

**Coordinating Team
Report to the Board of Trustees
March 2024**

The Coordinating Team (CT) brings the following items
to the Board for your attention and awareness:

Communications

submitted by Belinda Parry, Office Administrator

Team Members: Courtney McLaughlin, Kimberly Melton, Debbie Rubenstein, and
Melissa Schropp

The Communications Team provides graphics, design, writing, photography, web, and social media services directly to UUCC staff and teams for smaller-scale projects and works with contractors hired by the UUCC on larger projects. The team meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

The Communications Team advised the Stewardship Team on their “I pledge for...” campaign. This campaign is underway and can be seen on an occasional Sunday in Freeman Hall.

The team is working with staff to update the UUCC Member Facebook Group guidelines and rules. After staff removed a member’s post, concern was expressed by UUCC members that the rules as they were originally written were not explicit enough. The Communications Team created an updated draft, which was shared with UUCC staff members, who are working together to finalize the wording. We hope to have the new rules posted on the Facebook group by the end of March.

We continue reviewing and updating marketing materials and our online presence.

Member Participation

submitted by Kelly Greene, Director of Member Relations

Team Members: Erica Blake, Mary Ellen Brook, Mary Bruce, Meagan O’Connor,
Meredith Quinn

Our service attendance for February was 921, with an average of 230 people per service. Our in-person attendance averaged 109, while our online views averaged 122. Some of

those online views represent individuals who attended in person and also watched online later.

No new people have joined our congregation since late November. Recent *New to UUCC* newcomer sessions have had two to four attendees per session. Since many of our visitors have been families, in March we are offering an explicitly family-friendly version of *New to UUCC*. We partnered with CYRE to provide information of particular interest to families. We hope this will increase interest in membership at UUCC.

In March, the Membership Team offered *How to Have Difficult Conversations* after service on a Sunday. Facilitated by Kelly Greene and Meagan O'Connor, this 3-hour session covered what makes conversations difficult, tools for engaging in difficult conversations, how to prepare for a difficult conversation and also offered participants opportunities to practice. People were asked to bring their lunches and some snacks were provided. Twenty people participated (only 7 signed up) and some requested follow-up sessions. We hope this work will assist our congregation to engage in challenging, healthy conversations going forward.

Meredith Quinn, with feedback from the rest of the team, is creating exit and new member surveys to help us to better gauge why people are coming to UUCC and why people are leaving. We plan to begin using those within the next couple of months.

Ongoing Activity

- Children and Youth Religious Education

submitted by Paula Gribble, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Team members: David Flynn, Nathan Hackenberg, Janan Jones, Kristie Lauderbaugh, Melissa Schropp, Heather Simpson, Galen Stout, Valerie Vickers, Lisa Walls

We currently have 84 children and youth registered. Average Sunday attendance is 27. The Second Friday Family Fun Nights (F3N) are seeing growth and engagement. Average attendance (both kids and adults) is 30.

Sunday Programming:

Classes continue to go well. I am receiving good feedback from teachers about how the lessons are well laid out and engaging.

The Sr. Youth service on Feb. 11 was very well received. They provided music, visual art, readings and reflections that congregants found intriguing and meaningful.

We are seeing steady attendance in classes, and good attendance in other activities. Children seem to be enjoying things like children's choir and Community Sunday. Recently, we have had on average 2 new visiting families each Sunday. We also have had two families return after a long absence.

The 4-6 grade OWL has been underway since January, with 11 kids and 4 OWL facilitators. The facilitators are trading teaching time, and report that the class is going well. It ends on March 24.

CYRE Team:

The Team is integral to the success of CYRE. We continue to draw great strength and support from the team on big picture discussions as well as tasks to be covered. Current things we have worked on include finding future OWL trainings to get more facilitators, making a plan for Coming of Age in 2024-25, work on an MET Grant, and planning for Easter.

Other Events:

We were disappointed that the Mountain canceled all their Spring Cons due to staffing issues. We hope they will still have summer camp but it is unclear.

We are planning to have an Easter "festival" similar to what we did for Halloween that will include a hunt and Easter-themed games.

Jr. Youth are sponsoring a Community Sunday activity for March 17 on upcycling materials to make crafts.

For the March F3N, the Jr. and Sr. Youth did a trip to the Big Air Trampoline Park. They had a great time. This also gave parents a night off, and 4th grade and under kids a chance to spend some time with me directly.

I am now serving on the MeckMin Youth Committee. They are having an Interfaith Youth Panel in April, and Dylan Lauderbaugh will be the UU representative on the panel.

