

UCU 
Newsletter
March 2022



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, MN 56537

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



Sunday Services will continue 10:00 a.m. via Zoom pending a decrease in COVID-19 variant risks.

(check in 9:45-10:00 a.m.)

bit.ly/UCUSunday

Meeting ID: 970 8841 4602

Passcode: 424091

Call this number to hear the service on your phone: +1 312 626 6799.

Watch for ucofu@ucofu.org messages, the Sunday “[UCU Weekly](https://www.ucofu.org)” and check: www.ucofu.org or www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



Speakers for March Sunday Services

March 6 – Bob Worner, “Bright Lights.” Addressing the second Principle, Bob address that our Unitarian Universalist Church has been called a bright light on the prairie. What is the story behind that? How can we let our light shine in our community?



March 13 – Phil Lund, “Realistic Hope and Hopeful Realism.” According to recent surveys of religion in America, a continued decline of church membership in future decades seems inevitable. What does that mean for those of us who enjoy the important social benefits that belonging to a religious community provides? How do we manage the tension between hope and realism when it comes to the future of our faith? Let us explore what we, as Unitarian Universalists, can do for religion today...and tomorrow.

Phillip Lund has over twenty-five years of experience serving congregations in the areas of faith formation and spiritual growth, first as a religious educator in Bloomington, Indiana, New York City, and Chicago, Illinois, and most recently as a congregational life consultant working for the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and a certificate in InterSpiritual Counseling from One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota, with his wife, Julia, and their son, Henry David.

March 20 – Alison Francis & Marianne Bryan, “A Celebration of Sprig through Poetry and Music.” It’s spring at last. Join us on this first day of spring - we are celebrating with music reflecting nature and the arrival of the spring equinox. Two members of our congregation have partnered together to share the beauty of spring through selected piano music and poetry.



March 27 – Ethan Roberts, “Jews, Judaism, and Antisemitism: The Challenges We Face Today.” Ethan Roberts, Director of Government Affairs for the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC), will discuss who the Jewish people are and what they believe, as well as address what antisemitism is, and how it is the responsibility of everyone to confront it.

As the public affairs voice of the Jewish community, the JCRC fights anti-Semitism and prejudice, advocates for Israel, provides Holocaust education, promotes tolerance and social justice, and builds bridges across the Jewish and broader communities.

Ethan, who joined the JCRC in 2007, is a graduate of Macalester College and Stanford Law School. He also studied in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Ethan lives in suburban Minneapolis with his wife Naomi, Noah (age 16), and Elsie (age 12), and in addition to his work with the JCRC is a [professional photographer](#).

Podcasts of these and previous programs are found at:
<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278> or **click link in Sunday church reports.**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood Public Calendar is available on our website at www.ucofu.org or [click here](#).



To open the UCU Members and Friends calendar, click here
<https://sites.google.com/ucofu.org/ucumembersandfriendscalendar/home>

Church Happenings

Message from Board President, Norm Kolstad

What happened to civility?



Wokism. Cancel Culture. Critical Race Theory. Book banning. Mask requirements. These are some of the cultural and health issues facing school boards and other local governmental units these days. But unlike when I served on our local school board, the topics nowadays seem to provoke volatile arguments, or sometimes, unruly, or threatening behavior: screaming parents, recall threats, or public meetings having to be shut down.

On the one hand, it is good to see citizens exercising their right to be heard at local governing bodies, but we must keep in mind that civility and compromise are also democratic principles. We should appreciate our fellow citizens who have the courage to step up to do the work of local government.

And always remember, our children are watching.

Highlights of Special Meeting of the Congregation, February 13, 2022

At the special meeting of the congregation, the 33 UCU member attendees unanimously approved funding up to \$8500 for a multi-platform streaming system for church service and other events with an amendment granting authority to the Board of Directors to increase the amount up to \$10,000.

Prior to, during the discussion, and after passage, comments were made by a number of members and friends expressing appreciation and giving thank you's to the Technical Team for their research and labor. This undertaking provides the continued ability to have speakers and attendees from a wide geographical range and also allows incapacitated persons to participate.

To honor the creators of work we share, the Sunday Service Committee will include in their budget proposal, \$490/year to pay licensing companies who obtain permissions and pay royalties. The Finance Committee at their upcoming meeting will review current church held funding sources that are available to tap and make their recommendation to the Board on which funds to use. The Building and Grounds Committee will consider the design and furnishings needed for the technical space and include those costs in its budget request.

