



The Unitarian Church in Summit Annual Report To the Congregation June 2016

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT

Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Determination of a Quorum

Welcome and Chalice Lighting - Rev. Emilie Boggis

Approval of 2015 Minutes

President's Report - Roger Anderson

Report of the Nominating Committee & Elections

Board of Trustees

By laws Amendment

Financial Affairs

Report of the Finance Committee

Presentation & Vote on 2016-2017 Operating Fund.

Award of the Order of the Yellow Rose

Motion to Adjourn and Wishes for a Happy Summer



ORDER

of the

YELLOW ROSE

The Order of the Yellow Rose was instituted by Charlotte Gilson in the early 1980s. Since then it has become part of The UCS tradition each spring to recognize those who have made special and outstanding contributions to congregational life by awarding them yellow roses.

2016 Recipients

Margaret Babcock

Lori Guirard

Maya Gujral

Kabir Kuriyan

Mia Morse

Carol Ulmer

Black Lives Matter Team

**Ministerial Search
Committee**

Life Transitions

Rites of passage at UCS:
child dedications, weddings
and memorial services

CHILD DEDICATIONS

In April & May 2016, UCS welcomed four new babies into our community, and we were bursting with joy. Throughout the year, we led five dedications of children, both inside and outside of our walls. In addition to our ministers, Laura Beth led these services.

5TH GRADE RITE OF PASSAGE

On December 6, we celebrated thirteen fifth graders as they shared their favorite Unitarian Universalist principle and its meaning in their lives. Upon graduation, fifth graders were invited to become junior worship associates.

COMING OF AGE

On May 1, we celebrated 19 Coming of Age students as they shared their belief statements with the congregation after a yearlong culmination of programming.

WEDDINGS

This year's weddings included members,
as well as the children and friends of our members:

Christopher Burt and Andreas Ulua
Arda Hotz and Jay Galbraith
Sarah Gentile and Cory Johnston
Richard Polatcheck and Ana Garcia

MOURNING

We mourned the loss and celebrated the lives
of these UCS members and friends:

Anne Bean
Florence Becker
Ali LoConte
Bill Thornton
Adrienne Cymbala
Daniel Lubell
Norma Wagner
Jeanette Oishi



Strategic Outcomes

Strategic Outcomes are the ingredients to achieving our long-term mission of being a radically inclusive religious community that feeds the spirit and heals the world.

Our five strategic outcomes, put forth in our 2013 Strategic Plan, describe the desired impact our religious community wishes to have, in particular, how we influence the values, knowledge, behavior and skills of our members and the surrounding community.

Our Annual Report, a joint effort by staff and lay leaders, showcases our efforts to align what we do and who we are with our Strategic Outcomes and Specific Actions.

2015-16 Theme:

Growing children & adults who care.

Monthly Themes

September: Invitation

October: Self-Compassion

November: Meaningful Work

December: Expectation

January: Daring

February: Calm & Stillness

March: Intuition

April: Creativity

May: Play

June: Blessing

July: Simplicity

August: Letting Go

Specific Action: *Expand thematic ministries*



Our 2015-16 theme was created by our Leadership Team, composed of Terry Sweetser, Tuli Patel, and Emilie Boggis, in conversation with our lay leaders. The theme was woven into monthly topics for worship, Spirit in Practice Circles, and regular communications. We hung a themed banner on our outer railing, designed by our Communication Team, led by Chair, Susan Schickedanz. Each month we created a 1-minute promotional video on the theme which continually went viral outside of our membership circle. Inside our facility, we added three chalkboards on every floor so our entire community could answer questions related to the theme and the service. In addition, each order of service offered a spiritual practice for the week.

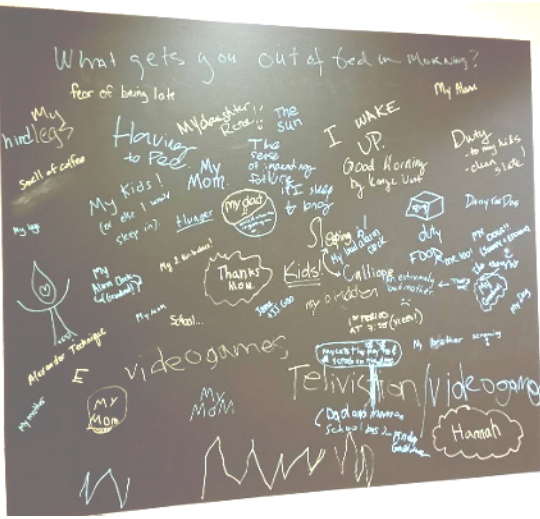
A newly formed **Aesthetics Team** takes turns arranging flowers and plants for Sunday mornings. Led by Tuli Patel, the team is committed to sustainable practices and uses foliage from local gardens and nurseries. Their bounty can be found on our entry doors, in the lobby, and in the sanctuary. People are invited to sponsor flowers in honor of a loved one or in celebration of an event.



