



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Working Together During Our Time of Transition

Although it may be presumptuous, we think that Ben Franklin needs to amend his famous quote: "...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." There are actually 3 things that are certain: death,



taxes, and change. The whole process of our lives is a process of change, and at this time, we at UUCM are going through a big one. It's rare for change to be fun, but it can be a rewarding opportunity persevering with balance nonetheless. We on the Board of Trustees hope to take advantage of this time of change

to embrace some new structures, relationships, and policies. We hope that as we publish our plans (the "steps going forward") that you will look for the intended improvements. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Leadership Transition Team: Until next August, UUCM will be a lay-leader congregation with a Leadership Transition Team. This is not unusual. Unitarian Universalism has a long tradition of congregational lay leadership. UUCM also operated as a lay-led congregation for seven months (2014 – 2015) when the minister was on sabbatical. The Board is currently working with consultant Susan Nienaber and other leaders in reviewing policies, procedures, organizational structures and practices. Being a lay-led congregation means that members of our church organize and lead most of our worship services including inviting guest speakers to conduct worship services. We will work with affiliate ministers for pastoral care or guidance.

The Board of Trustees is currently appointing members to the Leadership Transition Team and will transfer operational authority to this Team. This team will be the "go to" team for anything major, beyond the coverage listed on the next page. The team will also act as an arbiter in anything related to church operations (for example, the complaint process as described in the Policy Governance Manual). The Board has ultimate authority in the church, and, if a complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Leadership Transition Team, the Board may hear operations complaints on appeal after the complaint has gone to Transition Team (though after review, the Board may also find that the Transition Team response is sufficient).

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UUCM MISSION STATEMENT

"In a spirit of wonder and with courageous love, we connect, grow, and act".

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Interim Minister: The UUA maintains a group of ministers who are specially trained to serve congregations in transitions such as ours. The role of an interim is to help a congregation make changes, identify and correct problems, and prepare the way for the next minister. The interim works like a mirror, reflecting the congregation back to itself. When the congregation decides on changes it wishes to make, it consults with the minister on how to make them. And the interim points out things the congregation might not see about itself. An interim minister would serve for one year with an option to increase that to a second year if necessary. The Board is appointing a small committee to complete the application process for an interim minister. The applications are due April 17th for an August 1st start date.

The UUCM staff, ministries and council will continue their work with some adjustments as described below.

Worship Arts Ministry: Laurie Moser, Worship Associate, will coordinate summer worship services with the ministry lay members and staff Paul Winchester, music director and Mark Brekke, choir director. Two members of the Worship Arts Ministry (Laurie Moser and Lisa Myers) will each preach or get a speaker for each service. Ian Evison, staff of the Mid America UUA, will provide contact information for local ministers who will be able to provide wedding, funeral services and pastoral care.

Administration: Church Administrator Judy Regan will serve as lead administrator, carrying out her normal duties. She will also respond to inquiries by directing them to appropriate leaders. Fred Hulting will convene Church Council meetings.

Finance Ministry: Fred Hulting will work with interim treasurer, Karen Zais to manage finances,

the annual budget, pledges, building fund, fundraisers, etc.

Care Team: Lea Hosley, Jan Geigle, Sue Asinger, Deanne Magnusson and Barb Halsey facilitate coordination of meals, rides, visits, emergency child care, funeral receptions and more. They will communicate "Life Passages" to worship leader and Judy for the newsletter.

Facilities Ministry: Bob Dachelet manages anything to do with the care of the physical church building and grounds



Congregational Life Ministry: Amy Putkonen manages anything where the primary aim is to address the social/interpersonal desires of church members such as social events and affinity groups.

Adult Education Ministry: Susan Goll manages *First Hour* Sunday classes, spiritual journey groups, film discussions, workshops/seminars, etc.

Children & Youth Education Ministry: Andrea Purdy Heier, Religious Education Director and Malia Brandt manage anything where the primary aim is the educational development of children and youth church members.

Membership Ministry: Gary Charles manages the greeting of those attending each Sunday and the education and support of new members and new member first hour classes.

