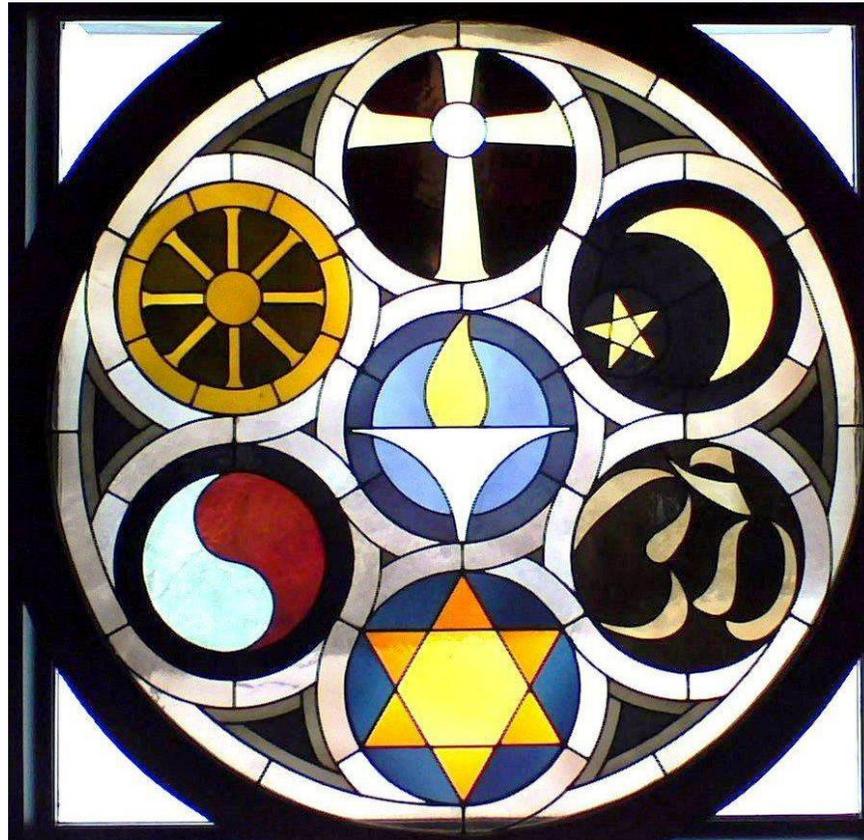


The Unitarian Universalist Church Rockford, Illinois



Annual Report 2016—2017

The Unitarian Universalist Church

2016-17 Annual Report

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Officers of the Congregation 2016-17

President: Teresa Wilmot Vice President: Rebecca Quirk
Treasurer: Susan Caravello Clerk: Carol Foster

Board of Trustees

Skip Abare Billie Callahan Matt Menze

Committee Chairs & Team Leaders

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL</u>	
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Dave Schubert
LIBRARY TEAM	Mike Ullrich
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Pat Tollefsrud
Investment Panel	Steve Blomgren
Fall Fundraiser	Skip Abare
Trash or Treasure.....	Carol Foster & Sue Wilke
Memorials & Special Gifts	Ruth Little
Stewardship Committee	Duane Wilke & Susan Caravello
<u>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COUNCIL</u>	
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	Teresa Wilmot
MEMBERSHIP TEAM	Jami Edmonds
RELIGIOUS GROWTH & LEARNING	
SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM	
WORSHIP TEAM	
Music Team	Dave Lantz
CARING TEAM	Carolyn Arevalo & Michelle Lattanzio
NOMINATING PANEL	Wendy Bennett

Staff

SENIOR MINISTER	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Lindsay Dunn
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Tim Anderson
MINISTER EMERITUS	The Rev. David R. Weissbard
MUSIC DIRECTOR EMERITA	Kay Hotchkiss
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR	Chris Ainsworth
CONGREGATION ADMINISTRATOR	Jamie Gaffke
OFFICE ASSISTANT	Autumn Fredricks
BOOKKEEPER	Julie Borck
CUSTODIAN	Autumn Fredricks

President's Report

This year has been a year of celebration of our 175 years of liberal religion in the Rockford area. Every time I wore my Civil War era dress, I proclaimed our history, starting with the annual meeting in June 2016 and ending with the Annual meeting in 2017. I wore it proudly in the Banner Parade at General Assembly in 2016, and at our anniversary dinner in October.

But it has also been a year of learning for future growth. Using Dan Hotchkiss's book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, I instituted a "Consent Agenda" at Board meetings, allowing a "Discussion Agenda." The Consent Agenda is distributed 3 days prior to the meeting, including minister and officer reports, minutes of the prior meeting, committee highlights by their Board liaisons, financial reports, and data related to discussion topics. With prior preparation, the routine issues are handled in the first 5 to 10 minutes of the meeting, leaving the balance of the meeting for a few discussion topics. This means our time is spent in substantive issues, and meetings are more interesting. Also, our meetings have not ended more than 20 minutes after our 9 pm target.

Having been a Trustee in the early 2000's, I have participated in both large Boards and our current smaller one with only 7 members. The smaller board is both more efficient and more participatory.

This year we Board members explored policy governance, and next year's Board will continue that evolution. Matt Menze and I helped prepare for future change by reviewing and revising our Bylaws, assuring that we do what we say and say what we do. The wording was updated, sections were removed that no longer apply, and details that fit better as Board Policies were removed from the Bylaws.

This year I grew as a member. Due to politics, I became more of an activist. I have an even deeper love of our congregation, of its history, its members, and its influence in both this community and in the wider denomination. I have more experience as a member of the "orchestra" rather than the "director." I learned that I can be a leader, not just a follower. And I formed closer ties to the other Board members, who are truly unique and interesting individuals. Next year's Board will continue our journey to the future.

Mission and Vision Statement

The Unitarian Universalist Church

Rockford, Illinois
Established 1841

Many Windows



One Light

**Guided by reason
and sustained by
love, we are a
liberal religious
community
inspiring people
to transform our
world.**

A Welcoming Congregation
and a Green Sanctuary.



**In our religious lives, we
celebrate, value and commit
ourselves to**

- The free search for life's truths in light of science, reason and our own life experience and conscience
- The wisdom of the world's religions in respectful conversation with, and as part of, our own beliefs and practices
- The power of hope and the inspiration of faith
- Beauty in the world, in art, in music and in nature
- Growing and stretching our minds and hearts by embracing change and practicing spiritual generosity
- Building a thriving church community where kindness, friendship, humor and diversity flourish in the spirit of kinship and love
- The worth of each individual and family, the celebration of diversity, and working for justice, inclusion and freedom for all
- Generous service to and participation in the wider community in which we live
- The interdependent web of life and our responsibility for the future of all

Long Range Plan

By 2020, the Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford, will be a church
• **that is leading the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the stateline area, including growing generational and cultural diversity**

- We will strengthen our efforts to share our faith with others and include newcomers in our church.