Thank you to the Technical Team for all their information gathering and presentation of their findings: Ron Roller, Melody Shores, Amy Beckman, Wally Warhol, Ellen Eastby, Bonnie Graham.

Highlights of February 16, 2022, Board Meeting

Applications are underway for the Empowerment Grants. The selection committee will meet in early March and forward their recommendations to the Board.

There was good attendance at the Special Meeting of the Congregation that gave approval for funding for Hybrid Worship. The Technical team is moving forward with installation of an internet cable, consultations with a Bismarck company on connections, discussions with the Building and Grounds Committee on the technical support area and projector and screen accommodations.

The Board approved an 8-week a contract with Bonnie Graham for 20/hours/week for 8 weeks March 1-April 30th at the rate of \$18.90/hour (Ron Roller/John Salmen). Priorities during this period will include:

- 1) Determining the mix of tasks of the positions of Executive Director and Office Assistant.
- 2) Website and Google Suites redesign/fine-tuning.
- 3) Hybrid Worship connections.
- 4) Preparation for the membership meeting.

A full slate of nominees is ready to be elected by the general membership with a call for further nominations from the floor.

Revisions to the COVID Preparation Plan were presented and can be found below.

Board Goals for 2022-23 include:

- 1) Returning to live services.
- 2) Hiring Executive Director and Office Assistant
- 3) Hiring RE Educator and building robust children's religious education program.
- 4) Developing and implementing a cohesive Communications plan that includes the website, newsletter, weekly, google suites, and member accessibility.

Unitarian Church of Underwood
COVID-19 Preparedness Plan
Policies and Procedures
Adopted February 16, 2022
To Replace Previous Plan adopted by the Board
May 19, 2021, and
Amended September 15, 2021

Under Gov. Tim Walz's Executive Orders, businesses that are in operation during the peacetime emergency are required to establish a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. This includes both critical and non-critical businesses, including faith-based organizations.

UCU's Prepared Plan is in keeping with our UU Values of being:

- A welcoming community accessible to many,
- Respectful of the inherent worth and dignity of each person
- Considerate of others
- Personally responsible and accountable.

The Unitarian Church of Underwood's Board of Directors in consideration of the well-being and safety of the whole congregation maintains the right and responsibility to monitor and assess the changing situation and:

1. HIGH RISK - In areas where transmission risk is Very High or Severe (per the COVID Act Now data), **suspend** all, in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers.
2. LOW RISK, INDOOR - In areas where transmission risk is Low, Medium, or High (per the COVID Act Now data), indoor meetings and limited-attendance worship, may be reasonably safe if indoor precautions for masking (except when eating or drinking), ventilation, physical distancing and high vaccination rates are followed.
3. LOW RISK, OUTDOOR - In areas where transmission risk is Low, Medium, or High (per the COVID Act Now data), outdoor meetings may be held with social distancing and masks recommended but not required.
4. VACCINATIONS - Create an expectation that vaccinations are required for everyone who is eligible. Work to have the highest vaccination rate possible in our community. We support requiring vaccinations for staff, lay leaders, and anyone spending time with children.

Provide notice of these expectations in any announcements or postings: "Our services are presented in hybrid format. If vaccinated, you are welcome to attend in person at the church. Please wear the recommended masks when attending in person."

Attendees are encouraged to:

- absent selves if any symptoms of COVID or other spreadable disease
- Wear masks (except when eating or drinking)
- Continue hand sanitizing/washing.

- Continue social distancing outside the family unit whenever possible.
- Stay at home if sick.
- Get tested.
- Follow other CDC recommendations for vaccinated/unvaccinated individuals.

To accommodate safety for in-person worshippers and church attendees, the above policies and procedures have been adopted by the Board of Directors on date xxx.

Communication Enhancements From John Salmen, Board Vice President & Records Committee Member

Since becoming a board member last spring, I've learned a lot about our Church. I am amazed at the amount and organization of information we have collected. What I also learned, was that although a tremendous amount of work went into it, after two years, not many people are accessing and using the Google Drives. The Record's committee learned that one of the pre-retirements hats I wore was CIO (Chief Information Officer) for several organizations and asked me to investigate and make some recommendations.