Special Projects: Stefanie Bell-Egge manages special projects that arise such as the revisions to the Operations Policy and Procedure manual.

We are working and learning together.

UUCM Board of Trustees

There is one thing that I was not prepared for as a parent. Despite all my participation in Early Childhood Education classes, in a neighborhood Babysitter's Coop, and in coffee klatches and playgroups, I did not recognize the depth of the cultural embedding of fear and anxiety that I experienced. It was not in regard to the safety of my children or their health, nor to the daily financial challenges and uncertain future (although I certainly felt them all). It was simply the insidious and powerful message that a vital opportunity might escape them and be forever out of reach unless they engaged immediately – and with vigor!

Needless to say, the importance of balance, especially in addition to my children's interests and talents in certain activities, slowly but surely lost out to the competition. Parents today are even further balance-challenged, given that individual activities tend to demand more time, commitment and, money; that most parents and caregivers work full-time, and that technology itself has added one more layer onto the demands for everyone's attention. What does it possibly mean to live a balanced life, to be a people of balance?

And then in January I found myself in a situation where time slowed to a crawl. Access to technology was minimal for many days and I was amazed at how much more time I seemed to have, and how deadlines, schedules, and appointments seemed not only manageable but achievable. I found myself through good fortune in the magic of balance. It was a time when what was most important in

my life was attended to and given presence. I had recognized it in brief glimpses over the years, but had felt pressured to postpone it for a more feasible time, as I thought would naturally happen.

Of course that was the mistake. Because the potential for balance is ever present if you trust in it and allow it to happen. And then you and those around and beyond you will reap the benefits.



In closing I offer the following thoughts from Anne Mason:

“Spirit of Life, your very presence among us is what gives us connection. Help us to sense that beneath our feet is the strength we need to keep us grounded. Help us to feel that behind our back is the protection we need to feel safe facing our fears. Help us to know that before our eyes lies the beauty we seek to feel astounded. Help us to lift our heads high enough to be aware of the vastness of our sky and of our spirit, and help us to know that within our hearts lies the love we need to complete the circle of connection in our lives. We are grateful, Spirit of Love, for this day. May we use all of these gifts—our feet, our backs, our eyes, our heads and our hearts—to bring Love into this hurting world; this world which we so value, which we cherish. Amen.”
~ Anne Mason

Andrea Heier,
Director of Religious Education
dre@uucmtka.org

TEACHERS' CAFE at UUCM

March 17, 2018 9:30am - 1:30pm

Greater Twin Cities Gathering of religious education volunteer teachers, parents/caregivers and Unitarian Universalist (UU) friends seeking nurture in their ministry with children and youth. Join us for community and dialogue on the cultivation of teaching as a spiritual practice. This year Bill Doherty, a family therapist, University of Minnesota professor, and longtime UU, will be presenting, along with parents from Unity Church

Unitarian, on The UU Families Initiative.

In this workshop, you can expect to deepen your understanding of home-based spiritual development, recognize the potential of UU family rituals, and learn practical ways to bring these rituals to your congregation and to your family. Lunch and child care will be provided. This event is free of cost, but registration is required by March 15.

Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/TeachCafe2018>

FIRST HOUR IN MARCH

Sunday, March 4th

Feng Shui for Home and Office

Feng Shui can be used in the office and in your home. You can start as small as your desk or as large as your whole home. We will discuss how Feng Shui works, what easy fixes you could do today. And finally how clutter clearing can change your world! Facilitated by Laurie Moser.

Sunday, March 11th

Exploring UUCM

Part 2 of 2 on a path to membership, we will continue to respond to your questions, and explore information and opportunities about our particular church, and how we relate to the wider UU Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Visitors and friends who have attended both of these “Exploring UUism” classes are eligible to become members of UUCM. Facilitated by Christy Dachelet, Membership Ministry.



Sunday, March 18th

Islamophobia – What is it and What Can You do?

Susan Goll and John Ziegenhagen will share information from CAIR (The Council on American Islamic Relations) training they recently attended to help understand Islam and deal with fear and opposition towards it. CAIR is the organization that received UUCM's monthly generosity offering for February.