- We will strengthen the membership team, with new members on the team and a strong, authentic spiritual commitment to outreach among team members and the congregation as a whole. To accomplish this goal, we will recruit new members for the team (spring 2015), engage team members and others in a membership best practices workshop (with Peter Bowden or similar expert in the field - fall or winter 2015-6), establish a coaching relationship for the membership coordinator (spring 2015), and preach and teach about evangelism, inclusion, and hospitality. *Actor: Membership Coordinator, Membership Team, Senior Minister. Cost: \$1000 for workshop.*

- We will launch a major outreach campaign in social and other media and through personal outreach efforts, to increase awareness of the congregation and our mission (fall 2016, tied to our anniversary year). *Actor: Membership Coordinator, with support from Senior Minister; consultation from Marketing Professional. Cost: \$2,000-\$10,000, including consultation and materials.*

- We will post videos of sermons to social media and encourage people to share them, as a way to expand the reach of our ministry. *Actor: Senior Minister, with administration by Membership Coordinator. Cost: minimal.*

- *Our measurable target is to increase participation in the path to membership program by 30% by 2020.*

- We will “close the back door” by connecting more of our less-engaged members with things that matter to them and the programs of the church. We will do this through the expanded membership team (above), by authentic, personal outreach to the not-recently-seen, and by a strengthened small group ministry program (see below, under “spirit journey experience”). We will also track and report departures and create approaches tailored to reduce them when possible. *Our target is to reduce removals from membership by 25% by 2020. Actor: Membership Team, Membership Coordinator, Program Director (for small group ministry).*

- We will honor growing cultural and generational diversity in worship and expand that diversity in music, preaching, and ritual.

- We will include occasional percussion as part of our quality music program, beginning in 2015-2016. *Actor: Music Director. Cost: \$2,000*

- During his next sabbatical (probably May 11-Aug 23, 2016), the Senior Minister will visit younger and more culturally diverse congregations in the Rockford region and nationally, to grow his knowledge and skills in worship that authentically connects with people of many generations and cultures. *Actor: Senior Minister. Cost: regular sabbatical and professional development allocations to be made in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. We will count success in this goal though increasing participation and identification by current and new members under 40 and/or persons of color.*

- We will grow stronger connections and mutual support with area UU congregations which may include exploring more formal relationships. We will do this by gathering board and staff members together,

holding network-wide worship, workshops and events, and by being open to opportunities that arise. We will seek to create a co-operation team, including the minister and two lay leaders from each congregation, by April 2016. *By 2020, we hope to have at least 10 significant shared programs, staff = members, or events. Actor: Senior Minister, Board. Cost: Minimal/Unknown.*

- We will lead the creation or development of a vital, sustainable worshipping community in the Beloit, WI area. In 2015-2016, we will start building a community of interested persons. By 2016-2017, we will be holding worship in Beloit at least twice a month, and on the road to a sustainable community. *The goal is to have 100 people of all ages coming to worship, on average, by 2022. Actor: Senior Minister, campus support staff and team (to be identified). Cost: Depends. Mostly existing funds in 2015-2016; \$10,000-\$15,000 in 2016-2017. Future unknown, but hoped to be self-sustaining by 2020.*

- **with meaningful opportunities to grown and connect in our spiritual and social lives**

- We will create a vital mid-week program of education, worship, and fellowship. This program, on a regular weeknight, will serve to draw people together, grow their spiritual and life resources, and be an opportunity for those who cannot come on Sunday to connect with the church. Eventually, the program may coincide with or include a youth group program. Based on experiments in spring 2015, and with available staff, we will design a program to begin the fall of 2016. A program will happen two or three times a month, if not weekly. *We will aim for an average attendance of at least 20 people per week. Actor: Program Director, Senior Minister. Cost: Some existing resources, including possible use of the Frederick Fund for Student ministry stipend, and an additional \$1,000 for staff support.*

- We will strengthen the spirit journey experience and participation in small group ministry and programs. We'll adapt the Soul Matters materials to be effective for our congregation, and promote participation in the groups heavily. *Our goal is that at least 100 people will be active regular participants in a spirit journey or covenant group, and that at least 60% of our new members will join a group. Actor: Program Director. Cost: Existing budget.*

- We will design, implement, and continuously refine a modern and effective communications infrastructure. These systems will be timely, efficient, and cost effective, allowing us to communicate programs and information. Every team, program, and staff member will be expected to communicate clearly and regularly about their activities. We will use social media and other platforms effectively. A communications plan will be designed by October 2015 and implemented by May 2016, with regular revisions as technology evolves. *The plan will include appropriate measurements, such as reach, readership, and awareness. Actor: Congregational Administrator (lead) with support from Senior Minister, Program Director, and Membership Coordinator. Cost: With likely savings in paper and postage, should be cost neutral.*

- **with a visible presence for justice**

- We will share with the congregation what we are doing, individually and together, to make justice in the world. In a regular justice update, lay leaders and staff members, including the senior minister, will share both what we have done and ways to get involved. The social justice council shall recruit and include a "justice herald" to facilitate this communication. *As a consequence, pride in our work, and participation in justice efforts, will noticeably increase. Actor: Social Justice Council, Senior Minister. Cost: existing funds.*

- We will share with the wider world both the work we do for justice and the deeper spiritual values that ground our work. We will witness - in media, in action, and in personal conversations - our commitment to human dignity, justice, interdependence, and love. Members, including but not only the social justice team and the Senior Minister, will share with the wider world, through various media, the spirit that guides us and the work for justice we do because of that spirit. We will hold witness and service events,

inviting others to join us, that testify to those values in both symbol and deed. *Our end goal is, of course, the transformation of the world from inhumanity to love; we will measure our work in this area against the target of having three witness events or public statements each month by 2017-2018. Actor: Social Justice Team, Senior Minister. Cost: Existing Budget.*

- We will be an active member in a multi-faith, multiracial community organization dedicated to grassroots action for justice and inclusion. We will support this organization through our time, energy, and funds. Through this organization, we will join with others in the struggle for real democracy, human dignity, and empowered citizens. *Our goal is not just that we participate, but that the organization meets its own targets for viability and effectiveness. Actor: GEAR Congregational Team, Senior Minister. Cost: GEAR dues, raised the Sunday offerings.*

• with a culture of generosity that sustains and supports the mission of the church and its facility

- Over the next five years, the congregation will take steps to strengthen the annual operating support from members, to improve aural, aesthetic, and energy-use aspects of the building, and to engage in a once-in-a-generation campaign for the congregation's future. We will continue our commitment as a fair compensation congregation for our staff and reach towards being, again, a fair share congregation to our fellow Unitarian Universalists. In order to accomplish these goals, we will continue our current efforts towards sustaining annual giving and planned giving.

We will also:

- Hold a "Next Steps Weekend" with a UUA consultant in January 2016 to improve our giving programs and begin planning for a generational campaign. *Cost: \$2,600.*
- Raise, concurrent with the annual campaign in April 2016, at least \$50,000 in a special campaign towards audio improvements, energy efficiency, essential building repairs, sanctuary carpet, and branch ministry.
- Re-issue, in Summer 2016, notes for the current debt, giving current note holders the option to renew, redeem, or donate their note.
- Plan for and execute a generational campaign for the mission and facility of the congregation; this campaign will come from the congregations' deep commitments to its future and legacy. This campaign will take place, most likely, in the spring of 2018, with payments made over a three-year period following. Driven by mission, the campaign might include items such as branch ministry, energy efficiency and generation, debt reduction / legacy funding, and building improvements to serve the mission. *The actors for these items are the Board, the Finance Committee, the Congregational Administrator, and the Senior Minister.*

- We will use the building for renters in such a way to increase revenue and raise visibility of the congregation. This will include reaching out to possible renters, with a focus on wellness practitioners, and clarifying our rental and building use procedures, including, as needed, sexton time. *Our goal will be to double our rental income by 2019, though the net income will not be doubled, as some sexton time may be required. Actor: Membership Coordinator.*

Senior Minister's Report

It is hard for me to believe that this is my ninth annual report to you, and thus, next year will be my tenth year as your minister. This year, the ninth, can be said to “the best of times and the worst of times” — or, more appropriately, we have said that “it is for such a time as this that we were made.” The election of Donald Trump as President of the United States in November required of us to live all the way into our sense of purpose and mission. And we have. We hosted forums, we organized with immigrants and others to defeat an ICE detention center at our local jail, we made new partnerships with racial justice, GLBT, and environmental groups. And our attendance jumped — and those new folks have become new members. I am so proud to be your minister, and of the work we are doing right now.