Strategic Outcome 1

Individuals of all ages experience a spiritual awakening that will embolden us to lead lives of purpose.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1



Specific Actions: *Explore new strategies to deepen and integrate Worship, Lifespan Religious Education, and Social Action on Sundays. Offer more opportunities for youth and children to attend Worship. Experiment with different types of music, themes, story-telling and ritual in worship and with offering choirs for children and youth.*

T This year we created a Worship Team composed of Terry Sweetser and Emilie Boggis (ministers), Tuli Patel (Executive Director), Mitchell Vines (Music Director) and Laura Beth Brown (Director of Religious Education). Our weekly meetings are designed to help integrate our different areas into one Sunday morning experience. Not only are Sundays often described as seamless, but it has also made us a much stronger team.

UCS found its voice this year through singing. Thanks to a suggestion by Mitchell Vines based in experiences in other faiths' worship experiences, we introduced a congregational singing segment called "Now Let Us Sing." It begins 5-minutes prior to the service and leads the congregation in singing. We choose songs - both hymns and popular music - that people of all ages can take into their week. Our families' experiences of worship have improved dramatically.

For ten years our ministers have requested audio-visual capacity in the sanctuary. Due to an anonymous donation, we installed an 80-inch TV into a specially built cabinet on the chancel. We use it almost weekly to project songs, images or videos.

We experimented with different ways to include leaders, members, visitors and families into our services. During the welcome, we held interviews with leaders highlighting upcoming events. For our Thanksgiving Bread Communion and other multigenerational services, we invited families of all varieties to help us create our Thanksgiving table. Our 5th grade graduates became junior liturgists and led parts of the service. Members were invited to light and lead the chalice. For our Black Lives Matter service, we asked leaders to share their stories of racial awakening. Additionally, we worked with leaders to provide compelling testimonials, prior to the offering, for Syrian relief, an LGBTQ youth shelter, housing and homelessness, women in Iraq, and our partner church.

We begin every Sunday together as one community of all ages. In August, we welcomed Laura Beth Brown as our Director of Religious Education. Her music and theatre skills have made Mitchell and Laura Beth a dynamic duo. Together they are truly enjoying bringing a variety of music from Broadway's Matilda to Dixie Chicks, from Black Lives Matter chants to Simon & Garfunkel folk songs to our services. It also allows us to experiment with multigenerational small groups of singers and dancers, including our first Flashmob.

In January, we introduced a "wonder box" as a new method for storytelling. The box was hand crafted for us in Transylvania by our partners. The wonder box helps us weave the story for that particular Sunday into the sermon and other liturgical elements of the service. It also allows children and adults to participate in the service.



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1



This year we

celebrated Mitchell Vines' 17th year as our Director of Music with a surprise party. It was indeed a surprise! Organized by Tuli Patel and choir members, over 100

people attended and recognized Mitchell's talents and gifts.

Our Worship Team believes that music has the power to uplift the message of the service and at our events. Our goals for music are:

- To make music integral to the worship themes
- To demonstrate how music is a spiritual lifeline
- To give our congregation a voice
- To take our music outside our walls

Throughout the year, we have experimented with different ways to achieve these goals (see sidebar). We continue to have excellent guest musicians, many of whom are UCS members of all ages. We insure that our children are still in worship for the musician's opening piece, as our children become most attentive to them. The UCS Choir continues to add new voices, sings every 6 weeks at both services, and also participated in the UULMNJ Benefit Concert. This year many choir members also sang at extra services, and Mitchell led the Dec 27th service in partnership with choir members and musicians.

Since her move to Cleveland, Karin Cuellar returned one of the UCS baroque violins. Mitchell is searching for a new musician to play it. Theresa Saloman continues to play the other Baroque violin throughout the year.

