

2020-2021 Annual Report



First Unitarian Church of Omaha
3114 Harney Street
Omaha, NE 68131
402-345-3039
www.firstuuomaha.org

In Memoriam

Bill Huntington
Jim Rogers
Jim Van Arsdall
Don Weber
Mara Winter
Ron Withem

Table of Contents

Board of Trustees and Other Elected Positions	4
Meeting Agenda	5
Slate of Nominees for Election	6
Minutes of the May 3, 2020 Annual Meeting	7
Minutes of the Jan. 10, 2021 Mid-Year Meeting	9
Annual Reports, as Submitted	
Minister	11
Ministry Team Council Report	13
President	14
Director of Religious Education	16
Twenty Years Ago	18
Archives/Library Team	18
Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics (AHA)	19
Book Club	19
Capital Trust	20
Caring Team	21
Chalice Guild	22
Choir	22
Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS)	22
Early Morning Risers	23
Finance Team	24
Fundraising Team	25
Hospitality Teams	26
House and Grounds	26
Membership Team	26
Neighborhood Care	27
Nominating Committee	28
Office Team	29
Partner Church Team	30
Sarah Joslyn Society	31
Sister Church Team	32
Soul Matters	32
Stewardship	33
UU the Vote	33
Women's Alliance	35
Worship Arts Team	35
Youth Emergency Services Meals	36
Appendix:	
New Members	38
Staff	39
Bequests	40
Budget and Treasurer's Report	41

Board of Trustees

Sharon Piehler, President
Catherine Plumlee, President-elect
Walt Jesteadt, Treasurer
Sarah Copeland (2021)
Peg Pidgeon (2021)
Harold Cruz (2022)
Bill Tull (2022)
Nellie Chenoweth (2023)
Bruce Godfrey (2023)

Elected Trustees of the Capital Trust

Bob Hess (May 2021)
Christopher Schmidt (May 2022)
Daniel Byrd (May 2023)

Nominating Committee

Convener: Joe Schaaf
Carolyn McNamara (May 2021), Mary Kay Peters (2021)
Mike McAtee (May 2022)
Katrina Schmidt (May 2023), Sara Switzer (May 2023)

Agenda
The One Hundred Fifty-Second Annual Meeting
First Unitarian Church of Omaha
May 16, 2021
(musical elements in blue)

Gathering Music:
Keep Going Song by the Bengsons
Carry the Flame by Dan Schatz

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Covenant of Right Relations Sharon Piehler, President
 2. Confirmation of Quorum Bruce Godfrey, Secretary
 3. Zoom Meeting Housekeeping Catherine Plumlee
 4. Appointment of Parliamentarian (G. David Richardson) Sharon Piehler
 5. Approval of Minutes of 151st Annual meeting (May 3, 2020)
 6. Approval of Minutes of Mid-Year meeting (January 10, 2021)
 7. Annual Reports Take questions from the floor regarding any and all annual reports as printed in the meeting book, including those of the Minister, President, Ministry Team Council, Director of Religious Education, Trustees of the Capital Trust Fund, and all team and committee reports.
 8. Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation (slideshow from staff, with instrumental soundtrack)
 9. Presentation & Adoption of Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Walt Jesteadt, Treasurer
 10. Elections:
President Elect: Harold Cruz-Sanchez
Board of Trustees: Neva Cozine (3 years), Larry Goesser (1 year—completing Harold's board term), and Michael McAtee (3 years)
Right Relations: Carol Cronin (2 years) and Douglas Lee-Regier (2 years)
Nominating Committee: Terri Lynn Brewer (3 years) and Diana Byrd (3 years)
Capital Trust: Joseph Schaaf (3 years)
 11. Musical interlude: My Life Flows On in Endless Zoom (William Miller)
 12. Reopening Report Welcome questions in the chat or by email to be answered later.
 13. Recognition of Completion of Terms Sharon Piehler & Catherine Plumlee
 14. Adjourn Catherine Plumlee
 15. Choral Benediction: Irish Blessing
- Breakout groups

PROPOSED LEADERSHIP SLATE FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

President Elect:
Harold Cruz-Sanchez

Board of Trustees:
Neva Cozine (3 years)
Larry Goeser (1 year—completing Harold’s board term)
Michael McAtee (3 years)

Right Relations:
Carol Cronin (2 years)
Douglas Lee-Regier (2 years)

Nominating Committee:
Terri Lynn Brewer (3 years)
Diana Byrd (3 years)

Capital Trust:
Joseph Schaaf (3 years)

Slate presented by the Nominating Committee: Nellie Chenoweth, Michael McAtee, Carolyn McNamara, Mary Kay Peters, Katrina Schmidt, Sara Switzer, Joseph Schaaf (convener)

Sunday, May 3, 2020
First Unitarian Church of Omaha
One Hundred Fifty-First Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday May 3, 2020

Location: Due to the Governor of Nebraska's Directive Health Measure prohibiting public gatherings of more than ten people, the Annual Meeting was held over Zoom, a web-based audio-visual platform.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service

Convened by: President Joe Schaaf

Confirmation of Quorum: Catherine Plumlee, Secretary, certified eligible voters and confirmed the presence of a quorum for the meeting with more than 20% of eligible voting members of the Congregation in attendance.

Zoom Housekeeping: Catherine Plumlee, Secretary, reviewed the procedures and protocols for how the meeting would be conducted over the Zoom web-based platform.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: President Joe Schaaf appointed Dave Richardson to serve as parliamentarian.

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 150th Annual Meeting (May 19, 2019)
Minutes were approved by Consent, with no objections.

Consent Agenda: Minutes of Mid-Year Meeting (January 19, 2020)
Minutes were approved by Consent, with no objections.

Presentation & Adoption of Proposed 2020-2021 Congregational Budget
The 2020-21 Annual Congregational Budget was adopted following a presentation and motion by Treasurer, Walt Jesteadt.

Presentation and Vote on Ministerial Search Committee Candidate
Kim Dunovan, Chair, presented Rev. Shari Woodbury as the Ministerial Search Committee's candidate. After a near unanimous vote by secret ballot, Rev. Woodbury was called to serve as the Congregation's next settled minister.

Annual Reports
President Joe Schaaf invited questions regarding the annual reports contained in the meeting book circulated in advance of the meeting.

Election: President-Elect
Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a vote was taken and the Nominating Committee's candidate, Catherine Plumlee, was elected to serve as President-Elect.

Election: Board Trustees
Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a vote was taken and the Nominating Committee's candidates, Nellie Chenoweth and Bruce Godfrey, were each elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees

(continued on next page)

Election: Trustee of the Capital Trust

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a vote was taken and the Nominating Committee's candidate, Daniel Byrd, was elected to serve a three-year term as a Trustee of the Capital Trust.

Election: Nominating Committee

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a vote was taken and the Nominating Committee's candidates, as follows: Mary Peters (one-year term), Katrina Schmidt (three-year term) and Sara Switzer (three-year term) were each elected to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Election: Right Relations Committee

Following a call for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, a vote was taken and the Nominating Committee's candidates, Della Bynum and Deb McAtee, were each elected to serve a two-year term on the Right Relations Committee.

Renewal of Right Relations Covenant

Following a Motion and Second, the Congregation voted to renew the following Covenant of Right Relations:

We, the congregation of First Unitarian Church of Omaha, covenant together:

- To create a religious community where we can freely explore our values and foster diversity as a source of communal strength.
- To build healthy relationships, seeking to understand each other and respect our differences.
- To listen deeply and endeavor to communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- To do our best to make amends when we have hurt each other, even unintentionally, to learn from our mistakes, to forgive, and to reconnect in a spirit of understanding and commitment

Recognition of Completion of Terms

Joe Schaaf expressed appreciation to all of the church leaders completing their terms of service. Newly-elected President, Sharon Piehler, took the gavel and thanked Joe Schaaf for his service as President.

Announcement of Results of Vote to Call Rev. Shari Woodbury

President Sharon Piehler announced the near unanimous vote to call Rev. Shari Woodbury to serve as the Congregation's next settled minister. Rev. Woodbury made a surprise appearance to accept the call and join in celebrating a successful end to the year-long ministerial search process.

Adjourn Meeting

President Sharon Piehler declared the annual meeting adjourned.

**Minutes of the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting
First Unitarian Church of Omaha
January 10, 2021**

Call to Order: The Mid-Year Congregational Meeting of First Unitarian Church of Omaha was called to order at 10:30am by Board President, Sharon Piehler

Location: Due to the Governor of Nebraska's Directive Health Measures and the ongoing pandemic, the meeting was held over Zoom, a web-based audio-visual platform.

Convened by: President Sharon Piehler

Lighting the Chalice with Rev. Shari Woodbury

Sharon Piehler, President presented these items:

Update from the Board of Trustees

Governance Team Formation

8th Principle Introduction

Board Covenant Review

Finance Report given by Walt Jesteadt, Treasurer

Music Interlude

Update from Ministry Team Council given by Catherine Plumlee, President-Elect

Catherine reviewed the Church Organization Chart and the Annual Vision of Ministry 2020-2021

Nominating Committee Solicitation for Awards and Leaders given by Joseph Schaaf, Convener

Announcement of Remind Texting App given by Carrie Helmberger, Membership Coordinator

The meeting was adjourned by Sharon Piehler, President.

