

2008-2009
Annual Report



Universalist Unitarian Church
of East Liberty

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Agenda

Annual Meeting Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty May 17, 2009

Opening Kerry Hart, Board President

1. Minister's Report, Dr. Rev. Cynthia Landrum
2. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2008
3. Treasurer's Report, Steve Beison
4. Annual Report of the Trust Fund, Victor Marshall
5. Approval of Board of Trustees Nominees
6. Approval of delegates to General Assembly
7. Selection of agencies to receive financial support in 09-10
8. Approval of new agencies for congregational support
9. Receiving of Board, Staff, and Committee Reports

Adjourn

Annual Report from the Board of Trustees 2008-2009

Board Members: Kerry Hart, President; Jane Volk, Vice President; Becky Bowen, Secretary; Steve Beison, Treasurer; Gratia Karmes, Member; Alyce Oosting, Member.

During this past fiscal year, the Board of Trustees addressed new issues while revisiting many "old" issues. Early in the year we reviewed our bylaws. Our suggestions for change will be submitted for congregational vote on June 14, 2009. We also developed new procedures for handling money. These procedures provided consistent guidelines for handling pledges and coffee hour donations. We believed this was sound financial practice that could also prevent loss and protect members from potential accusation. Another new step involved changing the employment status of certain staff members so they are paid as employees rather than independent contractors. This act resulted in better compliance with IRS regulations and contributions to our staff's Social Security earnings. The long-term impact on the church's budget is insignificant.

The Board continued to have difficulty recruiting an accountant to assist the treasurer position. Bob Lewis assisted the church until early this spring. Ultimately, Ann Green was able to volunteer her time and bookkeeping experience. We are very grateful to Bob for his commitment, yet relieved to have a local member serve our church in this capacity. The transition has gone well; we are so pleased with Ann's competence and dedication.

The Board also continued to review plans and suggestions for improving building and grounds. We approved the use of long-term savings for new doors, locks, and a doorbell for the parsonage and schoolhouse. Like the previous year, however, other suggestions were often met with reluctance due to the church's lack of a comprehensive building plan. Several members participated in a church meeting to discuss this issue. Most participants seemed to agree that a long-range plan is desirable and necessary. The Board will need to identify members interested in giving time, energy, and input into this process.

Lastly, the Board has had to face financial realities that have resulted in many budget cuts and new ways of "doing business". Like so many other churches and organizations, we have made difficult decisions in order to maintain a balanced budget and minimize spending our savings. I think we have done remarkably well, especially in light of the previous years' deficits. This new year brings us no lesser challenge, however. It is just as important as ever that our members provide input during the budgeting process and we continue to give as generously as we are able. Our creativity and energy has resulted in many

new and successful fund raising activities. We need only to sustain our excitement and commitment to this loving community. Yes UUs CAN!

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Hart, Board President

Annual Report from the Treasurer

May 17, 2009

The pledge campaign for the 2009-2010 church year is not yet complete, thus the Board has decided to postpone the presentation of a budget proposal until Sunday, June 14. If you have not yet made a pledge and wish to do so, you may contact Alyce Oosting, Kerry Hart, Carole Hartsuff, Jane Volk or Steve Beison.

By now you should have received information regarding your church contributions through April 30. If you haven't received the information, contact Steve Beison via e-mail (sambeison@comcast.net) or phone (517-563-2983). If you made a pledge for this year and intend to fulfill the payment of that pledge, the balance of your pledge needs to be paid by June 30.

Ann Green has taken over the bookkeeping responsibilities previously handled by Bob Lewis. The Board is grateful for Ann's willingness to take on such an important task.