Mitchell continues to lead Afternoon Music which held three concerts this year featuring Fluteforce, Bill Charlap, and New Jersey Symphony concertmaster Eric Wyrick and cellist Mariko Wyrick.

A Month of Sundays at a Glance:

Feb 7: "Claiming Our Power" service featured the daring story and the audacious music of the Dixie Chicks while balancing songs of "Calm & Stillness" from the UCS Choir.

Feb 14: "What's Love Got To Do with It?" service featured Tina Turner's anthem, with lyrics adapted by UCS member Cathy Menendez, as the central message of the service partnered with the amazing music of our baroque violinist! The staff created a Tina Turner promo that went viral.

Feb 21: "Anxiety is Not a Lifestyle" service featured Simon & Garfunkel's classic "Homeward Bound" alongside baroque flutist Mike Shand and a poignant song by Andy Roth. People shared that they sang Simon & Garfunkel songs the rest of the week.

Feb 28: "Letting Go of Productivity as Self-Worth" service focused on the experience of creating and listening to jazz music as a metaphor for the message. We experimented with letting go of using words and instead using jazz to speak the message of the story and sermon.

March 1: "Learning to Love Ambiguity; Learning to Roar" service was designed to prepare the congregation for the Board's Town Hall meeting on our congregational name. We used a Flashmob featuring Katy Perry's ROAR, led and organized by Laura Beth with over 22 people of all ages.



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1



Social Hour continues to be a joy and a challenge. A joy in that Carl, our sexton, continues to do an amazing job in our kitchen on Sundays; more parents have time to connect thanks to our pool and craft tables; more visitors have welcome areas like the Social Justice table and the Boutique. A challenge in that both members and visitors share how intimidating it is to go downstairs and worry about who they'll talk to.

Led by UCS Member Helen Kaar, UCS continues to hold monthly **Green Vespers** services on the third Saturday evening, followed by a potluck

Specific Actions: Provide live streaming and archived sermon podcasting and a lively social media presence.

Throughout the year, Terry developed short weekly promotional videos for upcoming services that were featured on our Facebook page. They regularly went viral in northern NJ. With Terry's departure, these responsibilities will be taken over by Claire Anderson, our Communications Intern.

Due to copyright issues, we can only podcast certain segments of our services. Our sermons are posted on every Monday mornings, averaging thirty downloads per sermon. We also began podcasting certain meditations so that the community could listen and meditate throughout the week. For Robin Tanner's services, we experimented with live streaming, which was used by many people traveling, home with new babies and broken bones, and visitors.



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1



Sunday Average Attendance

	Worship	Children	Teachers	Total AM	8th Gr.	Youth	Advisors	Total PM
Sept 15	131	96	20	247	14	48	7	69
Oct 15	163	111	24	298	14	31	7	52
Nov 15	145	108	24	277	16	40	7	63
Dec 15	152	115	20	287	10	35	7	52
Jan 16	157	92	22	271	10	38	7	55
Feb 16	154	93	23	270	10	36	7	53
Mar 16	145	71	20	236	8	40	7	55
April 16	150	95	15	270	20	39	7	66
May 16								

Calculating our Attendance

1. Worship Attendance is counted after children/teachers have left the sanctuary for RE.
2. For the first 20 minutes of the service, we have adults, children and teachers in the sanctuary. Sanctuary capacity is 200; there are 111 full visibility seats.
3. Children & Teacher Averages calculated on RE Sundays only.
4. On holidays, One Room Schoolhouse attendance fluctuates from 7 to 46. For multigenerational services, children are counted in the worship attendance.
5. Our average summer worship attendance was 89 over 16 Sundays. In 2014, our average summer worship attendance was 88 over 14 Sundays.

Understanding our Attendance

- 1.

A photograph of an older man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a black shirt and a necklace, playing two black bongo drums mounted on a stand. He is holding a green and yellow maraca in his right hand. The setting is indoors, with a window in the background covered by white lace curtains. On the windowsill, there is a large vase of colorful dahlias (pink, red, yellow, and purple) and a tall brass candlestick. To the right of the man, a white ceramic bowl sits on a white cloth-covered surface. In the foreground, a small table covered with a teal cloth holds a brass candle holder with a lit candle, a small box, and a bowl of water. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

Strategic Outcome 2

In our spiritual community, individuals encounter a more intense and far-reaching experience of life than they can discover on their own.