Annual Reports

Minister, Ministry Team Council, President, Director of Religious Education,
and other Team and Committee Reports as Submitted

*(Reports are presented alphabetically by group name.
Unless otherwise noted, reports were submitted
by the Team Leader or Committee Chair.)*

Minister's Report to the Congregation — 2020-2021

Submitted by Rev. Shari Woodbury, Settled Minister

What a year! It was a joy to connect with the congregation during Candidating Week last May, and then to join you in Omaha in August. Over this year of the ongoing pandemic and other upheavals, we have collaborated in new ways to sustain our mission, we have cared for the church community together, and we have remained grounded in our UU values. People often pull together in a crisis, and I believe there have been some unexpected blessings of beginning with you during this challenging time. I also acknowledge that I have yet to meaningfully meet a significant part of this church. When the congregation starts to meet in person again, it will be a second beginning for us.

I set three goals for myself this year. **First** was getting to know the church community (staff team, individuals and groups, policies and process, culture). I reached out and connected with almost all of the groups and teams, offered several Theme Connection sessions for anyone who wanted to come, met with key lay leaders individually, and had many other Zoom and phone conversations with those who made use of the publicized scheduling avenues. Continually I observe, ask questions, and learn about who you are, as individuals and as a church community.

My **second** goal was to nurture the church's mission, particularly in the two ministry areas I lead, worship and caring. This year that meant not only the usual work of preparing and delivering worship, but developing our procedures and tools to sustain Zoom church through the pandemic. More on the Worship Arts Team is in their separate report. I also worked with the Zoom Help Team to firm up procedures, orient new people, and start the process of scoping out a possible future paid tech position. Working with our musicians has required flexibility and creativity during this time, too. In the caring ministry of the church, there has been the usual work of supporting those facing life transitions, tending to pastoral needs that arise, and connecting with the homebound. We also made the most of the care and dedication of our Membership Coordinator, Caring Team and other volunteers to reach out systematically to isolated members and friends, and offer a buddy system.

My **third** goal was to establish healthy patterns for a sustainable ministry here. That's no easy feat in the best of circumstances, especially in a new place. It was made more challenging by the extra decision-making and adaptation that this period has required. I appreciate the support I have received to take allotted time off for rest, reflection, professional development and planning.

These have been some other areas of particular attention:

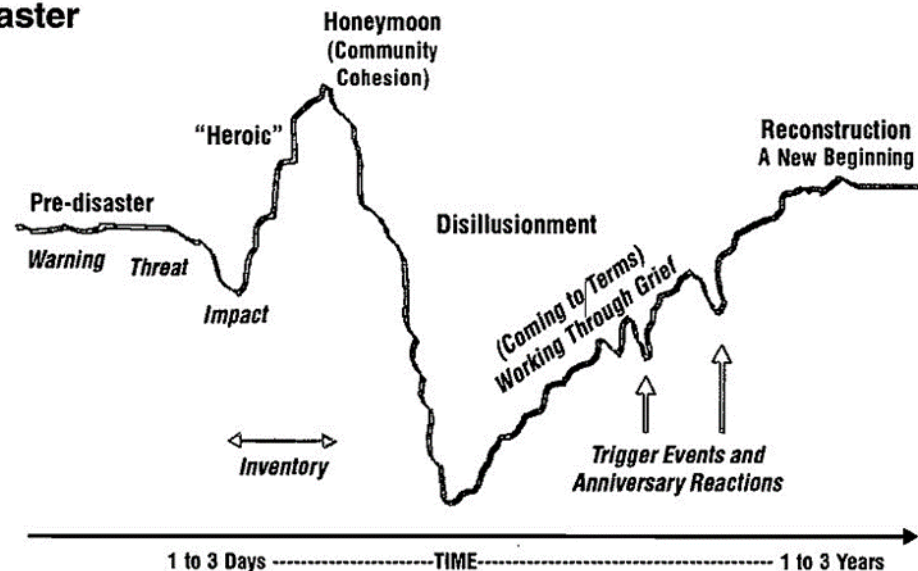
- A start-up Zoom retreat series with the board, facilitated by a UUA MidAmerica staffer. This got us off to a good start together, exploring history and hopes, clarifying roles and expectations, and building our relationships. Leadership conversations underscored the importance of clear boundaries and healthy ways of dealing with conflict. We developed a leadership covenant.
- Convening the core staff weekly to build the team, coordinate work, and plan. The CommUUnity Caravans came out of this team. We delved into covenant and revised our staff covenant, as well. Individual staff supervision is ongoing.
- Questions, resources and ideas I've brought to leadership groups and various teams for adapting pandemic operations and planning for the future, including through the two task forces formed for reopening and multi-channel church.
- Adapting rites of passage for online church, including our first Celebration of Life service in December (for Mara Winter), a new member ceremony in March, and child dedication ready.

(continued on next page)

- Practical things – supporting what experts call “organic growth” of a church – such as transitioning many teams to shared drives, helping to move policy work along, bringing fresh energy for stewardship, and developing lay leaders.
- Transformation, one of three areas in our Annual Vision of Ministry, has been threaded throughout my work with various groups, from our participation in Beloved Conversations, to board and staff conversations on the *Widening the Circle* report, to the topics and spirit brought into worship. I have supported the interest in the 8th Principle that started in the board, and also encouraged the Sister Church Team as it evolves to foster racial equity in north Omaha and create opportunities for our members to learn and make a difference. My trial balloon of a social justice conversation, springboarding from a worship service, film-screening and discussion, centered on principled nonviolence (aka soulforce).
- In the realm of Connection, in addition to connections for our congregation and community that are mentioned elsewhere in these pages, I have begun relationships with local colleagues and community leaders, including playing a part in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and joining my voice with other progressive clergy on things such as life-saving sex education curricula.

Lastly, I note that my process of integrating into this congregation as your new settled minister has dovetailed with our individual and collective coping with the pandemic disaster. This spring the board discussed the following chart in relation to our church. I observe that we are not moving in a linear fashion,

Phases of Disaster



Source: Zunin/Meyers

but at different times are displaying characteristics of the heroic phase, the honeymoon, disillusionment with virtual church, coming to terms with where we are, and taking steps toward reconstruction—the new beginning that awaits us, I hope, in the near future. The staff, lay leaders, and members of this church have shown commitment, creativity and love through this time. I don’t know what the future holds. But I will be here with you as we face whatever new opportunities and challenges arise. We will continue to celebrate the beauty and adventure of life, together.

Faithfully,
Shari

Ministry Team Council

Members: Catherine Plumlee, Sarah Monaghan, Amy Lucas (term ended November 2020), Chynna Jedlicka (term from November 2020 to March 2021), and Rev. Shari Woodbury

A brief review for newcomers:

What is the MTC? What do we do?

Our Ministry Team is the action arm of the church. It includes all of the individual teams that operate the church (e.g. the Fellowship Team, the Worship Team, the Office Team, etc.). It also includes all of our individual staff members (both volunteers and employees). The goal of our Ministry Team structure is to be flexible and to empower the individuals who best understand the work that needs to be done. Each team must understand and support the overall goals of the church that are documented in the Board of Trustees' Policies, Annual Vision of Ministry, and other sources. The entity that the Board of Trustees has entrusted with supporting, coordinating, and directing the work of the Ministry Team is the Ministry Team Council. The MTC does not set policy, we put board policies into effect.

Ministry Team Council Members

The MTC consists of four members. The President-Elect of the Board of Trustees, ex-officio, The Minister of the Church, ex-officio. The Minister's term shall be continuous. The two elected MTC Member shall have two-year terms. Currently, the board is looking to replace Chynna Jedlicka who was nominated by the board in November 2020.

What we did this past year

Created COVID building guidelines for weddings and essential church volunteers including the Heart & Hand auction leaders,
Worked on guidelines for outdoor church events,
Recruited members for two task forces to handle reopening the church building and multi-channel options once we return to in-person services,
Signed up several members for the online Midwest Leadership School offerings,
Worked with organist to record music for Sunday mornings,
Implemented the Remind Text app allowing church staff to text members,
Helped with creating the three CommUUnity Caravan parking lot events,
Dispersed Share the Plate funds to our 2020 beneficiaries and selected 2021 Share the Plate organizations,
Troubleshoot and discussed Zoom and sound issues with staff, volunteers, and church members,
Supported the stewardship campaigns,
Hosted a Teams Meeting in November 2020 and March 2021 on Zoom,
Moved the Pillars & Dreams painting so it's not damaged by sunlight,
Worked with Board President to make sure we keep connected with our Partner Church,
Repaired cracked sidewalks and had bike rack moved,
Researched alternative church website designs,
Attended the virtual minister start up events,
Sent updates about the building's closure to church members via letter and email.

Board of Trustees Report 2020-2021

Submitted by Sharon Piehler

As this current year draws to a close and the new year begins there is much to reflect on. While the events of this past year upended our plans, we found many ways to succeed and push forward, both as a church and as individuals.

When we held our 2020 annual meeting via Zoom I doubt that many of us thought we would meet online a year later. The good news is that we ARE meeting online a year later! Thanks to many, including Rev. Michelle and our amazing Zoom helpers we did not miss a single Sunday service. Our weekly connection evolved from a check in and comfort time to our full services. Our weekly attendance numbers remained solid, and we actually connected with many less mobile members and friends that were now able to attend online. I like to think we became a lifeline to many in a time of isolation and need.

As needs changed this past year our collective focus became care. Your Board of Trustees, MTC, RE staff and Caring Team worked to create short- and longer-term solutions to keep our sense of community whole in a time of isolation and imposed distancing. Our collective focus became community and service. How would we remain connected, continue RE classes, provide meaningful services, and prepare for our future?

What we witnessed was a tremendous amount of work and creativity from all sources. Hours and duties were adjusted for some, helper teams taught members how to use Zoom and got us up and running online. Our Caring Team made countless calls and connected those in need with those who could offer solutions. Our children enjoyed wonderful RE events and they continued to learn and stay connected. Soul Matters continued and was more meaningful than ever and our annual Auction was a fun-packed night on Zoom. Our kids had a talent show that was amazing and raised needed funds for a worthy cause. Our parking lot caravans were so much fun and gave us a glimpse of each other, even if behind windshields and masks!