I began the year on sabbatical — it was an amazing time. I visited local congregations, read, and, most significantly, traveled to Israel. The trip of a life time. While I was gone, three new staff members joined the church - Autumn Fredricks as office assistant, Lindsay Dunn as DRE, and Chris Ainsworth as membership coordinator. By the beginning of October, we also added Michelle Lattanzio as Intern Minister. (And a new bookkeeper in November — and added custodian to Autumn's work then too). Whew! Sometime around December, all the new staff really started hitting their stride, and we are so lucky to have them with us. They have learned the people, the work, and started making great improvements to their program areas. I'm thrilled for what is to come.

Our continuing staff is none-too-shabby, either. Jamie Gaffke has stepped well into her expanded role as Director of Congregational Life, and Tim Anderson continues to be one of the very best music directors in our association.

We decided to transition back to one service. By adding chairs, we created sufficient capacity to include everyone who is coming, with room for newcomers. As predicted, the singing is powerful, the energy is high, and the simplicity is delightful for volunteers and staff. It was the right time and decision.

And we celebrated our 175th Anniversary! It was a great party at the Prairie St. Brewhouse, and a delight to welcome Nancy McDonald Ladd, Alan Deale, Mark Belletini, Colleen McDonald and Dave Weissbard back to our pulpit.

The year that has been.

The numbers. During this church year, I preached a total of 31 sermons - exactly the same as the last two years, strangely enough. I performed 1 wedding (for Amy Sandquist and her husband) and led five memorial services - for Bill Smith, Steve Mahan, Evelyn Palm, Bob Bowen, and Elizanne Lewis. Giants all. I had hundreds of meetings or events. I've had dozens pastoral care meetings. (I used to count them, but maybe that's not the best use of my time).

At the end of last year, I set some goals for myself – and it is against these goals that I measure my performance. My goals, and progress toward them:

*1. **Do the essential work well** — to preach and lead **worship** with as much skill and spirit as possible, to provide quality **pastoral counseling** to those who seek it and **pastoral care** to those who need it, to **lead our staff** team well, and to **witness** to our values in the world. The essentials matter.*

I have tried to focus on these essential tasks. Worship has been strong — the urgency of the moment, the skill and comfort Tim and I have collaborating, the energy of being together. I've provided helpful pastoral care and counseling to many, though I never feel like I have enough time to do as much as I

would like or is needed. It was good to have Michelle pick up some of this. Our new staff team is fabulous, and though it took a fair bit of time in the fall, they are now all contributing greatly to our work. Witness work is particularly strong: coalition based, of service, with a key leadership role. I'm proud of what we've done.

*2. We'll push forward on creating **a larger footprint for Unitarian Universalism** in our area. Sometimes that will look like partnerships with smaller UU congregations near us (like our administrative sharing with Stockton) and sometimes it will look like starting a new worshiping community (as we will do in Beloit - starting this Sunday, at 4pm, in Pearsons Hall on the campus). I will also do more Public Relations, Marketing, Social Media, and witnessing of our faith to the world. That also means getting out there - community office hours, theology on tap, and so forth.*

Our Beloit ministry has gone very well! We've had 20-30 people most weeks, a mix of students, faculty, community members, and others. Some are members of this church, some not (and some used to be). We've developed a rhythm and I'm excited about the coming year. We worked with KMK Marketing to do some PR in the early fall around our anniversary (that included the great video on our website). We've stepped up our social media game as well. Theology on Tap is fun, though small. I gave up on community office hours after a few months — it didn't really catch on.

*3. Integrating and supporting our **new staff** into their new roles.*
See above — they're great!

*4. I'll **keep a balance** in my life. I plan and hope to be your minister for a long time to come. Staying centered and having a full life makes me a better pastor and leader. So I'll keep running, and playing with my kids, and spending time with loved ones, and traveling, and reading, and resting. Neither I nor you are served with burnout . . .*

This was going great, until election day. Ha! It has been a busy year. But I have found time — to parent, to be a partner, to run, to rest and travel. I am happier than I have ever been.

It's been a very strong year.

What's next? I'm going to leave the first goal the same: to do the essentials well. To preach for you, and care for and with you, the church, as we create, sustain, and renew our beloved community so that we might witness to the world and make it more just. That is my work.

Second, I'll work with the Board and our governance consultant, the Rev. Jake Morrill, do help you articulate our mission, vision, and goals for the coming years; and with the Rev. Scott Aaseng, our social justice ministry consultant, to support your work in deepening and boarding our social justice ministry. I am a cheerleader for your work with these experts.

Third, we'll push hard to expand our ministry in Beloit with more folks. I'll do outreach and connections up there.

Fourth, I'll work with Jamie, Lindsay, Andrea (our next intern), and you to implement our new all-ages religious growth program — including a new theme-based service (Touchstones), new adult education offerings, and a new approach for family ministry and children's education.

It is an honor to serve to and with you. Thank you.

In faith,
Matthew :)

Intern Minister Report

It has been a pleasure to spend this church year as your Intern Minister. I have felt supported and encouraged by the members and friends of this congregation, and welcomed into your lives. Along with Matthew Johnson-Doyle, and my Intern Committee (Sandra Locke, April Kane, Shiraz Tata, Peggy Menze, and Pat Littlejohn) I set seven major areas for learning and growth.

Pastoral Care: I have participated in various ways in pastoral care this year, from becoming acting chairperson of the Caring Team Committee, being a pastoral liaison to the CUUPS group, and teaching 3 pastoral care classes (as well as developing a curriculum for teaching pastoral care). I have also provided pastoral care to several individuals in the congregation.

Prophetic Outreach: I have participated in various social justice events, including outreach to NAMI chapters (speaking engagement), forming an AIM Committee, serving as a book in the Human Library Project, and attending meetings.

Teaching: In addition to the pastoral care classes mentioned earlier, I taught an Introduction to Earth-Centered Spirituality class at CLR, and taught RE classes at different levels with Shiraz Tata and Krysta Wasilewski.

Practical Arts: I have attended several Board Meetings and all available staff meetings in order to learn more about church governance and administration.

Worship: I have participated in worship in many ways, from worship associate to sermons (in both this church and other churches in our cluster), and have learned how to conduct special worship in the Unitarian Universalist tradition (Christmas, Flower Ceremony, Easter Communion services). I have also conducted memorials and marriage ceremonies here in Rockford and elsewhere in the area.

Self-Care: I have learned to prioritize self-care, which is a challenge for me, and have grown in my ability to set boundaries in that light.

Spiritual Practice: My spiritual practices have been strengthened by my participation in this internship process. I now spend more time in prayer and meditation on a daily basis and can see the ways in which my own spiritual grounding helps me to be a better minister overall.

Thank you for a wonderful year.

Blessings,
Michelle

Director of Religious Education Report

Religious Education

This was a wonderful year of growth for the Religious Education Program. Our focus for the year was to create an environment that offered a place of belonging and fellowship that would promote regular attendance and allow children to explore Unitarian Universalism.