The efforts and contributions of the congregation, the committees and the Board have resulted in attaining the following goals from last year's budget proposal:

- (1) Reduced advertising expenses by nearly \$700
- (2) Saved \$575 by eliminating the listing of the church phone number in the phone book.
- (3) Added \$742 in contributions from church members to the 10% in church dues that will be paid to the District and UUA by the end of this church year.
- (4) Established a sabbatical fund for Rev. Cynthia Landrum.
- (5) Raised over \$13,000 from the following fundraisers:
 - A. First Friday dinners \$1515
 - B. Holiday Bazaar \$2448
 - C. Book sale \$590
 - D. Meijer's bucks \$353
 - E. Auction over \$8000
 - F. Pig Roast \$253
 - G. This year's Grandma's attic garage sale will take place in June and, if it is as successful as last year's event, we can add over \$1400 to our fundraisers.

This congregation can take pride in what it has accomplish this year. My thanks to all of you for your hard work and commitment to our church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen M. Beison
Board Treasurer

Annual Report from the Minister Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty 2008-2009

I had a busy year this year personally, as I took on teaching some adjunct classes at Jackson Community College. This meant a lessened involvement in some community activities that I had been regular at, and some committees and groups of the church. Thankfully, our Board of Trustees was very understanding and helpful during this time, and I kept in regular communication with them about what items I was unable to get to in my schedule. The teaching at JCC, however, did prove to make positive connections that impacted my ministry as well, from interactions with faculty and staff at JCC, to being invited to substitute teach the World Religions course.

Also on a personal note, I was mindful this year that this was the last year before my daughter enters kindergarten. For the past five years, I have been taking her with me to almost every ministers' conference, study group, or other professional trip, and she has become a regular presence among my colleagues. I expect I will not be able to do this next year, and her presence will be very much missed by me and by some of the colleagues who have gotten to know her during her early years. This may mean that I'll feel more tied to home in the next few years and will attend fewer of our conferences, or that I'll switch my emphasis from regional conferences to national ones, such as GA, which occur at the end of the school year, but only time will tell this for sure.

Worship

Sunday Services: The most visible work that a minister does is lead worship on Sunday mornings. According to my letter of agreement with the congregation, I lead the worship service on thirty Sundays, and am present for an additional four. I will have completed this for this year by the end of June (my year goes through July because I started in August). I greatly enjoy some of the topics that are annual events: the Big Read, the Auction Sermon, and the Season for Nonviolence. Two things that are becoming a regular part of our

worship year as well are an August sermon series, and an alternating winter holiday focus between Christmas and World Religions winter holidays.

Holiday Services: Every year I also lead our Christmas Eve service, a special service which is always a joyful event. This year we added another special holiday service, a Winter Solstice Service. Coming so close to Christmas Eve, we were not sure if there would be much demand for such a service, but it was attended by about a dozen members, not a bad showing for a

busy holiday season and a new event!

Special Services and Community

Services: Occasionally I have the opportunity to participate in worship services in the community, as well. This year I coordinated an interfaith service to close the display of the Names Quilt, the HIV/AIDS memorial quilt, when it was displayed in Jackson. I also participated, as I have for the last several years, in an Interfaith Prayer Service for the National Day of Prayer. A special joy for me was getting to preach at Jackson's annual Thanksgiving Eve service. The Thanksgiving Eve service was an interfaith service for the first time this year, with the inclusion of Muslims in the service. Lastly, there was one service this year that I did which was in response to a great sorrow, a vigil held in solidarity with the mourning of the Tennessee Valley UU Church after a shooting in their sanctuary which killed members of their congregation.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an important part of the work I do as a minister, and I feel privileged to walk with people during these tender and difficult moments in their lives. While I cannot comment on any specific needs for pastoral care, I will say that this was a hard year in our community, from the many deaths of loved ones of members of the congregation, to the pressures and stress of our state's and nation's economy.

Rites of Passage

Weddings: I usually have only a handful of wedding requests each year, and this year was no exception. However, I was pleased that this year I got my first request for a same-sex wedding since coming to Michigan (I performed several in Massachusetts, and some in other states, as well).

Funerals and Memorials: We've had many deaths in our community this year, and a few in the larger community that I've performed services for, as well. Since our annual meeting last year we have mourned the deaths of two members, Marjorie Johnston and Greg Mitchell, and several family members and community members: Tom Bliss, Barbara Jewel Hubbard, Rob Sbach, and Jason Wittenberg.

