



**Second Unitarian
Church of Omaha**
authentic. compassionate. transformative.



Annual Report

2014-2015

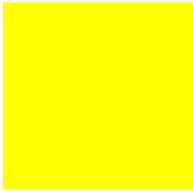
MISSION STATEMENT

*“Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate,
and Transformative
in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.”*

Adopted May 20, 2012

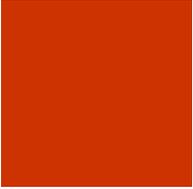


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Meeting/Voting

Rules for the Annual Meeting

The Handling of a Motion:

- A member makes a motion. ("Member" means voting member of the Church.)
- Another member seconds the motion.
- The chair states the question on the motion.

Neither the making nor the seconding of a motion places it before the assembly; only the chair can do that (with step 3). When the chair has stated the question, the motion is pending and is open for debate.

Members debate the motion (unless no member claims the floor to do so). During debate, no one shall speak more than two minutes (unless the assembly declares its desire to waive this rule for a specific speaker). No one is entitled to the floor a second time on the same motion as long as any other member who has not spoken on this motion desires the floor. With the permission of the chair, a non-member may participate in debate (please identify yourself as a non-member when recognized by the chair, so there is no confusion).

The chair asks if there is any further discussion and, if there is not, puts the question to a vote, calling for those in favor, those opposed, and those abstaining.

The chair announces the result of the vote.

During the debate on the motion, a member may call for the "question," which is a request to close debate and proceed to a vote. The chair may observe that the question has been called and ask if there is any objection to closing debate. If there appears to be significant objection, the chair may allow the debate to proceed. If a member wishes to press for closure, she/he may seek recognition and "move the previous question." This is a priority-taking motion, which, if seconded, must be voted on immediately. If it carries by a 2/3 majority, then debate on the previous motion is terminated, and the chair proceeds immediately to put the previous question to a vote. Otherwise, debate on the previous motion continues.

In cases of questions on parliamentary procedure, the chair shall rule. If the ruling is contested, the assembly shall vote on whether or not to uphold.

**Annual Meeting
Second Unitarian Church of Omaha
May 17, 2015**

AGENDA

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Craig Piquette, Board Chair
2. **Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:** Rev. Frieda Gillespie, Interim Minister
3. **Validation of Quorum**
4. **Affirmation of Congregational Covenant**
5. **Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting**
6. **Minister's Report:** Rev. Gillespie
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Vicki Pratt, Treasurer
8. **Presentation of Slates of Nominees, Nominations from the floor, Election of Nominees:**
 - Board of Trustees
 - Endowment Fund Committee
 - Nominations and Leadership Development Committee
9. **Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of Bylaws Changes**
10. **Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of Developmental Ministry**
11. **Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of Annual Budget for 2015-2016**
12. **Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of Proposed UUA Bylaw change**

Our delegates to General Assembly need to know our congregation's stand since it will be voted on this June at GA.
13. **Nomination and Election of Delegates to General Assembly**
14. **Closing Words:** Rev. Gillespie
15. **Adjournment**



Minutes of the Annual Meeting Second Unitarian Church of Omaha May 18, 2014

The meeting was brought to order at 1:00 pm by Board of Trustees chair, JoAnne Draper. A quorum was not yet reached at that time, so the business portion of the agenda was suspended until quorum was achieved at 1:40 pm.

The Congregational Covenant was read. The Minister's report and the Treasurer's report were received. Vicki Pratt was announced as the new Treasurer. Her position begins with the new fiscal year starting July 1. Appreciation was expressed for the work of outgoing Treasurer, Pat Caffrey; and to outgoing Board Chair, JoAnne Draper; as well as to the past year's Board of Trustees and the Minister.

Business Agenda Items:

The minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.
(Motion by Michael Lynne, seconded by Gene Kopecky)

The proposed slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees, Endowment Fund Committee, and Nominations & Leadership Development Committee were unanimously approved.

Nominees included Judy Eller, Pat Caffrey, and Anita Meyer for the Board of Trustees; Janet Nichols for the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee; and Cheri Cody for the Endowment Fund Committee.

(Motion by Clyde Anderson, seconded by Michael Lynne)

The Budget for 2014-15 was approved as proposed.

(Motion by Gregory Minter, seconded by Clyde Anderson)

Proposed bylaw revisions were reviewed by Craig Piquette. A motion was made by Craig to accept the revisions as proposed; this was seconded by Gregory Minter. Vicki Pratt proposed a friendly amendment to strike "financial secretary" from Section 14.12 for reasons of consistency. This was seconded by Michael Lynne. The friendly amendment was accepted. Further discussion ensued. Some of the discussion points included the following:

Concern was expressed for striking the standing rules from the bylaws. It was explained that it is the expectation that each committee will write its own policies and procedures for fulfilling its mission. It is hoped that this will allow greater flexibility in governance. The Board of Trustees then oversees the work of the committees to facilitate collaborative work toward the overall mission of the church.

Concern was expressed for the revision requiring that a member would be obligated to make a pledge as well as a financial contribution in order to maintain membership status, and that this then puts undue emphasis on the financial pledge. It was explained that the reason for this change is to highlight the necessity of budget planning in order to run the church effectively as well as to highlight the responsibilities of membership. A pledge can be quite minimal and exemptions from pledging can also be granted by the Board.



Clarification was made that the six year term limit for committee membership is not retroactive; it begins once the bylaws are accepted. For example, regardless of how long a person has been on a committee until now, he or she may serve another six years beginning this coming year. Also, he or she may join again after a year off. It is hoped that this change will encourage wider committee involvement.

The call to question to vote on the bylaw revisions was brought forward by Gregory Minter and seconded by Michael Lynne and passed by a majority. The motion to accept the bylaw revisions as proposed (with the friendly amendment) passed by a vote of 45 in favor, 5 against, and 2 abstentions.

Another motion was then made by Cheri Cody to strike the words “Coordinating Council” from section 11.1 of the bylaws. This was seconded by Michael Lynne. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Another motion was then made by Gregory Minter and seconded by Craig Piquette to reduce the required quorum for congregational business meetings from 40% to 30%. A friendly amendment was proposed by Darrel Draper to change the requirement to 35% as this would ensure that at least a third of the membership would be required to be present. The friendly amendment was accepted. After spirited discussion, a call to question was brought forward by Gene Kopecky, and seconded by Joan Benziger. The motion to call the question passed with 46 in favor, 4 against, and 3 abstaining. The motion to change a quorum from 40% to 35% passed with 27 for, 20 against, and 4 abstentions.

The motion was made by Tom Peterson and seconded by Carol Johnson that Cheri Cody and Joan Benziger represent Second Unitarian Church at the 2014 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Providence R.I. and that a third person may be chosen later by the Board of Trustees. This motion passed unanimously.

Closing words were given by Rev. Scott McNeill. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by Board of Trustees secretary, Anita Jeck



Nominees

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is announcing candidates for Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, and Nominations and Leadership Development. All offices are for 3-year terms ending June, 2018. The slate will be offered to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17. Meet our candidates:

Board of Trustees: Carol Johnson

Since joining Second Unitarian in 2005, I have served on several committees and leadership groups including Nominations and Leadership Development, Stewardship, Communications (Marketing), Personnel, Social Justice and Retirees Group. This will be my second term on the Board of Trustees; I last served on the Board during our last interim period, 2009-2012. I am interested in assisting organizations to adapt to changes in healthy ways.

Though now retired, my work as a Social Worker at Green Hills Area Education Agency consisted of facilitating various task groups, supervising staff, mobilizing communities and forming coalitions to address various issues, serving on boards and advisory committees for a variety of nonprofit organizations and providing training for educators and community members.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, my goals would include:

- Building the strength of our Second Unitarian community by fashioning organizational structures that support growth
- Supporting actions that define our place in the community

Board of Trustees: Gregory Minter

I became a member of Second Unitarian Church in November of 2012. Since joining, I have been involved as a greeter at second service, a member of the Committee on Ministry (now replaced with the Transitions Team) and a member of the Retirees Group. I am honored to be nominated to the Board of Trustees and will apply my experience from other nonprofit organizations to promote our mission.

From 1965 to my retirement in 2014, I was a lawyer at Fitzgerald, Schorr, Barmettler & Brennan, P.C., L.L.O. My practice concentrated in the areas of corporate, finance, securities and immigration law. I was an adjunct professor at Creighton University School of Law for many years (1967-2004) and served as Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve JAGC from 1967 to 1978.

I have presented many seminars to my colleague attorneys and am the recipient of many honors. I am listed in Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in America and Best Lawyers in America. I have been an active member of several attorney-related organizations, holding elected office for many of them. I have also been a leader in our community, serving as President of the Omaha Ballet, the Omaha Symphony, Omaha Symphony Council, and served as a member of the KVNO Community Advisors Committee.

I recognize the challenges facing our congregation over the next 3 years and will work hard to resolve them in concert with my fellow Board members in accordance with our Covenants and to the best benefit of the congregation. I will be accessible to all members who may wish to discuss their questions, comments and suggestions. I am dedicated to furthering the mission of this Church.



Endowment Committee: Sue Aschinger

I have been a member of Second Unitarian Church since 1994. I have held several responsible positions in the church over these past 20-plus years. I accepted this nomination because I believe that our members not only have a current responsibility to meet the needs of our church, but should also be planting the seeds for future generations.

Our Endowment Fund could be used in the future to better our church, but more importantly used for reaching out to support justice in our world. As a member of this committee, I would not only promote the growth of our Fund through contributions but also to the prudent management of our investments. I have experience managing my own retirement portfolio, and, also my many years of business experience has provided me with a process-oriented approach to meeting goals.

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee: Pam Curtiss-Smith

I found my church home in Second Unitarian in 2004, having noticed it in my neighborhood and in answering my then-seven-year-old daughter's request to start going to church. I told her we would look at several different places, but felt such an immediate sense of belonging here that we never went anywhere else!

My involvement with 2U has mostly revolved around the inclusion and nurturing of the youngsters who attend with their parents. From early involvement with the Family Enrichment Ministry, to religious education teacher/assistant, and member/co-chair of the Growth and Learning Committee, I have participated in creating the environments and activities to grow new UUs. I currently serve as the Nursery Care Supervisor and adore being with the delightful children who spend time with me on Sunday mornings.

I also enjoy nurturing the indoor plants and decorating our sacred space as a member of the Aesthetics committee at 2U. This role feeds my creative side, which tends to be neglected in the "busyness" of my life. It is a privilege to serve the church in this way and would be a privilege to join the Nominations and Leadership Committee as well.



Second Unitarian Church 2015-2016 Budget Submitted to the Board April 22, 2015

Line #	Income	Approved 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016	Change	% Change
1	Pledge Income/Current Yr	\$184,900	\$177,500	-\$7,400	-4%
2	New Pledge Current Member	\$2,000	\$500	-\$1,500	-75%
3	New Pledges New Member	\$8,000	\$3,500	-\$4,500	-56%
4	Pledges for Previous Year	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
5	Dividend Income	\$100	\$100	\$0	0%
6	Gifts	\$2,500	\$500	-\$2,000	-80%
7	Fundraising	\$8,500	\$10,994	\$2,494	29%
8	Offering	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$0	0%
9	Rent	\$500	\$200	-\$300	-60%
10	Transfer from Boggs Fund		\$5,000	\$5,000	New
11	Other Income		\$740	\$740	New
12	Transfer from Reserves	\$6,187	\$4,727	-\$1,460	-24%
13	Total Income	\$225,687	\$216,761	-\$8,926	-4%
Expenses					
<u>Salary Expenses</u>					
14	Office Admin. Salary	\$20,688	\$22,488	\$1,800	9%
15	Office Admin Ins Benefits	\$1,868	\$398	-\$1,470	-79%
16	Office Admin Retirement Fund	\$2,069	\$2,249	\$180	9%
17	OA Prof Expenses	\$1,044	\$621	-\$423	-41%
18	DRE Salary	\$17,823	\$18,723	\$900	5%
19	DRE Insurance Benefits	\$1,816	\$331	-\$1,485	-82%
20	DRE Retirement Fund	\$1,337	\$1,872	\$535	40%
21	DRE Prof Expenses	\$1,782	\$508	-\$1,274	-72%
22	Music Director	\$9,888	\$9,888	\$0	0%
23	Connections Coordinator	\$3,708	\$0	-\$3,708	-100%
24	Connections Coord Prof Expenses	\$371	\$0	-\$371	-100%
25	Musicians	\$3,000	\$1,500	-\$1,500	-50%
26	Bookkeeper	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	0%
27	Staff Payroll Taxes	\$3,986	\$3,909	-\$77	-2%
28	Payroll Processing	\$0	\$1,225	\$1,225	New
29	HRA Monthly Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
30	Staff Appreciation/Development	\$200	\$200	\$0	0%
31	Total non-ministerial staff	\$71,380	\$65,711	-\$5,669	-8%
<u>Ministerial Package</u>					
32	Housing Allowance	\$18,360	\$40,280	\$21,920	119%
33	Insurance Benefits	\$9,803	\$1,192	-\$8,611	-88%
34	Minister W2 Salary	\$41,045	\$27,140	-\$13,905	-34%
35	In Lieu of FICA	\$4,544	\$5,158	\$614	14%
36	Professional Expenses	\$5,941	\$6,000	\$59	1%
37	Minister Pension	\$5,941	\$6,742	\$801	13%
38	Moving Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
39	Total Ministerial Expense	\$85,634	\$86,511	\$877	1%
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>					
40	Administrative Expenses	\$1,305	\$1,160	-\$145	-11%
41	Treasurer Admin Expense	\$1,753	\$842	-\$911	-52%
42	Total Administrative Expense	\$3,058	\$2,002	-\$1,056	-35%