We began to see an increase in attendance in the fall. In particular, we saw more children attending regularly in the Grades Pre-K-1 age group. This increase allowed us to change the age distribution for the youngest children in the program to create an Ages 0-4 group and a Grades K-1 group. This change evened out the class sizes and helped us meet the developmental needs of the children in each group more effectively. Similarly, we saw an increase in attendance in the Grades 2-6 age group. We redistributed the age groupings to create a Grades 2-4 group and a Grades 5-8 group. This helped divide the groups in a more developmentally appropriate way and allowed an upper elementary/middle school aged group to form and meet regularly on Sunday mornings, which membership and attendance did not support at the beginning of the Religious Education year.

Another important change that impacted the program was the reorganization of the Religious Education area downstairs. The Ages 0-4 group and the Grades K-1 group now meet in classrooms 25 and 26 respectively. The advantage of this arrangement is that the adults in each room can see into the adjacent room through the windows in the wall separating the two rooms which increases supervision and safety. In addition, both rooms have bathrooms inside the classroom, which makes it more convenient for our youngest friends. Another advantage is that both classrooms exit onto the small playground that is used by children in those age groups. Finally, by having the children in the Ages 0-4 and Grades K-1 age groups next to each other, it makes the transition from the younger age group to the older age group easier and more fluid.

The classrooms for the children in Grades 2-12 were brought together around the Commons area. The Grades 2-4 group continued to meet in classroom 9. Classroom 18 was designated for use by the Grade 5-8 group, and the Grades 9-12 group moved to classroom 10. By utilizing all the classrooms off the Commons area, it allows for a communal feeling and helps bring the children, advisors, and staff together. It also increases visibility, safety, and supervision.

Each of the five classrooms that are regularly used for Religious Education on Sunday mornings were completely rearranged to support a clean, organized, and streamlined environment for the children and advisors to share. Any unnecessary furnishings or items in disrepair were removed. Each room was arranged to have table seating and an area to gather in a circle on the floor or on futons. Supplies were sorted, replenished, and stored in clear bins.

We continued to use the theme based Religious Education curriculum from Soul Matters to structure our weekly lessons for children in the Ages 0-4 group through the Grades 5-8 group. The Soul Matters curriculum created by Kimberlee Carlson provided a rich assortment of lesson ideas from which we could pull resources, books, and activities. In collaboration with the teachers from Grades K-8 age groups, I would plan a lesson for each week that would be implemented by the Religious Education volunteers. The feedback that I received from the teachers regarding the content and quality of the lessons was positive. Lauren Smith, our Nursery Director, planned a lesson each week for the children in the Ages 0-4 group. Each lesson would include a story, art project, or craft that focused on a big idea for the week such as friendship, family, kindness, etc. The feedback about Lauren's leadership and transformation of the Ages 0-4 from the parents and children was extremely positive. Next year the worship and Religious Education themes will be provided by Touchstones. Moving forward, we would like to set up the classrooms in such a way as to allow the children to explore the monthly themes more deeply and

participate in thoughtful discussion around the themes. We have established a curriculum planning team that will meet regularly beginning in the summer to design the classrooms and content of each classroom to support an exploratory approach to the themes. There is a lot of excitement about implementing this change, and we think it will further enhance the children's understanding of Unitarian Universalism and how it relates to the Touchstone themes.

Beginning in January, Lauren Smith and I began leading Children's Chapel on the first Sunday of each month. All the children through grade 8 gathered as one large group in the Frank Lloyd Wright children's chapel. We incorporated many familiar elements of worship in the sanctuary into Children's Chapel to familiarize the children with the format of a typical worship service. We also read a story, lead a discussion and engaged in an activity that reflected the theme for the month. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity for children of all ages to engage in fellowship and a greater sense of community. We will continue to gather for Children's chapel once a month next year.

The Grades 9-12 group (Youth Group) continued to meet, but this is the one area in which attendance was quite low. We are giving a great deal of thought to how Youth Group attendance can be increased in the future.

This year we added midweek programming for the children in grades 7-9. On the first and third Wednesday of each month we offered the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for the middle school aged children. The programming was offered in conjunction with the Wonderful Wednesday adult education programming. The response to the midweek programming was positive, and we will continue to offer programming for the children in grades 7-9 midweek as a three-year cycle on an ongoing basis. Next year we will offer the Coming of Age curriculum, and the following year we will offer the Neighboring Faiths curriculum.

The focus of the Religious Education team shifted from lesson planning to whole congregation event planning since we received a lesson framework from Soul Matters. This has been an important change in the use of the time and talent of the Religious Education team members that has been beneficial in welcoming new members and families into the church. Our goal was to plan at least one whole congregation event each month that we could invite new members to so they could connect with other families and church members. We as a team found this to be a highly effective way of helping new members and families feel connected and welcomed. Events included a UU history walk through the nature path, Halloween party and Trunk-or-Treat, a Chili Cook-off and board game night, a donation drive for MELD, Bowling Bonanza, Easter Egg Hunt (thanks to the tremendous effort of the Naugle-Nemeth family), and volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The team has already scheduled a whole congregation event for each month next year and will work in conjunction with the adult education programming and other committees to plan and implement the events. We hope to see our membership and attendance grow.

Our Summer Fun program replaces our regular Religious Education classes Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Each Sunday either myself or a volunteer leads the children in grades K-8 in a multi-age activity. This year I would like to keep the focus of the activities on science and nature to optimize the use of our beautiful grounds. We will also continue the social justice work of the R.E.S.C.U.E.S. (Reaching Every Student by Collecting Used Education Supplies) program created by Max Freund. With the help of his family, Max recycles unused school supplies and redistributes them to children in need throughout the community.

A change that has helped with record keeping and communication has been the switch to the online database Simple Church. This software has helped us track attendance with ease. During the 2016-17 Religious Education year we had 154 children and youth that were members or visitors at the church. The average weekly attendance was attendance was 24 children and youth. The database also helped

us communicate more effectively with the parents about upcoming lessons, whole congregation events, and special opportunities such as summer camp.

We are very pleased and excited to offer UU Summer Camp for the first time this summer. The camp will be four days long for three hours each morning. The focus of the camp will be the beauty of the natural world, and we will take full advantage of the grounds of the church. The response to the camp has been positive, and we have 12 registrants. Thanks to a generous donation, the cost of the camp was reduced to allow folks to take advantage of this opportunity. This is something that we would like to continue to offer in years to come.

Finally, I coordinated with our senior minister Matthew Johnson to select and read the story for all ages and plan the multigenerational worship services throughout the year.

In Gratitude

The success of the Religious Education Program is due in large part to the love and commitment of our volunteers. I would like to heartily thank the following people for their time, talent, and generosity: Shiraz Tata, Lynn Liston, Dianne Stenerson, Mary Naugle-Nemeth, Rebecca Quirk, Miranda Buell, Angela Thibedeau, Krysta Wasilewski, Karen Freund, Kim Lowman Vollmer, Fred Stellema, Carol Foster, Heather Gunnell, Ruth Penticoff, Joe Morton, Barb Chidley, Jennifer Rowe, Tom Harrison, Brent Cummings, Billie Callahan, Nikki Ticknor, Ross Ticknor, Matthew Huckstep-Fields, April Kane, Lisa Bianchi, and Wendy Bennett.