A major win for us this year was the amazing work of our UU The Vote team. Their efforts made a difference in shaping our future, locally and nationally. We are so proud of them and their work.

Another tremendous help for our congregation this year was receiving PPP funds through the CARES Act. This money enabled us to remain whole financially and most importantly, continue to retain and pay our staff in a time of near record unemployment. Now that we are emerging and planning for the future, we are hopeful our congregation will recognize all that we are as a whole and continue to give generously so that we can continue to provide for our congregants.

By far, the most exciting event of our past year was selecting and matching with our new settled Minister, Rev. Shari Woodbury. After many months of preparation, we were blessed to find our match and welcomed Rev. Shari and her family into our fold last summer. Working with her has been a joy for the Board of Trustees and I know we have a very bright future ahead under her leadership.

As we look now to our future, we have decisions ahead. How does our church want to be known to our members, the community, and other organizations? Are we a learning institution, a religious fellowship, a social justice team member? Can we be all of these? We can explore answers through study and conversation. We will have opportunities to learn about and discuss the 8th Principle that has been adopted by some UU congregations. Our Sister Church Team is providing a much-needed partnership with Clare Memorial, a partnership that will help us learn and move forward to be better community partners and allies.

Our MTC is working with task force members to establish guidelines for reopening and determine the best system to put in place to enable multi-channel worship opportunities. Our goal is to provide meaningful connections for our Sunday service and other events through streaming or recorded video to retain the important link we have with members in other geographic areas and those who are best served from their homes.

(continued on next page)

We also know we have building repairs in our future that will need to be addressed post pandemic. We were able to complete needed concrete work this year, making the property safer and more user friendly. Post pandemic we need to address our windows, elevator, and other issues.

Your Board of Trustees is interested in how YOU think we are doing as a Board, Church and fellowship partner. You will soon be invited to sign up for small group feedback discussions where you can tell us what you think, positive or negative and offer suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you.

This past year is so far from what I had hoped it would be in my role as Board President but turned out to be a year of much deeper conversation and decision making than anticipated.

I miss the one-on-one conversations at coffee hour, board talkback and just feeling the vibe of our congregation. I am grateful though that I was able to be a part of what was accomplished this past year and am so proud of everyone who helped and stayed connected. Whatever form we take this church is truly a gift to all that accept it.

I extend a special thank you to my husband, Pete, who helped me through the year and changed plans to accommodate my many, many Zoom meetings. Fortunately, he also shares my love of this church. A sincere thank you to Cat Dixon who keeps us all on the straight path and adds so much to our discussions.

I sincerely appreciate all the work completed this past year and your confidence in our leadership. We eagerly await what the future brings us. I deeply appreciate my partnership with Rev. Shari and our Board of Trustees. I am grateful for all that you do and your willingness to take up tough issues in an honest manner. The combination of our Minister, Board of Trustees and lay leaders are an amazing team that will guide us on our journey.

In Gratitude,
Sharon Piehler
President, Board of Trustees

Religious Education Annual Report 2021

Submitted by Christina Strong, Lifespan Director of Religious Education

RE Team Members: Sheri Conner, Ryan Cook, Carol Cronin, Harold Cruz-Sanchez, Donna Neff, Machaela Player, Jody Petrow, Patricia Soto, Kate Wiig

Activities/Projects 2020-2021:

Multigenerational Worship and RE Activities

- Weekly Story for All Ages during Sunday service, led by DRE or adult or youth volunteers,
- First UU Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt: “host” participants colored or created Easter eggs to display in their windows or yards, “hunt” participants and families were given a map of the host homes and drove around to find the eggs,
- Virtual Community Nights on Zoom, April 2020-Nov 2020: monthly meeting opportunity for families to gather and chat,
- Virtual Talent Show (see YRUU section below),
- Quarterly CommUUnity Caravans: Congregants were invited to drive through the church parking lot to visit various stations set up by church staff and volunteers. This included opportunities to donate to the Sister Church food bank and to purchase items from YRUU fundraisers for our Share the Plate recipients,
- Multigenerational Stranger-Share-Our-Fire Service: Donations for local organizations were collected at the December CommUUnity Caravan, participants of all ages led different parts of the service (Story for All Ages, readings, sharing about recipient organizations),
- The Mystery Friends Program went virtual this year. Letters were exchanged via postal mail and email by 24 adults, 10 middle/high school youth, 13 elementary youth, and one preschooler. Pen pals revealed their identities to each other at a Sunday afternoon Zoom meeting and had small group activities and discussions in breakout rooms,
- Soulful Home, an at-home curriculum for families with children, is sent monthly to the RE email list. Families were encouraged to attend CommUUnity Nights and share about their experiences participating in Soulful Home activities.

Nursery/Kindergarten

- POP (Parenting Our Principles) Group: Met once per month for discussions based on *POP!* by Jennifer Shattuck (an online video-based, at-home religious education curriculum grounded in Unitarian Universalism and designed for parents of kids aged 2 to 5). Topics included: Family Culture, Living with Preschoolers, Building Rituals, Family Stories, Making Time for Rest.

Elementary

- Quarterly RE-at-Home subscription delivery: included chalice-making kits, a UU advent calendar with lessons and treats, lessons and art activities focused on Easter and Earth Day,
- Virtual holiday cookie-decorating party: cookies and decorating supplies were delivered to participants’ homes and then we met on Zoom to decorate our cookies together and show them to each other.

Middle/High School

- YRUU Youth Service: The May 2020 Youth Service happened on Zoom and featured youth speakers, videos, and songs on the topic of immigration justice. This was the first time that streaming music videos had been included in First U’s Zoom service, and led the way to increased use of this technology in our Sunday services,

(continued on next page)

- YRUU Virtual Talent Show: Congregants of all ages were invited to submit videos of their talents, which were edited together into an hour-long talent-show movie by one of the youth. There was a “live premier” of this show on Zoom for all who had purchased “tickets” via freewill donation. This event was very popular and there have been requests to keep it as an annual tradition even when we are allowed to meet in person, as people were able to display some talents on video that were not previously able to be included in live talent shows (spray painting, dog tricks, etc),
- YRUU Summer Session on Zoom (May 2020-Aug 2020): Youth decided to keep meeting online through the summer months. They took turns leading discussions about each of the six sources, using chapters from *A Chosen Faith, Sources of Our Faith*, and the YRUU curriculum as reference materials,
- YRUU 2020-21 Session: Youth and adult volunteers took turns leading sessions of the Building Bridges curriculum to learn about various religions. Several guest speakers joined us on Zoom to talk about their religions,
- YRUU Virtual Christmas Party: The white elephant tradition was continued by having gifts deposited at the church and then delivered to the households of participants, to be opened together during their Zoom Christmas party.

Adult RE

- Adult RE groups continued their meetings on Zoom: Soul Matters Sharing Circles, Women’s Religious Studies, Compassionate Communication, Book Clubs, AHA, and Morning Meditation Group,
- Congregants were encouraged to attend the Beloved Conversations program (offered by the [Fahs Collaborative](#)) and White Ally Anti-Racism Dialog Classes

Twenty Years Ago — 2000-2001

Submitted by Dave Richardson

The church year of 2000-2001 was the third year of Reverend Richard Benner's tenure with First Unitarian. In his report he noted growth in the areas of membership and community outreach.

First Unitarian joined Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) as a congregation that year.

A number of other innovations began that year. The Membership Committee was re-formed under the capable hands of Jaime Alexander which resulted in an increase in new and returning members. The church experimented with a two-service program for Sunday worship. The experiment was short-lived as attendance at the earlier "alternative service" was small.

Plans were underway for becoming a "Welcoming Congregation." Discussion sessions were conducted in pursuit of that goal. In the environment of states passing so-called "Defense of Marriage Acts" it was deemed essential to act.

The officers of the Board of Trustees were:

President: Sandi Bruns

Vice President: Dick Joslin

Secretary: Dixie Lemon

Treasurer: Bill Ross

Other Board members included: Maggie Freeman, Shelton Hendricks, Marie Sedlacek, Carlynn Hartman-Kurtz, Janet West, Dana Maher, and David Rosser.

The 2001 Henry Lemon Sermon titled "Seekers Wanders and Pilgrims" was delivered by Greg Sadlek.

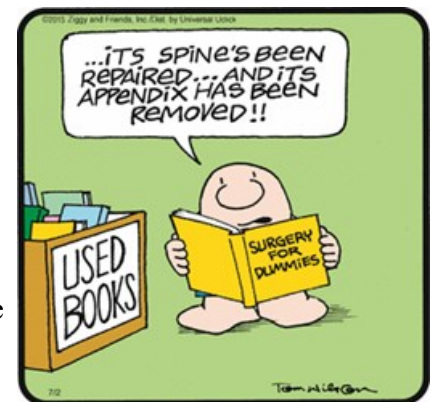
Archives/Library Team

Leader: Linda Parker

Activities — 2020/2021:

"...Its Spine's Been Repaired... And Its Appendix Has Been Removed!"

This cartoon is an accurate description of the condition of many of the print books in our church library. Before the church closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Archives/Library team was diligently reviewing the collection, updating the card file, discarding moldy and/or outdated books, and dusting the books and shelves. While these tasks may seem tedious and boring, never doubt that a group of Unitarians had a great time discussing the books and debating titles that should or should not remain in the collection.



As the year draws to a close, orders for new books and supplies for the Archives have been submitted. The card catalog is being digitized. We are exploring ways that the digital catalog could allow church members and friends to access our books while the church is officially closed. Many thanks to Linda Hess and Barb Henney for the pre-pandemic hours they devoted to the Archives/Library.

Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics Discussion Group (AHA)

Leaders: Jaime Alexander and Michael McAtee

Members: We don't have members as such but do maintain email lists, currently of 50 interested participants, 29 of which are also in our church directory and 21 who are not.

Activities — 2020/2021:

Obviously the Covid-19 pandemic and the building being closed have greatly reduced our group activities. But AHA has survived and is in the process of reactivating. We did have online Zoom meeting including one on May 2, 2020 for a candidate meeting with Rev. Shari, and November 12, 2020 for a presentation and discussion about the related history of Humanism and Unitarianism which was presented by Rev. Shari. Our steering team, AHAST, has recently met on Zoom on April 1, 2021 and will next meet on May 5. Our next AHA meeting with a presentation and discussion is planned for May 20, 2021, also on Zoom.

Book Club

Chair: Dave Richardson

Members: Varies widely

Activities — 2020/2021:

The First Unitarian Book Club continues to read and discuss a wide range of books. We met on the last Monday of the month at 7pm on Zoom (due to the pandemic). Our discussions are informal and we encourage participation by everyone. Our motto continues to be "You Don't Have to Have Read the Book to Attend."

Here is our list of books. We did not meet in June or July.

2020:

May	<i>The Tricking of Freya</i> by Christina Sumley
August	Discussion of everyone's summer reading
September	<i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent</i> by Isabel Wilkerson
October	<i>Evil Geniuses</i> by Kurt Andersen
November	<i>Poems</i> Louise Gluck
December	Discussion of everyone's Covid-19 quarantine reading

2021:

January	<i>Strangers in Their Own Land</i> by Arlie Russell Hochschild
February/March	<i>A Promised Land</i> by Barack Obama
April	<i>The Genius of Birds</i> by Jennifer Ackerman
May	<i>The Dispossessed</i> by John Washington

Capital Trust Annual Report April 6, 2021

Submitted by Daniel Byrd

Members (Term expiration date in parenthesis): Daniel Byrd, Default Chairman (2023); Bob Hess (2021); Christopher Schmidt (2022)

The Capital Trust was established in 1981 to provide management of the Church's long-term capital investments and keep them independent of the daily operations of the Church. Amendments to the Capital Trust Agreement, were debated and approved by the Board and the congregation at the 2018 annual meeting.

Henceforth, investment income, and possibly capital, will be distributed as directed by the board to the Church for operating expenses, subject to a 4% limitation. Preservation and growth of the principal is the primary directive of the Trust. The Trust also handles the investments of two small restricted-use donations: Music and Women's Alliance. It also handles a Board Investment Fund (BIF) created by the Board during the 2018-2019 church year using \$500,000 from recent large bequests.

Fidelity has served us well over the past year. There was a speed bump with the closing of its Omaha office. That action has removed the direct personal relationship. Fortunately all money transfers have been executed in a timely and reliable manner.

Valuations:

	Capital Trust	BIF	Music	WA
April 30, 2020	\$561,010	478,553	7,676	12,946
Dec 31, 2020	\$668,878	543,917	33,150	14,225
March 31, 2021	\$699,492	558,225	31,480	14,656

Going forward the Trustee's plan is to reduce the holdings in the BIF's GNMA fund by half. Proceeds will be invested in the better performing (though still quite conservative) Puritan Balanced Fund. Trust funds are invested at approximately a 90% level, with 10% +/- held in cash. The Music and WA monies are invested in a similar manner.

Caring Team

Leader: Louise Jeffrey

Co-Leaders (Memorial Services): Deborah Duggan, Kay Lynn Goldner,

Co-Leaders (Baby Welcoming): Katrina Schmidt, Sara Switzer

Leader (Cards for those who cannot make it to church): Terri Lynn Brewer

Members: Suzanne Arney, Kim Callaghan, Kim Dunovan, Linda Hruska, Nadine Keith, Debbie Kosmicki, Douglas Lee-Regier, Carol Ramsey, Marie Sedlacek, Lisa Starbuck, Vanessa Timberlake, Elaine Wells, Pat Will

Activities — 2020/2021:

During this pandemic year, the Caring Team has tried hard to stay in touch with members of the congregation through phone calls, emails, and visits. We were assisted in this mission by the membership of the church in general, and most particularly by our Membership Coordinator, Carrie Helmberger. Meals, rides to medical appointments, and errands were some of the responses that this team worked on. Unfortunately, visits were few and far between because most of the year was characterized by limitations imposed by the Covid pandemic.

Terri Lynn Brewer did an excellent job keeping in touch with our homebound members through cards for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the spring. Our minister and membership coordinator also made many caring contacts by card, phone, email, and text. In addition, Christmas poinsettias were delivered to out-of-town members through communication and gift cards sent to their family members. Those in town received poinsettias in the usual way with delivery by members of the caring team, although they were not accompanied by the usual visits.

Although this team does not have a regular meeting schedule, Rev. Woodbury convened the team on Zoom several times to discuss and support the important the work of this team.

We all look forward to a more normal church year this upcoming year!

Chalice Guild

Leader: Kay Lynn Goldner

Members: Kim and Brian Callaghan, Carolyn McNamara, Donna Neff, Roman Noriega, Lois Norris, Marie Sedlacek, Nadine Keith

Activities — 2020/2021:

Kitchen towels and custodial towels/rags were laundered as used. When the church closed due to Covid-19, Kim Callaghan and Kay Lynn Goldner wiped down all the pews, door handles, knobs, tables, and other surfaces with disinfectant wipes. All the toys in the nursery were run through the dishwasher and surfaces were disinfected.

Choir: Sanctuary Singers

Director: William Miller

Accompanist: J Gawf

Librarians: Kay Lynn Goldner and Christina Noriega

Activities — 2020/2021:

With the global pandemic spreading, March 11, 2020 was the last Sanctuary Singers rehearsal. The group used Zoom technology to have several get togethers after in-person meetings were no longer possible. The traditional “Choir Sunday” was replaced with a virtual service comprised of several choir recordings made into videos and the message was delivered by William.

After several attempts were made to create virtual choir recordings, the effort was largely curtailed due to low participation. While it was disheartening that we weren’t able to successfully transition to a new way of making music, it was not entirely surprising. Choral music is and has always been about being together, learning together, socializing and making music. Taking that away took away our method of making music.

In lieu of live choral music, William utilized previous Sanctuary Singers recordings of anthems making them into powerful videos full of evocative pictures and graphics. Additionally, he provided hymn videos with lyrics and song leading as well as pre-recorded vocal solos. J Gawf provided rehearsal recordings for the choir as well as numerous preludes, interludes and postludes used in the virtual services.

The challenges are not over and we have a while to go before we can resume in-person singing. We will persevere and look forward to being back in the Sanctuary as soon as possible.

Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS)

Leaders: Rosharra Owens (President) and Chynna Jedlicka (Secretary)

Members: Mary Kay Peters, Kate Godfey, Mark Tipton, Suzanne King, Della Gushen, Bob Hess, Sara Switzer, Stephen Switzer, Machaela Player, Nellie Chenoweth, Carol Cronin, Amelia Pond, Katrina Amelia Cragg Schmidt, Stephanie Lewis, Peg Pidgeon, Kathy Alexander, Christine T Cahill, Margaret Noll Motts, Lita Magisana, Clay Olson, Bethany Cook, Ryan Cook

Activities — 2020/2021:

Mystic Sojourn CUUPS is a spiritual group of the First Unitarian. Providing sermons and potlucks during sabbaths based on earth-centered teachings for First Unitarian members as well as for friends and visitors. Traditional and non-traditional, meditations, rituals, and divination nights are held by many different members, along with interactions on Sunday morning services. During the covid-19 pandemic, CUUPS still strived to reach out to one another—not just as a group but as a family. We stayed connected by hosting gatherings on Zoom and messaging on the Mystic Sojourn Facebook page. We helped each other out with personal issues and provided as much support as possible. Information about CUUPS worship is available in First Unitarian’s e-news. Our goal is to bring together our pagan community. We look forward to meeting back in person very soon.

Early Morning Risers

Leadership: Stan Harper (Director), Mary Kay Douglas-Peters (lay co-leadership), E. Lloyd Olson (lay co-leadership)

Pianist/Saxophone/Featured Musician: Stan Harper, Staff

Providing worship and small group ministry through contemporary music.

Members:

Bethany Cook (voice, percussion); Bruce Godfrey (trumpet, percussion, voice); Carol Cronin (voice); Collin Hatcher (guitar, percussion, voice); Dave Olson (guitar, voice); E. Lloyd Olson (ukulele, guitar, voice); Gilly Pearson (voice); Kate Wiig (voice); Maria Wallace (voice); Mary Kay Douglas-Peters (voice, percussion, dulcimer); Mary Thomas (voice); Molly Wilson Dewell (voice); Matthew Dewell (voice, bass); Sarah Copeland (voice); Kabin Thomas (tuba, voice)

EMR has undergone major changes this past year 2020/2021. Mary Kay Peters and Lloyd Olson continued as lay co-leaders during this shift to online services and participation. We had several members participate that had moved away this year (Mary and Kabin Thomas, Maria Wallace, Dave Olson and Gilly Pearson, Rych and Lexi Anderson) and others had also left previously (Collin Hatcher, Stephen Meister, Molly Wilson Dewell and Matt Dewell) Continued efforts to bring back past members and guests were effective in particular for the group piece “Home” as a virtual choir and band piece. We got one new guest this year, George Douglas, on guitar. Participants continue to come and go from the group on a regular basis, but we have a core of 5 committed participants that meet regularly on zoom Saturday mornings for planning and coordination.

