Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of South County, RI



Annual Meeting

June 20, 2021
11:00 AM on Zoom

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County
27 North Road
Peace Dale, RI 02879

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UUCSC

2021 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

June 20, 2021 by Zoom

Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 annual business meeting

Approval of the Treasurer's report

Approval of the President's report

Approval of the Annual Budget

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of officers and directors

Minutes of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County Annual Meeting
September *27,* 2020 (draft copy)

A quorum of 53 members of the Congregation were present via Zoom.

Call to Order: 11:40 AM by President Natalie Herbermann,

Invocation: Rev. DL Helfer

Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 annual business meeting:

MOTION: Sky Kimball moved to accept as written the minutes of the 2019 USCSC Annual meeting. Seconded. PASSED unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Mary Alice Kimball. A copy is on file with the Board Clerk and available on the UUCSC website.
1. Fiscal year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 was challenging. A deficit was handled with methods such as the "clean team" providing cleaning services. This saved $5,000 last year. 2. This year pledges have been coming in spite of the challenges of COVID-19, with thanks to the **c**ongregation. 3. The VUA has been a big source of support, especially in providing information regarding the Payroll Protection Plan. A $24,400 loan was received from Bank Newport. This will become a grant when our report is filed showing how the funds were used. The Family First Coronavirus Response Act provided funds to supplement staff who needed to stay at home due to the loss of child care. 4. Michael Gatib was paid for extra time worked during the summer presenting virtual music and services. 5. Overall we will have a reasonable deficit budget considering COVID-19 restrictions, Mary Alice Kimball thanked the congregation for their continued financial support. Discussion of the budget: Marcia Boyd thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work.

Administration Reports for June, 2019-June, 2020. Copies were made available online to the UUCSC members. Copies are on file with the Board Clerk and are available on the UUCSC website.

Annual Budget presentation: Mary Alice Kimball. The budget summary is on file with the Board Clerk, see the Finance Committee Annual Report on file with the Board

Clerk and available on the UUCSC website. Mary Alice Kimball discussed the Budget summary for July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021:
1. The budget is estimated. 2. Anticipated income from fundraising events is $300 due to COVID-19 restrictions. 3. UUA has been very helpful: last year we gave $2500. This year we budgeted $5000. 4. Committee budgets are essentially unchanged from last year. 5. Revenue is almost the same as last year due to the PPP loan/grant. 6. Mortgage last year was $23,000, this year $16,000 due to mortgage payoff. 7. **Music expenses were increased due to equipment needed for video services.** 8. Facilities expenses increased for conversion of the heating system from oil to gas. Oil tanks will be drained and removed. The cost will be $13,300. If the budget is approved today, work can begin as soon as possible.

Approval of the annual budget MOTION: Jean Burke moved to approve the 2020-2021 UUCSC annual budget. Seconded. Discussion:
1. Adria Evans asked about the safety of gas heat. Jean Burke said that gas is quite safe; it avoids the risk of an oil leak into the pond, and the other two buildings at the Lily Pads complex have been using gas for years. Betsy Dalton commented that many times over the past ten years the oil burner has failed. 2. Natalie Herbermann thanked the Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee for all the work that they have done on the budget. 3. Mary Alice Kimball said that the budget shows a $15,000 deficit for this year. The Board will discuss ways to offset that amount. 4, The Finance Committee will meet monthly and will update the budget as needed. **Vote: 53 yes; 0 no. Motion PASSED unanimously.**

Approval of amendments to the UUCSC Bylaws: Copies of the proposed and amended Bylaws are attached below.* The Amended Bylaws are available on the UUCSC website. Natalie Herbermann recognized the work done to revise the bylaws by herself, Kai Migliaccio, Mary Fulton, Karen Ellsworth, Bill Rodriguez, and Rev. DL Helfer.

***M*OTION: Sandy Ketrow moved that the bylaws be amended as proposed. Seconded.**

MOTION: Essjay Foulkrod moved that Article 3 be further amended to read as follows:

This Congregation shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and of the Balett Channing District of the VUA and of the UUA New England Region.

Discussion:

1. Essjay Foulkrod said that after the Ballou-Channing Region was dissolved, the various regions were combined into the "New England Region" which represents New England to the UUA.

2. Sky Kimball said that If we add this phrase and then the district changes again, the bylaws would need further revisions.