•Community Building

submitted by Kelly Greene, Director of Member Relations

Team Members: John Burns, Justine Busto, Jeannie Fennell, Lisa Marie Nisely, Denise Weldon-Clark

Our Community Building Team has been working hard to create fun, meaningful ways for members to connect to each other. Affinity Groups under Community Building include our hiking group, Happy Wanderers walking group, Seniors Share, the Gamers Group and (dis)Able Support and Advocacy Group. These member-led gatherings are an important source of connection and support for many members and visitors at UUCC. The hiking group has recently been partnering with a local Roman Catholic church on their hikes, creating interfaith community. Seniors Share has brought in speakers and provided engaging activities for our seniors. Happy Wanders gathers primarily older women for exercise, conversation and fun. The Gamers Group is an intergenerational gathering which for some attendees is their primary connection to UUCC. Our (dis)Able Support and Advocacy group has been an invaluable source of support for people who identify as disabled in our community.

This team has also offered Lunch Bunch at Piada and Lunch Around the World, two monthly opportunities for newcomers and members to get to know each other after services on Sundays. Both have regular attendees.

This month, there will also be a second men's potluck. The organizer of this second gathering has been asked to talk to attendees to determine if they want to become an affinity group going forward. For years, men at UUCC have been asking for a group of their own, though the people asking have not been willing to lead. We will offer what support we can and hope that this group will find a way to help those who identify as men to keep connecting to each other.

Unfortunately, a scheduling conflict caused the team to move the planned UUCC Talent Festival to the fall. This team is awaiting direction from the Minister Search Team to offer support and assistance during Candidating Week next month.

•Intersectional Justice

submitted by Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper, Interim Minister

Team members: Janan Jones, Melanie Greeley, Dave Warren, Rebekah Visco

Beyond the Binary: Supporting Beloved Community - Along with several other cities in the south, UUCC will host a local/cluster gathering for this event on April 27, 2024. This one-day cross-regional event/conference was originally hosted by UU Syracuse with two purposes:

1. Offer support, connection, and visibility to the local Trans community; and
2. Meet the needs of UUs who want to learn to better support Transgender Folks in our congregations and beyond.

Plans are underway and registration is open. The early part of the day will include a live-streamed keynote speech and other programming presented by the Syracuse congregation, and then we will have lunch and break into in-person groups to begin organizing with UU the Vote, a deep dive into the anti-trans landscape here in NC, and exploring ways to break out of binary constructs.

GreenFaith held their first-ever vegan/vegetarian pot-luck supper! Thirty people from a number of local congregations attended and shared their thoughts and interests related to climate change, healthy food, educational films, and other related topics. They were especially happy to learn about the kinds of actions Caldwell Presbyterian, St. Peter's Episcopal, and Myers Park Baptist are taking to protect the planet and underserved communities.

Erika's Closet has requested volunteers to assist with their upcoming fundraiser. There is no timeline at this point; they will update us when they have secured a location for the event.

We are moving forward with the second phase of the WEAV pilot – the small group program for engaging with anti-oppression education/reflection. Pending scheduling, there will be an in person session here at UUCC.

Finally, IJT and the Gender Education Network are hosting a special book reading event for children and families with Rev. Fred Small, who is coming to North Carolina for a book tour. He is a UU minister who wrote the song "Everything Possible" 40 years ago and has been to Florida on this same book tour. Since NC has similar laws on the books, . The song is in the teal hymnal and has become an anthem of LGBTQ+ acceptance and is now a children's book. Fred will be our guest worship leader on April 7, and that afternoon GEN kids and others from the community are invited to the event.

- Worship

submitted by Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper, Interim Minister

Team members: Dick Kistler, Rebecca Ransom, Laura Hamilton, Shelagh Gallagher, and Paul Nisely as liaison from the A/V team.

The Worship Team continues to review Sunday services each month, assessing successes and things that might be improved or adjusted.

Stones in water were recently added as an option for Concerns of the Congregation, used periodically in place of lighting candles. Feedback has been positive – congregants report liking the different tactile experience as well as the symbolism of the stones. They are also clear that they do not want candles to be replaced by stones in water. Thankfully, this was never the intent – we added the stones to allow for more flexibility in the service order – since candles have to be lit late in the service to avoid dripping wax.

We had some discussion about accessibility in the sanctuary, particularly the platform and pulpit, and considered the possibility of a ramp or lift at the request of the disability group. There is more conversation to be had about the topic, likely as part of a future discussion of various needs/improvements in the sanctuary. For now, the Worship team is preparing documentation of various ways that Sunday services are already accessible for participants (for example, the pulpit was designed specifically so that it can be easily moved to the floor) to increase awareness.

We are also preparing a lay service leader “checklist” that includes a description of the role and expectations to help orient folks who are serving as lay service leaders.