discuss what UCU has been involved in relating to social and environmental justice and what we can do in the future. The first thing we will implement will be heard and reported at the next church service. We are calling it UCU PEOPLE IN ACTION – we hope each week to have a church member or even a visitor/non-member briefly talk about how they are engaged in social or environmental actions. Often the action will be as a volunteer (think Shan refugees, Boys Club, Someplace Safe, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) The objective is to raise awareness of what individuals can do to make the world a better place. So, stay tuned!! And if you want to share what you are involved in, contact Janell Miersch at [miers004@umn.edu](mailto:miers004@umn.edu). *Janell Miersch*

# *We are Part of the Larger UU*



Welcome...and Farewell from *Ian Evison, Congregational Life Consultant, Staff Lead* (Note: *Ian was the UU MidAmerica Region's Consultant who attended both the UCU Workshops in 2013 and 2017 and was the Sunday speaker both Sundays following the workshop. He is retiring to St. Paul and after settling, we hope he comes back to visit us again*).

You who receive—and read—this newsletter, are exceptional. I know who you are—as a group—if not as individuals. You are the ones who worry about whether the coffee pot has been turned on, and the heat turned up. You are the ones who say yes, when maybe you should have said no. You are the ones who notice the quiet and sometimes courageous unseen contributions others make—and find time to say thanks. You are the ones who have decided to make yourself financial stakeholders. You are the ones who step up to say the uncomfortable thing that needs to be said and find a way to say them with grace. You are the ones who—when money is tight—remind the congregation that it needs to find a way to hold faithfulness to its larger commitments, including our association. You are the ones who notice which voices are not being included and find ways to bring them in with warmth and hospitality. You are the ones who help your congregations keep clear that, in the end we all do this work not to serve each other but to serve our larger mission.



There are many times when I have noticed what one of you have contributed, have thought to myself that I really ought to thank you, and then I let myself get busy with something else. In my vision for my better self I would do much more of that. In clearing things out, I actually found a number of packets of cards I purchased for that purpose.

To all of you, please accept this belated—and rather impersonal—thanks. If any of you have similar ambitions to do a better job of saying thanks and could use a somewhat dog-eared and dusty but otherwise pristine set of thank-you notes, let me know.

To all, thanks and farewell.  
Ian



# MUUSJA

MINNESOTA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

**"Everywhere. Everywhere. Everywhere."**

***i've been praying,  
and these are what my prayers look like;  
dear god  
i come from two countries  
one is thirsty  
the other is on fire  
both need water.  
later that night  
i held an atlas in my lap  
ran my fingers across the whole world  
and whispered  
where does it hurt?  
it answered  
everywhere  
everywhere  
everywhere.***

**Warsan Shire, from "What They Did Yesterday Afternoon"**



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Dear Ones,

As I prayed my own prayers this morning, I murmured the names of [Notre Dame](#), and [Al Aqsa](#), and [St. Mary and Greater Union and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Churches](#). I prayed for Rep. Ilhan Omar as [the President comes after her](#) evoking anti-Islamic/ anti-Black/ misogynist tropes, and for the leaders of our [Muslim](#) and [Jewish](#) communities here and nationwide who refuse to let the Right drive a wedge between them. I lifted up our Christian kin as they follow the stations of the cross toward Easter in this Holy Week, and our Jewish beloveds who will begin celebrating Pesach tonight. I held those grieving and fighting the implementation of the [ban against transgender people](#) serving in the military, and I prayed for our country's repentance from xenophobic militarism as we continue to detain 50,000 people a day at our southern border while now illegally declaring they can be held indefinitely in cages.

Sometimes, prayer is the spiritual practice of letting your heart grow big enough to contain

all the "and"s. Not just the "and"s of the plethora of things always in need of attention and compassion and action, but the "and"s of contradiction, complexity, and nuance. Because the answer to the question "Where does it hurt?" is indeed "everywhere/ everywhere/ everywhere."

Our Unitarian Universalist theology unquestionably compels us to see and acknowledge the brokenness of the world. But I often wonder if our optimism about the moral arc of the universe bending toward justice--usually accompanied by a sense of urgency to act and fix--has left us ill-equipped to really *face unflinchingly and feel in our bones* the depths of all the "and"s.