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2



Religious Education/Faith Formation/Small Groups at UCS





Membership at UCS

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Live an Embodied Mission: Our congregation has a clear and powerful Mission. It possesses a compelling narrative that connects past, present and future. The Unitarian Church in Summit's story must be constantly reflected in our words and actions, rehearsed, and told. We have a meaningful message articulated in our Seven Principles.

Revealing and extending that message in everything we do will be our spiritual opportunity over the next five years and beyond; maintaining our strong community will depend on it.

- Strategic Plan 2013



A large group of people, mostly older adults, are seated in a church hall. They are all holding up small blue cards with their right hands, and many are smiling. The hall has a wooden floor, white walls, and a balcony with a railing. A large clock is mounted on the wall behind the group. The text "Strategic Outcome 3" is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font.

Strategic Outcome 3

*People at UCS work together and engage others
in co-creating a just and sustainable world.*

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3

Specific Actions: Each year, select and promote a signature justic initiative for UCS. Offer opportunities for dialogue and action that build bridges across differences.

a Although there were a number of pressing worldwide justice issues from global warming to the Syrian refugee crisis, our yearlong focus became learning about and participating in the Black Lives Matter movement. A group of passionate leaders, who had been involved in our Beloved Conversations small groups and/or the Interfaith Dialogue Circles on Race and Privilege, led an initiative to take a public stand on Black Lives Matter (BLM). It culminated in a unanimous vote on April 10th in favor of BLM. Throughout the year, our congregation was immersed in information and action. In the summer of 2015, we visited the Jacob Lawrence exhibit at MOMA on the Great Migration and we marched on a hot July day in Newark against Mass Incarceration. The program staff attended two District-wide professional days on BLM issues, and Laura Beth and Emilie attended Middle Collegiate's Leading Edge conference where they heard speakers like Jacqui Lewis, Jim Wallis, Chris Crass, and Melissa Harris-Perry. Terry and Emilie focused on BLM issues in many of their sermons, devoting at least three full services. UCS members attended Dialogue Circles, Conversation Circles, and Books That Matter series that included reading Ta'Nehisi Coates' *Inbetween the World and Me*, Tim Wise's *White Like Me*, Debby Irving's *Waking Up White*, and Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. We also helped bring Debby Irving to speak in Summit. Seven of our youth participated in STAR - STAND Against Racism - interfaith, multiracial conversation circles about race and privilege. Members were invited to wear Black Lives Matter buttons and wristbands which we handed out. Our community was very active in all of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. events from our partnership with Pilgrim Baptist Church to the service at Fountain Baptist Church. Moreover, our MLK Sunday service featured the adults and youth from Pilgrim Baptist Church as they read sections from speeches from Dr. King, Malcolm X, and Mahatma Gandhi. At the present moment, we are



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3

Specific Action: Build on our partnerships

Co-Led by Jessica Park and Lori Guirard, our **partnership with Chancellor Avenue School in Irvington** is in good hands. Principal Jackson is a fantastic principal who really works to build a relationship with UCS, even visiting our worship services. Our lifespan religious education community adopted XX children from Chancellor for book donations, winter coats, and winter gifts. They also coordinated an "Author Evening" with Christopher Healy (who was amazing) and a Family Game Night where over 100 people from both congregations played together. In addition, when funding for Saturday Academy was cut, our Social Action Committee gave money to fund the program for 6 weeks. Volunteer turn-out from all ages was great.

Led by Jean Crichton and new leaders, Marion Ceruzzi and Anita Porto, our partnership with the Unitarian Church in Barót also remains very strong. We continued to sponsor funds for salary supplements (for minister and music director), office expenses, Coffee Hour support (\$520/year) and scholarships for college students. In November, six adults, including Rev. Emilie Boggis, traveled to Barót for the first All Souls Day

Trip where we experienced the richness of All Souls Day and the pilgrimage to Deva where Francis David was imprisoned and died. Emilie spoke at this event. Currently, we are planning eleven members of the Barót





3. People at UCS work together and engage others in co-creating a just and sustainable world.



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-Quote Author

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The Communications Team developed an entire kit for UCS to take to events - it includes a tent, a pop up banner and traveling cart filled with postcards and other items to hand out to generate interest in UCS



Staffing, Governance and Policies

This year, we were able to welcome a new Director of Religious Education, Laura Beth Brown. We also had a second year with the Leadership Team in place, comprised of two ministers and an Executive Director. One staff member, Monica Bottone is no longer working at UCS, and another Kimberly Rossiter is out on maternity leave and expected back over the summer. A summer ministerial intern Emily DeTar was approved by the ministerial fellowship committee to begin the path to UU ordination. A 2016 summer intern has been selected - Craig Rubano.