Stan continues his role as Musical Director of this collaborative hybrid model group. The hybrid model of leadership consists of lay co-leadership and active participant collaboration with the Musical Director, who has final say of the choices. Due to the pandemic, we’ve had to learn a lot of new technology in order to put out recorded music together. Song selections are proposed, discussed and decided by voting if necessary using event polls within the EMR Facebook Group and then reported to the church worship spreadsheet for publishing in the Order of Service.

Events to highlight from the year were participation in the Fall Water Service with “Home,” Christmas Eve service, the Spring Hymn Service (all music). Once a quarter we tried to offer a big audio/video production for a service. We tried to include as many members as possible and also included pictures from the community to help congregants feel connected to each other in this online environment.

Lloyd Olson continues to utilize the EMR music box account for files and reference tracks for each individual part of each chosen song that can be accessed by the group for rehearsal and performance recording. Lloyd Olson also devoted many hours and much energy to mixing the final sound for each recorded song included in the service. Mary Kay Peters has been an active participant at the Worship Team meetings to coordinate song requests for special services and themes, and also perform EMR group administrative tasks.

For the next year we want to continue the collaborative process of song selection and performance, where all members of the group can participate collaboratively and bring in suggestions. Group meetings will continue periodically to discuss business, ideas and concerns. We are eager to recruit more members for the future, and also stretch our own skills in learning new instruments. We will be working with Rev. Shari to be more consistent on song reporting for compliance of our song licensure.

Finance Team

Leader: Walt Jesteadt

Members: Daniel Byrd, Gary Emenitove, Bob Hess, Louise Jeffrey, Christopher Schmidt, Peter Solfest, John Wagner

Activities & Projects — 2020/2021:

The Finance Team has responsibility for advising the Board, the Ministry Team and the Treasurer on the financial functions of the church and assists the senior staff in carrying out specific functions. Walt Jesteadt continued to serve as Treasurer as well as Finance Chair. Work completed under both headings will be summarized here, but finances for the year and a proposed budget for the 2021-2022 year will be presented in more detail in a separate report. The Sarah Joslyn Society, Stewardship, and Capital Trust also are covered in separate reports.

- We continued to contract with Cheri Cody, Treasurer at Second Unitarian, to serve as our accountant for the year. She handled bank reconciliations, payroll issues, journal entries, and the creation of monthly reports from PowerChurch.
- Most Finance Team members continued to perform specific functions as in the past. Walt Jesteadt handled monthly reports to the Board, updates to the home page for the Donate button, and automatic pledge payments through Vanco. Peter Solfest handled all checking and mailing of contribution statements. Gary Emenitove, Walt Jesteadt, Chris Schmidt, and Peter Solfest worked on the Stewardship campaign. Daniel Byrd continued efforts to reorganize the Capital Trust for which he, Bob Hess and Chris Schmidt serve as trustees.
- Walt Jesteadt submitted a second-draw loan application to Dundee Bank under the Cares Act to secure a second non-repayable loan for \$36,820. The loan was approved by the Small Business Administration.
- Cheri Cody developed a pdf voucher form that is fillable, allowing members to download it, type in the information, then email it to the office.
- Contribution Statements were mailed in August, October, January and April. We continued to email contribution statements to 75 households that gave us permission to do so and are now able to send separate emails to the same list so that we can attach letters associated with the contribution statements.
- Forty-five members now pay their pledges by monthly automatic deposits handled by Vanco. As in the previous year, all Vanco contributors were contacted early in the stewardship campaign and informed that we would assume continued contributions and a pledge unless we heard from them. This system of opting out rather than in works well. Contributions can now be made from credit cards as well as direct transfers from bank accounts using a Donate button on the church website or the Give+ app. The vast majority of Vanco users have agreed to cover their own processing fees. A new fillable Vanco form has made it easier to sign up for the program.

FUNdraising Team

Leader: Donna Neff

Team Members: Sara Switzer (Auction co-chair), Stephen Switzer, and Walt Jesteadt

Activities — 2020/2021:

Our tasks are to raise funds for the operating budget (\$14,500 goal this year), and oversee all church fundraising with the Ministry Team. To date, we raised \$10,227, with about \$9,500 from the auction in October, and the rest coming from retail reward cards, etc.

Our major annual fundraiser, the Halloween Heart & Hand Auction, was held despite the pandemic by moving it entirely online. It was remarkably successful, despite notably fewer business donations and only a few pandemic-safe social events. We had 46 donors of 136 items. Given the church was closed, items were delivered, sanitized, and picked up post-auction from the Jesteadt garage. Sara Switzer and Donna Neff divided up the work with lots of help from Stephen Switzer, Walt Jesteadt, and Cat Dixon. Auction Week (online bidding) started October 23 and ended October 30 at 7pm with a Halloween Party using Zoom. Steve Switzer was our great “Pandemic-Medic” MC for a party that included music, a costume contest and even “door” prizes for attendees. AJ Gustafson won “Masked Disguise” as a Dragon, DJ (father) and DJ (son) Lewis won “Family Photo” as the battling King Kong and Godzilla, Midnight Brewer won “Posh Pets” as his Black Cat self, and Catherine Plumlee won “Spook’s Choice” as Gum Stuck on the Bottom of a Shoe. Enthusiastic bidders and cash donations brought in \$9,500!

We had hoped this year would allow us to reschedule 2019 auction events that were canceled when the pandemic first hit, but that was not possible. This remains our intent. While grateful for online capability, we look forward to getting more FUN back in FUNdraising post-pandemic. Thanks to all who supported church fundraising through these difficult times.

Below is a screenshot from our online auction event.



Hospitality Teams

Coordinator: Carrie Helmberger

Hospitality Teams are responsible for greeting guests, collecting the cash in the offering plate, and preparing the coffee and Common Room for coffee hour. Because the church has not been open to the public since March 2020, this team did not meet due to the pandemic or have any activities.

House & Grounds Team

Leader: Larry Goesser

Members: Daniel Byrd, Sharon Conlon, Bruce Godfrey, John Hruska, Mike McAtee, Lois Norris, Bob Perrin, Dave Rosser, Joe Schaaf, Ben Stallings, Dan Sullivan, and Alan Vovolka

Activities — 2020/2021:

This team worked on fewer projects this year but continued to maintain our infrastructure, including:

House:

- Significant repair of the elevator,
- Work on Ring Doorbell System,
- Moved Pillars & Dreams painting in the foyer to spot out of the sun,
- Contacted repair people for two electrical outlets and one toilet,
- Had parking garage validation machine replaced with a new one provided by Midtown Crossing.

Grounds:

- Repaired cracked concrete on sidewalks,
- Moved bike rack from back of the church building to closer to the garden/parking lot for easier access,
- Lee Helmsberger provided mulch. All the grounds were mulched,
- Bushes were trimmed,
- Two Acer Flame Amur Maples and an Emerald Luster Maple were planted,
- Hoses for the garden were moved inside for winter and brought back out in spring,
- The 4 Seagreen Junipers were planted to replace the previous ones decimated by bagworm,
- One Pyramidal Silver Fir was added at the west sidewalk entrance.

Membership Team

Past leader: Mike McAtee

Current leader: Carrie Helmberger, Membership Coordinator

Activities — 2020/2021:

- Held regular quarterly meetings to discuss current business and ongoing projects, took attendance, and documented meeting minutes on Google docs,
- Put Hospitality Teams on hold for the time being until we are back in person,
- Facilitated new members joining,
- Held Pathways to Membership class twice during the year and First Steps class monthly (with the exception of December and March),
- Continued ReMembering articles featuring member write-ups regarding “why membership is important to me” for the quarterly church magazine, *Chalice Connection*,
- Sent welcome notes to second-time visitors, and separate communication to frequent visitors,
- Worked with administrator to create online visitor’s form so that those attending Zoom church could also receive the e-news and be added to our database,
- Continued outreach to current members,
- Set up Buddy program for members,
- Created and oversaw in-reach calls list.

Neighborhood Ministry—"Neighborhood Care"

Leader: Catharine Dixon

Members: Rae Barry, Kim Callaghan, Gary Emenitove, Bob Hess, Carolyn McNamara, Donna Neff, David Rosser, and many others from our church and from the community who support this work.

Omaha Gives, an online giving event, was held on May 20, 2020. Our Neighborhood Care program received \$752.94 in donations during that event. This online charitable event was run by the Omaha Community Foundation, and 2020 is the last year it will be held. For more information about Omaha Gives ending, there is an article published by the *Omaha World Herald* here: <https://tinyurl.com/yh9nysf2>.

At our parking lot, pandemic-friendly, and socially distanced CommUUnity Caravan held in December 2020, the Neighborhood Care Program collected \$515 worth of food and grocery gift cards (Hyvee, Bakers, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Burger King, Aldi, Subway cards) and seven 10-ride bus passes. The Neighborhood Care program also collected \$309 in cash and checks that will be used to purchase more bus passes and gas cards.

Because of the pandemic, we were not able to hold our annual Blessing Bag day event where we prepare the Neighborhood Care packages. This event usually is held in the fall. Possibly because of the pandemic, visits from our neighbors looking for assistance at the church have gone down this year. The team decided to work with the DRE and RE families to assemble bags in May, after the annual meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this important work this year.



Nominating Committee

Consistent with our by-laws, the Nominating Committee solicited congregational input to identify members qualified and willing to serve in elected positions, and then selected candidates. The committee thanks those who have expressed a willingness to serve in these positions.