Over the last several weeks I've had half-hour phone conversations with UCU members to find out how they think our information systems should operate. There are several more people on my list, (and I'm eager to speak with anyone who is interested) but I wanted to share some preliminary findings with everyone, well in advance of the upcoming General Membership Meeting, and the March newsletter offers a great opportunity to do that.

Here's some of the highlights of what I have been hearing:

We need to develop a **Communications Plan** that coordinates our Google Drive, website, social media platforms, and newsletters to give us the best effect with our limited resources.

- We need to **rebuild the website** to:
 - be more attractive and engaging
 - provide a way for the public to access information about us
 - give members a way to easily access the information they need/want.
- We need to **tweak our Google Drive** to:
 - allow all members to be able to see and comment on everything (except personnel files),
 - Have a smaller group of members (Editors) who can edit and manage the files and folders.
 - Clarify the organization of the drives around the way members use the information (committees)
- We need to establish a **Technical Assistance & Training** program that
 - gives individualized assistance to members on an as-needed basis, and
 - trains Editors to manage the system consistently.
 -

Things are already moving forward. The Personnel Committee has adjusted the job description for the new Executive Director position (that we hope will start May 1 to include the development of a Communications Plan.

Getting the website rebuilt seems to be the highest priority. We've been talking with members and consultants who could rebuild the site.

Technical Assistance & Training are the second highest priority. The technical assistance program will be eased by having a website that lets members easily get to the main/typical things they will want to see. The training program can act as a community builder by having members who have been trained, assist other members.

If anybody has any thoughts or suggestions about this effort, I'd love to hear it. Please contact me john.salmen@ucofu.org or (301) 806-7267.

Watch for Notices Of the UCU Annual Meeting of the Membership April 24, 2022

Beloved Conversations Within



Beloved Conversations Within, a program for all Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice, will be on-line March 22 through June 7. Individual lessons are presented using videos, music, and readings. Conversations are held in large and small groups.

Beloved Conversations has four parts. Within, the first part, is focused on the personal work we need to do related to racial justice. The subsequent parts address the work that needs to be done in our congregations and communities. Several UCU members have taken Within and highly recommend it.

Registration is now open. The UCU has budgeted money for helping with the cost. To register, contact Mary Worner at mary.worner@ucofu.org or 218-826-6998.

Untitled Poem
By Violet Solinger, age 12

I skip and play
As mother grazes with the other antelope.
I hear something. No, two somethings.

A new smell.

Mother and I and the rest raise their Heads and run.
Mother urges me forward with strong nuzzles, but it's too late.
She runs.
Leaves me.

I look. I see. I watch.

Two lionesses. Ready to Pounce.
I realize. Run!
No! too slow!...

I feel the huge body pressed against my back. Pushing me down. Lioness grips my neck.
My legs stretch far in front of my body in reflex.
I try to hold on...but I let go.

My body goes limp. My vision clouds. My eyes close.

Now, all I can hear, feel, smell, taste, see, Is the beating of my heart.
Thump.
Thump.
Thump...until it's gone.

I become the food. I become the dirt. I become the tree. I become the grass.

Now, I become the antelope once again.



Stay Informed & Connected

U Group Zoom Meetings Schedule

- Alexandria U Group: 4th Sunday each month @ 7 p.m. Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group: 2nd Tuesday each month @ 3 p.m. Facilitators: Bob Worner & Linda Quistad-Berg
- Perham U-Group: **Last Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.** Facilitators: Marianne Bryan & John Salmen

You are welcome to join a U Group – see Zoom links on the church calendar.

For details or questions, Contact U Group Coordinator, Luce Reese @ lucereese@gmail.com or 218/495-2449

Newsletter Submissions due prior to Issuance the 1st of each month

Please submit your ideas, articles, and photos to:
Writer/Editor: Mary Anderson @

newseditor@ucofu.org

Editing: [Stephanie Sanderson](#)

Emailing: [Ellen Eastby](#)

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

Credited Articles

Note: For security, personal telephone numbers and email addresses will not be used within the newsletters except with the express permission of the individual.

Need help with Zoom?

Email: techhelp@ucofu.org

UCU Weekly

(Designed and written by Ellen Eastby)

If there is something you would like to appear in The UCU Weekly, please send an email to the attention of Ellen at newseditor@ucofu.org by the Friday before the publication comes out. Please have the article written in its entirety using no more than 175 words.

As appropriate, some will be forwarded for inclusion @ www.ucofu.org and Facebook Page.

Watch for these and other ucofu@ucofu.org email messages.