Of our two ministers, Rev. Terry Sweetser was an interim and will complete his term with us in the

summer of 2016.

All of our staff are engaged in working to further UUism, locally in Summit, and in the wider religious world: Rev. Emilie Boggis is President of the Summit Interfaith Council and Vice President of the Metro New York District UUMA Chapter; Laura Beth and Jamaine are members of LREDA; Tuli Patel is a member of the UU Administrators network, LREDA, and also on the General Assembly Planning Committee; Kimbelry Rossiter is a member of the UU Membership Professionals as well as the Youth Advisors professional group.



The defining characteristic of our staff is collaboration. We work as a team to bring worship and programs to members and friends of UCS.



The Board, with Roger Anderson as President and officers Neal Eisentein, Michele Blanchard and Chris Grazioso as well as members Heather Turnbull, Susan Spencer Cramer, Gary Buscemi, Laura Buoncuore and Ellen Boylan along with the Leadership Team revisited several policies. A new facilities usage policy as well as a new personnel policy were updated and adopted and can be found online. We are committed to treating all staff fairly, in keeping with UUA guidelines. Staff were granted an additional week off, between Christmas and the New Year.

A hard working Search Committee, chaired by previous Board President Kris Gordon and including members Helen Kaar, Carol Conger Miller, Nancy Griffeth, Michael Millspaugh and Christopher Burt, closely considered close to two dozen candidates and brought us a fabulous candidate, Rev. Robin Tanner. We will be voting to call her on May 22nd. If called, Rev. Tanner will begin her term at UCS on January 1, 2017.





Strategic Outcome 4

Individuals practice stewardship to sustain UCS and Unitarian Universalism by providing progressive leadership and generosity.



This year we completely changed the way we in which we inspire each other to support UCS. Stewardship was developed into the true meaning of the word - each one of us stewards of this community, sharing our time, treasure and talent.

We moved to a year round campaign of giving and generosity, something which long-time members Keith Nier and Carol Ulmer, among others, have been speaking about for at least a decade. Instead of one month in which each person is asked to pledge, each member is assigned a particular month, invited to a meal cooked fresh on the premises, and has an opportunity to meet with the leadership staff of UCS as well as key lay leaders. A fun evening, an inspirational message, as well as connecting with others is expected to build and extend relationship and thereby increase generosity. Early results are positive, but the model needs at least a year before it is assessed fully.

Each month also has two or more captains, whose job it is to stay in touch with the people assigned to a particular month, not asking for contributions, but instead building relationships.

The new Stewardship campaign allows us to be radically inclusive, including all members and friends in a dinner.

For the first time, we also created levels of giving. After each dinner, each person receives a sealed personalized pledge card with individual details outlined in it, as well as a suggested donation amount. Members and friends have a choice of starting their pledge on July 1 or the month after their dinner. They may also choose to make monthly or annual contributions.



The new Year Round Giving Campaign is built and predicated on one thing - relationship.

- Tuli Patel, Executive Director

I love the new year round Annual Giving program because it has allowed us to turn the traditional approach of once a year annual pledging into Stewardship. As Stewardship implies a shared responsibility for nurturing our congregation and helping it grow, this year round approach has broadened congregational involvement, through a team approach with the captains, and has given us time and space for deeper conversations about UCS and ourselves. As we get to know each other better and are reminded of the amazing work we at UCS do together, we recommit ourselves to the mission and vision of our congregation.

*- Karen Jackson,
Stewardship Director*



We have made it much easier to accept generous contributions at UCS; You can choose between online giving through Vanco, or Paypal or on the premises with a credit card, or by sending a text message with your smart phone. Your generous support of UCS enables us to live out our mission.

A volunteer managed services auction continues to be our largest fundraiser, this year generating \$30,000 . Tom Howard continues to serve as

our master of ceremonies.

The Stewardship Team consists of Tuli Patel, Karen Jackson, David Gordon, Keith Nier and Diane Maurer.