PROPOSED LEADERSHIP SLATE FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

President Elect:

Harold Cruz-Sanchez

Board of Trustees:

Neva Cozine (3 years)

Larry Goesser (1 year—completing Harold's board term)

Michael McAtee (3 years)

Right Relations:

Carol Cronin (2 years)

Douglas Lee-Regier (2 years)

Nominating Committee:

Terri Lynn Brewer (3 years)

Diana Byrd (3 years)

Capital Trust:

Joseph Schaaf (3 years)

Slate presented by the Nominating Committee: Nellie Chenoweth, Michael McAtee, Carolyn McNamara, Mary Kay Peters, Katrina Schmidt, Sara Switzer, Joseph Schaaf (convener)

Annual Awards:

Heritage Award — For significant contributions to preserving, understanding, and celebrating our Unitarian Universalist history: **Jaime Alexander**

Religious Education Award — For outstanding achievement and excellence in religious growth and learning: **Kate Wiig**

Keeping the Faith Award — For keeping the UU faith alive in the community and touching the lives of congregation and community members in a positive way: **Denise Allain**

Social Justice Award — For witnessing to the ideals of social justice and responsibility so important to our UU heritage: **Suzanne King**

Youth of the Year Award: **Lucas Magisana**

Young Adult of the Year Award: **Chynna Jedlicka**

Unsung Unitarian Universalist Award — For a lifetime of actions that inspire, support and express Unitarian Universalism: **Lloyd Olson**

UU of the Year: **Zoom Team**

Members: Chynna Jedlicka, Stephanie Lewis, Michael McAtee, Sarah Monaghan, Spencer Pereira, Catherine Plumlee, and Kate Wiig

Office Team

Church Administrator: Catharine Dixon

Leader: Carolyn McNamara

Members:

Kim Callaghan	Volunteer Coordinator /Coffee Supplies
Kim Dunovan	Wayside Pulpit/Attendance
Linda Hruska	Orders of Worship
Charlie McMahon	Sound System
Carolyn McNamara	Orders of Worship/Office Shopper
Lois Norris	Paper Recycling
Dave Rosser	Office Assistant/Sound System
Vanessa Timberlake	Attendance Records

Friday Volunteers: Kim Callaghan, Kay Lynn Goldner, Barb Henney, Linda Hruska, Frank McKee, Roman Noriega, Peg Pidgeon, Evelyn Whitehill, Pat Will.

Activities & Projects — 2020/2021:

The pandemic put a halt to many things. The Office Team stayed in touch by email and periodic Zoom meetings. Office Team members helped with mailings, online shopping, and other jobs that could be done safely at home. For now, the church uses Zoom to host its online church events and meetings so many of the jobs assigned to this team haven't been done in a year. The team looks forward to when the church building can reopen safely.

The church quarterly publication, *Chalice Connections*, was introduced in April of 2020. Editor Catharine Dixon is assisted by proofreaders Gary Emenitove, Scott Kemper, Carolyn McNamara, Suzanne King, and Lois Norris.

Michael Young, an IT consultant, continues to be called on for as-needed office equipment and internet assistance.

Partner Church Team

Members: Bob Hess, Nadine Keith, Anne Knapp, Ron Knapp, Deb McAtee, Val Murray, Sharon Piehler, Pete Piehler, Evy Rosser, Kandy Scott, Nancy Scott, Janet West

Activities — 2020/2021:

The Partner Church Team is still looking for a new leader. In the interim, Sharon Piehler has stayed in contact with Rev. Kati via email. Church members signed holidays cards at the December CommUUnity Caravan parking lot event. These cards were sent to our partner church. Below is an email that was sent out to our enews mailing list at the beginning of January 2021:

Do you know that First Unitarian Church has had a Partner Church in the Unitarian village of Firtosmartanos, Transylvania, Romania since 1992?

Since 2000, the Partner Church Team has also been sending \$1,320 per year to subsidize the minister's salary and to help maintain the village parsonage and church. The village church is 110-years-old and badly in need of repair and maintenance.

Our Board President, Sharon Piehler, has been in correspondence with the minister of our Partner Church, Rev. Katalin. In December, many church members and friends signed holiday cards that were sent to Romania. Below is the response from Rev. Katalin.

Dear Sharon,

I was very happy with your letter and wanted to reply earlier, but I have a lot to do at the beginning of Christmas and New Year. In our case, the pastor not only preaches, but he also handles economic and material matters, that is, everything that is to be done in the parish.

On Christmas Day 24, we had a nice Christmas show at the church. This is when the children sing and sing poems, and the ward surprises the children with a Christmas present. I will also send some photos of this.

On December 25, Christmas Day, adults and confirmed youth will partake of the sacrament. Christmas was very beautiful here this year as well. There are no sick people in the church here, so we were able to celebrate Christmas properly this year as well, though not in falling snow, but in big mud.

We have many plans this year as well, we need to repair the roof of the pastoral apartment and the church tower is also waiting to be repaired.

Thank you very much for the financial support you have received. The money we receive on a quarterly basis is usually spent on repairs. Because of covid 19, there weren't many events last year, so I can't report many events.

I'm glad our relationship has come to life again. I'll be writing again soon as soon as I have what to report. I wish a happy new year to each member of the congregation.

With love,
Katalin

Sarah Joslyn Society

Chair: Deborah Duggan

Chair Emeritus: Dixie Lemon

The Sarah Joslyn Society was founded in 2004 by Dixie Lemon to encourage, enable and thank those who wish to leave a bequest to First Unitarian Church or otherwise participate in the Planned Giving Program. The membership has grown from 32 original members to 78 who have named the church in their estate planning. Sarah Joslyn Society members receive a beautiful plaque made from an original slate tile from the church roof, which was procured by Dean Christensen and painted by Sandi Bruns. There is a yearly recognition gathering, usually in the fall, which began as a luncheon but has since morphed into a cocktail reception. Because of the pandemic, we were not able to host our annual event in the fall of 2020. We hope to return to this special tradition in the future.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to three members this year, Lana Hammel, Jim Rogers and Ron Withem. The total of our members is 77, including 23 of whom are deceased. There were no new members added this year.

These are the dedicated church members who have planted a tree so that others may enjoy the shade:

Jaime Alexander	Wendy Hessler	Dee Otte
Jacqueline Anderegg	Joe Hoagbin	Linda Parker
Anonymous I	Dick Holland	Bob Perrin
Anonymous II	Mary Holland	Jack Perry
Anonymous III	Betty Holloway	Yvonne Price
Bill Bruns	John Hruska	Dave Richardson
Sandi Bruns	Debbie Hunsberger	Jim Rogers
Linda Buehlmann	Louise Jeffrey	Raija Rogers
Eddith Buis	Walt Jesteadt	Ellen Shurson
Sharon Conlon	Bob Jones	Jim Simon
Carol Christensen	Diane Jones	Kim Simon
Dean Christensen	Dick Joslin	Liz Stawycznyj
Deb Duggan	Scott Kemper	Gretchen Thomas
Tim Duggan	Anne Knapp	John Thomas
Olive Erickson	Ron Knapp	John Wagner
Margot Fetrow	Dixie Lemon	Elaine Wells
Richard Fetrow	Harriet Major	Janet West
Audrey Freyer	Katherine Bester McClure	Evelyn Whitehill
Dale Freyer	Carolyn McNamara	Jim Wigton
Larry Goesser	Donna Neff	Judy Wigton
John Goldner	Dave Nicklin	Pat Will
Kay Lynn Goldner	Ruth Nicklin	Edith Wilson
Megan Gustafson	Christina Noriega	Sid Wilson
Lana Hammel	Roman Noriega	Diane Withem
Jack Heidel	Frank Norris	Ron Withem
Shelton Hendricks	Lois Norris	Judith Wright

Sister Church Team (Clair Memorial United Methodist Church)

Leader: Mark Loscutoff

Members: Mark Loscutoff, Nadine Keith, Carol Ramsey, Neva Cozine, Sarah Copeland

Activities & Projects — 2020/2021:

The team welcomed guidance and support by our new minister, Rev. Shari.

The pandemic put an end to a major activity, volunteering at Wakonda Elementary School, early in the year 2020. It also reduced in-person activities of all kinds. Regular team meetings have been held on Zoom. The pandemic, and resulting economic disruptions, increased demand for food at the Clair Cares pantry. Our congregation stepped-up with donations of food and money to the pantry each month. Clair recently bought a new commercial freezer for their pantry operation, partly with funds from the 2019 fundraiser at First U.

In 2020, our congregation supported Clair by funding the purchase of 35 copies of “Don’t Look Away—Embracing Anti-bias Classrooms.” Clair’s pastor, Rev. Portia Cavitt, is using the books to help educate the (predominantly white) teachers at three schools with predominantly non-white student bodies: Wakonda, Mt. View and Nathan Hale. She hopes to improve the learning environment for children of color at those schools. The death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 underscored the need for racial justice. The Sister Church team widened its focus to include bringing programs to our congregation aiming to educate us about white supremacy and racial bias in ourselves, our systems and our society. Such programs include:

- A three-session class/workshop led by church member Suzanne King on how to be a white ally to persons of color.
- (Planned) A presentation and discussion by Rev. Crystall Williams on how racism has affected her life as a black person.
- (Future) Considering an 8th UU Principle about racial justice.

We also took action, asking the congregation to write to the Douglas County Health Director to demand racial equity in Covid vaccine distribution.