3. Karen Ellsworth said that membership in the NE Region does not depend on our bylaws; this is just a recognition of our part in the regional membership. **Vote: 50 yes; 2 no. Motion PASSED.**

MOTION: Jean Burke moved that Article 4, Section C be further amended to retain the first portion of the first sentence while adopting the proposed new language. Section C would be amended to read as follows:

C. While no minimum monetary donation is required of a member, we encourage each member to support the Congregation financially. by contributing, at minimum, an amount sufficientte enable-the-Congregation to payper membereues assessed by the VUA and the Ballou Channing district: Friends of UUCSC are participating non-members who may attend services regularly, join committee work, contribute financially, and choose to be listed as a Friend in the VUCSC directory. Only members may vote, chair committees, or serve on the Board.

Discussion: Natalie Herbermann commented that we don't want to discourage people, but we do need to encourage donations support UUCSC. **Vote: 49 yes; O no. Motion PASSED unanimously.**

MOTION: Betsy Dalton moved that the proposed amendments to the bylaws, as further amended, be approved. Seconded. Vote: 48 yes; O no. Motion PASSED unanimously.

President's Report 2020-2021

June 2021

Dear UUCSC,

As you will see from the committee work in this 2020-2021 Annual Report, the UUCSC is a congregation that rises to the occasion and works through problems. 2021 has been another challenging year, but our congregation is strong and will continue to offer a welcoming home for spiritual growth and social action. As I write this, we are saying goodbye to Rev. DL and recognizing the challenges ahead. We need to be ready for this difficult and demanding work by remembering that we are all in this together. I am thankful that Elizabeth Donovan has come forward to serve as our president and we will work together for a smooth transition as I finish my term.

We are grateful to Rev. DL and our staff for serving the UUCSC in so many ways. Lee Cowan, our DRE, has persevered and found creative ways to offer religious exploration to our youth and families with young children. Michael Galib continues to work his magic and our worship services are filled with beautiful choir pieces and rich music. We are fortunate to also have the expertise of Sue Rogala, our financial assistant, who has supported us in preparing our budget and maintaining our financial records. I will so miss the inspiring and thought-provoking sermons of Rev. DL. Our worship committee and Rev. DL have supported us through a year of hardship, loss and fear. We are grateful for all of this.

The Board of Directors, Vice President, Rosemary Galiani, Treasurer, Mary Alice Kimball, and our clerk, Elizabeth Donavan, along with directors Bill Rodriguez, Nancy Dean and Charlie Donnelly, have met monthly to oversee the work of the congregation and listen to the concerns of our members, friends, and the larger community. I feel fortunate to have worked with such a talented and dedicated group. As I have mentioned in the past, we are looking to grow our leadership. Please consider what you can offer to the UUCSC in time and talent. Even though so much of our congregational life has changed, I am confident that we will continue to meet the needs of our community. May the lessons learned during this pandemic make us stronger, wiser and kinder. The amount of work being done by all of the UUCSC committees is incredible. Please take time to read the reports to understand all that has been accomplished during this turbulent year.

The BOD worked on several important initiatives to support the work of the congregation. In April, we called an all-congregation meeting to affirm our adoption of the 8th principle. There is still much work to be done to combat racism but this was an important step. We worked closely with our Treasurer, Mary Alice Kimball, and the Finance Committee on balancing our budget and planning for the future. This is difficult but necessary work. I am grateful to all who contributed to these efforts. This is a very generous congregation, and all of your contributions are used wisely. Our building has been updated and maintained by the efforts of our facilities committee and we look forward to a time when we can meet again in person.

I don't know what the future will look like, but I do know that if we continue to work together and summon a sense of solidarity, our future will be bright.

Thank You,

Natalie Herbermann

UUCSC President 2019-2021

Dear UUCSC members and friends,

As you read this, I will be ending my ministry with you. It has been such a profound gift of learning, expansion, challenge, and growth. Never more so than during this pandemic year.

We've tried so much. Joys and concerns online. Three different forms of online worship. Twice weekly check ins, for months. Once weekly working groups on anti-racism, for a year. Choir and Michael created incredibly wonderful music videos. Lee and Hippo and RE created so much joy and connection, too. Many groups focused on replenishing our spirit, while we simultaneously had conversation after conversation about how it would look different if and when we survived the pandemic.

The fears, when some of our own got sick, and thought they might not make it. The huge numbers of those lost to this pandemic. The difficulty of being isolated, especially for our elders, parents, and children. The not-knowing, about ever so much. The big questions in our world with a pandemic, the Black Lives Matter Uprising, and an incredibly important Presidential Election in the midst of that.

So very much. I think our hearts, bodies, and spirits will be processing this last year for some years to come, making sense and meaning of it all.

What a gift to arrive at the other side of this with none lost from *this* community to COVID. Which isn't to say we aren't mourning. Many among us lost beloveds this year, both to COVID and other causes. It was a hard year of saying goodbye to both Ruth Rubenstein and Carolyn Hurdis. During all that, to be deprived of each other's company and touch, has taken a toll.