Captains include (with more to come):

Linda Anderson, Staci D'Olier Lees, Heather Turnbull, Bill Griffeth, Joelle Bochner, Ken Carlson, Carol Conger Miller, Marion Ceruzzi Jessica Park, Cathy Menendez, Debbie Dreher, Jennifer Skarda-McCann, Sheryl

"Lorem sit ipsum dolor sit amet at vero eos et."

-Quote Author

F

O'Connell, Nicole Miceli, Elisabeth Coffey, Ingrid Loeuis, Joyce Andrasz, Janet Roberts, Diane Maurer.



Legacy Giving

The Legacy Giving team continued to make members of the congregation aware of the need to contribute to the Endowment Fund by making a legacy gift to UCS from their estate. Legacy Giving enables our congregation to thrive now and in the future. Contributions to the Endowment Fund will provide larger contributions to the operating budget and specialized ministerial, religious education, and outreach programs that are envisioned by the UCS Strategic Plan.

This year, the Legacy Giving team sponsored a seminar on IRA and 401(k) strategies and called on members of UCS to inform them about Legacy Giving and the importance of building our Endowment Fund.

To date, members who have provided for UCS in their wills or IRAs, as a beneficiary of their insurance policies, and through other investment vehicles and have become members of the A. Powell Davies Heritage Society are:

A. Powell Davies Heritage Society

Regina and Ken Carlson, Janet and John Foord, Charlotte Gilson, Donald Goldberg, Kris and David Gordon, Carol and Carl Haag, Erna and Charlie Hoover, Mary* and Karl Marx, Cathy Menendez, Lessie Culmer-Nier and Keith Nier, Gary Nissenbaum, Roberta Renard, Catherine Roxburgh,* Jean Roxburgh, Carol Ulmer, Anonymous (3) (*denotes deceased)

To become a member of the A. Powell Davies Heritage Society, please advise UCS Stewardship Director, Karen Jackson, and complete a Legacy Giving Information Form. For more information about Legacy Giving, visit the UCS website (www.ucsummit.org) and click on Stewardship and Legacy Giving.

Thank you to Legacy Giving Team members for their commitment, energy, and wisdom in promoting the future growth of the Endowment Fund for successive generations of Unitarian Universalists.

Legacy Giving Team Members

Roger Anderson, Ken Carlson, Don Goldberg, Jennifer Skarda-McCann, Julia Miller, Keith Nier, Colette Parsons, Carol Ulmer.

The background image shows the interior of a church sanctuary. It features a balcony with wooden railings and white cabinets, a pulpit on the left, and a fireplace on the right. The architecture includes arched windows and columns. The floor is made of wood, and there are pews in the foreground.

Strategic Outcome 5

Our congregation attracts new members to our expanded 'green' facilities that will energize our congregation and community.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5

2016 Annual Report from the Facilities Expansion Team

Throughout the 2015-2016 church year the Facilities Expansion Team has worked closely with the Board of Trustees. Although UCS has faced some challenges trying to maintain income from the Dangler property during our transition, the Board has nevertheless maintained its commitment to the building project. The Team has continued to refine the design and to lay the groundwork for moving forward.

During the summer of 2015 the Team encountered challenges with the parking study. The traffic engineer the Team engaged collected data in the spring, on April 19 and May 3. A draft report was finally submitted on July 21, 2015. The data were informative. However, the Facilities Team judged the relationship with this engineer to be unsatisfactory due to continuing communication problems and the disorganized and confusing nature of the written report. The Team terminated the contract on terms acceptable to both parties. A second engineer was interviewed and judged to be more suitable. When UCS determines it is time to seek

approval from Summit for our project, the Team will finish vetting this engineer and contract for a new study.

The Facilities Expansion Team also received some very good news during the summer of 2015. ikon.5 notified UCS that the design for our building expansion had won the prestigious Faith and Form Award in the category of unbuilt work. Both ikon.5 and UCS took pride in this recognition. On September 20, 2015, the Team and architects, Joe Tattoni and Arvind Tikku, presented the proposed design to the entire congregation in Fellowship Hall. Over several Sundays everyone had an opportunity to look at the drawings and models, to ask questions, and to offer comments. After studying and discussing the feedback from congregants, the Team relayed a number of requests to the architects. Some of these concerns will be addressed in a later design phase. However Joe and Arvind returned in March, 2016, with two important revisions. The first is a redesign of the restrooms to create fully gender-neutral facilities, which the Team had specified from the very outset. The second revision involved several subtle changes in

design and materials for the exterior, resulting in a more graceful and spiritual aspect along Springfield Avenue. While retaining the clean and contemporary lines of the original proposal, the nuanced alterations also achieve greater harmony with the current building. More recently, following strong recommendations from parishioners, the Team determined that a basement under most of the new structure will be included in the plan.