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I would like to extend a special thank you to the members of the Religious Education team who offered their experience, guidance, time, and talent to help make my first year as the Director of Religious Education a true pleasure. Thank you so much Rebecca Quirk, Joe Morton, Krysta Wasilewski, Kim Lowman Vollmer, and Karen Freund.

Respectfully Submitted by Lindsay Dunn

Music Director's Report

Over the past seven years or so, I have been involved in some official way or other with the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN), the professional organization for Unitarian Universalist music leaders and musicians. During that time, I served as a member of the first instantiation of the national Conference Planning Committee, followed by a term as UUMN Treasurer and a term as UUMN President. That work came to a close finally at the end of December, and I would be lying if I said that I am not glad that it is over. That said, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve and to become more fully connected not only with other music folks, but also with the leaders of the Unitarian Universalist Association and our partner professional organizations of ministers, religious educators, membership professionals, and church administrators. I learned a lot from all of these people, and my experiences in UUMN leadership roles have informed and will continue to inform my work programming and leading music here in our congregation.

The UUMN mission statement identifies two charges to its members: (1) to "create dynamic and transformative music ministries" and (2) to "model and promote excellence in shared ministry." Over the past thirteen years as your Music Director, I have taken these charges to heart. Of course, in my mind, I do not see these charges as separate. Rather, my guiding philosophy for years has been that for music to be part of a dynamic and transformative worship experience, it must be integrated with the other elements of worship and with the wider programmatic vision of the congregation. Such integration,

however, requires close collaboration among those who share responsibility for all aspects of ministry in the congregation.

I feel blessed to work with a leadership team here that values collaboration and seeks out a variety of input in realizing all church programs. As a part of our team, I have continued my commitment to seek out and program a wide variety of music representing distinct styles and traditions within the framework provided by our commitment to thematic worship and theme-based church programming in general. My sincerest gratitude, as always, goes to the **Unicantors**, who week in and week out do an outstanding job making my musical choices a reality in worship. Their collaboration is as valuable to me as that of the leadership team, and I am grateful for both their dedication and their commitment to musical excellence. I also am thankful for the collaboration of guest percussionists **Sam Campbell** and **Jim Conley** at several services. Their participation contributed to the variety of music heard throughout the year.

Along with the music provided weekly last year, the **Unicantors** and guest musicians presented two Music Sundays. On December 4, the service featured Daniel Pinkham's *Sinfonia Sacra (Christmas Cantata)*, accompanied by brass choir and organ. Also included in the service was John Rutter's setting of "Of a Rose, a lovely Rose" from his *Magnificat*. Guest tenors **Joe Sweeney** and **Brian Gustafson** joined us for the morning. This Music Sunday was made possible through the generous support of the Thomas Eliseo Fund. As always, I am deeply grateful to **Nancy Eliseo** for her continued and unwavering support of our music program, as well as for the lovely reception she hosted after the service.

On May 21, the Music Sunday service featured the *Missa Brevis Pro Serveto: A Mass for Unitarian Universalists*, music by Tobin Stokes and Latin text by Rev. Frances Dearman, accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble of six players. This was one of just three times in the past thirteen years that I have programmed the same piece more than once for Music Sunday. Given the response of the congregation and the many comments I received after the service, I am glad that we presented the work a second time.

The **Unicantors** also participated again with four area UU choirs in the Unitarian Universalist Western Crescent Choir Festival, hosted this year by the UU Church of Elgin. Tenor **Duane Wilke** was our soloist for the festival and did a tremendous job with Ysaye Barnwell's "Hope." I am thankful for the work of the Music Committee and chair **Dave Lantz** for coordinating our responsibilities for the festival and the supper afterwards. I am equally thankful for the committee's support and efforts throughout the year in all matters related to our music program.

In closing, I wish to offer special thanks to **Jesse Parker** for running choir rehearsals and playing for services in my absence this year. I am also grateful that **Jack Armstrong** will be covering all matters musical this summer during my vacation. As always, I wish to thank the congregation for the multifarious ways in which you consistently show your appreciation and support for music in our church. Finally, I am particularly and profoundly grateful for the sabbatical leave I have been awarded for the coming year. My goal is to have everything in place before I leave in December after Music Sunday, and I have every confidence that all will go well in my absence because of the capable and talented people in whose hands I will be leaving the reins. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Anderson
Music Director

Director of Congregational Life Report

As I reflect upon my sixth year at the church and my first year as Director of Congregational Life, Adult Engagement I am once again struck with a sense of gratitude—thankful to work with competent and comical colleagues, thankful to be engaged in work that makes and difference, thankful to be of service to the members of this church, and thankful to be a part of a Welcoming Congregation (in a world where it is once again feeling scarier than it had in the past, to be a part of the LGBT community).

My main goals for the church year were continued development of a mid-week program, administration and oversight of Spirit Journey Groups, and an upgrade to our communications systems.

On Wonderful Wednesdays (the moniker for our midweek program), we gathered at the church, sometimes for fellowship, sometimes for spiritual deepening and worship, other times to learn something new. It is a way to connect to our community outside of Sunday morning, make new friends, and find spiritual nourishment in the midst of your week. We offered both childcare and dinner and averaged 5-20 people per session. I am especially thankful to many church members who facilitated sessions and helped share something new with the attendees: Bob Arevalo, Peggy Menze, Joe Morton, Leah Krippner.

Spirit Journey Groups presented a challenge this year. As we come to the end of the church year, only one of three groups continues to meet and to have met regularly. Folks seemed hesitant to sign on to something for a year-long commitment, and perhaps meeting only once a month seemed to not allow a deeper connection to develop. We will meet this challenge with our new adult engagement plan, creating Touchstone Groups that allow for a shorter, but deeper connection and opportunity for folks to join/leave as the church year progresses.

We were fortunate to begin using a new data management system called Simple Church, and it has allowed us to streamline our communications with great results.

As we move into a new church year, my main goal will be to create a more intentional and robust Adult Engagement plan. In collaboration with Matthew, Lindsay Dunn, and future Intern Minister Andrea Hawkins-Kamper. The plan will consist of Touchstone Groups, Wonderful Wednesdays, Intergenerational Activities, Adult Religious Education classes and more. A full schedule will come out later this summer, and I am excited for you all to find the things that most fit your needs and passions. In order to best carry out that goal, I will also work directly with Autumn Fredricks to re-evaluate her work load, priorities, and personal goals so that some of my administrative tasks can be shifted, allowing more time to work on adult engagement.

I look forward to all that we have in store for the upcoming church year: working with social justice consultant Scott Aanseng, digging deeper in what it means to be a part of this faith community with Jake Morrill, and continuing to engage with all of you as we work to be an even better and stronger church!

Best,
Jamie Gaffke

Membership Coordinator Report

Not available at this time.

Treasurer's Report

In regards to the church's finances, 2016-2017 has been a very solid year. The budget approved by the congregation in June 2016 was relatively accurate, though there have been some deviations. Actual pledge income is anticipated to be within 1% of budgeted amount. However, income from rentals and fundraisers, specifically Trash & Treasure, are anticipated to be approximately \$5,000 lower than budgeted.

Expenses are anticipated to come in approximately 1% above the budget. Staff compensation, which makes up about 65% of the total annual expenses, will be approximately 2% less than budgeted. However, Buildings and Grounds expenses, which comprise another 10% of the annual expenses, have been approximately 20% higher than budget. We are researching additional cost saving measures that will be implemented for 2017-2018, which will reduce spending on electricity, which is 25% of the Buildings and Grounds budget.