Participate in the **ZOOM** invitations for Sunday service, social hour & other meetings or see:

[UCU Members and Friends calendar](#)

Website Administrator: [Bonnie Graham](#)

Facebook Administrator: [Melody Shores](#)

Gifts in Gratitude

To Contribute to UCU:

Use the electronic application

Givelify @ucofu.org

or

Sign up for automatic funds transfer*

or

Mail your check to:

Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58

Underwood, MN 56586

*(For AFT form, contact

newseditor@ucofu.org)

Building Access

For safety and sanitation purposes, if you access or need to access the church building, please call or text Susan Groff (Janitor) @ 218/205-0439.

We Are Part of the Larger UU



Save the date for the virtual MidAmerica Regional Assembly set for Saturday, April 30th, 2022, 10am - 2pm ET/9am - 1pm CT. CB Beal will speak, we will hold our Annual Business Meeting, and there will be time for break out rooms for connection and conversation. Mark your calendars! Registration opens January 21, 2022. Please register on our [RA registration page!](#)

The keynote speaker, UU educator, consultant, and facilitator [CB Beal](#), will present “The Glass is Refillable: Pandemic Exhaustion, Lifelong Faith Formation, and Preemptive Radical Inclusion.” The day will feature worship, keynote presentation and conversation, lunch break, business meeting, and time for social connection. This year we will be using the [Whova](#) platform, which improves security, accessibility, and ease of use. Upon registration, all participants will receive information on how to access Whova and learn how to get the most out of it.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Unitarian Church of Underwood Board of Director Meeting Minutes January 19, 2022

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Amy Beckman, Marianne Bryan, Molly Delarbre Norm Kolstad, Ron Roller, John Salmen; Wally Warhol, Mary Worner; and Congregational Administrator, Bonnie Graham; guest Susan Groff.

The first 30 minutes were spent on the circle discussion on January’s Powerful Questions:

- 1) How has everyone been doing in the last while?
- 2) What does progress mean for the UCU?

The Board meeting was called to order by President Norm Kolstad at 6:32 p.m. Reference was made to the covenant of guiding values and land acknowledgment.

The agenda was approved with the additions of considerations for UUA General Assembly (UA), Beloved Conversation offerings, multi-platform proposal, UUA Certification (John Salmen/Marianne Bryan).

The minutes of December 1, 2021 were approved as written (John Salmen/Wally Warhol).

Treasurer, Ron Roller presented the financial reports. Finances continue stable with approximately \$25,000 in checking, \$12,000 in savings and \$21,000 in a CD. To date investments that fluctuate on earnings with UUA total \$226,000 in the Foundation and \$182,000 in the UUA general fund. There has been increased use of Givelify and automatic payments remain steady. There is a plus of \$1,194 YTD profit/loss with Sverdrup Suites income and expenses showing an annual profit of \$5000. There will be a large payout for Empowerment Grants at the end of March. There will be a meeting of the Finance Committee in late February to plan for next year's budget. For details see the financial reports on Google shared drive or contact Ron with questions.

Ron went on to report on the work of the Hybrid-Multiplatform planning team. Motion was made to provide \$7000 to move forward with purchase of equipment (Ron Roller/John Salmen). This would be a capital expenditure and not an operational budget item, but after lengthy discussion, whether such expenditure needed congregational approval, Ron Roller withdrew the motion. Motion was passed to have a special meeting of the congregation February 6th with just this one item on the agenda (Ron Roller/Mary Anderson). The equipment needed to support integrated in-person/Zoom service include a centralized computer with a streaming system to communicate to a private or public social media platform; a video system with camera feed, audio system sound board, projector, and screen (for on-line speakers). The planning group will proceed on determining the equipment needed and the costs.

Guest, Susan Groff, Nominations Committee Chair joined the meeting. Susan gave notice that with a few decades of serving, after the annual meeting, she will no longer serve on the Nominating Committee. She gave an update on the Board terms' status and the challenging trend of getting members to serve. She requested the Board's help on recruitment. The Board expressed appreciation for the work of the Nominating Committee.

Susan also Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee (Susan, Darryl Booker, Katy Olson) went on to report that the carpet has been replaced in Suite 100; that the Committee will be meeting soon at church to determine needed improvements for ventilation and air conditioning. She expects improvements to meet COVID requirements will be expensive but necessary for reopening.