Second Unitarian Church 2015-2016 Budget Submitted to the Board April 22, 2015

	Approved 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016	Change	% Change
<u>General Expenses</u>				
43 Board Mtgs & Retreat	\$275	\$275	\$0	0%
44 Share the Plate Donations	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0	0%
45 Fundraising Expense	\$0	\$774	\$774	New
46 Consultant: Capital Campaign	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
47 Architect	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
48 RGL-Childcare	\$2,500	\$1,500	-\$1,000	-40%
49 Religious Education Supplies	\$750	\$750	\$0	0%
50 Copier Expense	\$420	\$420	\$0	0%
51 Denominational Dues	\$10,956	\$9,744	-\$1,212	-11%
52 Insurance	\$3,688	\$4,800	\$1,112	30%
53 Janitorial-Cleaning	\$7,020	\$3,920	-\$3,100	-44%
54 Janitorial Sup/Trash Pick up	\$1,623	\$1,210	-\$413	-25%
55 Lawn Care & Snow Removal	\$2,100	\$2,490	\$390	19%
56 OTOC dues	\$1,500	\$1,300	-\$200	-13%
57 Postage	\$675	\$575	-\$100	-15%
58 Telephone/Internet	\$2,900	\$3,190	\$290	10%
59 Communications/Marketing Advisory	\$1,540	\$540	-\$1,000	-65%
60 Utilities: Gas/Electric/Water	\$5,268	\$5,339	\$71	1%
61 Depreciation Expense	\$240	\$0	-\$240	Moved
62 Total General Expenses	\$47,955	\$43,327	-\$4,628	-10%
<u>Committee Expenses</u>				
63 Caring	\$610	\$260	-\$350	-57%
64 Fellowship	\$1,453	\$1,310	-\$143	-10%
65 Finance Coordinating Council	\$2,075	\$1,550	-\$525	-25%
66 Bldg & Grounds Mainten	\$950	\$800	-\$150	-16%
67 Library	\$300	\$150	-\$150	-50%
68 Membership	\$1,500	\$1,165	-\$335	-22%
69 Music and Worship	\$6,750	\$3,550	-\$3,200	-47%
70 Religious Growth and Learning Council	\$1,400	\$3,400	\$2,000	143%
71 Social Justice	\$700	\$700	\$0	0%
72 Technology	\$772	\$525	-\$247	-32%
73 Denominational Connections	\$300	\$0	-\$300	-100%
74 Leadership Dev./Nominations	\$400	\$600	\$200	50%
75 YRUU Program	\$200	\$0	-\$200	-100%
76 Transition Team	\$250	\$200	-\$50	-20%
77 Ministerial Search Team	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	New
78 Total Committee Expenses	\$17,660	\$19,210	\$1,550	9%
79 Total Expenses	\$225,687	\$216,761	-\$8,926	-4%
80 Out of Balance By	\$0	\$0		
81 Depreciation Expense	\$240	\$591	\$351	146%

Bylaws

Proposed changes to be considered at the Annual Meeting, May 17, 2015

Article 5. Membership

Section 5.2. Members and Affiliates.

5.2.a. Members. Members shall be those who have signed the Membership Book and who commit to fulfilling the expectations of membership set forth in Section 5.4.

Exemption from pledging and the financial contribution may be granted by the Board of Trustees upon application to **the Minister or** the Board for such exemption.

5.2.a.1. Member Emeritus: A Member Emeritus is defined as long time Member who no longer has the capacity to meet Member requirements. Requests for Members Emeritus status can be made to the Minister or the Board by the Member or someone close to them. Requests are approved by the Board and once approved, continues until request received to discontinue. Member Emeritus is a non-voting member and is not reported in the UUA Census.

Article 7. Board of Trustees

Section 7.6. Specific Responsibilities.

7.6.c. Submit an annual budget to a membership **congregational** meeting for approval.

Article 8. Officers of the Board of Trustees

8.2.c. The Secretary shall keep full records of all actions of congregational meetings and of the Board of Trustees, shall cause notice to be given of all meetings as provided in the Articles and By-Laws, shall maintain a current roll of voting members of this church and be responsible for certifying voting members as required at membership **congregational** meetings, and shall distribute and provide for distribution and maintenance of records for keys/key codes to the church. The Board Secretary shall set apart in a prominent place in the church, a Membership Book that shall be headed by the Articles of Incorporation

Article 14. The Endowment Fund Committee (EFC)

Section 14.8. Audit.

Starting the year following the first year when distributions can be made from the Endowment Fund, the financial records of the Endowment Fund shall be audited biannually by a certified public accountant or other appropriate person who is not a member of the EFC. Costs of the audit shall be paid from the proceeds of the Endowment Fund, independent of the normal distribution requirements. The EFC shall report on a quarterly basis to the Board of Trustees and, at each annual meeting of the Congregation following each audit, shall render a full and complete audited account of the administration of the Endowment Fund during the previous two years. In years when an audit is not performed, the Committee shall report a full and complete account of the administration of the fund during the previous year at the annual membership **congregational** meeting.



Article 15. Distributions From The Endowment Fund

Section 15.2 Restriction on Use for Operating Budget

No portion of distributions from the Endowment Fund shall be used for the annual operating budget or support services of the Congregation except only in particular, temporary, difficult circumstances, where integrity of gift restrictions permit, and with the approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting Members present at a membership **congregational** meeting.

Article 17: Amendments

Section 17.1. Bylaws

These By-Laws may be altered, amended or replaced by a majority vote of the voting members present at a membership **congregational** meeting. A transcript of the changes proposed and of the existing section, if any, being considered for amendment shall be included with the first notice of a membership **congregational** meeting called for the purpose of amending the articles of incorporation or these By-Laws.

Section 17.2. Articles of Incorporation

The articles of incorporation may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at a membership **congregational** meeting or voting absentee.



Information on Upcoming UUA Bylaws Amendments Concerning the Governance and Rights of Regions and Districts

*Prepared by Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
on Behalf of the MidAmerica Region Board
April 18, 2015*

When our three Districts (Prairie Star, Central MidWest, and Heartland) became the MidAmerica Region, some things were changed in the UUA bylaws to recognize regions alongside districts, but some of that work was left undone. Specifically, there were a few areas where quotas were counted by District, and there were a few areas where Districts were given rights that Regions do not yet have. Some specific examples of the latter include:

Districts are able to add business resolutions to the General Assembly agenda. [Article IV, Section 4.11(3), line 302-305] Items are currently added to the GA agenda by the UUA Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee, by a petition of 15 congregations or their boards, by a petition of 250 members of congregations, or by a district by official action at its annual meeting.

Districts may submit one Congregational Study/Action Issue to the Commission on Social Witness for inclusion on the General Assembly agenda. [Article IV, Section 4.12(a)(1), line 342] Districts may also submit comments regarding Congregational Study/Action Issues. [Article IV, Section 4.12(b)(1), line 414 and Article IV, Section 4.12(c)(1), line 424]

Districts may propose amendments to bylaws. [Article XV, Section C-15.2,(e) lines 1887-1891]
Our MidAmerica Board, recognizing that we had lost these rights with the dissolution of our districts, had the choice of how to address the issue. We believe that the Districts abilities were important ones, and that the Region should inherit those abilities. We made the following resolution at our November 2014 Board Meeting:

Resolution Requesting Recognition of Inheritance by the MidAmerica Region of UUA District Rights

Whereas the Bylaws and Rules of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) recognize the MidAmerica Region as "autonomous and shall be controlled by its own member congregations to the extent consistent with the promotion of the welfare and interests of the Association as a whole and of its member congregations" (Section C13.4);" and

Whereas the Bylaws of the UUA (1) define districts more specifically, recognizing their bylaws, geography, and member congregations (Rule G-13.2.1); (2) reserve to districts the specific ability to add business resolutions to the General Assembly Agenda (section 4.11); and (3) reference districts in several congregational capabilities regarding business items for consideration by Special General Assembly (section 4.15) and nomination by petition of candidates for UUA office (section 9.6); and

Whereas the UUA Bylaws in their current form do not specifically recognize or empower governance regions in an equivalent manner; and the MidAmerica Region was created by a dissolution and merger of the Districts contained therein;

Therefore, be it resolved the Board of Trustees of the MidAmerica Region hereby requests that the UUA recognize that the MidAmerica Region has inherited the rights and responsibilities of the former districts that now comprise the region.

We shared our position with the UUA Board of Trustees. The UUA Board subsequently proposed a series of **bylaw amendments deleting all of the aforementioned rights of districts in regard to the larger association.** This bylaw amendment will be before this year's General Assembly, and is titled, **"A proposal to make the Bylaws neutral regarding the governance structure of districts and regions."**

The full text can be found at
http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/uua_districts_regions_bylaws_changes_proposed_2015.pdf

The position of the UUA Board is described in their position statement below:

Making the Bylaws Neutral to District / Regional Governance Structure Position of the UUA Board of Trustees

In 2010, the UUA Board initiated a conversation with the District Presidents and the District Boards regarding the role of districts in our Associational governance. With the move to Policy Governance, it became very clear to the Board that it places our staff in a very difficult position to be working for two separate governing boards – the UUA Board and a District Board. The various districts and regions have taken a wide variety of approaches to answering the call from the UUA Board to re-imagine and clarify governance oversight of our district and regional staff.

The proposed amendments are intended to place all districts and regions on equal footing in the bylaws, regardless of what choices have been made as the districts consider their path forward as they address the issues of governance at the district or regional level.

Some regions have already consolidated multiple district boards into a single regional board. Other regions are considering (and may have completed by GA), a move to completely eliminate district or regional governance structures and move to an advisory and collaborative process with the regional staff. In the latter cases, there will be no district or regional boards or governance assemblies.

The proposed amendments put the Bylaws in position of neutrality regardless of the decisions that individual Districts or Regions make regarding their path (or not) towards regionalization. In particular, there will be no significant penalty for moving forward to completely eliminate governance structures that overlap with the UUA Board.

The proposed amendments push the accountability for identifying items that are important and should be on the agenda towards the member congregations and their elected leaders. This is very much in keeping with our polity and sources of authority and accountability for the UUA.

The opening sentence introducing the proposals on the link listed above summarizes these changes precisely: “The proposed amendments remove the concept of districts or regions from the bylaws as an entity of UUA governance.”

Your MidAmerica Board believes that there is still a purpose and reason for this middle level of governance in our association, and that now, while the regions are new in experimenting with their new forms, is not the time to strip their governance role in our association. The UUA Board believes that their proposal is neutral in regards to the different forms Regions are taking. Arguably, it is actually biased in favor of Regions and Districts having no governance.

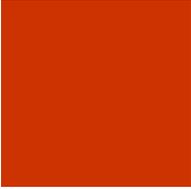
In Summary:

- Our Region has chosen to merge our Districts and have Regional governance.
- District Assemblies are currently one way that business resolutions, bylaw amendments, and study/action issues can be added to the GA Agenda. This is one reason for District and Regional governance.
- Our MidAmerica Board believes that Regions with governance where the Districts no longer exist should inherit the rights of Districts.
- The General Assembly will be voting whether or not to remove this ability of Districts.