Today as I write, Christians across the globe observe Good Friday--a ritual commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus at the hands of a persecuting empire, a violent state that thought they could kill a movement for justice by killing a man. In the ancient Christian liturgy of Tenebrae, candles are successively put out as the story of Jesus' death is told. At the end of the service, the last light is extinguished, and the participants leave in silence after a loud bang announces the closing of the tomb.

Whether or not this Christian ritual has any personal theological significance to you, the invitation of Good Friday stretches beyond any denominational boundary:

Can we face the depths of brokenness in the world around us?

Can we allow our hearts to crack open as we witness the violence perpetrated against so many of our human siblings?

Can we sit together, simply accompanying each other in our feelings of anger and grief and powerlessness?

I am grateful that our religious tradition of Unitarian Universalism is so clear that humans have agency and power to shape the world and the systems in which we live. Those fundamental tenets of our faith are what will get me out of bed tomorrow, and the next day, and the next.

AND.

There are times when I simply need to sit with the sadness and the powerlessness. I believe it makes me more human.

So today, if you are in a space of feeling overwhelmed, cracked open, or simply tender in the face all the "and"s of the brokenness of the world, know that you are not alone. The despair and panic and weariness you hold is not yours to shoulder by yourself, and the cracked places of your heart are what allow the soft tendrils of empathy and connection to unfurl outward, bringing you into connection with others.

In this season of so many religious stories that point to both the realities of evil, trauma, and violence AND the possibilities of resurrection, liberation, and justice, may you find the spaciousness to hold all the complexities.

It is good to be human together.

In faith and solidarity,



Rev. Ashley Horan  
MUUSJA Executive Director

*Note: UCU Member, Ellen Eastby is on the MUUSJA Board of Directors and on the Search Committee for a replacement for Rev. Ashley Horan who is leaving her position in July.*



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**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES—APRIL 14, 2019  
To be approved at April 2020 Annual Meeting)**

Board members present: Connie Stigen, Darryl Booker, Shannon Smith, Kris Warhol, Ron Roller, Dave Sanderson, John Miersch, Bob Worner, Tim Lanz, and John Minge. In addition, there were about 20 Church members in attendance.

The Meeting was called to order at 11 A.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. Kris opened the Meeting with a reading the Covenant of Behavior.
2. Agenda: The proposed agenda for this meeting was approved. (Miersch/Sanderson) Kris pointed out that, in addition to the Agenda, the handouts for this meeting included several written committee and task force reports.
3. Minutes of the April 15, 2018, Annual Meeting: The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved.
4. President's Report: Kris Warhol gave an oral and written President's Report.
5. Hiring Task Force Report: Mary Worner and Connie Stigen gave this report. The members of

the Task Force are Connie Stigen, Kris Warhol, Mary Worner, Betsy Wells, John Miersch, and Bob Worner. The Task Force is looking for a replacement for JoAnn Larson who recently resigned from her administrative position. The Task Force has been meeting weekly and expects that it will take a few months for it to complete its assignment. The process that the Task Force is following was described. The Task Force has been given some detailed suggestions regarding the procedure from the Board and has also been using materials that it obtained from the national office of the UU Church. Connie Stigen said that the Task Force welcomes suggestions from Church members and is seeking clarification from the Board regarding certain issues.

6. Treasurer's Report: Ron Roller and Teri Mann presented and went over a written Balance Sheet and a written Profit and Loss Performance Report for the church year ending on March 31, 2019. The proposed budget for the new church year beginning on April 1, 2019, appears on the Performance Report. The proposed budget is very similar to the budget for the year which just ended. There was discussion of the proposed budget and clarifications sought. The proposed budget was approved (with a few very small corrections/changes). (Bob Worner/Janell Miersch)

7. Stewardship Committee Report: Dave Sanderson reported orally and in writing on the activities of this committee which consists of six members. The committee is working with a UU stewardship consultant. A brochure designed to promote financial support of the Church has been prepared. It is to be used in lieu of an annual letter to Church members regarding such support. Dave also mentioned that direct payments (out of members' bank accounts) is being recommended as they make income more predictable. Such payments are being used by more and more Church members

8. Foundation Report: Dave Sanderson gave this report orally and in writing. Among other things, bequests are being encouraged.