Congregational Administrators Report – Bonnie Graham reported that she helped set up new guidelines and a new application for the Empowerment process with information on the website, newsletters, and Weekly's. There is an issue with security to the member and friends' calendar with the suggestion it be remedied through changed procedures. She also worked with the Family Planning Group who now have a Family Facebook page set up by Cedar

Walters. She met with the Sunday Service Coordination Committee about recording/copywrites. She will be working with Ron Roller to submit certification information to UUA with 98 members to certify. See full report at the end of the minutes.

Personnel Committee reported that there are six (6) files on Google Drive with the position descriptions and how to find and how to offer the jobs. Any offer now would be conditional upon budget approval at the annual meeting. One obstacle is the limits of the web site for advertising positions. Discussion then ensued on the need for a special meeting of the congregation to approve expenditures prior to the next fiscal budget, the challenges for an individual applying before assurance of permanency, the delays waiting to hire until after the annual meeting. Another option was presented, and motion was made and then amended to give consideration to Bonnie Graham as to her interest in the Executive Director position and the terms whereby she would accept employment (Mary Worner/Marianne Bryan). The Personnel Committee will meet with Bonnie and report on her response and next steps at the February Board meeting.

Foundation Advisory Committee – Ron Roller will take the lead to update the plan.

Safety Committee – revisions to the COVID preparation plan will be presented at the February Board meeting. Safety Committee Chair Norm Kolstad will take the lead on revisions to the Safety Plan.

Records Committee – John Salmen reported that a folder for shared materials will be added to Google shared drive.

Communications – John Salmen will take the lead on the plan for a website redesign that can then be maintained.

Membership Committee – Ron Roller will follow up with the church's insurance provider on liability protection for the UUs 4 UU's project.

Program Coordinator Mary Worner reported that the Wellspring Source's Religious Education Class is being well received by the 10 or so participants. She also commented on the Family FB page that has been set up. Mary will take the lead on publicity and enrollment of 5-6 participants in the March offering of Beloved Conversations. There is about \$1000 in the training budget and other funds to cover the costs at \$250/enrollee. Attendance and payment for the UUA General Assembly (GA) will be determined at the February Board meeting.

Community Outreach Co-Coordinator Amy Beckman reported that help was requested for the Pelican Rapids Friendship Festival and several volunteered. Barbara Honer is leading the effort for a book drive for the incarcerated. The Social Justice Interest Group will be responsible for Sunday service programs the 5th Sundays of the month beginning January 30th with a program on Reproductive Justice.

Ron Roller reported that the new process developed by him, Bonnie Graham and Tere Mann is working well. One application is in, and he know of at least 4 more pending. Applications are due by February 25.

Unfinished Business:

Board members were referred to the link to record responses to their phone calls.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11IRXMWAnScyzUwBp9GI_8T62m2HwgCvl/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110453278634571122727&rtpof=true&sd=true.

New Business:

Ron Roller with the help of Bonnie Graham and Mary Anderson will take the lead on preparation for the annual meeting that includes annual goal setting and annual reports. Mary asked that the Board review the 2021-22 annual goals and be prepared to discuss Board priorities to assist Committee planning at the February Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson
Board Secretary

Addendum - Administrator's report December 2021 to January 2022

Projects:

Update and Improve Endowment Grant application and application guidelines

With Ron Roller and Tere Mann

We re-wrote the online Empowerment Grant application to match the needs of the Empowerment Grant committee's review process/guidelines for the Empowerment grant/and contract expectations. The Empowerment Grant application/application guidelines/and contract were all changed to make sure they were in sync: information requested, application process and requirements. I posted the Empowerment Grant Application and application guidelines on the church website and sent the Empowerment Grant announcement with links to the documents to the Newsletter and to the UCU weekly. One application has been completed as of Jan. 19.

Recommendation: Move the Empowerment grant to a different time of year – so it does not happen at the same time as church budget writing and Annual Meeting preparation. Shift the Empowerment grant application date from February 25 to late summer and distribute funds in the fall.

Kept Website up to date:

speakers list, events, religious education info, empowerment grant info.

Prepare for Multi-Platform worship:

Met with the Sunday Service Coordinating Committee to discuss procedures for obtaining permission to record/broadcast the entire service.

This requires that the church has permission from the copyright holder to readings and to music.