Social Action

One of the things I do as minister of this congregation is take a public stand for issues of social justice. This has to be done carefully, as I cannot represent the church as having a stand on an issue that the congregation has not voted on. Nevertheless, I have done several things in keeping with the church's social justice stands in the community this year.

HIV/AIDS Resource Committee

(HARC): As mentioned under special services, I worked with the HARC to create an interfaith prayer service for the Names Quilt.

Tennessee Valley: In response to the shooting deaths in the Tennessee Valley UU Church in August, I wrote an editorial for the Jackson Citizen Patriot which was published.

Family Services and Children's Aid (FSCA): I'm on the board of Family Services and Children's Aid, which has meant monthly board meetings and a little bit of volunteer activity with this agency which provides many different services in the community.

Lord, Save Us from Your Followers and Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG): PFLAG was asked to be on the panel for a showing of the movie *Lord, Save Us from Your Followers* by the minister of Pathways church. I also joined the panel to represent an agnostic viewpoint.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Clergy Call: This spring I went on a two-day trip to Washington D.C. for the HRC's 2009 Clergy Call, where we had a day of conference and then lobbied for hate crime and employee nondiscrimination legislation. I made some good connections with UUA staff, other UU clergy, and the one other person from Michigan, from the American Friends Service Committee.

Planned Parenthood: Planned Parenthood called recently for support as they face a challenge in the Columbia Schools where they have been providing sexuality

education. I attended the recent board meeting, along with several UUCEL members, and spoke to the school board in favor of Planned Parenthood.

Working with the Board and Committees

One large piece of the work I do is working with the board and the committees of the church. They have their own annual reports, so I do not want to duplicate their statements here. Instead, I'll give a summary of what the committees do in general, and, when applicable, how I work with the committee.

Worship Committee: The Worship Committee works to fill the pulpit on Sundays that I'm not preaching, and to review the quality and direction of our worship services. This year one big issue we tackled was whether or not to include the U.S. flag in our sanctuary display. The committee worked hard on this issue, listening to community voices, and coming up with a great compromise policy. I rely greatly on the Worship Committee to puzzle through these issues with me, to provide interesting services for the congregation, and to, upon occasion, bring to me suggestions for preaching topics.

Caring Committee: The Caring Committee does a great job of helping with the pastoral care needs of this community. They help keep me informed of situations and they help me reach out to members in

need. They are a wonderful, caring group of people.

Membership: The Membership Committee wears so many hats right now, and does an admirable job of balancing all of them. The tasks they cover include:

- Coordinating and training church hosts (ushers, greeters, and coffee hour hosts)
- Providing visitor orientation and New UU classes
- Creating and updating visitor packets and new member packets
- Scheduling and creating new member gatherings
- Overseeing advertising
- Purchasing brochures
- Overseeing social events, including "First Friday" dinners and the annual picnic.
- Reviewing visitors logs
- Maintaining the church calendar
- Creating signage for inside the church

And this is probably only half of what they do. Without this coordination, numerous small details would be overlooked and forgotten. This committee works with me in a major way on scheduling, making sure that we don't forget everything from visitor orientations to the hanging of the greens.

Outreach (commUnity forUms): With the Outreach Committee, I occasionally am the point person for coordinating individual forums. However, this year I believe I may not have done any, which is simply a

testimonial to how well organized this group of people is, and how much momentum the forums have gained in our community. What I try to bring to our focus as a committee is how to include the groups that we have voted to support as a congregation, how to include the UUA's social justice resolutions, and how to connect forums back to events at the church.

Religious Education: Since the Religious Education program has a wonderful staff person in Sharon Pedersen, they have much less need for my leadership. This year they have moved to a different day than Worship Committee, which means I can attend more, which I have been doing. My focus is mostly on integration of religious education into the overall life of the church (through such things as intergenerational Sundays), and in providing adult religious education. This fall, Sharon Pedersen and I concluded the year-long curriculum, *Building the World We Dream About*, a new UUA curriculum on anti-racism. Several other Adult Religious Education opportunities were offered in the spring, with no sign-up happening.