Soul Matters Small Group Sharing Circles

Leader: Mike McAtee

Group Facilitators: Mary Kay Peters, Mike McAtee

Activities — 2020/2021

- Continued the small group program into its third year (September 2020 – June 2021) meeting monthly and entirely via Zoom.
- Congregational participation remained strong with 25 members actively participating in our three small groups. There was enough interest for an additional small group, but we could not find facilitator for this weekday morning group until late in the program year.
- Promoted the program through a forum presentation, a worship service presentation, a dedicated Soul Matters worship service, and writing an article for the Chalice Connection.
- Participated in monthly in-depth facilitator training and applied that training to improve the small group experience

Stewardship

Leader: Walt Jesteadt

Members: Sandi Bruns, Diana Byrd, Cat Dixon, Gary Emenitove, John Goldner, Kay Lynn Goldner, Chynna Jedlicka, Carolyn McNamara, Donna Neff, Mary Kay Peters, Sharon Piehler, Christopher Schmidt, Peter Solfest, and Rev. Shari Woodbury

Activities & Projects — 2020/2021:

The Stewardship Team organized and conducted the campaign to obtain pledges for the 2021-2022 church year, with a pledge goal of \$280,000 from 150 pledges. The team adopted the theme of Community-Connection-Commitment, proposed by Diana Byrd, with a logo designed by Sandi Bruns.

Carolyn McNamara and Cat Dixon organized an initial mailing to members and friends containing forms and financial information. To mark the unique year we have had, people who pledged received complementary face masks featuring a line drawing of the church. Thank you notes and face masks were mailed by Kay Lynn Goldner. Gary Emenitove and Cat Dixon maintained the stewardship web page and recorded contributions. Lois Norris assisted with recording pledges while Cat was out of the office for spring break. Walt Jesteadt handled Vanco pledges and messages for weekly stewardship eBroadcasts. Pre-recorded testimonials were provided by Sharon Piehler, Sheri Connor, Suzanne King, Terri Lynn Brewer, and Bruce Godfrey. Wrap-up phone calls were made by Jaime Alexander, Sandi Bruns, John Goldner, Walt Jesteadt, and Mike McAtee.

The campaign began with a pre-recorded testimonial presented during the service by Sharon Piehler on February 28th. This was followed by our main stewardship service the following week, with testimonials and special eBroadcasts during the month of March.

We developed online forms for pledging and for recurring contributions through Vanco and organized four weekly drawings to promote early pledging. More than 40 pledges were made using the online form. The campaign emphasized use of the UUA Fair Share Contribution Guide as a means of determining appropriate pledge sizes based on income and level of commitment to the church. A number of increased pledges resulted from this. All forms, guidelines, supporting financial documentation, and testimonials were made available on the church's stewardship web page. As of April 20, 2021, we had 127 pledges totaling \$269,380.

UU the Vote Task Force

Leader: Dave Richardson with 22 core members

In 2019 the UUA created UU the Vote as a nationwide network of congregations dedicated to encouraging participation in the democratic process consistent with our UU principles. Recognizing the importance of this election and the presence of existential and potential threats to our voting rights, in June 2020, the Board of Trustees gave its blessing for our congregation to form a UUtheVote Task Force. Beginning in June, the group met monthly to plan and execute various ways to participate in this year's election within the 501(c)3 guidelines of non-partisanship. The project sought to ensure that the right of people to vote is not abridged or inhibited in any way. It is deeply rooted in our seven principles. Chief among these are the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals, justice, equity and compassion, the right of conscience and the democratic process as well as the responsible search for truth.

The following is a summary of our activities this year:

- Participated in a training session conducted by Civic Nebraska on how to encourage voting and ensure it is free from barriers discouraging voter participation,
- Reached out to several non-profit, nonpartisan groups with similar goals and values (see the list on next page),
- Mark Loscutoff prepared a “dashboard” to keep a record of the activities of members of the group. Activities directly connected with our group must, of course, be non-partisan in nature. However, individuals are not prohibited from working for specific candidates on their own.

(continued on the next page)

A partial list of groups and activities our team members were involved in:

- League of Women Voters
- Diverse Women Lifting Our Voices
- Vote Forward
- Civic Nebraska's Outreach Circle
- Phone banking in "key swing states"
- Poll watching for various "Get out the Vote groups"
- Numerous participants donated to our non-profit partners
- Participation in weekly zoom seminars sponsored by the UUA's UU the Vote leaders

Another important activity was our congregational canvass. Catherine Plumlee created a spreadsheet with contact information for all members and friends of the church. Volunteers contacted members regarding their intent to vote and whether they were voting early or in-person on Election Day.

The results of the canvass confirmed we are a congregation that takes civic responsibility very seriously.

Here are a few statistical facts from the canvass:

- Nine volunteers from UUtheVote were able to contact 207 of our 231 members,
- Only two of those contacted were not registered voters and one of those intended to register,
- Only two members said they did not intend to vote,
- 188 of those contacted had already voted early or planned on voting early. They voted or planned to vote either by mail, drop box or at the County Election Commission offices,
- 16 of those contacted indicated they would vote in-person on Election Day. One person could be categorized as a "fair weather voter" as they indicated they would vote "if the weather is nice."

A few other observations:

- On Sunday August 30, the UUtheVote team conducted the Sunday Service on the theme of the importance of participatory democracy and voting,
- Christina Strong wrote and implemented a RE program on the importance of voting, and
- We were pleased that several members of Second Unitarian joined us and actively participated.

Observations and thoughts for the future: Twenty-two people participated in various ways on this task force. Their willingness to spend time and effort was gratifying. We knew from the start that conducting an election during a global pandemic would create unique circumstances. We also appreciated the strong support of Rev. Shari Woodbury as she was just getting started as our new settled minister. The voter turnout in Douglas and Sarpy counties and Pottawattamie County in Iowa was high. We can't take full credit here, but it did prove that the election was critical to the voters of this region and that we had something to do with it. Nebraska's unique system of sending individual electoral votes by Congressional districts made us even more aware of the importance of voting. Looking to the future, the work we did should help prepare for "get out the vote" efforts in upcoming election years. Should we choose to do this again, we would have the nexus for planning in our records.

Here are a few random thoughts about the future:

- We chose not to get involved in ballot issues this time around. The 501(c)3 status allows us to do that. If future ballot initiatives come into play, we might want to consider whether we want to take a stance for or against them. This, of course, should be done judiciously and with care that we act according to our principles.
- We can get a running start on any attempts at voter suppression.
- We also might consider lobbying or letter writing to our elected representatives on measures that we support or oppose. Again, this is allowable under 501(c)3 guidelines.
- Another way to enhance our awareness of issues and our understanding of the pros and cons on either side is to do "Dialogues" along the lines of those conducted in the past by Elaine Wells.
- In future "non-pandemic" times we might consider holding candidate forums.

Let me close by thanking the Board of Trustees for its support for our work. It is a joy to work with Unitarians in general and this board in particular.

Women's Alliance — 2020/2021

Due to the pandemic, the Women's Alliance did not hold any meetings this year.

Worship Arts Team

Team Leader: Rev. Shari Woodbury

Members: Core team of Denise Allain, Nadine Keith, Mary Kay Peters, Peg Pidgeon, Dave Richardson (plus other occasional helpers)

Activities — 2020/2021:

The Worship Arts Team continues its work to assure quality Sunday morning worship programming. This team works closely with music leaders, story-tellers, and this year, our Zoom Help Team, as well as others. We aim to create cohesive, meaningful worship experiences. We have also worked to integrate more multi-sensory elements into worship, to deepen worship themes and offer richer experiences.

During the ministerial transition over the summer months, Denise Allain coordinated services with members and guest speakers. Rev. Woodbury began preaching in September. She reorganized the team to split up duties, and to reduce the workload for volunteers on Sundays when the minister is in the pulpit. With fewer members continuing on the team, and new folks less likely to join in at this time, these changes helped make the work sustainable for the duration of pandemic operations.

When developing topics, speakers, and our overall worship life, we have looked to the Annual Vision of Ministry areas. To boost **Connection**, we incorporated a Care & Centering time into worship, including the sharing of Joys & Concerns, and often offered discussion-starter questions to enliven post-worship breakout groups. For several key services, CommUUnity Caravan stations and participatory or ritual acts were designed to flow into worship services (for Water Ingathering, Christmas Eve, Rising Green / Earth Day, and coming this June, Flower Ceremony). We have also strengthened our ties with other Unitarian Universalist congregations and groups through worship. To foster **Transformation**, we have worked to lift up diverse voices in worship, and support our church to “be the change we wish to see in the world.”

Throughout the year, team members have continued to coordinate Sundays when the minister is away, drawing from the community, church groups and members. Such speakers have included Sr. Kathleen Erickson (OTOC), several of our Soul Matters participants co-presenting, Ed Kelly, Collin Hatcher, Beloved Conversations participants, a Hymn Sunday with EMR, and Kim Dunovan (Lemon Sermon). We have also taken advantage of the opportunity in virtual church to bring in high-quality guests from afar, drawing on Rev. Woodbury's network. Speakers have included Rev. Shawna Foster, UU Ministry for the Earth director Aly Tharp, the musical Rev. Erin Walter, UUA Side with Love Sunday, a UUA stewardship service with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray preaching, and coming up in May, Rev. Clyde Grubbs (an indigenous UU), and Zr. Alex Kapitan (a trans UU). We collaborated twice with Second Unitarian for worship, for Samhain in fall and Earth Day in spring, and in addition to other UU guests brought into our virtual worship space, in December Rev. Woodbury exchanged pulpits with Rev. Oscar Sinclair from the Lincoln congregation. Christina Strong put together our second annual intergenerational service in December, too. Our highest worship attendance on Zoom this year was 105, at the Christmas Eve service. That service included many musical gifts as well as a variety of contemporary readings for the season shared by members.

As of this writing, for June-August 2021, topics and speakers are arranged for all but one Sunday. Participating in a UU Summer Worship Co-op with Kansas and Nebraska churches will give us more opportunities to connect with other UUs, while maintaining quality worship. It will free up Rev. Shari and the team for training, renewal and other duties. We anticipate preparing in summer to launch a multi-channel worship Program—combining live and virtual worship options—hopefully in the fall. We are also exploring the possibility of an outdoor worship service in Turner Park in early September.