The UUA has a new webpage filled with guidance and information about copyright rules/law called Copyright Primer for Congregations. <https://www.uua.org/publications/copyright-primer-for-congregations>

The Committee reviewed a UUA MidAmerica webinar called: [Copyright for Worship Rev Dr Matthew Johnson](https://youtu.be/dOJYDonV7js) <https://youtu.be/dOJYDonV7js>

The Webinar stressed that the emphasis is on paying creators for their work. Guidelines: do your best to follow complicated copyright law and seek permission to use work in recorded/broadcast worship services, we are unlikely to be sued for copyright infringement (but a creator may ask us to take down a recording – that’s ok), that music licensing companies can take care of paying royalties in most cases to music copyright holder, and that a creator will often grant permission to use their work in worship services and may ask to be paid a fee like \$25. Children’s book publishers rarely enforce copyright, so children’s books can be used in a worship service. Acknowledge creators’ names and copyrights at the end of the recording – on YouTube that could mean placing the acknowledgements as a comment.

This seems like it will work. And, that we will have to be mindful. And that training for musicians, service leaders, and presenters will be required, and it may require that readings be provided two weeks prior to a service so copyright permissions can be tracked down.

New procedures will be required.

When ready to begin Multi-Platform Sunday service: The Committee recommends that the church purchase two annual licenses to cover music copyright payments:

1. [One License](#) limited podcast/streaming license for some of the music in the gray Hymnal and other religious music: \$200/year.
 2. CCS (Christian Copyright Solutions) annual worshipcast streaming license for \$297.
- TOTAL COST: annually: \$497

[Continued with meeting with Family/Children’s RE to learn how I could help:](#)

The group decided not to try and meet outside in person for the month of January because of the cold and covid. They put their energy into creating the private Facebook group for UCU families. Thank you Cedar! Cedar worked with Melody to set up this group, attaching it to the UCU Facebook page. People can only join this group if approved by the group moderator. So far several of the children have posted videos introducing themselves. They chatted back and forth. It’s a creative way to get around the cold weather and covid restrictions.

[Excel Class](#)

I am about half-way through a free online membership class teaching me excel techniques. I need to take this class to better understand how to simplify and modify the current member/friend list kept in excel by Mary Anderson. Taking this class has made it easier to edit the spreadsheet and will help me create a member/friend directory using excel.

[UCU Membership List](#)

Met with Mary Anderson to understand the current [member/friends](#). The Board is using this list as it’s call list. Thank you for making the calls and adding any comments you wanted to share about people you contacted right on the spreadsheet itself- in the column “callers’ comments”. Mary Anderson shared her knowledge of how often people attended. We confirmed a membership of 98 people.

[UUA Certification reporting](#)

I am filling in the UUA certification survey questions and am working with Ron Roller – Ron will complete the financial section of the annual certification survey. We will complete the certification by the February 4 deadline.

Google Suites/Membership List conflicts

What is the one true source for our Member/Friend records?

When Google Suites was set up, it seemed like this would be the one true source. But, because of limitations in the current version of Google Suites that we use, this is not feasible. Why? Because the fields available to keep track of membership information cannot be labeled, and there are not enough available empty fields in the database to hold the information we would like to keep. Because of the complexity of the database, this tool is not easily accessible to those who need the information.

At this time, the excel member/friend spreadsheet is the best option for keeping track of our Member/Friend information. It is flexible, and accessible.

I have tried several times to modify the database to make it useful to UCU – and learned each time from Google’s help desk that adding/modifying the fields in the database is not possible.

To Do:

1. Consult with Membership committee about how and when to add people to the Member/Friends list and when names should be removed.
2. Finish excel class.
3. Consult with Melody and the Tech team about whether it’s possible to upgrade the google suites system to make it easier to hold membership information. If not, to change how we use google suites, reduce the amount of contact information is stored in google suites. If we keep using the current version of Google Suites, it is useful for storing files in the Google Drive and managing the church email system.
4. Church calendar. Put the UCU Members and Friends calendar on the church website to make it easy for people to see all the events, and easy to find the zoom links for the online events. First: Create simple zoom training materials for UCU group leaders. Train leaders in how to use basic security tools so they can respond if a “zoom bomber” joins their group and disrupts it.

Katy Olson: Habitat for Humanity



July 14-17,22 Fergus Falls, volunteers needed for refreshment stations, registration, etc... Contact Stan Carigan - stanley.a.carignan@gmail.com to sign up. Katy will explore UCU providing breakfast one of the days for the riders, how many people do we need to serve? Riders needed, I have attached the informational documents.