The 2017-2018 Stewardship campaign has been very successful. Pledge income is anticipated to be approximately 5% higher than 2016-2017.

There was a large bequest received in Spring 2016. The final closure of the estate account was completed in May 2017 and the additional amount will allow us to continue to augment the capital campaign activities, contribute the appropriate amount the deficit reserve fund, and establish a scholarship fund in honor of the person who donated.

As the treasurer, I have participated in meetings of the finance committee and the investment panel, was a co-chair of the Stewardship campaign, and been an active member of the church board. While outside commitments have made it difficult to attend all of the meetings in person, it has been a pleasure to serve this church community and I look forward to another year of growth and opportunity.

Overall, the church is on very solid financial ground and the coming year should continue that trend. The support and generosity of the members are what make the important work and mission of this church possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Caravello

Nominating Panel

The Nominating Panel respectfully submits the following individuals for service to our church next year:

Ross Ticknor, Vice President
Sue Molyneaux, Clerk
Pam Wilson, Board-at Large
Nikki Ticknor, Chair Conflict & Resolution
Barb Giolitto, Nominating

Thank you to everyone who have considered and accepted leadership roles for next year.

Your Nominating Committee
Wendy Bennett, Jackie Dehler, Myrna Lake, Nikki Ticknor, Annie Hose-Ryan

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds Committee

Name of committee: Building & Grounds Committee

Committee's purpose: The Building and Ground Committee plans, budgets for and executes maintenance and improvements to the Church property, building, furnishings, and equipment. It prepares recommendations for the Church Board and / or the Congregation, as appropriate, for major maintenance, significant, or Capital level improvements.

Summary of committee's activities during the current year (please limit to one paragraph):

1. Replaced 6 of the furnaces in the North furnace room, the 3 A/C units for the Sanctuary, all 13 thermostats, installed Cat-6 ethernet cable for connection to the computer based Honeywell 8000 RedLink system and internet routers for church internet connection.
2. Engaged Saavedra-Gehlhausen Architects to provide recommendations and designs for the modernization of the Church main entry doors. Proposals from Cardinal Glass have been reviewed and approved by the B&G Committee and forwarded to the Finance Committee and Board for approval.
3. Replaced the upper hallway sink, counter, and cabinets, and removed the old refrigerator.
4. Replace the main lighting in the Sanctuary, Chapel, and upper hallway with LED lamps. Following a subsequent electrical energy usage audit, a proposal by Ikon Electric to replace the HPS (High Pressure Sodium) parking lot, and building exterior lighting fixtures (excluding the Atrium bollard lights) was approved and forwarded to the Finance Committee and Board. An additional solicitation for the conversion of the fluorescent tubes in Deale Hall and the conversion of the fixtures in the kitchen to LED lighting was requested from Ikon Electric
5. Substantial landscape / tree / brush trimming was conducted by committee members and numerous volunteers, in the area along Turner St. and the Southeast parking lot as well as the perimeter of the Prairie area prior to the annual Prairie Burn.
6. Annual building equipment; elevator, fire / extinguisher, water supply back flow, inspections completed, replacement of the main H2O heater, as well as the normal on going building maintenance.
7. Rework and reassignment of the Custodial, R.E. and other storage spaces was completed, old electronic equipment disposed of, new flat screen TV for R.E. obtained.
8. New carpeting and flooring in the Sanctuary, new carpeting in the main hallway, and new T-coil hearing assist system in the Sanctuary, and additional Sanctuary chairs.
9. Denominational values banners were mounted on the South fence of the main parking lot.

Hopes for the coming church year (Please limit to one paragraph):

1. Continue with the completion of capital Fund Drive items and Church facilities improvements as identified by the B&G Committee and others.

Committee members (names):

Skip Abare, Sandi Campbell, Jim Dehler, Allen Penticoff, Fred Stellema, Pat Tollefsrud, Dave Schubert

**A special acknowledgement needs to go to Sam Furman for his generosity and desire to increase the Church's electrical efficiency, and to the Martha Daniels' estate. Without her great generosity and love for our Church, many, if not all, of the major improvements would not have been possible.

Committee chair: D.J Schubert, B&G Chair

Library Team

Purpose Statement:

It is the purpose of the library committee to support the goals and mission of the Church by maintaining an accessible collection of materials reflecting the needs and interests of the congregation with a particular focus on Unitarian-Universalist themes and principles.

Summary of Committee's activities during the current year:

The library committee meets monthly, or as needed. Chairman, Mike Ullrich, researches DVDs, books, and magazines, and shares them with the committee. Our finances were such that we subscribed to or purchased several items. Mike is placing the names of new acquisitions in the Kairos to keep the congregation informed

Expenditures this year:

From a budget of \$250 per year, the library committee has about \$105 left.

Committee Members

Mike Ullrich, Chair
Kathy Young
Carol Fox
Rhea Overley
Billie Callahan Harrison, Bd. liaison

Submitted by Mike Ullrich

Finance Committee

Purpose statement:

The Finance committee monitors the financial status of the church and helps maintain its sound condition by its activities and recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Summary of committee activities during the current year:

Reviewed the church's income and expenses monthly, as well as the status of fundraising activities, service contracts, memorials and other financial matters.

Oversaw payment of promissory notes and followed up on capital campaign pledges.

Defined exempt and non-exempt employee positions. Established documentation system to ensure non-exempt did not exceed 40-hour work week.

UUA checklist used by Dave Zinn and Steve Blomgren to review financial procedures. They prepared recommendations for improvements which have been put into practice.

Prepared the following recommendation for the Boards of Trustees:

- Purchase of Directors/Officers Liability Insurance effective July 1, 2017.
- Allocation of Permanent Fund earnings for various operating budget usage.
- Division of Church Improvement Fund into Church Improvement Fund (30%) and Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund (70%) effective July 1, 2017.
- Revision of Church Financial Reserve Policy to set goal at minimum of 5% of annual pledge amount.
- Use of additional \$116,000 Martha Daniels bequest.

- Provided input in the development of the FY '18 operating budget to be voted on at the June annual meeting.

Hopes for the coming church year:

The committee hopes that expenses will not exceed income and that members honor their pledges so that can happen!

Committee members: Susan Caravello (Treasurer), Steve Blomgren (Investment Panel Chair), Ruth Little (Memorials & Special Gifts Committee Chair), Pete Giolitto, Steve Lewis, Dave Zinn, Peggy Menze, Sue Molyneaux, Pat Tollefsrud (Chair) and Jamie Gaffke (Director of Congregational Life)

Others who have assisted the committee: Fundraiser chairs – Skip Abare, Carol Foster, Sue Wilke; Stewardship chairs – Duane Wilke & Susan Caravello; and Matthew Johnson

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Tollefsrud, Chair

Auction Fundraiser

Vive la Auction! The annual auction was held the evening of November 5, 2016. The theme was "An Evening in Paris" in the '20s. Deale Hall was decorated with French posters, flags, artwork, and large murals of the Eiffel Tower and dancers from the Folies Bergère. Champagne was served at the Café de Paris and a good time was had by all.

There were eight items auctioned off in a live auction by auctioneer extraordinaire Carolyn Arevalo and 129 items were sold in the silent auction. Total sales were \$12,142.90 with expenses of 636.90, giving the church \$12,506. Merci beaucoup to the team of volunteers and generous donors, who made it all happen

Submitted by,
Skip Abare, chair

Trash or Treasure

The 33rd annual Trash or Treasure sale was held April 28 (9am–5pm) and April 29 (9am-1pm). The sale was co-chaired by Carol Foster and Sue Wilke. Net proceeds were \$10,231.98.