Sabbatical Committee: We started up a new committee this year to work with me on exploring the possibility of my taking a sabbatical in the 2010-2011 church year. This group of supportive members has been doing a great job at defining the blessings and challenges that a sabbatical may provide to the

congregation. I'm very much aware that no ministers in this church that can be recalled have taken a sabbatical during their tenure here, and grateful for the opportunity and excited to be the first to do so. I see this, in part, as a celebration of a shared ministry that we have accomplished together, as well as a time of renewal. Many ministers leave after five or six years, and, indeed, no minister has stayed here past five years since the Rev. Ruth Smith retired in 1981. The longest tenure during this time was the Rev. Susan Smith's, which lasted five years. As I complete my fifth year at UUCEL, I am thankful for an opportunity to renew and refresh my ministry for the next period of our shared time together.

Committee on Ministry (Ministerial Relations Committee): The COM did not meet much this year. The group has functioned without a chair for several years, but this year did not seem to get off the ground with meetings, something which I failed to pursue, as well. However, when we did meet, there were not any pressing issues of conflict in the church that needed to be addressed. The COM is responsible for undertaking an assessment of the ministry of the congregation every three years, which didn't happen this year as scheduled and will need to be a focus next year.

Fundraising

We had some ambitious fundraising goals this year, and many members

pulled together to create some wonderful events that raised money for the church. I took the leadership on a couple of items:

Hungarian Dinner: One of our earlier First Friday Dinners, this was a success thanks to the many people who gamely made Hungarian dishes for the event. Thanks go also to my sister, Carrie Landrum, for giving a presentation on Hungarian culture.

Used Book Sale: Our first of what I hope will be many used book sales brought in more than our budget called for, thanks to the wonderful books donated by members and the help of members with sorting books and staffing the sale.

Social Activities

Jim Scott Concert: We had a last-minute offer from musician Jim Scott to give a concert at our church, which I coordinated. This event did not make any money, but was a fun event.

Local Clergy and Religious Groups

Jackson Area Ministerial Association (JAMA), Women Clergy Group, and Jackson Interfaith Discussion Group – There are several clergy and religious groups that I regularly participate in. My attendance at all of these has decreased this year, but has been picking back up. In May, I hosted JAMA at UUCEL with FSCA as the guest speaker.

Internet Presence

Blog: After working on our webpage last year, this year I worked on increasing our on-line presence. I started a blog, <http://revcyn.blogspot.com>, which I tried to post to at least once per week. There were only a couple of weeks where I did not make that commitment, and a few weeks where I posted multiple times. My blog is listed in "UUpdates," which is a list of UU blogs. It has also been mentioned in the *UU World's* on-line column about blogs, "The Interdependent Web" on at least eight occasions. I was also a recent guest blogger for the UUA's Washington Advocacy Office's blog.

Facebook: A second on-line presence I created this year was our church's unofficial Facebook page. (The board decided for liability purposes to keep both the Facebook page and the Myspace page created by Gary Tripp unofficial.) The Facebook church has 41 "fans," as they are called on Facebook. Many of these are church members, but some are friends or relatives of members or members of the Jackson community, which means that this can be a good new method for getting word about our church out. My own Facebook page has been a good method of connecting to several members of the church, as well.

Twitter: Lastly, I've just started using Twitter, and have nine people following my "tweets." (For those on

Facebook, my Twitter updates feed into my Facebook status updates.) I'm not sure what benefit this medium will hold yet, but I'm enjoying experimenting with it. It's possible it can also be used as a method of getting information out to members.

Webpage: The webpage, www.libertyuu.org, continues to be updated by my father, Bill Landrum, which means that I have done the updating of it on several months when his schedule got particularly busy. It needs to have an annual updating of information, as well. If there is any member who feels technologically capable of taking on this important task, we would welcome additional assistance with the webpage.