Voting Membership for 2015 Annual Meeting

Abraham, Stephen	Hartman-Kurtz, Carlynn	Nichols, Janet
Alsman, Lynn	Haskins, Joel	Nunn, Martha
Amoura-Patterson, Sana	Haskins, Kathie	Pearson, Dan
Amsler, Nancy	Hay, William	Pearson, Ferial
Anderson, Clyde	Holcomb, Fiona	Peters, Chris
Archer, Jill	Hovseth, Kim	Peterson, Stephanie
Aschinger, Sue	Hunter, Tammy	Peterson, Tom
Ballarin, Marco	Jeck, Anita	Phillips, Phil
Bell, Kathy	Jenkins, Dave	Pinzon, Jonnathan
Bell, Rick	Johnson, Carol	Piquette, Craig
Benziger, Joan	Johnson, David	Pratt, Vicki
Bok, Edward	Kelly, Jennifer	Quintana, Meg
Burns, Stu	Kirn, Julie	Qureshi, Sajda
Burnside, Lisa	Kliment-Jenkins, Molly	Redd, Roxanne
Caffrey, Pat	Knape, John	Robinson Abraham, Gay
Cody, Cheri	Koelling, Norma	Robison, Dodie
Cozine, Neva	Koelling, Richard	Roth, Daniel
Curtiss-Smith, Pamela	Konecky, Melissa	Rundquist, Shirley
DeWester, Gay	Kopecky, Gene	Rundquist, Tom
Dilley-LeDroit, Dawn Marie	Kopecky, Vija	Scarborough, Gary
Dodge, Virginia	Kuhn, Carla/Bill	Segell, Betty
Draper, Darrel	Kurtz, Larry	Short, Jaime
Draper, JoAnne	Lynne, Cynthia	Short, Justin
Dudley, Donna	Lynne, Michael	Stevens, Ronda
Dudley, Phil	macCallum, nellie sudavicius	Tessin, Jeff
Dudley, Victoria	McArdle, Rich	Tessin, Katie
Duggin, Lorraine	Meglich, Patti	Thomas, Lolly
Eller, Judy	Meier, Monica	Tipton, Mark
Eurich, Gwen	Meyer, Anita	Toth, Gary
Fleckenstein-Phillips, Betsy	Miller, Carolyn	Ullerich, Cade
Foster, Louisa	Miller, Pete	Ullerich, Kristie
Frost, Jack	Miller-Jenkins, Pam	VanderSluis, Nancy
Gibson, Debora	Minter, Gregory B.	Wallace, Doris
Godfrey, Benjamin	Monohon, Rebecca	Weiss, Michaela
Godfrey, Michelle	Mundy, Don	White, Jennie
Harrison, Al	Nelson, Angela	White, Joe
Hart, J. Patrick	Nesbit, David	Yamamoto, Rachel



Leadership & Staff

Rev. Frieda Gillespie **Interim Minister**

What a year this has been and hasn't it gone by fast? As you read through the various reports from all of the groups who've been working this year, you'll no doubt be as pleased as I am at how much has been accomplished. Some of you have forged ahead with ideas you've had for a long while. Many of you are enjoying the new energy and participation of church members. Visitors and new members have added greatly to the joy. We've had the pleasure of adding six new members and three returning members this year.

The Transition Team: (Joel Haskins, Jaime Short, and Meg Quintana) started off the year with a history timeline that many of you added to during the Start-Up Workshop. There is more to add and the timeline is located in the hallway across from the bathrooms downstairs. Feel free to add to it. There will be more transition work to come.

So much of what you've all done is transition work as well. You've continued to define and refine your purpose. You've worked to develop your leadership skills and to turn over leadership roles to others so that the work may continue to grow.

I want to especially lift up the way the church staff have adapted to the change in ministers and have contributed creative ideas to many facets of church life. I have very much enjoyed working with Gary Emenitove for his detailed awareness of what needs to be done and for how well he communicates. Molly Kliment-Jenkins for her creativity and dedication to the children, youth and their parents. And Donna Zebolsky who is a wonderful musician and always finds great music to accompany our services. They are all delightful to work with.

From the first time I visited a Board meeting, the day I drove in to Omaha, I was impressed for the professionalism of the meeting. The agenda was organized with stated outcomes and durations for each topic. More than that I was surprised by the clear focus on mission and strategic plans rather than fear and anxiety about money. Even when it was apparent that adjustments to the budget had to be made to finish the 2014/2015 year in the black, it was managed calmly with a lot of conversation with the committees and individuals impacted. The same could be said of the budget process for 2015/2016 headed by Clyde Andersen and greatly contributed to by Pat Caffrey not only in working on adjustments but creating and coordinating a team to put on a stellar fundraiser. Every member of the Board contributed significantly to the shaping of goals and the accomplishments the Board has made this year.

It has been really enjoyable to work with all of you this year. I want to thank you all again for your warm welcome, your willingness to 'let me in' to your community, and to share your concerns with me. It's a pleasure to experience a congregation that can work together cooperatively, caring about each other and the larger community. Going forward, there are decisions to be made about what goals you will be working toward in the next few years. Again, I am happy to be able to join you as you do this and begin the exciting challenge of choosing your next minister.



May we all keep our focus on the many ways in which Second U is working well to live out your mission, and the ways you can grow. Though our work is never done, it will shape us and polish our rough edges into smooth stones if we let it.

May it be so.

Rev. Frieda

Craig Piquette **Chair, Board of Trustees**

Board of Trustees: Craig A. Piquette, Chair; Gay Robinson Abraham, Vice-Chair; Pat Caffrey, Secretary; Judy Eller, Anita Meyer, Stephanie Peterson

The Board began the year initiating the Interim ministry of Rev. Frieda Gillespie and developing a process for the evolution of the Program Council as a leadership development and program development body. Conflicts with First Unitarian regarding the management of the youth religious program were addressed by arranging a meeting between the religious leaders of both congregations.

A start-up meeting was held with Rev. Frieda and Sherry Warren, a UUA consultant and we discovered we were not as connected as we wanted to be. The Board took this information to their retreat and it became a focus for us to provide more opportunities for visitors and members to build more connections and develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be Unitarian-Universalist. The Board crafted three goals for the year; 1) Building a culture where everyone knows how they are fulfilling the mission of the church, 2) Building greater connections through adult religious education and 3) Celebrating the greater commitment to the congregation.

Regular, quarterly town hall meetings grew out of these goals in an effort to celebrate our accomplishments and to discuss our challenges. The discussion of one versus two services will continue but it is clear to the board that building connections outside of Sunday morning is critical to our growth as a religious institution. Demonstrating that we live our faith seven days a week will be important for attracting new visitors and members. A leadership development workshop was funded to train and engage new leaders and was felt to be very successful. We hope to make this an annual event to invite everyone to step up and lead when the need arises.

Finances have been a challenge this year with a budget shortfall arising from unanticipated expenses, unrealized income and a large fundraising goal. Although the fiscal year has not ended, a successful fundraiser and fiscal restraint by committees and professional staff have allowed us to close the gap substantially. The stewardship drive is just wrapping up and by all accounts appears to be very successful and although we anticipate a very tight budget next year we enter it with a lot of excitement about our future.

Finally, the Board took up the tasks initiated by prior Boards and created two task forces to determine the valuation of our church building by putting it up for sale and to apply for a bank line of credit to use if a building that better suits our needs as a growing, mission-focused religious community becomes available. We also are looking ahead to what comes after the completion of Rev. Frieda Gillespie's successful interim ministry and what the next ministry of this church will look like. We have explored what Developmental Ministry is and how it will help us reach our goals as outlined in our strategic plan. We will now recommend that the congregation enter into an agreement with the Mid-America Region and the UUA to participate in their Developmental



Ministry program. We have also initiated regular meetings with the leadership of First Unitarian to explore how we might collaborate in growing Unitarian Universalism in Omaha. We know that there is a lot of work to do in order for us to grow and fulfill our mission to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, our faith, and in the world. This work will be carried on in the next year but this Board is proud to have made progress on our Journey and prepared the way for those that will follow.

Molly Kliment-Jenkins **Director of Religious Education**

Growth. That has been the keyword in the Religious Education ministry at Second Unitarian during the past year. Dynamic and fun, we have had growing pains and growth spurts.

For convenience sake, I am referring to adults in the classrooms as “teachers,” caretaking adults of children as “parents,” and the time for children on Sundays downstairs apart from worship as “Sunday school.” My data collection starts with July 1, 2014 and continues to April 2015, when this report was written.

Curriculum for Sundays

We had thirty two children registered for Sundays and an average Sunday school attendance of eleven children and youth. The responses listed below are resulting from our April evaluation of religious education.

Parents would recommend our Sunday program to other families and felt it helped their family grow spiritually, intellectually and develop connections. They enjoyed the service learning projects and strongly enjoyed intergenerational services. They all preferred the 9:30 time. They also felt it was beneficial to start their children downstairs.

The teachers would strongly recommend our Sunday program to families and other volunteers, indicating that most were definitely going to continue. It helped them grow and they were adequately prepared in the classroom and ahead of time. They all indicated that they preferred the earlier start time, too.

The RGL Council and I selected three curricula for the 2014-2015 school year, and divided our students up into rough cohorts based on age/ability.

The youngest group, our pre-readers to early readers (roughly three through first grade), took Spirit Play. Activities for this group do not require the ability to read yet. The Spirit Play curriculum is Montessori-based, adapted by Dr. Nita Penfold to the Unitarian Universalist tradition. This year we largely focused on stories from world religions as well as the foundation lessons on the chalice, our principles and our inclusive community. Feedback from parents, teachers and children has been positive. It has become one of the quietest classes in the lower level. Many teachers like the way the stories are presented to the children during the first part of the class. Since it has a self-directed element to it, a child can select responsive work that fits their mood (i.e., active, interactive, exploratory, etc.) after hearing the story. We are continuing on with it into the next year as we have lessons for UU historical figures and the UU promises (seven principles). Average attendance came to 4 children, median of 4.

The Signs of our Faith class was the elementary class. It explored ritual and how they can be active leaders in their congregation and in the community. Average attendance



came to 4 children, median of 4. Children and teachers in this class would recommend this class to their friends and mostly felt it helped them grow. They enjoyed the service learning projects and intergenerational services. All but one preferred the 9:30 time. Their favorite parts of class were the games, and a teacher commented that more movement or games in each class would help. The stories in the curriculum was something both they and their teachers felt needed to be better.

Our Heeding the Call class for the middle and high school youth was a social justice curriculum that Average attendance came to 3.5 youth, median of 3. The increased attendance was noted by one teacher as being really helpful for the group. Youth and teachers in this class would recommend this class to their friends and mostly felt it helped them grow. One teacher commented on the excellent materials. They enjoyed the service learning projects but not the intergenerational services. There was a desire by them to be more involved in the church. All that filled out the survey preferred the 9:30 time. There was a desire by both teachers and youth to have more consistency from week to week as far as the teachers in this class (rather than switching them out every week, have them teach for a longer duration so there is more continuity week to week)

Childcare

Last fall, Pam Curtis-Smith took over the reins from Kaitlyn Hayes as our regular provider on Sundays in the nursery and has done a great job. We also have Amanda Ryan helping out every third Sunday and Gwen Dunlop assists on some Sundays. We have regularly had an average of one child, usually at the first service. We continue to strive to offer childcare for larger church events and have had many take advantage of this.

Service Learning Projects (SLPs)

An average of 18 people attended each SLP this year. Below is a list with notes about each SLP:

July -Climate March

September - We Are the Power of O.NE - citywide spaghetti feed to raise awareness about hunger issues. Well attended by our volunteers, poorly attended by city.

October - Potter's Field - fall clean up at cemetery, learned some civil rights history in Omaha

November - Pine Ridge reservation support

December - Pine Ridge Elder Stockings - need to look at better ways to support (difficult to get materials out there)

January/February - Nebraska Humane Society (winter weather cancelled)

March - Better Together program at Heartland Family Service, a program that provides substance abuse treatment to parents through Heartland Family Service. Made "no-sew" fleece sleep sacks and pillowcases for families in the program



Adult RE

In February, 2015 we started Adult RE by offering Build Your Own Theology (BYOT), led by Rev. Frieda. Twenty-seven individuals registered for the course. As a result, it was split into two classes -- a Monday afternoon and evening -- on the weeks Rev. Frieda is in town.

The Adult RE Subcommittee to the council was started in April with the goal of selecting three curricula to tackle in 2015-2016. They developed an intention statement at their second meeting:

“The Adult RE Subcommittee seeks to provide fresh, varied and interactive curricula to our community that includes tools and new perspectives that will empower individual searches for truth, meaning, values and a UU identity.”

They have developed a potential list of topics to tackle and are conducting a survey in May to determine what topics are of the most interest to the congregation.