The following numbers represent the people power needed to accomplish the sale: 20 department heads; 10 people to load/unload (equipment and unsold goods); 20-30 additional members and friends to prep and sell; and 6-8 volunteers from an outside organization who helped with clean-up, thereby earning service hours. Recruitment this year was more challenging than last year, possibly influenced by our aging congregation, end-of-April timing, burnout, and other commitments members already have.

Trash or Treasure continues to be a great opportunity for members and friends to get to know one another as they work together for the benefit of the church. The chairs greatly appreciated the dedication of many, many individuals who have faithfully provided department leadership and work

hours for this fundraiser year after year. We were also thrilled to have the participation of new members and friends.

The sale is a huge undertaking, and its future is dependent upon new people taking up the mantle of leadership. Trash or Treasure is also an opportunity to open our church to the public, to talk with them about Unitarian-Universalism, and to encourage them to visit on Sunday. This year donations of leftovers went to the Salvation Army, ReStore, Children's Home and Aid Society, Heartland Share store, and Becca's Closet.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Foster and Sue Wilke

Investment Panel

Panel's Purpose: Provides for the safekeeping, investment, and reinvestment of the permanent funds. Makes any changes to investment portfolio as deemed appropriate. Based on December fund balances, determines the endowment fund distribution for the coming year. The Investment Panel is a sub-committee of the Finance Committee.

Summary of Committee's Activities During the Current Year:

- At year end 61.8% of our funds were in equities, 36.0% in fixed income and 2.2% in alternative funds.
- The performance of the Wells Fargo account was excellent for the full year 2016 with a return of 9.3%. The UU Fund returned 4% for a combined return of 8.9%.
- We bought additional shares of the socially responsible fund (Calvert Large Cap) raising the fund value by \$ 40,000 to a new total of \$76,600.
- With over \$200,000 remaining from the Martha Daniel's \$600,000+ bequest to the church, after paying off the mortgage and supporting the capital drive, the panel looked to equities that have promise for good returns. We invested in Calvert Mutual Fund A, four Trust Capital Strength funds, AAM Bulldog fund, Bahl & Gaynor dividend fund, and The American Renaissance Fund.
- The Investment Panel submitted to the Board for congregational approval an endowment allocation of \$33,000 which is 5.0% of the fund's total value as of December 31st, 2016. The 5% payout is consistent with our allocation objective of smoothing the good and bad year's performances to stay in the area of 4-6% allocation each year.
- The January 1st 2017 beginning balance of all funds excluding the UUA fund was \$701,692. The value as of April 20th, 2017 was \$731,091; for an increase of \$29,399. That is a 4.19% as compared to the S&P of 5%; which is very good considering ours includes fixed income funds and the S&P is all equities. The UIT's (Unit Investment Trusts) are up double digits, Rydex is up 11% and Calvert is up 7%.

Hopes for the coming church year:

2016 was a good year and Wells Fargo is predicting moderate growth in 2017 with the understanding that there is much instability globally which could affect the market negatively.

Committee Members: Pete Giolitto and Susan Caravello, ex-officio members; Jim Dehler, Dean Tollefsrud, Jim Bailey, Steve Lewis, Alan Bloomfield and Steve Blomgren, chair

Signature of Committee Chair: Steve Blomgren

Endowment Funds - Allocations for Fiscal Year 17-18														
Allocation Plan - Percentages of Distribution by Fund										5.095% -- Allocation percentage				
	Capital Maint. Reserve	Facility & Equipment	Programs for Growth	Outreach	Religious Education	Intern Ministry	Leadership	Flowers	Planned Giving	Total				
Fox Fund	0%	50%	28%	10%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
McFadyen Fund	0%	0%	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Church Improvement	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Connolly Fund	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Frederick Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Leadership Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%				
Palm Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%				
Campion Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%				
Endowment Funds - \$ Allocations for Fiscal Year 17-18										5.095%	-- Allocation percentage			
Traditional Distribution												Fund Balance		
	Capital Maint. Reserve	Facility & Equipment	Programs for Growth	Outreach	Religious Education	Intern Ministry	Leadership	Flowers	Planned Giving	Total				
Fox Fund	3,230.00	4,700.20	4,700.30	4,700.50	4,700.60	4,700.10	4,700.80	4,700.40		11,205.00	219,936.00			
McFadyen Fund	-	-	4,925.00	1,216.00	-	-	-	-	-	6,141.00	120,534.00			
Church Improvement	6,128.00	2,626.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,755.00	171,848.00			
Connolly Fund	-	-	2,957.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,957.00	59,048.00			
Frederick Fund	-	-	-	-	-	3,456.00	-	-	-	3,456.00	67,837.00			
Leadership Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	189.00	-	-	189.00	3,701.00			
Palm Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	321.00	-	321.00	6,303.00			
Total	6,128.00	8,229.00	11,065.00	2,290.00	1,345.00	3,456.00	189.00	321.00	-	33,023.00	648,207.00	5.1%		
Rounded Allocation	6,100.00	8,200.00	11,100.00	2,300.00	1,400.00	3,400.00	200.00	300.00	-	33,000.00				
Planned Giving Funds														
Campion Fund	Fixed \$10,000 per year until fund balance is exhausted. Entered as a Special Pledge. (acct 41004)										10,000.00	10,000.00	87,094.00	735,301.00

Memorials and Special Gifts

Committee's Purpose: To act as a sensitive liaison with families and/or donors in the selection of memorials that reflect the life and interests of the memorialized person(s) and are appropriate to the needs, priorities, commitments, and decor of the church, and to promote the donation of special gifts and bequests to the church.

Summary of year 2016-17:

- Reviewed the committee purpose and policies and confirmed that these documents continue to accurately reflect the committee's work.
- Invited members of the congregation to consider an engraved brick in our memorial patio through a Kairos article.
- Approved the use of memorial funds for the new hymnals needed when we added chairs to the sanctuary.
- Approved the use of memorial funds for new bookcases for a children's library.
- Approved the use of memorial funds for a planter by the door of the library.

For next year:

- Again invite members to consider an engraved brick for our memorial patio.
- Frequent consultation with Building & Grounds members regarding project/issues relating to both groups.

Meetings: The committee meets as needed, in person or on line.

Members: Francie Barnes, Mary Caskey, Jackie Dehler, Alice Enichen, Kay Hotchkiss, Pat Tollefsrud.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Little, Chair

Stewardship Committee

The purpose of the Stewardship Campaign is to educate the membership of the financial requirements of the church and raise the funds necessary to fund church programs and maintain our building. This year's 175 anniversary theme was based on "what do you love?" The main event, held the first weekend in March, was an all church crock pot lunch held immediately after the service. Over 85 members and friends met in 11 different rooms throughout the church to talk about what they loved and then make their pledges. In February, after the introduction to our campaign, the Finance Committee, the Music Committee, and the Religious Education Committee reported their activities each Sunday. By the day of our campaign, the congregation learned a song starting with "One hundred seventy-five years of liberal religion" with the melody borrowed from Rent. Pledges totaled \$344,298, which is \$17,124 more than last year's pledge income budget.

On behalf of myself and co-chair Susan Caravello, we thank church members for their support and generosity. Submitted by Duane Wilke, co-chair

Denominational Affairs Committee

Committee's Purpose (Describe): The Denominational Affairs Committee informs the congregation about the larger denomination--the MidAmerica Region and the UUA-- and provides feedback from the congregation to the UUA.