Administration

The hidden job of a minister is the clerical work (thus the title "clergy," from the same root as "clerk"!). Answering phone messages, e-mail, mail, and other correspondence takes a large amount of my time each week, as does preparing reports and compiling information for the committees and board. I get over fifty e-mails a day from church members, social action groups, clergy groups, and denominational and district groups. I admit that I often fall behind in keeping up with all this correspondence, but I try to prioritize so that correspondence which needs response and is from members comes first.

Denominational and District Affairs

Heartland Unitarian Universalist

Minister's Association (HUUMA): For the past two years I have been the arrangements coordinator for our minister's chapter. I am pleased to have completed this and passed it on to another two ministers who will take over from here. My new responsibility to the minister's chapter is as the webpage administrator

(<http://www.huuma.org>). Happily, they have even voted me a stipend to help cover my time in doing this task.

Heartland District: I attended the Heartland District annual assembly in Muncie, Indiana, this year. There's a possibility that Muncie may become the regular meeting place for the district assembly, which would be a good location for us, as it is not too far.

Unitarian Universalist Association: I will not be attending General Assembly (GA) this year, which is in Utah. My professional expenses are such that when I do attend GA, much of the expense is covered by my own funds. However, next year

GA will be closer, in Minneapolis, and I hope to attend.

Professional Growth

Ohio River Group: I belong to a ministers' study group, the Ohio River Group, which meets yearly in October. This year I presented a response paper on the subject of "Covenant." Next year I will be presenting a paper on a poetry topic.

Study Leave: I take four weeks of study leave per year, in accordance with my letter of agreement, generally one around the New Year, and three in the summer. I use these weeks to plan for the following year, coming up with sermon topics, a worship schedule, and adult religious education plans. I also usually have a reading list of books I want to read for the sermons and for my minister's study group topic (which, also usually becomes a sermon for the year). If I have a paper I'm presenting at a conference, I also do work on it during my study leave. During my study leave this summer, I will be doing all these things, particularly focusing on my paper on poetry for Ohio River Group.

As I conclude my fifth year here at UUCEL, I am, as always, humbled by and grateful for the opportunity to serve as your minister. This is a wonderful, caring, exciting, and vital congregation doing important work in our community and in the lives of our members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum,
Minister

Annual Report from the Religious Education Coordinator 2008- 2009

Preschool: Children enjoyed lessons an average of twice a month from the curriculum, "We are Many, We are One." A highlight was picking their own "class tree."

K-5: In the Summer of 2008 we wrapped up the curriculum, "Rainbow Children" and started "Moral Tales." with a different story every week from around the world, to illustrate such themes as interdependence, generosity, welcoming, and using one's "moral compass." As we wrap up the school year in 2009, we have launched another fun curriculum, "Toolbox of Faith."

Youth (grades 5-8) started a two-year odyssey to develop their own credo by first studying the historical Jesus, Christianity and Judaism. They'll learn more about Eastern religions next Fall, and then undertake the credo curriculum. We had one interfaith youth group meeting with several kids and their advisors from St. John's United Church of Christ. We hope to get this group off the ground in the fall.

Several adults participated in *Building the World We Dream About*, focusing on race and multiculturalism.

Thank you to the teachers for the 2008-09 school year:

Meredith Baither	Gretchen Marshall
Becky Bowen	Alyce Oosting
Rob Gaecke	Cecily Savick
Kerry Hart	Anne Seifert
Kathy Haynes	Sharon Pedersen, RE
Lynn Hightower	Coordinator
Jane Hill	Vicki Haynes,
Jackie Johnson	Nursery/Childcare
Chris Keith	

Special events this year included the Harvest/Holiday Bazaar, a holiday pageant, Santa's Workshop, "church friends" month, an Easter Egg hunt, the Children's Auction, and several intergenerational services. The children prepared letters for a banner that reads "Blest are the Peacemakers," from The Beatitudes, and it was presented to the church at the youth service, April 26.

We'll celebrate flower communion and "wheel of the year" transitions at the beginning of June. And then we'll continue to have "Toolbox of Faith" lessons for K-12 children throughout the Summer, every other week starting June 14.