Miscellaneous Items

FULL HOUR DOWNSTAIRS: One of the biggest changes this year came from giving the children a full hour downstairs in their classrooms on Sundays. That meant that children were no longer a part of the beginning fifteen minutes of worship upstairs. During 2013-2014, I observed the children not having enough time to truly get into the spirit intended for our Sunday curricula. I noticed many projects were rushed, unfinished, and connections were not made between participants, the materials and the adults.

Feedback on evaluations from the children and youth show a positive feel about this. Parents and teachers also were positive on this point. The one problem has been that the services have been getting over early (10-15 minutes), so many parents are heading down before the classes have a chance to finish.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS: At the beginning of September, we did not have enough teachers to provide classes at both services. I made the decision, with Rev. Frieda’s support, to withdraw the 11:30 class (elementary) from the schedule. Several individuals stepped forward, many who did not have children, to make the 11:30 classes happen. I brought them back at the beginning of November. In the average and median for the six weeks we had class in November and December was one child. In order to avoid volunteer burn out and to make everything simpler for families, I discontinued the 11:30 class in January, 2015. Other than one elementary child wanting class at 11:30, the 9:30 class seems to be a great solution for families.

CAPITAL PURCHASES: A new laptop and laminator were purchased at the end of the last budget year. Both have been solid purchases. The laptop has proven beneficial during Sundays or meetings. The laminator has been used by others besides RGL and so that purchase filled a church-wide need.



Gary Emenitove **Office Administrator**

It's been a pleasure to work with Rev. Frieda Gillespie during her first year of interim ministry. Her presence is both informing and relaxing, and I hope she's finding her time in Omaha enjoyable and fulfilling. (We've often compared the Nebraska and Massachusetts weather.)

The level of professionalism of my current 2U colleagues is as high as it's been during my time here. It's a pleasure working with Molly and Donna, as well as the many volunteers who interact with the office. I look forward to teaming up with some new office volunteers while I'm on vacation. Many thanks to longtime office volunteer Nancy Amsler.

When Don Shennum created the new church website, he probably intended to stay involved. Then life intervened, Laura Shennum was called to the ministry in Washington State, and they moved. Rev. Scott helped with the website, and now he's also gone. That leaves our longtime web guru Kathy Bell and yours truly to maintain the website. Kathy always finds the answers. The website is mentioned nearly always as the way new visitors find Second Unitarian, so it's important to keep it fresh and updated. Thanks, Kathy!

The office manages the church member database and sends the monthly church newsletter and weekly enews to members and affiliates. The member directory is now also sent via email, in coordination with the Membership Committee, generally after new members have joined.

Together with the Building & Grounds Committee, the office monitors our cleaning service and trash pickup. Both services are professionally managed and currently are scheduled on an every-two-week basis. Volunteers from Building and Grounds do light custodial duties on weeks when the cleaning crew doesn't come in.

As long-time treasurer Pat Caffrey transitioned out of that position, her previous duties have been spread around, including some to the Assistant Treasurer part of my job. About a quarter of my time is now spent on Assistant Treasurer duties, including Monday deposits, payment processing and writing checks, and assisting with employee benefits.

It is exciting to be hearing about a potential new church facility. It will be wonderful to have all offices clustered together and all facilities, including restrooms, meeting space, and storage, accessible to all. I look forward to this progress!

Donna Zebolsky **Music Director**

Our choir is made up of several extremely dedicated, hardworking singers. They may be small in number but are mighty in spirit and voice! The choir sang seven times this past year: September 14, October 26, November 23, December 24, February 22, April 5, and May 10.

Current members are Deb Gibson, Elizabeth Thompson, Carla/bill Kuhn, Julie Kirn, Stu Burns, and Tom Peterson.

Carla/bill Kuhn has been a frequent guest musician providing special music at services for the past several months, playing her/his guitar and singing. The Heartland Acoustic Ensemble, consisting of Vicki Pratt, Lorraine Duggin, and Charles Posey, also made an appearance recently at Sunday services. We hope to recruit more guest musicians from the congregation to participate in the music during church services.

Social Justice

Social Justice

Submitted by Cheri Cody

This has been a year of re-imagining and re-inventing social justice at Second Unitarian Church. In June 2014, a group came together to kick off this effort. This group discussed types of programming needed; resources for that programming, pressing issues like human trafficking, minimum wage, immigration concerns; and articulated some current gaps like connecting Share the Plate, service learning, and adult education forums. These led to forming subgroups to work on issues and gaps. There was wide support for having a larger group come together on a regular basis rather than the Social Justice Coordinating Council model.

Pat Caffrey and Cheri Cody presented a Sunday service in August 2014 about becoming a prophetic congregation. Attendees at the August committee meeting split into groups and prepared legislative testimony and speaking from their faith tradition, not generic language.

In October, the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee worked with Rev. Frieda to present the Sunday service in recognition of National Coming Out Day. It featured young adult poets and musicians. That evening, we hosted a potluck dinner and a transgender panel discussion, comprised mostly of youth and young adults. The Committee and the Open Arms Transgender Youth Group ministry are represented at various Omaha events, such as the "Corn This Way" Nebraska LGBTQ Emerging Leaders Summit and Resource Fair. On June 20th, the Committee will again join First Unitarian in marching in the Pride Parade and hosting a booth at the Pride Festival.

In January 2015, Second Unitarian Church, for the first time, purchased a table for the Martin Luther King Luncheon. Ten Second U members attended the luncheon; participants reimbursed the church for their tickets at the level affordable to them. Following the luncheon, Rev. Frieda Gillespie participated in the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance press conference to call for the resignation of a state education board member who spoke inappropriately about President Obama.

In March 2015, the Escalating Inequality curriculum group sponsored a movie night to watch Robert Reich's movie "Inequality for All." This group posted invitations to the event on Facebook, Meetup.org, and through other contact groups. Approximately 35 people (many from outside Second U) attended this important educational session.

The community garden plots are completely booked for another season and volunteers worked to ready the soil for planting. Second Unitarian and First Unitarian plan to work together to present informational sessions to our congregations on climate change and its impact on Nebraska. The youth group and other volunteers worked at the Earth Day booth.

Many people have participated in this social justice re-imagining and most attend on-going meetings and activities frequently: Gay Robinson Abraham, Steve Abraham, Nancy Amsler, Clyde Anderson, Sue Aschinger, Marco Ballarin, Betty Bange, Joan Benziger, Ed Bok, Stu Burns, Pat Caffrey, Mary Anne Chisholm, Cheri Cody, Ruth Corwin, Gay DeWester, Bob Fischbach, Pat Hart, Fiona Holcomb, Tammy Hunter, Deb Gibson, Rev. Frieda Gillespie, John Knape, Carla/Bill Kuhn. Carlynn Hartman-Kurtz, Larry Kurtz, Carol Johnson, David Johnson, Rich McArdle, Don Mundy, Tom Peterson, Vicki Pratt, Dodie Robison, Betty Segell, Jaime Short, and Ronda Stevens.

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)

Submitted by Vicki Pratt

Second Unitarian is a charter member of this congregation-based community organizing group. OTOC unites more than 20 congregations in Omaha to build relationships and make our community a better place to live. OTOC teaches people to become effective leaders in their congregation, explore common interests, research ways to resolve concerns and issues, present solutions to decision-makers, and hold elected officials accountable.

Recent Highlights:

- Leadership Training last summer offered an overview of community organizing and how people of faith can work together for the common good.
- The Leadership Team is developing 2015-16 goals around increasing number of congregations, individual and house meetings, and attendance at regional and national training.
- 400 people bought tickets for the annual Celebration of Spring Fun(d)raiser. This evening of entertainment, food, and socializing netted nearly \$18,000 to be used for OTOC's operating expenses.

Action Team Updates

- Immigration Reform: Two team members testified at a Nebraska State Legislative hearing in support for LB 623, to allow application for driver's licenses for those who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. Passionate and dramatic stories from immigrant Dreamers were included in the testimony. The team continues to contact state senators and the governor to support this bill.
- Medicaid Reform and State Tax Policy: Team members submitted testimony in support of LB 472. This bill would expand Medicaid so low income Nebraskans can be covered by health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. More than 150 faith leaders, including Rev. Gillespie, signed an OTOC and Nebraska Appleseed sponsored petition in favor of this bill. Although the bill will not be voted on this year, proponents are heartened that the bill has the support of many new state senators. Commitment continues for renewed efforts next year. Of the many state-wide organizations in the coalition supporting this bill, OTOC has been recognized as the one that can turn out the most people for a planned action. The bill's sponsor noted that personal stories from OTOC greatly add to statistics and formal presentations by professional lobbyists.
- Environmental Sustainability: This team is working to disseminate findings of the University of Nebraska Climate Change Study. The team also supports LB423, Renewable Tax Credit for Community Based Renewable Energy, to provide tax credits for wind, solar, biomass, and landfill gas facilities.
- Mental Health: The team met with state senators. Discussion focused around the top three needs identified by the Tri-West report for Region 6: fragmentation and lack of comprehensive system collaboration; insufficient access to care due to funding cuts; insufficient availability for co-occurring disorders such as substance abuse coupled with mental illness. Team members have been asked to provide specific instances where mental health services were not available. Team leaders testified on behalf of bills to provide better care for mentally ill persons who are incarcerated. The team also promoted Medicaid expansion in the state legislature; senators said they appreciated contacts from constituents over paid lobbyists.



- Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization: Recent deaths in boarding house fires focused the city council on housing code specifications. OTOC testimony outlined four elements needed to keep rental housing residents safe. One element is adequate number of code inspectors; only 8 of the 15 positions are filled. The question remains as to whether promised new hires will be assigned to new housing walk through inspections or investigation of reported violations. Violation reports continue to be backlogged up to 5 years. The team also met with Omaha's Assistant Planning Director to understand the implementation of changes to the Omaha Housing Code.



Programs/Groups

Caring Committee

Submitted by Kathie Haskins on behalf of Dodie Robison

Members: Dodie Robison (chair), Norma Koelling, Cindy Lynne, Vicki Dudley, Donna Dudley, Kathie Haskins (contact), Rev. Frieda Gillespie (ex-officio)

The Caring Committee's mission is to build a caring community that will help and support each of our members as we experience the events, stages, and transitions of life.

Activities:

- From July, 2014 through April 16, 2015, we have sent 123 cards to members who are celebrating joys or are dealing with illnesses, deaths, and other sorrows. Other contacts are made by calls, e-mails, and visits. Information for these contacts is gained from the Sunday service Joys and Concerns, from members of the congregation, and from Rev. Frieda Gillespie.
- Began providing cards, stamps, pens, and addresses for members, during fellowship, to write notes of caring as a way to facilitate congregational connections. This has been well received. An average of 2-4 cards are written each Sunday and are mailed by the committee member supervising at the time.
- Provided assistance for members with special needs.
- Sponsored the pastoral care program "Loss at the Holidays", led by Rev. Frieda Gillespie. The program was a positive experience for those who attended.

Goals:

- Recruit new members so that we are better able to continue our mission of caring and support.
- Continue to facilitate connections and communication within the church community.
- Offer a pastoral care program that addresses addiction.
- Update list of volunteers to call upon to help members in need.

Circle Suppers

Submitted by Cheri Cody

In the summer of 2014, Rick Bell, Joan Benziger, Steve Abraham, and Cheri Cody met to create a plan to revive circle suppers for the 2014/15 church year. The advent of circle suppers was publicized in various ways within the church and the committee did sign-ups during Sunday morning social hour.

There are currently 75 people signed up for circle suppers and 20+ hosts. It was decided to start with three dinners throughout the year and suppers were held in October/November, January/February, and May. Each round had 7 to 8 hosts with 8 to 10 people attending most



dinners, depending on venue size. Circle suppers are a wonderful way to get to know other people in the church in a relaxed, fun atmosphere, while eating great food, and having lots of laughs. To enhance the experience, Rick sorts names for each dinner to provide great variety in guests. Feedback so far is that the suppers are very popular, thus we plan to do them again next year.

Fellowship Committee

Submitted by Gay DeWester

Members: Janet Nichols, Gay DeWester, Dodie Robison, Judy Eller, Betty Segell and Betsy Fleckenstein Phillips

The Fellowship Committee provides a ministry of welcome and celebration. Our most successful events are Sing for Your Supper and the holiday dinners. They are well-attended and enjoyed by all. Other seasonal events, such as the ice cream social and summer potluck compete with summer vacations but are still fun events for those who can attend. The weekly fellowship hour between the services is well received and supports our mission by providing an opportunity for members and newcomers to mingle and learn about each other. The committee has no plans to change or add to these programs.