Sunday, March 25th

The Outer World, The Inner World

Sometimes it can seem like the outer world doesn't make any sense. That's because it doesn't. Don't get fooled looking to the outer world for your answers to life deeper questions. Find out how to get friendly with your Inner You. Facilitated by Bruce Lehrer.

NEW MEMBER CORNER

Cathy Schmitz Couillard and Troy Couillard came to UUCM because of the community they have found within the church. Previously, they attended UU Society in Madison, Wisconsin. Both have background in Zen Buddhism as well as being involved in a UCC church in Baraboo, Wisconsin. They look forward to being involved in the congregation through small group participation and offering the facilitation of occasional meditation groups.



UUCM ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW



Sign up has begun for you to showcase your talents at the UUCM 8th Annual Variety show being helped on **Saturday, April 21st at 5:00 PM**. You can sign up on Sunday mornings at church or contact Bill Tregaskis. Please let him know your name, contact info and your special talent!

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY/SOUL MATTERS GROUPS SPRING 2018

Soul Matters groups offer UUCM members and friends Adult Spiritual development and the opportunity connect with each other and with our deepest selves in small groups of 6 to 10 people led by a facilitator. Each group will meet for 1 ½ to 2 hours every other week, a total of 6 times. You can register for either Tuesday or Thursday evenings starting at 7:00pm March 13th or 15th. Child Care will be provided for the Tuesday night group. The end dates will be May 22nd and 24th, so before Memorial Day weekend. Monthly worship themes will be studied in depth using provided readings, inspirational quotes, questions and



practices to help you experience the theme. In each meeting, you'll share what it was like to "live with" the exercises and the questions as we share where the topic took us, and hear the experience of others. This sharing is at the heart of the Soul Matters program and our experience is

further deepened by the group's sharing. Sign up at this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c48aca92fa75-uucm1> or contact Susan Goll at goll.susan@gmail.com.

Registration will close on March 1st to allow time for participants to receive materials, so sign up today!

NOTES ON MUSIC

Music Sunday is fast approaching and we want this special Sunday this year to be a reflection of our whole congregation. As you may have heard in church, the theme of the day will be "Joys and Sorrows." So, we are looking for brief accounts from as many congregants as possible of joys and/or sorrows they have experienced, either personally or in the world. These would then be included as readings or represented some other way during the service. We would need to reserve the right



to edit the language for both anonymity and clarity, but mostly we want to make the message of the service come from you. If you have joys or sorrows you would like to share, there will be a basket and half sheets of paper at church where you can write them down, or you can send them to

musicdirector@uucmtka.org.

Paul Winchester
Music Director

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MARCH



Sunday, March 4th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
Feng Shui & Balance
Speaker Laurie Moser;
Lisa Myers, Worship Associate

Sunday, March 11th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
Tightrope Balance
Speaker Lisa Myers;
Paul Thorbeck, Worship Associate

Sunday, March 18th | 10:00 AM
MUSIC SUNDAY - CHOIR SINGS
Paul Winchester, Music Director

Sunday, March 25th | 10:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE
Spring Blessing of the Land
Guest Speaker Gabriel Ross;
Laurie Moser, Worship Associate

Sunday April 1st | 10:00 AM
EASTER SUNDAY
Deep Easter: Why do we Bother?
Speaker Lisa Myers

GODDESS PROJECT MOVIE AND DISCUSSION

Come and join us on Friday, March 9th, from 7:00-10:00pm for an exclusive screening of The Goddess Project at UUCM. This is a movie that every female – from early adolescence on, and every man who has a daughter or loves a woman and wants to support, should see. It is a warm, gentle, inspiring documentary done by two women who set out across America to interview a number of different women from quite diverse backgrounds following their inspirations and passions, making both large and small contributions to their communities and our world, while creating fully enriched



lives. A discussion will follow the movie. The movie will start promptly at 7PM, so come a bit early to catch up with friends and share snacks and popcorn. Coffee, tea and water will be provided. Cost \$10 per person. All proceeds will go to UUCM to support the cost of hosting this film. All are invited. PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Here is a synopsis of the film:

Determined to empower the feminine voice, two aspiring filmmakers packed their lives into a school bus for what became the most transformative adventure of their lives.