It has been a rewarding year, and I appreciate UUCEL's commitment to our next generation.

Sharon Pedersen, Religious Education Coordinator

Caring Committee
2008- 2009 Annual Report

Caring Committee Members:

Nena Obits Chair
Rev. Cindy Landrum
Jann Krupa
Gretchen Marshall
Margaret Johns
Alyce Oosting
Mindy Radseck
Jane Volk
Gratia Karmes
Peg Gordon

The Caring Committee now consists of ten members, including Rev. Cindy. We were happy to have Peg Gordon join the committee in March.

The Caring Committee meets once a month to discuss the caring needs of our congregation. We are ready and available to lend an ear and give support where needed. We want to thank the entire congregation for being our extended Caring Committee, knowing that this is a very important way that we can live our religion!

In July I will be stepping down as Caring Committee Chair.

Nena Obits

Membership Committee

2008- 2009 Annual Report

Membership Committee members are Joan Bernstein, Carole Hartsuff, Jann Kurpa and Kathy Haynes. With the help of the Greeters, we attempt to acknowledge each visitor by sending "Thanks for visiting us" notes, putting together visitors folders and passing on the names information to Paul Bowen the Registrar. We also offer visitors hard copies of the newsletter at no charge for 3 months. We also keep the phone tree updated, send notes to those members who have not attended Church for extended time periods. Other duties include, keeping the UU World Magazine mailing lists updated and sending the updated list to the Board.

A large cost cutting item enacted by the committee this past year was to cut the advertising budget in half. This was accomplished by reducing the number of Sunday Sermon topics published in the Saturday Citizen Patriot Paper **every other week** versus every week.

Presently, Geo Cities is the Church's on-line web site, but as this service is stopping it's free service; we will be looking for an alternative server. We will keep members/Church posted on where to find the newsletter when this change takes place.

We helped plan the following social events/fundraisers: make your own ice cream sundae, first Friday dinners, annual picnic, Homecoming Sunday, golf outing, hanging of greens, Thanksgiving potluck dinner, the used book sale (including making bookmarkers promoting the church which were given to customers), hosting Darwin's birthday party, and potluck dinners. We tried to have a white elephant gift exchange (only a participated; we may try this again). We also planned the visitor orientation Q. & A., new member joining services, and church host training.

New members joined within the year are Pat and Peg Gordon, Peggy Smith, and Jo Yonan; Michelle Vanover, Tim & Elizabeth Walker will be joining on May17th.

Submitted by Kathy Haynes,
Chair of Membership Committee

Outreach Committee

2008- 2009 Annual Report

This year the commUnity forUm has hosted the following programs:

- Sept. 18 - "Proposal 2 - Stem Cell Research" panel of divergent perspectives
- Oct. 16 - "Proposal 1 - Medical Marijuana" with spokesperson Diane Byrum
- Nov. 14 - "Sacred Storytelling" special Friday evening program at Jackson First Baptist – in conjunction with Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County
- Dec. 11 - "Depression: Loving the Unhappy"
- Dec. 14 - "Buy Local!" special Sunday afternoon program at Art 634
- Jan. 10 - "The Economic Crisis"
- Feb. 19 - "Darwin and Evolution"
- Mar. 11 - "Stories from the Great Depression" – Special afternoon program at Vista Grande Villa
- Mar. 19 - "The Face of Poverty in Jackson" cosponsored by Community Action Agency
- April 16 - "Michigan's Energy Future" with David Gard of Mich. Environmental Council
- May 21 - "Losing our News"

CommUnity forUms are generally held on third Thursdays in non-summer months, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the Carnegie Library auditorium. All programs have been with co-sponsorship of the Jackson District Library. Committee members are Lynn Hightower (co-chair), Nancy Smith (cochair), Debby Sears (library), Rev. Cindy Landrum, Kindra Wicklund, Sharon Pedersen, and Marge Duane.

Attendance at forums has ranged from 14 to 50 (approx). We have incurred no expenses this year. Nena Obits has generously provided free childcare at most of the events. Vicki Haynes is often hired for additional childcare, and she is paid through the RE budget.