Both the Facilities Expansion Team and the Board of Trustees recognize that our new building is the key element in the fifth UCS Strategic Goal: that we will invite people into "our expanded green facilities," where as many as 400 people will be able to worship together. With patience and creativity UCS is committed to persevering through the temporary financial pressures to create a twenty-first century facility for our thriving church community.

Submitted by Margaret Babcock

May, 2016

Our new building is the key element in the fifth UCS Strategic Goal

***- Margaret Babcock,
Facilities Expansion,
Chair***

In our current facilities, we continue to struggle with the sound system. Quotes are being solicited for a complete overhaul.

We do, however, have up-to-date assisted hearing devices and sound being broadcast into other areas of the building - the lobby, Fellowship Hall, as well as the nursery and sun room.

We are proud to have begun considering the steps to becoming a zero waste facility - plastic tableware and utensils are no longer permitted by members and friends using UCS, or for others using our premises for rites of passage. There is much work to be done, but we can do it!

We are also discouraging the use of nuts on the premises; although we cannot control 100% for the presence of nuts, we no longer have items containing nuts at social hour.

We are encouraging members and friends of UCS to make the switch to a green electric company, such as ethical electric. Our proposed budget for '16-'17 reflects this shift. We must practice what we preach, and begin the change ourselves if we are to inspire others to follow suit.

This year we were able to paint three sides of the building which were badly in need of it, with excellent supplies donated by the Loofburrow/Shaw family. We also repaired a leak in the roof above the library. The interior of the building was painted where there was wear and tear.

Our gardening team planted and continues to tend the garden



Our communications team designed three postcards, to be handed out at community gatherings and events such as the Pride festival and Summit fair. We look forward to attending Pride again this year to spread our message.

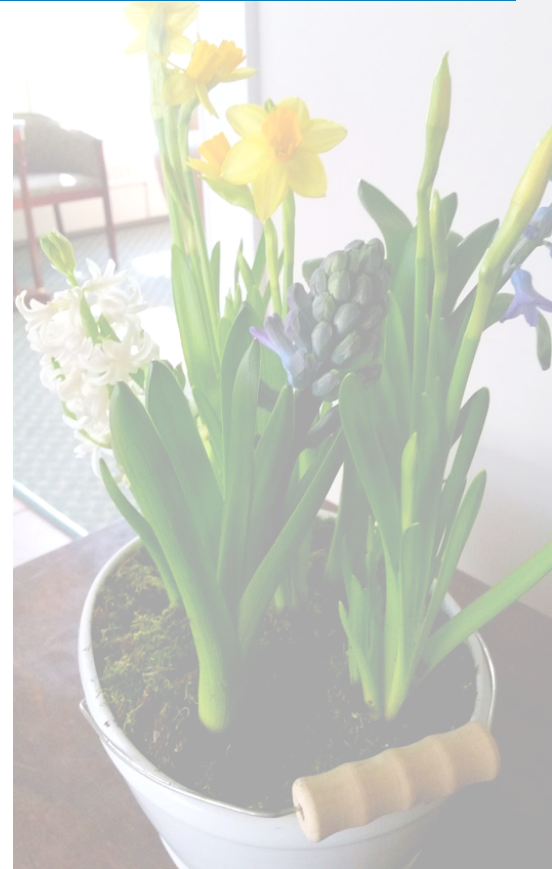
We continue to provide a beautiful meeting venue for groups whose purposes align with our values and who are connected to us through history and with which many of our members are closely connected and involved with. For a nominal usage fee, groups such as Pilgrim, Mindfulness Meditation and Afternoon Music, are welcomed into our space.

We continue to offer our space for Rites of Passage, including weddings, memorial services and baby dedications (See page 23 for more details). The communications team has designed a wedding brochure which can be handed out at NJ Pride and other public events.



Dahlias from the garden of Julia and David Miller

Prioritizing Sustainability



Marilyn Pfaltz with one of the two vases she commissioned by glass artist Eric McLendon.

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