MUSIC SUNDAY CHOIR INVITATIONAL

Singers with prior experience in a choir, and who are at least high school age, are invited to join the choir for Music Sunday. Your commitment would be to attend at least three of four upcoming rehearsals— Wednesday evenings 7-8:30 PM on February 28th, March 7th, and March 14th; and Saturday morning, March 17th 9-10:30 AM -

and the final rehearsal and performance on Sunday, March 18th, 9-11 AM performance. Our Music Sunday theme this year is music around stories of joys and sorrows submitted by members of our UUCM community. If you are interested, contact Mark Brekke, Choir Director, at 612-618-6104.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY CLASS

Louise Frechette, a life coach and spiritual mentor, is offering a 4-week Women's Spirituality Class entitled, "Looking into Your Moods and Emotions as Doorways to Your Divine Self". The class meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm beginning March 14th thru April 4th at UUCM in the Oak Room. This class introduces a way for us, as women, to use any upsetting emotions for opening to the Presence of our Divine Self just underneath whatever we're feeling. You'll learn a gentle

yet powerful meditative technique for looking into your feelings and recognizing the deeper message that's trying to come through. You can register at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0945A9A72EA0FF2-looking. The cost is \$75 for 4 classes with sliding fee available. Class size is limited to 10 participants. Please call Louise at 952-513-9254 or email louisefrechette@comcast.net with any questions or for more details on the class.

LIFE PASSAGES

If you recently experienced a great joy, a significant challenge, or a deep pain, and are open to reaching out and sharing (or if you want to join our Care Team), please contact any member of our Care Team: Jan Geigle, Lea Hosley, Deanne

Magnusson, or Sue Asinger. Our love and support go out to each of these families.

None to report this month.

MARCH SOCIAL GENEROSITY

Our MARCH social generosity offering will go to support the MN Food Share food drive during their March campaign, through Interfaith Outreach. Their goal is to raise \$200,000 and 100,000 pounds of food.



Our December collection for UUSC Guest at Your Table totalled \$1,535.00 and January's collection for Minnesota Connect Aphasia Now was \$982.00. Thank you for your continued generosity!

UUCM AFFINITY GROUPS

Venerable Women Group

The Venerable Women meet on the second Friday of each month, and will meet next on **Friday, March 9th, 2018** at noon at UUCM in the community room. The hosts this month are Nancy Murnane, Fran Kiesling and Sharon Lubinski. Please bring your own lunch, hosts will provide beverage and dessert. This month the topic of discussion is "What is the most daring thing you've done?". Please RSVP to Nancy Murnane at nancy.murnane@comcast.net or 763-544-2142.

Venerable Men Group

Each month, on the first Tuesday, the Venerable Men meet at the Original Pancake House on Hwy 101 and County Road 6 in Plymouth. The next meeting is planned for **Tuesday, March 6th** at 8:00 AM. The group of 8 to 10 men always welcome more breakfasters! If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Johnson at jnanjer@icloud.com.

Women Who Read Book Group

The *Women Who Read* Book Club will meet on **Monday, March 12th** at 7:00 PM at UUCM in the Community Room to discuss the book *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. Please contact Christy Dachelet at czdachelet@gmail.com if you have any questions. New members are always welcome!

Monday Morning Book Group

The *UUCM Monday Morning* Book club meets next on **Monday, March 19th** at 11:00 AM at UUCM in the Community Room. The group will be discussing *Red Notice* by Bill Brower. Please direct any questions to Bev Montgomery at bevmontgomery@comcast.net. New members are always welcome.

Men's Book Group

The Men's Book Club meets once a month. No details of the March meeting are available at the time of press. If you have questions, please contact Adam Schenck (schencka1@gmail.com) or Gary Charles (gcharles.mn@gmail.com).