Macyl Boruff Library Committee

Submitted by Pete Miller

Members: Pete Miller, Chair; Gwen Eurich, Vicki Pratt, Lorraine Duggin, Melissa Konecky

The Macyl Boruff Memorial Library Committee continued to meet monthly on the third Monday. The annual library sale was a success. There were several new titles added. The committee has been focused on going through the shelves to conduct a thorough inventory. Several outdated or duplicate titles were removed, while several missing titles were replaced.

Marketing Advisory Council (MAC)

Submitted by Nancy Amsler

Members: Kathy Bell, Carol Johnson, Jaime Short and Nancy Amsler (chair). Ex-officio members: Rev. Frieda Gillespie and Gary Emenitove. Graphics Advisor is Molly Kliment-Jenkins.

- This council is designed to “brand” the church, and to help make it and its activities more visible to the community. It serves in an advisory capacity to assist committees with publicizing their activities.
- The council continues to work on the church website in an effort to increase/improve our visibility in the community using a cohesive brand. Numerous changes have been made to improve the website's accuracy, relevance, aesthetics, and ease of use.
- The council has increased its focus on providing suggestions and press releases for events such as the Retiree's Group, Matthew Dowd, movie night, and the auction.
- Ads have been placed on KIOS Radio, and in the PFLAG newsletter.

- The council is working on updating signage for the exterior.
- Work in progress is updating the list of media contacts.

Meditation Group

Submitted by Kevin Dunlop

Members: Kevin Dunlop, facilitator, Gwen Eurich, Ronda Stevens, Diane Gowens, Mark Tipton, Cade Ullerich, and Stu Burns)

The Meditation Group made a few modest changes this year. We changed our name to reduce some confusion about our purpose. We also made some changes to our meeting format by having a more structured agenda. As always, we have been learning about and encouraging loving-kindness, mindfulness, and spirituality. We encourage each other to improve our lives, as well as the lives of those around us, by using meditation to reduce the effects of stress and to find peace of mind.

We have been teaching and encouraging loving-kindness, spirituality, and mindfulness. Our members encourage each other to improve their lives, as well as the lives of those around us, by using meditation to reduce the effects of stress and to find peace of mind.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Kathy Bell

Members: Kathy Bell, chair; JoAnne Draper; Lorraine Duggin; Tom Rundquist; Katie Tessin, connections coordinator; and Rev. Frieda Gillespie, interim minister.

Greeters: Ruth Corwin, Phil & Donna Dudley, Ben & Michelle Godfrey, Bill Hay & Louisa Foster, Jack Frost, Fiona Holcomb, Dave & Carol Johnson, Monica Meier & Jonnathan Pinzon, Greg Minter, Don Mundy, Roger & Julie Nicolaisen, Tom & Stephanie Peterson, Phil & Betsy Phillips, Tom & Shirley Rundquist, Katie Tessin, Nancy VanderSluis, and Charles Woram.

Welcome Desk Staffers: Cheri Cody, JoAnne Draper, Katie Tessin, and Kathy Bell.

Activities: New this year, the committee coordinated a **Connections Table** during Sunday morning coffee hour to invite newcomers and members to become involved in the church's activities and ministries. Committees and small-group ministries took turns staffing the table mid-September through mid-May.

Also new, the committee began **surveying guests** about their experience as newcomers at Second Unitarian Church. Responses have been received from 40 percent of guests and have been very positive.

Last fall, Connections Coordinator Katie Tessin requested that she return to volunteer status. Katie and the committee continued to coordinate greeters, the welcome desk, newcomer lunches, Pathways classes, and new-member ceremonies. The committee assisted the Board of Trustees with the annual census.



Statistical information:

- 116 – Members reported on the UUA census on February 1st, a decrease of 16.
- 11 – Newcomers attending Pathways to Membership Classes.
- 12 – New or resumed memberships.
- 69 – Average Sunday morning worship service attendance, May – April. Note: Attendance has been on the upswing since January.

Music and Worship

Submitted by Tom Peterson

Members: Tom Peterson, chair, Chris Peters, Michael Lynne, Lorraine Duggin, Julie Kirn, Vicki Dudley, and Jennie White.

The year began as we said good-bye to Rev. Scott McNeill, and continued with our Summer Service Series, organized and led by the Worship Associates on topics ranging from UU history to contemporary theology and modern humanism. After our Water Communion in September, we welcomed (with great joy!) Rev. Frieda Gillespie to our pulpit, and have thoroughly enjoyed working with and learning from her in the months since. Together, we've made some changes to the order of service, and included monthly intergenerational services in our planning. We celebrated several communions throughout the year: Water, flowers, chocolate, and cornbread.

We have been faced with challenges in the face of budget shortfalls, and have worked to create meaningful worship services. While we engaged several guest speakers throughout the past year, we will likely be relying less often on paid speakers and more on contributions from members and the Worship Associates team during the year to come. We are blessed to work for and with a wonderful congregation here at Second Unitarian. The interaction with you each Sunday in worship makes the experience meaningful, and affirms the worth of the vital work that we feel called to do in the life of this church.

Aesthetics Subcommittee of Music & Worship

Submitted by Pam Curtiss-Smith

Members: Dodie Robison and Pam Curtiss-Smith

This was a quiet year for Aesthetics. The committee cared for the plants inside and helped with the church clean up days outside. We also created table decorations and a flower arrangement for the stewardship kick off party at Miracle Hills.

Honoring recent traditions while making things fresh for Sunday services has been a challenge, but we managed to build the waterfall for water communion, create a different winter scene, and manipulate the hangings and decorations in various ways throughout the year with few supplemental pieces. We are considering new wall sconces and hangings to purchase in the future.

The Second Showing wall in the fellowship area included features from church activities such as RE service learning projects, the strategic plan visualized and our pledge drive progress. Selections created by various artists who are also church members were enjoyed by attendees during fellowship and church functions. 2U has an abundance of talented members!



Nominations and Leadership Development

Submitted by Carol Johnson

Members: Carol Johnson, Chair, Janet Nichols and Tom Peterson

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee is an elected position with members serving 3-year terms. The primary purpose of the committee is to provide candidates who are eligible, experienced and capable to fulfill the duties for positions on the Board of Trustees, the Endowment and the Nominations & Leadership Development Committees. A secondary purpose is to develop leadership skills within the congregation.

Accomplishments for this 2014-2015 church year are:

- Interviews with Board Chair, outgoing and incoming Board members, to help determine needs of the Board
- Recruiting through interviews a slate of officers to offer for congregational approval at the annual meeting (2 Board nominees, 1 nominee for Endowment Committee and 1 nominee for Nominations and Leadership Development)
- Recruitment and registration of Tom Peterson to attend the Midwest Regional Leadership School held in July in Beloit, WI
- Presented information about the committee at Get Connected Table in November
- Planned and hosted Leadership 101 Class (20 participants) December 5 and 6 led by trainers from Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
- Prepared a proposal to the Board for a task team to plan and execute Leadership 101 in the upcoming church year
- Prepared a proposal to the Board to assist with Board Orientation of newly elected members

Program Council

Submitted by Gay Robinson Abraham

Members: All Committee Chairs, Treasurer, Staff

Program Council met every two months throughout the church year. The focus was on cultivating connections and developing and practicing leadership skills, with the goal of balancing the dual needs of attending to the process of building relationships and to the sharing of ideas and support for accomplishing the tasks of each committee/working group within our church community.

Connections were cultivated by creating time for participants to authentically share their needs, both individual personal needs and needs of their committees/work groups. Our emphasis was that connecting authentically is fundamental to living our mission – supporting one another in being authentic leads to compassion for each other, and this in turn leads to transformation.

Specific topics of discussion included 1) defining shared ministry as our shared responsibility for the mission of the church, 2) identifying the leadership needs of the church, 3) practicing leadership skills in our meeting by assigning meeting roles and doing process observations, and 4) sharing current work in our committees and collaborating on ways that work could be enhanced and we could help each other. During our final meeting of the year the discussion will focus on continuing the conversation to discuss and refine 3-5 congregational goals for Developmental Ministry.



Religious Growth and Learning

Submitted by Jaime Short

Members: Jaime Short, Chair, Pam Miller-Jenkins

Adult R.E. Subcommittee: Ed Bok, Fiona Holcomb, Cade Ullerich

Director of Religious Education: Molly Kliment-Jenkins

Our committee maybe small, bit it is mighty! Our RE classes on Sundays are outstanding. We are offering a Montessori program for ages 4 to Kindergarten. Our elementary class was learning about UU faith and the workings of a church service. Our Middle School and Teens were probably our most pleasant surprise. This was an age group that we really struggled with in terms of being able to fulfill spiritual needs. Well, now our problem is space, because we are crowding these young Unitarian Universalists in! They have spent the year talking about UU & Service. This group even requested that they be able to keep meeting in the summer!

We continued to forgo R.E. classes one Sunday a month and provide Service Learning Project (SLP) opportunities for all. These projects show participants that they can be a transformative force in their community. Organizations we supported included: Power of ONE, Region g Behavioral Healthcare, and Project Harmony. Our largest and most successful SLP yet was the 100 item drive for Pine Ridge Reservation as well as the Christmas Stockings for tribal elders. We filled Joan Benziger's Prius and she delivered it all to South Dakota! The stockings replaced our tradition of sponsoring our church's adoption of families in need at the holidays. Instead we adopted tribal elders!

A new sub-group focused on adult religious Ed is starting to take off! Right now they are currently brain storming what types of programs to offer.

Weakness: One weakness is our space issues. We are trying to create warm welcoming atmospheres for our young members; however this is difficult in our cramped classrooms. The Montessori program and Teen groups are squished in outdated, uncomfortable spaces. The elementary group has plenty of space, but since that space is also used for meetings it is a bit formal and doesn't really feel like there space. Also, this class is interrupted several times each Sunday by individuals accessing the kitchen and bathrooms, as well as the office.

Strengths: We are accomplishing great things. I think it is because we have such a dedicated DRE. Molly is wonderful to work with and has done incredible things with our programs. We also have strength in volunteers! Members do not seem interested in committee meetings, but are ready to jump in whenever we ask for help.

Retirees' Group

Submitted by Carol Johnson

Retirees' Group is not just for persons officially retired—it's for anyone looking for socialization, fun, personal growth and learning. The group meets monthly (typically the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00) for a topic or activity of interest to the group. Programs this year included:

- Captain CAPOW, "Chemistry and Physics on Wheels" by Dr. Dan Sullivan, Science Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Attended by 27 adults and 17 children.



- Character portrayal of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau: Son of Sacajawea by actor and storyteller, Mr. Darrel Draper. Darrel is the most requested performer of the 200 scholars, authors and historians of Humanities Nebraska Speaker's Bureau
- Lifesaver CPR Training by Alegent Creighton Health on August 4th
- Tour of the Florence Water Treatment Plant arranged by Jack Frost
- "Preventing Fraud and Identity Theft" by AARP Trained Volunteer Educator Kathy Beers
- Second Unitarian Veterans shared their experiences serving in U. S. armed services in recognition of Veterans Day in November
- In December, the Retirees Group demonstrated support for the mission of Table Grace Restaurant by dining at the establishment
- Mary Yager, Associate Director of Humanities Nebraska gave a presentation about the mission and projects of the organization. Humanities Nebraska operates a speakers' bureau that supports 2 Second Unitarian members: Darrel Draper and Lorraine Duggin
- Discovery of the Platte: A French Explorer introduces Nebraska to Europe by Plattsmouth Historian Harlan Seyfer.
- An Update on Omaha Together One Community presented by Joe Higgs, Lead Organizer for OTOC
- A conversation with Buddhist Vicki Grunwald (former Second Unitarian Member) about her inspirational visits with prisoners
- Upcoming programs for May and June of this church year:
 - Mr. Ray Harris will be presenting information about the historical Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha
 - Kathy Krogh, Nebraska Tourism Commission will be featured in June and will have information about the Tourism Commission and the Nebraska Passport Program.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

Submitted by Pete Miller

Members: Pete Miller, Richard Koelling, Chris Peters, Lorraine Duggin, Vicki Dudley, Dan Roth, Chris Carroll.

Writing for Spiritual Growth met every second Saturday. The group chooses a topic and writes on that topic for the next meeting. Members read their pieces at the meeting and the group has a discussion about the topic.



Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

Submitted by Ben Wallace and Shawne Coonfare

Youth Advisors:

Mary Anne Chisholm, Tom Rundquist, and Joe White (all from 2nd U), Ryan Cook, Bethany Murphy, Ben Wallace, and Shawne Coonfare (from 1stU)

Members:

Seniors: Sean McArdle, Jessica Archer, Emily Redd, Maya Smith

Juniors: Jared Kolok, Rhianna Giron, Shiraz de Vreede,

Sophomores: Noah Giron, Ariel Alai, Alan Godfrey

Freshmen: Johanna Callaghan, Samuel Peterson, Sabrina Short, Jenna Hutchinson, Madaline Kane, Genevieve Lee Regier

8th Graders: Izzy Short, Alex Toth, Chloe Coonfare, Anne Gallagher, Will Archer, Erin Stokes, Charlotte Simon

7th Graders: Arian Alai, Dillan Jenkins, Jacob Calhoun, Alana Harvey

Guests also joined the group occasionally.

Coming of Age:

Unitarian Universalist teenagers usually join their congregations with a special "Coming of Age" ceremony. This ceremony is often preceded by a year-long curriculum helping them to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and articulate their own beliefs. The Coming of Age ceremony usually features the youth reading their statements of personal belief (credo statements) to the congregation (typically incorporated into the Youth Service at the end of the year in May or June). This year's participants were Sabrina Short and Johanna Callaghan.

Our Whole Lives (OWL):

Our Whole Lives (OWL) helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. Our current OWL program is a 26 week/lesson cycle, and the current curriculum, as well as Advisor training, is tailored for youth over the 7th grade. Parent preview and consent is required prior to participation. We did not have a session this year as typically we offer this curriculum every other year.

Bridging:

Bridging is a time for introspection and sharing with peers in the YRUU community and adult mentors/advisors to reflect on one's spiritual path in a meaningful way, with respect to this significant time of transition, as well as what that means for the next journey in life. Activities around this theme are for seniors who will be leaving YRUU.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU):

YRUU is for youth in grades 7-12 and is a joint youth group between First and Second



Unitarian Churches of Omaha. They meet on Wednesday nights at First Unitarian Church. YRUU year runs in conjunction with the school year (September – May). The Goals of YRUU *are to*: grow life-long Unitarian Universalists; provide worship, celebration and rites of passage for UU youth; learn about the traditions and heritage of Unitarian Universalism; develop personal growth, relationship building & leadership skills for youth; help youth to develop a social conscience and learn to be agents of change, as a group and individually, in the world; develop continuity and foster communication between age levels of youth within the program; and to foster tolerance, understanding and acceptance of diversity.

Youth Adult Committee (YAC)

The focus of this YRUU year was building a youth-leading structure within the group. The youth formed a Youth Adult Committee (YAC), which was comprised of all youth interested in taking leadership roles, youth advisors, and interested parents. YAC officers were elected, all comprised of youth, with adult mentorship for each role.

The YAC utilized the feedback gained from the full representation of youth and parents to plan and organize programming with the structure of “The 6 Pillars of Balanced Youth Ministry” (from the UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries) = Building Community, Social Action, Worship, Learning, Leadership, Congregational Involvement.

The YAC met between one and three times monthly in order to ensure effective leadership for the YRUU, to plan weekly programming, events, and activities, and to formalize the structure of youth leadership within YRUU.

This Year’s Officers were:

President – Rhianna Giron (1st U), Vice Presidents (One from Each Church): Noah Giron – 1st U and Sabrina Short – 2nd U, Food/Treat Managers – Maddie Kane and Sam Petersen (2nd U), Communications – Shiraz De Vreede

Activity Summary:

YRUU included many guest leaders this year. Justin Short provided two opportunities for trust building exercises, Adam Sagert came to talk with us about environmental issues, Rev Frank Rivas came to talk with us about what it means to be UU.

We learned and had some amazing discussions this year including learning about Deaf Music with Bethany Murphy, discussing important topics such as racism, privilege, violence, and population growth.

Other activities included a group outing to see the movie “Selma,” visiting and participating in worship at the Omaha Islamic Center, and having a joint meeting with the Youth Group at Temple Beth El. The youth also had two overnights one this spring which included us watching the documentary “Freedom Riders.”

This year’s YRUU activities ended with a potluck at First U (a celebration and honoring of one another and time spent together over the year), as well as Youth Service, which is youth led and focused.

YRUU is also going to be meeting to look at programming for next year which we hope to include participation in the Inclusive Communities IncluCity workshop (<https://vimeo.com/96239232>) which is a weekend retreat that includes intense workshops on how to be inclusive of diversity in our community. Because of the cost we are looking at fundraising options that would allow us to raise the funds necessary for the program.

Facilities

Building and Grounds Committee

Submitted by Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Mission Statement: The Building & Grounds Committee works to insure the facilities of the Church are safe and meet the needs of its members and guests.

Members: Clyde Anderson and Tom Rundquist - Co-Chairs, Rick Bell, Gary Emenitove – Custodial Contact, Jay Haskins, David Jenkins, Carla/Bill Kuhn – Technology Contact, Larry Kurtz, Rebecca Monohon, Roger Nicolaisen, Tom Peterson, Craig Piquette - Board Contact.

Major Achievements:

- Thanks to the many volunteers who participated in the Church Cleanups Oct. 4 and April 25.
- The frequent rains during Summer, Fall, and Spring minimized the need for irrigation at church, but the cost of lawn care was over budget and our volunteers were busy pulling weeds and edging the lawn. We also had to deal with a yellow jacket nest in the compost bin by the Community Garden and a paper wasp nest on the east exterior of the Church.
- Replaced the dusk-to-dawn floodlight over the east door with an energy efficient LED model. The light sensor on the old light stopped working causing the lights to remain on.
- During the Oct. 4 Cleanup, we discovered that the anchor plate on the roof that supports the power line to the church had come loose. After consulting with several electrical contractors, we learned that current Omaha Building Code doesn't allow roof anchors. Cost to bring the power line up to code would range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 or more. B&G volunteers decided to make our own repairs to the anchor plate installing new longer screws and sealing the plate and holes to prevent water from entering the roof. We are confident the repairs will last for several years, and the roof anchor system is grandfathered under the old building code.
- The electrical contractors visiting the church consulting on the roof anchor problem noticed that the circuit breaker box in the Nursery was a model that was subject to a recall because some of the circuit breakers by that manufacturer fail to trip when there is a short circuit possibly causing fires. B&G recommended to the Board that the box be replaced, and that was accomplished in December by a licensed electrician at a cost of \$400 plus \$110 to repair the drywall around the new box.
- Selected Affordable Maintenance Solutions as our snow removal contractor again this winter. They did an excellent job, although snowfall was below normal.

Goals:

- Get “cosmetic” repairs made to the Church parking lot in conjunction with getting an appraisal of the church property.
- Painting the exterior roof beams and fascia plus the north exterior wall is planned for May 23 plus an additional Saturday in early June.
- Install gutters and downspouts on the east side of the roof.
- Replace the metal doors at the main entrance with glass doors with panic exit bars to make the church entrance more welcoming and a safer emergency exit.



Finances

Finance Coordinating Council

Submitted by Clyde Anderson

The Finance Coordinating Council (FCC) includes the Endowment Committee, Fundraising Task Force, Stewardship Task Force, and the Treasurer.

Council Members: Clyde Anderson – Chair, Vicki Pratt (Treasurer), Cheri Cody (Stewardship), Don Mundy (Endowment), Pat Caffrey (Fundraising), and Joel Haskins

Endowment Committee Members: (Elected by the Congregation to 3-year terms) – Cheri Cody, Phil Dudley, and Don Mundy

Live & Silent Auction Fundraising Task Force Members: Pat Caffrey (Chair), Monica Meier, Sue Aschinger, Lynn Alsmann, Kathy Bell

Stewardship Task Force Members: Cheri Cody (Chair), Pat Caffrey, Phil Dudley, Joel Haskins, John Knape, Clyde Anderson, Phil Phillips; **Kickoff Event Team** – Michaela Weiss (Chair), Tammy Hunter, Mary Anne Chisholm, Steve Abraham, Carla/Bill Kuhn. **Stewardship Survey/Research Subcommittee members:** Cheri Cody, Pat Caffrey, Kathy Bell, Carol Johnson, John Knape, and Tom Rundquist

Treasurer: Vicki Pratt

Major Achievements during 2014-2015:

- **Endowment** – On July 13th held a recognition event for new and past members of Full Circle. See list of Full Circle members at the end of this report. As of March 31, 2015, Endowment Fund assets totaled \$94,929.
- **Fundraising Team** sponsored a Live/Silent Auction on Saturday, April 11th. Jim Coppoc, poet, author and musician, who teaches in the English Department and the American Indian Studies Program at Iowa State University in Ames, provided the entertainment with Bill Kuhn from Second Unitarian. Jim also delivered his award-winning sermon *'At the Justice Table'* at our services April 12th. His sermon won the award at the 2014 Mid America Regional Conference. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this a successful event! Net income from the Auction totaled about \$7,300 exceeded our \$6,000 goal but short of the \$10,000 stretch goal to make up for this year's budget shortfall.
- **Stewardship** did a survey of congregants about how members feel about our church community, how they like to be communicated with and how well we are integrating them into

the congregation. Did one-on-one interviews with a sampling of 38 people in the congregation, mostly members but a few affiliates. Split the interviewees into 5 groups ranging from very involved to not involved/exiting. Chose names randomly from the full list of members and affiliates, categorized them into one of the five groups and then made sure there was a representative sampling in each group. See results of the survey on the following page of this report.

The theme for this year's **Stewardship Campaign** was *United in Purpose – Connected in Love*. This theme relates to what was heard in the individual survey/conversations that Stewardship had with members and affiliates. **Stewardship Campaign Schedule:** Visiting Steward Training – Sunday, Feb. 22; Visionary Donor Event – Sat., Feb. 28; Kickoff Event – Saturday, March 7 at Miracle Hills Golf Clubhouse; and the Stewardship Campaign extended through March 29.

Statistical information:

- Managed the 2014-2015 Budget of \$225,687
- Held 13 meetings (FCC - 11, Stewardship – 8, Endowment – 2, Fundraising - 3)
- Volunteers prepared the Weekly Deposit Forms from Sunday offerings
- Completed the transition from Pat Caffrey to Vicki Pratt as Church Treasurer and trained the new contract Bookkeeper, Vicki Allely.
- Canvassed 5 new members for 2014-2015 and 90 member households for 2015-2016
- As of April 29 pledges have been made by 71 households totaling \$174,244 for the 2015-2016 Stewardship Campaign. This is 93% of our \$187,200 pledge goal.
- Reviewed 12 months of financial statistics
Organized the Budget Team (Clyde Anderson, Cheri Cody, Craig Piquette, Rev. Frieda Gillespie, Gay Robinson Abraham, Vicki Pratt) and prepared the Proposed 2015-2016 Budget which can be found in the Meeting/Voting Section of this report.

Members of Full Circle (those who have donated to the Endowment Fund or who have included the Church in their will): Vicki Pratt, Al Harrison, Pat Caffrey, Cheri Cody, Steve and Gay Abraham, Gene and Vija Kopecky, Louisa Foster and Bill Hay, Sue Aschinger, Kathy and Rick Bell, plus an anonymous donor.



THEMES	Develop Deep and Meaningful Relationships	To be heard, respected, valued and welcomed	More varied worship service	Communication
DEFINED	This relates to congregants wanting to know others well enough to feel a connection and understanding of who others are as people. It is difficult to have a meaningful relationship if one doesn't have some sense of another's history, family, religious beliefs, sense of justice, and life struggles that they may have in common.	People were grateful when their suggestions were heard and treated with respect. This does not necessarily mean that the suggestions were implemented but they were welcomed. In general Second U congregants are seen as welcoming and inclusive. There were many instances in the past few years where people felt dismissed, not valued for their thoughts or skills, and definitely not heard; and this was particularly disquieting if it came from the minister. People like to know when their task is done and that it made a difference. Important that there is immediate acknowledgement of an accomplishment. It's also important that ideas are considered in a timely manner.	Congregants appreciate the non-creedal tradition of Unitarian Universalism and the belief that "truths" come from many different religious and humanist sources. For some, the actual worship service has become too traditional and feels somewhat constricted. More variety in the order of the service and some spontaneity during the service would be appreciated. Appreciate having joys and concerns. Still a desire to involve children/ families more in the services.	There is an ill-defined feeling of a lack of communication or of not being aware of the direction of the congregation. For some, having two services exacerbates the feeling of having lost touch with people and activities. Congregants are unsure of the direction of the church and sometimes react to what they hear or read in the newsletter as a decision that was made without them. The majority of those interviewed said they preferred to be communicated with via email but seems that those are often not read, especially in the case of the newsletter. Weekly email and order of service are read more consistently. Phone calls are not effective except for maybe leaving messages.
ACTIONS These recommended actions are based on the responses of the interviewees, not the thoughts of the research committee members.	A variety of small group ministries [circle suppers, coffee group, men's group, covenant group, service projects, adult R.E. classes, forums, committees, etc.] can help fulfill these desires. A variety of choices is needed to meet the varied needs/desires. Create brief videos that give some history of the church and other activities that help to better inform people and give them a context and post on website.	Leaders in the congregation, including the minister, are encouraged to listen to the sometimes underlying expressions of congregants that define what gives them energy, and as leaders be flexible in encouraging them. Direct invitation to serve in some way is often appreciated by making people feel valued. People also like low-key acknowledgement of their volunteer contributions.	How do we demonstrate in weekly worship services the connection between the teachings of UU'ism and its sources and how we connect that to our daily lives? Can we incorporate teachings in a more experiential way (understanding that not all will be comfortable with this) that might involve a new approach to music and readings (or even the order of doing these things in the service.	How do leaders live in the moment and intentionally have conversations with people just to get their thoughts. Leaders may know of upcoming actions or activities and could involve people in conversations just to get their reactions. This is one way of informing and may give the recipient enough information to have a conversation with someone else. We seem to have a difficult time getting out of our "silos" and thinking about what behaviors build the church and then doing them.



Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Vicki Pratt

Thank you to all contributors! Your generosity and stewardship enables Second Unitarian Church to fulfill our mission of being Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in our world. My personal thanks to former Treasurer Pat Caffrey for her guidance and patience and I took over Treasurer responsibilities.

Our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. The following pages compare 2014-2015 year-to-date amounts to end-of-year amounts for 2013-2014 and 2012-2013.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

The Consolidated Balance Sheet shows the restricted and unrestricted funds in both the assets and liabilities/members' equity portions of the balance sheet. As of 4/30/2015, Checking and Money Market Account Balances total \$46,092.22. Of this amount, \$29,916.19 is restricted (cannot be used for regular expenses) and \$16,176.03 is unrestricted.

2015-2016 pledges already paid in this fiscal year are recorded as a Liability (Payable) since we cannot spend this money until July.

The **Endowment Fund** is detailed on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Investments are comprised of purchased Vanguard Group stock, a donated Jefferson Pilot Annuity, and donated Citigroup stock. As per the accountant's recommendation in September 2008, the investments are marked to market after dividends have been posted:

- Changes in market value are recorded as "Unrealized Gain or Loss" account on a monthly basis for the Vanguard Group and Citigroup stock.

Income and Expense Statement – Operating Funds

The Income and Expense Statement compares actual income and expenses to their budgeted amounts.

Treasurer Duties and Responsibilities

The Treasurer is appointed annually by the Board of Trustees. Responsibilities include custodian of all church funds, weekly deposits, bill paying, record keeping for pledges and other contributions as well as disbursements, and financial data analysis, presentation, and retention. Carrying out these responsibilities requires expertise, skills, and time commitments well beyond my capability. In addition, segregating duties and oversight incorporates best practices to ensure financial integrity.

The Bookkeeper, Assistant Treasurer, and Counters perform crucial daily, weekly, and monthly tasks that keep our church functioning. I am grateful for their attention to detail and dedication. My thanks to:

Assistant Treasurer – Gary Emenitove. As part of the Office Administrator's responsibilities, Gary's duties include much of the day-to-day activities such as recording deposits, contributions, offerings, and invoice payment processing.



Bookkeeper – Vicki Allely, Bookkeeping Services LLC. As a contracted, paid position, the bookkeeper is responsible for accounting entries, bank statement reconciliation, and generating financial reports. The Bookkeeper reports directly to the Minister with guidance from the Finance Coordinating Council and the Board.

Counters – Kathy Bell, Kathie Haskins, Julie Kirn, Jaime Short. As a team they organize the offering plate contents into pledge payments and Share the Plate donations.

Unresolved Issue

This year we discovered two major errors being made by our payroll processor. Both involve federal and state income tax withholdings and payments to the IRS. While these amounts are correct going forward we are researching financial impact to current and previous minister as well as possible reparation from the processor. Forms have been filed for reimbursement to the church from the IRS.



Second Unitarian Church - Consolidated Balance Sheet (Unaudited)

	<u>Current Year-to-Date</u> <u>4/30/2015</u>		<u>Actual 6/30/2014</u>		<u>Actual 6/30/2013</u>	
ASSETS						
CURRENT ASSETS						
Checking	33,929.55		38,671.70		14,058.20	
Money Market	<u>14,524.75</u>		<u>23,999.17</u>		<u>49,248.30</u>	
	48,454.30		62,670.87		63,306.50	
Checking & Money Market - Restricted						
01 - OPERATING FUND - Payables / Receivables	7,112.00		4,835.00		18,500.96	
03 - ENDOWMENT MM - Memorial - Rev. Haley	0.00		0.00		1,693.06	
05 - BUILDING	981.31		1,611.31		4,575.93	
12 - NEW BUILDING FUND MON MKT	7,125.00		7,125.00		7,125.00	
21 - RESERVE FUND	3,529.73		18,969.80		15,946.85	
28 - GIFT-ELVERA BOGGS TRUST	7,200.00		7,200.00		7,200.00	
29 - MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY	2,461.30		1,847.55		2,597.53	
31 - YRUU	151.85		151.85		151.85	
32 - N. HEINEMEYER	1,355.00		1,355.00		1,355.00	
33 - ANDERSON 2014-2015 PL MM	<u>0.00</u>		<u>9,500.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Checking & Money Market - Restricted	29,916.19		52,595.51		59,146.18	
01 - OPERATING FUND Less Payables	18,338.36		9,901.19		2,434.95	
13 - INTEREST FROM MONEY MARKET	<u>199.75</u>		<u>174.17</u>		<u>125.37</u>	
Checking & Money Market - Unrestricted	18,538.11		10,075.36		2,560.32	
33 - Stock Gift - Prepaid Pledge					19,162.39	19,162.39
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Second Unitarian Church - Consolidated Balance Sheet (Unaudited)

	<u>Current Year-to-Date</u> <u>4/30/2015</u>	<u>Actual 6/30/2014</u>	<u>Actual 6/30/2013</u>
ASSETS (continued)			
ENDOWMENT FUNDS			
Vanguard Group	84,426.55	77,986.82	61,140.10
Jefferson Pilot Annuity	11,149.02	11,149.02	11,149.02
Citigroup Inc. 5 Shs	<u>266.60</u>	<u>235.50</u>	<u>239.85</u>
Subtotal Endowment Funds	<u>95,842.17</u>	<u>89,371.34</u>	<u>72,528.97</u>
Subtotal Current Assets	<u>144,296.47</u>	<u>152,042.21</u>	<u>134,235.47</u>
FIXED ASSETS			
LAND AND BUILDINGS			
Land	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Church Building	88,744.00	88,744.00	88,744.00
Equipment			1,650.00
Panasonic Copier	1,771.64	1,771.64	1,771.64
Accumulated Depreciation - Copier	-1,181.04	-688.94	-98.42
Furniture and Fixtures	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,125.72</u>
Subtotal Fixed Assets	<u>109,334.60</u>	<u>109,826.70</u>	<u>117,192.94</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>253,631.07</u>	<u>261,868.91</u>	<u>270,590.80</u>
LIABILITIES (PAYABLES)			
Pledges Prepaid - Next Year	5,862.00	4,735.00	14,440.00
DRE HRA Ins Benefits Payable	1,250.00	0.00	1,500.00
Wages Payable	0.00	0.00	2,560.96
Gifts Prepaid - Next Year	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES (PAYABLES)	7,112.00	4,835.00	18,500.96
FUND BALANCES / MEMBERS' EQUITY			
Fund Balances	101,469.37	118,384.71	127,485.20
Unrealized Gain/Loss Vanguard	30,288.88	23,919.48	11,813.99
Unrealized Gain/Loss Citigroup	-758.90	<u>-790.00</u>	-785.65
Unrealized Gain/Loss Anadarko	<u>0.00</u>		<u>-343.42</u>
	130,999.35	141,514.19	138,170.12
Restricted Funds - Committees; Payables	8,245.16	6,598.16	23,228.74
Restricted Funds - End, Bldg, Boggs, Minister's Disc, Reserve, Heinemeyer, Anderson	21,671.03	45,997.35	35,917.44
Restricted Funds - Endowment	95,842.17	89,371.34	72,528.97
Restricted funds - Anderson Prepd Pl & Gift	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	19,162.39
Members Equity	<u>115,519.72</u>	<u>115,519.72</u>	<u>113,919.72</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE/MEMBERS' EQUITY	<u>253,631.07</u>	<u>261,868.91</u>	<u>270,590.80</u>


Second Unitarian Church - Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	4/30/2015			6/30/2014		
	Current Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year End	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
INCOME						
Pledges Budgeted	\$154,185.00	\$184,544.00	83.55%	\$179,936.36	\$181,841.00	98.95%
New Pledges Current Year (not '15)				8,528.00	6,000.00	142.13%
New Pledges Current Member (new line '15)	200.00	2,000.00	10.00%			
New Pledges New Member (new line '15)	117.00	8,000.00				
Pledges for Previous Year	120.00	0.00	0.00%	6,065.00	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Pledge Income	154,622.00	194,544.00	79.48%	194,529.36	187,841.00	103.56%
Dividend Income	180.15	100.00	0.00%	123.27	0.00	0.00%
Gifts	350.00	2,500.00	14.00%	1,763.80	2,500.00	70.55%
Fundraising	11,984.34	8,500.00	140.99%	5,646.45	7,500.00	75.29%
Offering	9,189.24	13,000.00	70.69%	9,960.52	14,300.00	69.65%
Rent	100.00	500.00	20.00%	50.00	600.00	8.33%
HRA Terminated - Not Used	0.00	0.00	0.00%	1,625.00	0.00	0.00%
Refund Income	0.00	0.00	0.00%	101.17	0.00	0.00%
RGL/Youth Program Prev. RE Reg-Children				0.00	0.00	0.00%
Administrative Income	79.62	0.00	0.00%			
Transfer Funds	15,440.07	15,440.07	100.00%	-5,335.00	5,171.00	-103.17%
TOTAL INCOME	191,945.42	234,584.07	81.82%	208,464.57	217,912.00	95.66%
EXPENSES						
Office Admin. Salary	17,240.00	20,688.00	83.33%	20,085.00	20,085.00	100.00%
Office Admin-Ins Benefits	1,554.80	1,868.00	83.23%	1,855.08	1,855.00	100.00%
Office Admin-Retirement	1,724.20	2,069.00	83.33%	2,008.56	2,009.00	99.98%
OA Professional Expense	118.81	1,045.00	11.37%	222.50	1,005.00	22.14%
Asst .Treasurer (moved '14)	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
DRE Salary	13,961.35	17,823.00	78.33%	14,429.00	17,304.00	83.39%
DRE-Insurance Benefits	1,470.99	1,816.00	81.00%	139.00	1,808.00	7.69%
DRE-Retirement	1,039.92	1,337.00	77.78%	144.20	1,731.00	8.33%
DRE-Professional Expense	0.00	1,782.00	0.00%	485.44	1,731.00	28.04%
Music Director	8,236.70	9,888.00	83.30%	12,650.00	12,250.00	103.27%
Connections Coordinator Salary	927.00	3,708.00	25.00%	3,600.00	3,600.00	100.00%
Connections Coordinator Prof Exp	0.00	371.00	0.00%	0.00	390.00	0.00%
Musicians (new '15)	2,700.00	3,000.00	90.00%			
Bookkeeper (new '15)	1,350.00	1,800.00	75.00%			
Payroll Taxes-Staff	5,373.01	3,986.00	134.80%	3,699.80	4,073.00	90.84%
Payroll Processing	908.07	840.00	108.10%	886.99	804.00	110.32%
HRA Monthly Fees	275.00	288.00	95.49%	191.23	288.00	66.40%
Staff Development / Appreciation (moved '15)	0.00	200.00	0.00%			
Subtotal Salary Expenses	56,879.85	72,509.00	78.45%	60,396.80	68,933.00	87.62%
Housing Allowance	29,809.37	36,934.41	80.71%	18,000.00	18,000.00	100.00%
Insurance Benefits	5,316.86	6,102.76	87.12%	9,326.10	8,981.00	103.84%
Minister W2 Salary	24,303.83	29,031.90	83.71%	42,789.96	40,240.00	106.34%
In Lieu of FICA	3,979.50	4,733.50	84.07%	4,455.00	4,455.00	100.00%
Professional Expense	1,884.70	5,940.00	31.73%	3,274.00	5,824.00	56.22%
Minister Retirement	5,197.84	6,187.50	84.01%	5,823.96	5,824.00	100.00%
Moving Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.00%			
Subtotal Ministerial Pkg	73,492.10	91,930.07	79.94%	83,669.02	83,324.00	100.41%