Publicity for the Forums is mainly via press releases (Sharon) and posters produced by the library. We received front page coverage in the Jackson Legal News after the Medical Marijuana forum in October. We are to be interviewed on May 14 by the Citizen Patriot for a story about the forum itself.

Ideas for next year's programs include Gay Marriage, Islam in America, Ending the War on Drugs, Torture, Gun Rights/Gun Control, and the Underground Railroad in our area. We welcome suggestions for program topics!

Sabbatical Committee Annual Report

Sabbaticals have been standard practice in the UU ministry among ministers serving churches full time. A sabbatical is a very old concept that relates to a period of rest or change. Its root is in the word *Sabbath*, the biblical term referring to the day of rest after six days of work. The Rev. Cindy's Letter of Agreement with the UUCEL states that she will have a sabbatical after five but before eight years of service. Her tentative plan is to take a sabbatical for six months after her sixth year. That would be the 2010-2011 church year. She would use this time for study, education, writing, meditation, and other forms of professional and religious growth. To that end the Board of Trustees has begun to sequester funds to cover costs for the sabbatical, and Cindy, with the permission of the Board, has created a Sabbatical Committee. Members are Steve Beison, Ann Green, Carole Hartsuff, and Victor Marshall.

This committee explains the sabbatical concept to the congregation; arranges coverage during the sabbatical time; keeps the profile of the sabbatical in the forefront of the congregation, and eases Cindy's transition back into the congregation. The committee will keep the congregation informed in a variety of ways every month this year. Questions you may have should be directed to committee members. Help us think about how to make this a fruitful experience for both the Rev. Cindy and the congregation.

Worship Committee Annual Report

Members: Chair: Lynn Hightower, George Tramp, Sharon Pederson, Nancy Cooper, and new members Anita Pepper and Tom Pepper

Main Entry: Worship 'wor-ship

Function: Verb

To shape what is of worth

The worship committee and Rev. Landrum together shaped 54 worship services: 52 Sunday mornings, Christmas Eve and Winter Solstice. The shaping of these services include the subject, the speaker, the music and the physical surroundings.

Rev. Landrum was in the pulpit 31 Sundays this year leaving 21 to be "shaped" by the committee. We had three outside speakers, Ashish Brahma, Linda Cypert and Dee Reed. The following talented and generous members of this congregation volunteered to teach, preach, enlighten and entertain all the other Sundays.

Jon Hart
Sharon Pederson
Ann Green
Jackie Johnson
Anita Pepper
Tom Pepper
Kelly Emerson
Lynn Hightower
Steve Beison
Laura Thurlow
Gratia Karmes

The committee addressed other issues this year such as when to fly the flag. We are currently surveying the congregation to see if a change in the Joys and Sorrows part of the service needs changing. We also decided to keep the children in the service long enough to see the offering once a month. All three of these changes came from suggestions from members of the congregation. We welcome all suggestions regarding the worship of this church and specific topics for Sunday morning worship services.

Lynn Hightower

Chair of the Worship Committee 08/09

Acronyms!

UUs use a lot of acronyms. Here's a helpful list of UU and Jackson acronyms:

APF: Annual Program Fund, a source of income for the **UUA**, to which each congregation is requested to contribute a certain amount, our "dues."

ACLU: American Civil Liberties Union, an organization that we have not voted on as a congregation, but have partnered with for several forums. In the past, **UUCEL** was an **ACLU** member.

AFSC: American Friends Service Committee, the Quaker counterpart to our UUSC. Not to be confused with **FSCA**.

AUW: The Association of UU Women, our "Ladies' Alliance." Not to be confused with the **AAUW**, the American Association of University Women, or the **UAW**, the United Auto Workers, both of which you might also hear at **UUCEL**!

AYS: About Your Sexuality, a **UUA**-published curriculum for use in **UU** youth groups, now replaced by **OWL**.

CAA: Community Action Agency, a community organization that we support.