Summary of Committee's Activities During the Current Year (Please limit to one paragraph): Attended General Assembly 2016 in Columbus, OH, a meeting centered on black lives and anti-racism. Keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, who also spoke movingly at the Democratic Convention in 2016. Attended the ordination of former member, Leslie Mills, in Elgin. Supported Black Lives UU by offering our building as a meeting for local black activists in support of the Black Lives movement in August. Invited congregation members to choose the next UUA president from among the 3 candidates for our 8 votes. Registered to attend GA in New Orleans at the end of June. Other members attending GA this June are Christopher Sims and Kadison Sanders.

Hopes for the coming church year (Please limit to one paragraph): I'm proud of our congregation supporting our denomination by being a "Fair Share" congregation this year, meaning we are paying the UUA the amount we owe based on our membership. However, we still expect to balance our budget by cutting our support for the MidAmerica region. Is our local church really **more** important than the denomination which advances our mission nationally? Do we want to rely on generous members like Martha Daniels to fund our responsibility to our Association?

Committee Members (names): Teresa Wilmot

Other Church Members and Friends Who Have Assisted the Committee (names): Duane Wilke (Partner Church)

Submitted by Teresa Wilmot

Caring Team

Team's purpose: The congregation's ministry to one another. The team assists in providing caring help and temporary support.

Summary of Team's activities: The team gathers approximately every other month to make sure that our members, who are in need of some support or contact, are being looked after. We have pastoral care associates who visit the hospitals when we know of our members being hospitalized. Rides to appointments/church are sometimes provided. Food might be taken to our members. Notes are written. Christmas cookies made by many members of the congregation are distributed. The committee works very closely with the assistance of the church office in providing assistance.

The members of the Memorial Reception sub-team, under the direction of Barb and Pam Wilson provided excellent hospitality

In response to needs of members, we began a UU Ride Ministry, recruiting volunteers to provide transportation to members on a regular or as-needed basis. Intern Minister Michelle Lattanzio also facilitated a three-session pastoral care class for any interested member of the congregation. This class a

Hopes for the coming year: We will heartily welcome and support our new chair, Carol Foster. We would like to be able to provide more direct pastoral care to congregants who are at OSF and Rockford Memorial Hospitals, and will contact their staff to see if that is possible. We also want to be sure that the care that we provide is utilized, so we will reach out more often in Kairos and in personal contact.

Team members: Carolyn Arevalo (past chair), Chair, Robert Arevalo, Jan Cooper, Carol Foster, Wanda Hoover, Judy Johnson, Lynn Liston, Pat Littlejohn, Ann Marie Marshall, Laura Patterson, Kathy Scarpaci, Michelle Lattanzio, and Jamie Gaffke

Respectfully submitted: Jamie Gaffke, staff liaison to team

Membership Team

Please see Membership Coordinator report.

Vital Statistics

MARRIAGES

July 30, 2016	Amy Sandquist & Tom Pilcher	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
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MEMORIAL SERVICES

November 12, 2016	Bill Smith	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
December 3, 2016	Steve Mahan	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
December 27, 2016	Evelyn Palm	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
January 7, 2017	Bob Bowen	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
May 13, 2017	Elizanne Lewis	The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson

Membership Statistics

RESIGNED - 7
 [Those in brackets had previously requested non-pledging friend status and were subtracted from Active count at that time]

Mary & Paul Runestad	Jordan DeWilde	Shaun Rangel	Ann & Bob Bowling
Jill Hazelbauer-Von der Ohe			

REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY BOARD ACTION..... - 0
 (for failure to respond to request to indicate continuing interest in membership)

DECEASED -5

Bill Smith	Steve Mahan	Evelyn Palm	Bob Bowen	Elizanne Lewis
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REQUESTED CHANGE TO PLEDGING FRIEND STATUS..... -0

REQUESTED CHANGE TO NON-PLEDGING FRIEND STATUS..... -0

REINSTATED +4

Leslie & Steve Mahan

Stacey Wilkes

Christopher Sims

NEW +29

Jennifer Rowe (10/23/16)
Heather Gunnell (10/23/16)
Lynn Salley (10/23/16)
Regina Brenmark-French
(10/23/16)
Kim Winger (10/23/16)
Donna Ducharme (10/23/16)
Robert Pennington
(03/26/16)
Katie Baskey (03/26/16)
Shaun Rangel (03/26/16)
Cynthia Swacina (03/26/16)

Larry Swacina (03/26/16)
Derick Parker (03/26/16)
Erin Leisure (03/26/16)
Renee Ekedahl (03/26/16)
Melissa Vyborny (03/26/16)
Deb Bridges (03/26/16)
Amy Brandon (05/21/17)
Kevin McAllister (05/21/17)
Rhonda McAllister (05/21/17)
Ann Caskey (05/21/17)
Brooke Garcia-Nettz
(05/21/17)

Monica Garcia-Nettz
(05/21/17)
Khanh Oehlke (05/21/17)
Kha Nguyen (05/21/17)
Mary Kate Herriges
(05/21/17)
Angela Schick (05/21/17)
Angelique Bodine (05/21/17)
Teresa Delong (05/21/17)
Todd Elliott (05/21/17)

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF 06/08/2017354

Religious Growth & Learning

Please see the Director of Religious Education's report for information regarding Religious Growth and Learning

Social Justice Team

During the last church year, the Social Justice Committee has awarded Share-the-Plate funds to over 25 different charitable groups, the majority being local. The committee has sponsored tutors at Nelson Elementary School and volunteers at Cornucopia Food Pantry. Committee members have organized clean-up activities on a section of Linden Road and represented the church in numerous social action groups such as GEAR, Rockford Urban Ministries, and Transform Rockford committees. Social Justice oversees the church's affiliation with a number of social action efforts and UUA social action groups.

The members of the committee:

Jackie Dehler – Action for Children and Welcoming Congregation

Dave Black – Immigration

Peggy Menze – Mental Health

Ellyn Ahmer – Gear

Allen Penticoff – Green Congregation

Jon McGinty – Rockford Urban Ministries

Carol Fox – Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

Gaen McClendon – Unitarian Universalist Association Northern Illinois and GEAR

Myrna Lake – Adopt a School and Cornucopia

Teresa Wilmot – Unitarian Universalist Social Action Committee

Matthew Johnson – Minister

The committee would like to thank all of those members of the congregation who have given their time and efforts to support these various activities.

Submitted by Myrna Lake and Dave Black, co-chairpersons

Worship Team

The Worship Team met several times during the year. Our main task was dividing the responsibility as worship associate amongst ourselves. Matthew gave us a preview of each Sunday's topic to help us make appropriate chalice lighting commentary. Feedback from the church community has been very positive.

Music Team

The primary purpose of the Music Committee is to assist the Music Director. This year we made gifts for the guest musicians for both the December and May Music Sundays. We also ordered, purchased and brought food for the Western Crescent Choral Fest in Elgin this April. Special thanks to Sandi Campbell

for her help planning and help with these. In addition we also help plan special music performances although there haven't been any this year,
With Tim's schedule for next year, we expect to be busier. To help make it easier I intend to recruit more members
Current members; Mardi Blomgren, Sandi Campbell, Alice Enichen, Kay Hotchkiss and Theresa Wilmot board liaison.
Submitted by Dave Lantz, chair