Second Unitarian Church - Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	6/30/2013		
	Actual Year End	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
INCOME			
Pledges Budgeted	\$161,052.27	\$167,758.00	96.00%
New Pledges Current Year (not '15)	9,837.45	3,500.00	281.07%
New Pledges Current Member (new line '15)			
New Pledges New Member (new line '15)			
Pledges for Previous Year	890.00	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Pledge Income	171,779.72	171,258.00	100.30%
Dividend Income	197.45	0.00	0.00%
Gifts	2,298.00	2,000.00	114.90%
Fundraising	3,125.57	5,000.00	62.51%
Offering	12,505.77	13,000.00	96.20%
Rent	225.00	1,000.00	22.50%
HRA Terminated - Not Used	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Refund Income	234.66	0.00	0.00%
RGL/Youth Program Prev. RE Reg-Children	2,125.00	2,100.00	101.19%
Administrative Income			
Transfer Funds	691.00	6,628.00	10.43%
TOTAL INCOME	193,182.17	200,986.00	96.12%
EXPENSES			
Office Admin. Salary	15,600.00	15,600.00	100.00%
Office Admin-Ins Benefits	1,760.94	1,750.00	100.63%
Office Admin-Retirement	1,794.00	1,794.00	100.00%
OA Professional Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Asst .Treasurer (moved '14)	2,340.00	2,340.00	100.00%
DRE Salary	16,800.00	16,800.00	100.00%
DRE-Insurance Benefits	126.00	1,800.00	7.00%
DRE-Retirement	1,260.00	1,400.00	90.00%
DRE-Professional Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Music Director	9,321.60	8,000.00	116.52%
Connections Coordinator Salary	1,150.00	2,600.00	44.23%
Connections Coordinator Prof Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Musicians (new '15)			
Bookkeeper (new '15)			
Payroll Taxes-Staff	3,167.94	3,469.00	91.32%
Payroll Processing	0.00	0.00	0.00%
HRA Monthly Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Staff Development / Appreciation (moved '15)			
Subtotal Salary Expenses	50,152.54	52,084.00	96.29%
Housing Allowance	18,000.00	18,000.00	100.00%
Insurance Benefits	7,938.38	6,292.00	126.17%
Minister W2 Salary	39,911.00	38,000.00	105.03%
In Lieu of FICA	4,284.00	4,338.00	98.76%
Professional Expense	3,689.04	5,600.00	65.88%
Minister Retirement	5,600.04	5,600.00	100.00%
Moving Expense			
Subtotal Ministerial Pkg	79,422.46	77,830.00	102.05%


Second Unitarian Church - Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	4/30/2015			6/30/2014		
	Current Year to Date	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget	Actual Year End	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
EXPENSES (continued)						
Administrative Expense	545.88	1,305.00	41.83%	964.53	1,360.00	70.92%
Treasurer Admin Expense	694.62	625.00	111.14%	584.29	485.00	120.47%
Director RE Prof Exp (moved '14)						
Youth Director Contributi	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	200.00	0.00%
Staff Development / Appreciation (moved '15)				0.00	300.00	0.00%
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00%	617.79	700.00	88.26%
Board Mtgs & Retreat	201.30	275.00	73.20%	150.00	300.00	50.00%
Share the Plate Donations	4,594.63	6,500.00	70.69%	5,082.78	7,150.00	71.09%
Fundraising Exoense (new '15)	0.00	0.01	0.00%			
RGL- Childcare	1,404.60	2,500.00	56.18%	1,525.00	3,200.00	47.66%
Religious Education Suppl	704.15	750.00	93.89%	750.00	750.00	100.00%
Copier Expense	275.90	420.00	65.69%	369.95	2,090.00	17.70%
Denominational Dues	10,956.00	10,956.00	100.00%	10,624.00	10,624.00	100.00%
Insurance	4,265.00	4,265.00	100.00%	3,987.00	3,130.00	127.38%
Janitorial-Cleaning	5,555.00	7,020.00	79.13%	5,460.46	5,098.00	107.11%
Janitorial-Suppl/Trash PU	1,364.85	2,058.00	66.32%	1,034.27	1,785.00	57.94%
Lawn Care & Snow Removal	2,058.75	2,100.00	98.04%	1,140.00	1,200.00	95.00%
Leadership Development Board				100.00	100.00	100.00%
OTOC Dues	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.00%	1,507.00	1,507.00	100.00%
Postage	271.67	675.00	40.25%	191.81	475.00	40.38%
Telephone/Internet	2,440.80	2,900.00	84.17%	2,650.79	2,520.00	105.19%
Communcations/Mktg/Adv C	1,500.00	1,540.00	97.40%	1,990.00	1,690.00	117.75%
Utilities	4,808.12	5,268.00	91.27%	5,170.95	4,572.00	113.10%
Depreciation Expense (new '14)	492.10	240.00	205.04%	7,366.24	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal General Expenses	42,392.87	48,967.01	86.57%	49,100.25	46,191.00	106.30%
Caring	32.49	610.00	5.33%	235.99	650.00	36.31%
Fellowship	1,189.39	1,453.00	81.86%	1,011.54	1,350.00	74.93%
Finance	1,121.81	2,075.00	54.06%	2,379.04	2,440.00	97.50%
Bldgs. & Grounds Mainten.	548.21	950.00	57.71%	2,213.88	1,690.00	131.00%
Library	158.51	300.00	52.84%	371.88	450.00	82.64%
Membership	530.50	1,500.00	35.37%	351.03	1,750.00	20.06%
Communications (moved '15)				0.00	50.00	0.00%
Music & Worship	3,323.17	6,750.00	49.23%	3,462.01	5,400.00	64.11%
RGL Council	535.80	1,400.00	38.27%	1,366.13	1,200.00	113.84%
Soc Justice	549.99	700.00	78.57%	747.91	700.00	106.84%
Technology	166.21	772.00	21.53%	171.20	389.00	44.01%
Denominational Connection	0.00	300.00	0.00%			
Committee on Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00%	39.53	250.00	15.81%
Leadership Dev-Nominations	1,838.95	1,988.00	92.50%	681.75	100.00	681.75%
YRUU Program (new '15)	0.00	200.00	0.00%			
Transition Team (new '15)	0.00	250.00	0.00%			
Subtotal Committee Expenses	9,995.03	19,248.00	51.93%	13,031.89	16,419.00	79.37%
TOTAL EXPENSES	184,000.35	234,584.08	78.44%	208,364.57	217,912.00	95.62%
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$7,945.07			\$100.00		


Second Unitarian Church - Income and Expense Statement - Operating Fund (unaudited)

	6/30/2013		
	Actual Year End	Annual Budget	% Actual to Budget
EXPENSES (continued)			
Administrative Expense	775.14	1,526.00	50.80%
Treasurer Admin Expense	1,771.15	1,225.00	144.58%
Director RE Prof Exp (moved '14)	1,291.39	1,680.00	76.87%
Youth Director Contributi	3,300.00	4,000.00	82.50%
Staff Development / Appreciation (moved '15)	235.00	250.00	94.00%
Office Equipment	464.90	470.00	98.91%
Board Mtgs & Retreat	193.99	300.00	64.66%
Share the Plate Donations	6,282.41	6,500.00	96.65%
Fundraising Exoense (new '15)			
RGL- Childcare	1,396.87	2,950.00	47.35%
Religious Education Suppl	317.69	750.00	42.36%
Copier Expense	1,391.36	2,370.00	58.71%
Denominational Dues	10,773.00	10,773.00	100.00%
Insurance	3,514.00	3,100.00	113.35%
Janitorial-Cleaning	4,732.00	4,950.00	95.60%
Janitorial-Suppl/Trash PU	972.60	1,725.00	56.38%
Lawn Care & Snow Removal	870.00	1,200.00	72.50%
Leadership Development Board	100.00	100.00	100.00%
OTOC Dues	1,215.00	940.00	129.26%
Postage	170.46	551.00	30.94%
Telephone/Internet	2,464.61	2,268.00	108.67%
Communcations/Mktg/Adv C	400.00	400.00	100.00%
Utilities	4,855.51	3,960.00	122.61%
Depreciation Expense (new '14)			
Subtotal General Expenses	39,649.50	42,837.00	92.56%
Caring	296.23	650.00	45.57%
Fellowship	578.54	1,170.00	49.45%
Finance	1,874.75	1,460.00	128.41%
Bldgs. & Grounds Mainten.	890.36	1,630.00	54.62%
Library	137.41	150.00	91.61%
Membership	1,282.77	1,725.00	74.36%
Communications (moved '15)	198.69	210.00	94.61%
Music & Worship	5,797.95	5,850.00	99.11%
RGL Council	467.82	1,100.00	42.53%
Soc Justice	729.01	700.00	104.14%
Technology	310.06	280.00	110.74%
Denominational Connection			
Committee on Ministry	196.23	200.00	98.12%
Leadership Dev-Nominations	100.00	100.00	100.00%
YRUU Program (new '15)			
Transition Team (new '15)			
Subtotal Committee Expenses	12,859.82	15,225.00	84.47%
TOTAL EXPENSES	189,921.90	197,127.00	96.34%
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$3,260.27		

Appendices

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

adopted May 23, 2010

To strengthen the bond of peace within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha: We pledge

- to create a religious community where we freely explore our values and honor our diversity as a source of communal strength.
- to build healthy relationships by respecting our differences and assuming good intentions.
- to listen appreciatively and endeavor to speak directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- to do our best to forgive if we hurt one another, to make amends and to reconnect in a spirit of gratitude and generosity.
- to abide by this covenant in celebration of the common purpose that unites us.

Faithfully done, our work carries forward the ministry of this church to create loving community and supports our mission to grow as a beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice, and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.



STAFF COVENANT,

adopted September 2009; rev. November 2010, April 2012

In the interest of promoting spiritual growth and right relations within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, we, the professional staff and the volunteer staff, covenant to:

- model healthy relationships and teamwork among the staff and with congregants
- promote healthy business practices in a professional manner, with attention to good stewardship of all resources.

Recognizing that the way we are with one another affects the entire congregation, we agree to:

- express appreciation and encourage one another
- attend to group process, taking time together to remember what is important (such as important dates – anniversaries of employment, birthdays, etc.)
- communicate openly with one another
- listen without interruption to what others have to say and process that
- encourage speaking and knowing when not to speak, in the interest of effective decision-making for the common good
- approach concerns and issues with direct communication, working toward resolution and with respect for confidentiality
- challenge assumptions (our own and others)
- avoid triangulation and offer mediation when appropriate
- inform each other about when we arrive and when we leave the building
- practice sensitivity to differences, cultural and otherwise
- and, allow for mistakes from ourselves and the members of Second Unitarian.

Faithfully done, our work carries forward the ministry of this church to create loving community and inspire spiritual growth and supports the mission to grow as a beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice, and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.



New Members

Elise Brazeal-Daganaar May 2, 2015
Tom Cantrell May 2, 2015
Todd Daganaar May 2, 2015
Greg Gage March 1, 2015
Fiona Holcomb February 23, 2015
Jennifer Kelly February 15, 2015
Rebecca Monohon February 15, 2015
Krystal Skradski March 1, 2015

Resuming Members

Betty Bange
Debora Gibson
Ben Godfrey
Michelle Godfrey
Eileen Novak

Departing Members

Chris Alberts
John Bope
Joan Busacca
Jim Flanery
Deborah Gleich-Bope
Brett Harvey
Leslie Harvey
Tom Lundahl
Sarah Gettie Burks McNeill
Scott McNeill
Susan Milner
Katie Nelson
Jodi Straub
Steve Straub

Births

Chet Thompson, May 15, 2014
Elizabeth Kurth, August 26, 2014

Marriages & Commitment Ceremonies

Cade and Kristie Ullerich, July 12, 2014
Dawn Marie and Michelle Dilley-LeDroit, September 6, 2014

Deaths

None

Graduating Seniors

2014

Peter de Vreede
Aidan Hay
Brian Huggins
Samantha Quintana
Kalen Short

2015

Jessica Archer
Sean Mc Ardle
Evan Piquette
Emily Redd
Maya Smith