9. Membership Committee Report: Mary Anderson gave this report orally and in writing. This committee meets quarterly. It welcomes new members twice a year. Mary generally described the activities of this committee.

10. Communications Committee Report: Teri Mann made brief comments to supplement the written report that was presented.

11. Records Task Force Report: Norm Kolstad gave this report orally and in writing.

12. Nominations Committee Report: Sue Groff gave this report. She recognized the departing Board members and mentioned that Mary Anderson is now no longer on the Executive Committee. John Miersch and David Sanderson are both at the end of six years, having served 2 three-year terms. This committee is nominating Alison Francis and Bonnie Showers as new Board members. Nominations from the floor were requested. None were made. A motion was made to elect Alison and Bonnie to the two Board vacancies. The motion was voted on and passed. (Teri Mann/Mary Anderson)

13. Celebrants' Report: Kris reported on the membership and activities of the Celebrants. A written report was also presented. Celebrant Shannon Smith reported that she and Ellen Eastby—another Celebrant—had each spoken at the Willmar UU Church.

14. Speakers Committee Report: Betsy Wells reported orally and in writing. She identified the members of this Committee.

15. Sunday Service Coordination Committee: Mary Worner reported orally and in writing on the activities of this Committee.

16. Mindfulness: Stan Carrigan reported orally and in writing on this activity. He also raised his concern regarding the appropriate use of the room that is used for this activity. He would like to see it treated/used as a sacred space.

17. Adult Religious Education: Brief comments were made by some of the teachers to supplement the written report that was presented.

18. Children's Religious Education: Mary Anderson reported orally on this to supplement the written report that was presented. This activity has been going very well with the help of several volunteers.

19. U Groups: Kris Warhol reported on this activity.

20. Facilities Committee Report: Sue Groff reported orally and in writing on the activities of this Committee.

21. Sverdrup Suites Report: Sue Groff reported orally and in writing on this.

22. Safety Committee Report: Norm Kolstad presented a written report regarding the activities of this Committee.

23. Community Outreach Report: Kris Warhol reported orally and in writing on this area of activity within the Church.

24. Social and Environmental Justice Report: Janell Miersch reported orally and in writing regarding this area of interest within the Church.

25. Empowerment Grants: Ron Roller reported orally and in writing on the Empowerment Grants. He reported that the Church has become known in the Underwood community for this granting activity. To date, \$105,000 has been granted by the Church to many non-profit grantees. Of the \$19,000 that was recently requested, \$10,000 in grants were just approved. Ron asked whether or not the Church wanted to continue granting \$10,000 each year. There was some discussion regarding whether or not we should give out more money each year as what we have been granting is not much of a sacrifice on the part of the Church as all that it amounts to is the Church giving out money that has been given to it. One suggestion was that, at a minimum, there should be an annual cost-of-living adjustments. No action was taken, but it is anticipated that this concern will be looked at more carefully before next year's granting process.

26. New Business—Space Planning Task Force Report: Mary Anderson presented this report orally and in writing. This Task Force has met five times to date. Most of its attention has been focused on the following three matters: (1) replacing/restoring the upstairs windows of the church building, (2) having an exit door built into the sanctuary, and (3) taking steps to improve air quality in the church building. There was considerable discussion regarding these matters. There was strong support for having the windows replaced or restored. (Everyone in attendance with a show of hands was in favor of doing something with the windows.) There was less support for the exit door. (Almost exactly half of those in attendance supported an exit door with the other half opposing it.) The biggest issues seemed to the undersigned to be the aesthetics of such a door, the need for such a door, and the cost of such a door—and not necessarily in that order. There was little real discussion of the air quality concern, and there was little support for it. (Only three people in attendance supported doing anything with regard to air quality.) Estimates of the cost of each of these possible projects were presented. However, the estimates were not based on any onsite inspections or detailed analysis of what would actually be required. Darryl Booker said that those estimates were not reliable at this point and could be high or low. No action was taken regarding any of these three potential projects. Even though the consensus seemed to be that the Board can decide on how to proceed with regard to each of them, it also seemed that there was significant interest on the part of the congregation with regard to the two larger issues—the exit door in particular—and that the Board is not likely to make any final decisions without further significant input from the congregation—perhaps even a special congregational meeting. The meeting was adjourned at about 1 P.M. Respectfully submitted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019.

John Minge, Secretary