COM: Committee on Ministry, a group of members of **UUCEL** who work with the minister to resolve conflicts and nurture the health of our shared ministry.

CLF: Church of the Larger Fellowship, an organization for people who do not belong to a local church. They have an office at the **UUA** headquarters and put out a monthly publication called *quest*.

CYF: Church of the Younger Fellowship, an on-line church for young adults, affiliated with **CLF**.

CROP: A Church World Service walk that we often participate in to raise money to fight hunger. **CROP** now stands Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (it used to stand for Christian Rural Overseas Program).

C*UUYAN: Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network, the **UU** network for Young Adults aged 18-35.

DE: District Executive, a full time person employed by their district and by the **UUA** to do a lot of the district's business.

DRE: Director of Religious Education, the customary name for a religious education professional in UU churches. However, **UUCEL** calls ours an **REC**.

ELUUC: See **UUCEL**.

FAN: The Faith Action Network, a branch of the **AFSC** in Michigan focused on **LBGT** issues.

FSCA: Family Service and Children's Aid, an organization we support.

GA: General Assembly, the annual business meeting of the **UUA**, to which congregations send delegates.

HUUD: Heartland Unitarian Universalist District, our district of the **UUA**.

HUUMA: Heartland Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association, the district of the **UUMA** that corresponds with our district of the **UUA**.

IARF: International Association for Religious Freedom, an organization made up of groups from 20 different nations. The **UUA** is a member of this organization, which holds a conference

once every three years and has special programming for youth.

ICUU: International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, a newly-formed organization of Unitarian and Universalist societies from around the world.

JAMA: The Jackson Area Ministerial Association.

JCC: Jackson Community College

JPL: Jackson Public Library; usually we mean the Carnegie branch downtown where we hold our forums.

JPS: Jackson Public Schools

LGBT: A collective term for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People.

LREDA: Liberal Religious Educators Association, the professional organization for **UU** religious educators.

LRV: Liberal Religious Youth, the organization for **UU** youth up until 1983 when it was dissolved and **YRUU** was created.

MFC: The Ministerial Fellowship Committee, a **UUA** body that ministers must appear before to become credentialed.

MRC: Ministerial Relations Committee, now replaced by the **COM** model.

MRE: Minister of Religious Education, a minister who specializes in Religious Education, sometimes hired by a local congregation in addition to a parish minister.

OWL: Our Whole Lives, a curriculum by the **UUA** and **UCC** (United Church of Christ) for sexuality education at all ages.

PFLAG: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a community organization that we support.

PP: Planned Parenthood, a community organization that we support.

RE: Religious Education.

REACH: Religious Education Action Clearing House, a packet of **RE** materials contributed by local congregations and **UUA** staff.

REC: The Religious Education Coordinator.

SMTF: The Social Mission Task Force, a committee of **UUCEL**.

UU: Unitarian Universalist.

UUA: Unitarian Universalist Association, our denomination

UUCEL: Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty, our church

UUDOM: **UU** District of Michigan, our district before we merged with another one and became the **HUUD**.

UUMA: Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association, the professional organization for **UU** ministers.

UU OBGLTC: **UU** Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns.

UU UNO: **UU** United Nations Office, an associate organization for the purpose of representing the **UUA** to the **UN** and keeping **UUs** informed about the **UN**.

UUSC: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the service arm of our denomination.

UUWF: **UU** Women's Federation, an organization which represents women's concerns within the **UUA**.

UUWO: Unitarian Universalist Washington Office, the office of the **UUA**'s Faith In Action Department in Washington D.C.

UUYAN: See **C*UUYAN**

YAC: Youth Adult Committee, a common name for district youth governing organizations.

YRUU: Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, the denominational name for our youth programs (for ages 14-20).

Other helpful terms which are not acronyms:

Bellringer: The order of service, or Sunday bulletin

Bellnote: Our monthly newsletter

commUnity forUm: A monthly forum series we hold in conjunction with **JDL**.

Interweave: A grassroots UU movement for groups for **LGBT** members.

OPUS: The annual conference of **C*UUYAN**.