Youth Emergency Services (YES) Meals

Leaders: Diana Byrd and Kim Callaghan

Members: Brian Callaghan, Kay Lynn Goldberg, Linda Hruska, and Lois Norris

Activities — 2020/2021:

First Unitarian Church of Omaha has been providing monthly meals to the Street Outreach Center of Youth Emergency Services for over three years. For the first two years, church volunteers planned and prepared meals in the church kitchen and delivered them to the Street Outreach Center just down the street on 26th & Harney. With the Covid-19 pandemic, health and safety concerns required modification, and YES requested that all meals be catered or store-bought. In-person services at YES were modified and reduced during the height of the pandemic, but First Unitarian provided a meal in April 2020 and then resumed regularly scheduled meals in September 2020. This year, we have typically provided between 18 and 25 meals each time, depending on the need. We have found a valued partner in Patricia Catering, and they have been flexible and willing to help us serve YES with lunch meals in a safe and sustainable manner. We occasionally include a dessert, snack or paper goods donation that we receive from members and friends.

During the December CommUUnity Caravan, the YES team collected donations from church members and friends. We were able to provide a significant donation of warm weather items and holiday gift items, including 40+ winter hats/earmuffs, 50+ gloves, 50+ scarves, 25+ socks, several winter coats, new clothing items, 10 fleece blankets, 40 hand warmers, as well as toiletries, food, and household items.

Our team is proud of the work we can do to help youth in our community.

In case you aren't familiar with YES or its mission, it is included here:

Youth Emergency Services assists youth experiencing homelessness and near homelessness by providing critically-needed resources, which support them in their desire to be self-sufficient. Basically, we help youth in crisis get back on their feet in whatever ways we can. After meeting their immediate needs for food, shelter, clothing and safety, we create a support system which helps them flourish.

Appendix Contents

New Members

Staff

Bequests

2021-2022 Budget

2020-2021 Balance Sheet

Treasurer's Report

New Members since May 1, 2020

Neva Cozine 06/11/2020
Rosharra Owens 6/11/2020
Abraham Serafino 06/11/2020
Kai Clemen 6/21/2020
Telia Colbert 06/21/2020
Amanda & Josh Burton 3/28/2021
Jim Haley & Rebecca Turner 3/28/2021
Ian Shanklin 3/28/2021

Staff

Rev. Shari Woodbury, Settled Minister
Christina Strong, Lifespan Director of Religious Education
Carrie Helmberger, Membership Coordinator
Catharine Dixon, Church Administrator
William Miller, Choir Director
J Gawf, Choir Accompanist
Patricia Will, Organist
Stan Harper, Early Morning Risers Director
Robert Medrano, Custodian
Rev. Dr. Sarah Voss, Affiliated Community Minister

minister@firstuomaha.org
dre@firstuomaha.org
coordinator@firstuomaha.org
admin@firstuomaha.org
choirdirector@firstuomaha.org

EMRdirector@firstuomaha.org
admin@firstuomaha.org

Bequests

Memorial bequests were given to First Unitarian Church this year by:

Lana Hammel

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING - MAY 16, 2021

	2020/2021 Last Year's Budget	Change From Last Year's Budget	2021/2022 Proposed Budget
Income:			
Pledged Contributions	250,000	20,000	270,000
Investment Income	34,000	9,072	43,072
Fund Raising	14,500	(500)	14,000
Use of Facilities	12,500	(1,000)	11,500
Total Plate Collections	7,200	-	7,200
Non-Pledged Contributions	5,000	(1,000)	4,000
Memorial Gifts	1,000	-	1,000
Other Income - Interest	4,000	(2,100)	1,900
Other Income - Misc	900	(292)	608
Holland Fund Contribution	20,000	(5,000)	15,000
Transfer from Reserves	25,000	(15,000)	10,000
Proceeds from PPP Program	41,000	(4,180)	36,820
Total Income	415,100	-	415,100
Expenses:			
Minister	137,802	(4,178)	133,624
Office & Administration	97,041	2,924	99,965
House & Grounds	36,984	4,889	41,873
Religious Services (incl music)	32,787	3,209	35,996
Religious Education	56,598	3,240	59,838
Denominational Affairs	24,905	(2,918)	21,987
Discretionary & Team Funds	28,983	(17,533)	11,450
Misc and FICA		10,367	10,367
Total Expenses	415,100		415,100
Surplus or (Deficit)	(0)		(0)

Balance Sheet (as of 3/31/21)

ASSETS

Premier Bank - Checking	70,485
Premier Bank - Savings	2,847
Office Petty Cash	190
Certificats of Deposit	205,202

TOTAL ASSETS	278,724
---------------------	----------------

LIABILITIES

PPP Loan - Dundee Bank	36,820
Minister's Discretion Fund	4,308
Accrued Exp/Unearned Income	36
Retirement	1,383
Deposits - Building Rent	1,340
Capital Trust Cash Account	6,501
Prepaid Pledges	15,020
Unallocated Bequests	20,027
 Holland Contribution	 30,000
Tubach Church Painting	500
Sanctuary Windows Project	22,911
Anniversary 150 - Donation	958
Preserve Our Building Fund	80,133
YRUU/OCUUPs/WA	8,393
WA Merrit Education Fund	1,088
YES / Community Meals/Caring	5,672
Music Donation Income	5,748
RE Donation - Nather 2014	1,040

TOTAL LIABILITIES	241,878
--------------------------	----------------

NET ASSETS

Curr Yr's Surplus/Deficit	175
Prior Surplus/Deficit	36,671

TOTAL EQUITY	36,846
---------------------	---------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	278,724
-------------------------------------	----------------

SPECIAL FUNDS (as of 3/14/2020)

Board Investment Fund	558,226
Music Fund	31,480
Women's Alliance Fund	14,656

TOTAL INCLUDING SPECIAL FUNDS	883,086
--------------------------------------	----------------

Comments on the 2020/2021 Treasurer's Report and 2021/2022 Proposed Budget

Results for 2020-21

This was an unusual year for church finances as it was for all other church functions. This was our second year operating under a new financial system in which virtually all income and expenses were recorded within the church budget and PowerChurch software was used for generation of all financial reports. Cheri Cody continued to function as both an accountant and advisor on financial procedures. Unlike the first year under this system, reports were received within a month of the closing date each month and there were few changes to the balance sheet.

Following an unsuccessful stewardship campaign that was interrupted by the pandemic, we adopted a budget at the annual meeting that assumed \$250,000 in pledge contributions to be achieved through a supplemental campaign in the Fall of 2020. Total pledges after that campaign were \$244,571, but pledge contributions are expected to be higher. The budget assumed use of a \$20,000 contribution from the Holland bequest in lieu of a Holland pledge contribution, plus use of \$25,000 in reserve funds, as well as \$41,000 from the non-repayable portion of a Payroll Protection Program obtained under the CARES Act. Other sources of income were assumed to lower than normal as a result of the pandemic, but few cuts were made in the budget for operating expenses, given uncertainty in May, 2020 about how long the effects of the pandemic would last. Final financial results for 2020-2021 are not yet available, but we know that we were not required to repay any of the \$50,500 PPP loan and that expenses were well below budget as a result of the building being closed for the entire year. Despite loss of income from building rentals, plate collections, and fundraising, we expect to finish the year with a surplus, without the use of \$25,000 in reserve funds.

Stewardship Campaign

The goal for the stewardship campaign this spring was \$280,000, \$35,429 over the end result of the previous campaign. The additional funds were required to close the gap between income and expenses in previous budgets. Our budgets have increased almost every year while pledges have remained well below the peak level achieved in 2016, the final year that we received a pledge from Richard Holland. Information about the campaign can be found in a separate report by the Stewardship Team. The campaign was highly successful with many increased pledges. Total pledges are expected to exceed \$270,000 and may reach the \$272,000 level achieved in 2016.

Proposed Budget

The proposed budget of \$415,100 is identical to last year's budget. We have been able to maintain a level budget because we have no moving expenses or other costs during the coming year associated with the transition to a new minister. The level budget includes a 3% merit increase for members of our staff, a 10% increase in the cost of health insurance projected by the UUA, and \$3,292 hardware and tech support to make online church services available when the church opens for in-person services later this year. Other expenses are budgeted assuming a continuation of all of our programs when the church opens. On the income side, we have assumed \$270,000 in pledge income, \$43,072 in investment income, a small reduction in rental income compared to previous years, \$15,000 from the Holland bequest in lieu of a Holland pledge contribution, \$10,000 in reserve funds or from the current year surplus, and a second round nonrepayable PPP loan for \$36,820. The loan has been approved and received.

(continued on next page)

Balance Sheet

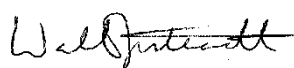
The balance sheet shown in this report is based on data available from our March financial reports. To simplify the report, we have grouped several accounts, such as YRUU, OCUUPs, and the Women's Alliance, on a single line. A final end-of-year balance sheet and a budget showing end-of-year results will be posted on the church website in May.

The most significant change in the balance sheet from the previous year is that a bequest from Sid Wilson for \$24,725 has been transferred to the Music Fund managed by the trustees of the Capital Trust, where it will earn quarterly income to fund music programs at the church.

Current values of three funds managed by the Capital Trust are shown at the bottom of the balance sheet.

The value of the Capital Trust itself is not shown on the balance sheet, but is given in the Capital Trust annual report. As of March 31, 2021, it was \$669,492.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Will Fintz".