It's a year for me of ministry, then, like no other. I am deeply proud of the work we've done together this year, from the pastoral care team's help with calling our members and friends, again and again, to support them through this journey, to our anti-racism work that led to a strongly supportive congregational adoption of the 8th principle. In the midst of so much fear and unknown, we became ever more aware of the interdependence of our lives.

Which makes it feel like a very unexpected time for my departure, I know. I thought we had several years of ministry together yet. But I think the truth is that this year has taken a toll on many – on me, on our board, and on you. There were many weeks when it was almost impossible to know what to preach to you, even, as I was working through my own very real-time emotions and responses with respect to the pandemic, Uprising, and presidential politics.

I leave so very grateful for you. I will not forget the beauty of seeing you inside your homes, with your furry beloveds, week after week, of the gifts and frustrations of zooming together, of the tears and the laughter, of the worry and the hope.

With so much love and blessings for your journey,

Rev. DL

To the Board,

This year has been so very many things, as we all know. I've been very grateful to be part of UUCSC and I've loved my job, even though it's been entirely virtual until this month. DL has been such a wonderful support and I'm so grateful to have had their help in transitioning to this job during such an unprecedented year. I would have been quite lost without them.

My year has been made up of creating the RE newsletter, hosting RE Zoom calls, helping with online worship and organizing the RE space, among other things.

I'm happy that the RE newsletter and my weekly video have been enjoyed by families, as well as other congregants this year. I've heard from many families that they are grateful for the consistency of the RE newsletter, and even though they don't click on everything in it, they are happy to have that to anchor them to our program and to remind them of our love. It feels good to get that feedback. I'd love to continue a much abbreviated version of this newsletter into the future, that tells families what we did in RE and some resources to take our themes further at home.

The RE Zoom calls have been great all year. We had a group of six families who joined regularly and a few more who came sporadically. We even had one family who regularly joined us from Finland! We created a lovely space together and it was such a joy to see their smiling faces and hear their sharings. We will have a Zoom party on June 20th to say goodbye and have some fun together on Zoom one more time.

One of my favorite parts of this job is collaborating with DL to create the flow of worship. It's been an unexpected joy to get to provide input on the homily and discuss elements of services. It's so sweet to be with the congregation on zoom, to find beautiful music, to listen to the homily and to offer little pieces of meditation or story. I'm so excited to be able to do this in person. And I absolutely loved the story gatherings we had. I would love to do these on a semi-regular basis and continue to add to our archive of stories.

I've taken part in several LREDA gatherings, including their fall conference, plus several conversations and a retreat with the Northeast LREDA group. I also took the Anti-racism Through Art workshop series that I wished would never end. I'm so excited to deepen my anti-racism learning and to be able to share this with the families here.

The RE space is getting more and more free of clutter and extra stuff. We plan to move the main classroom around, which will be a big project in June. We'll have a little crew of volunteers to help move furniture and materials. This will help us to have a bigger space to spread out in a circle together and allow for cozy corners and quiet spaces. Then the craft room will have a sink and be better set up for crafting.

We've also done a little gardening in the backyard. DL and I planted peas in the raised bed and the kids planted sunflower seeds along the walkway. I transplanted some of my extra herbs to the garden by the pollinator house and plan to plant more yummy smelling, interactive plants there for future explorations.

In loving community,

Lee Cowan

Music director annual report, 2020-2021

The music program provided virtual weekly music selections for service this past year. Choir rehearsals were held virtually each week, and choir members worked at home to individually prepare their parts to be mixed together for services. The music program also was tasked with editing worship services.

Highlights were special videos by the choir, especially L-O-V-E for Valentine's Day, and a smattering of selections for Christmas Eve Eve, when we were joined by our usual quartet of fantastic guest singers.

To end the year, the choir has resumed outdoor, masked rehearsals, with the possibility of a mini-outdoor concert in late June, should state and church guidelines allow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Galib

May 2021

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE ASSISTANT

Susan Rogala

This year has been very unusual for everyone and thank goodness we can start seeing some normalcy in the future. Below are some notes about my role this year:

· Working from home has been a new experience for me and learning a new job remotely does have its challenges. When you have a question, you can't just open a file draw and find the answer. You have to search the computer and hope there is some documentation to help. Luckily Karen left great notes for most of the duties and the computer files are very organized. Everyone has been very welcoming, helpful, and understanding during the initial transition.

· After 1st starting the position, I worked with Mary Alice Kimball to understand the procedures and working with QuickBooks. The budgets were updated in QuickBooks and we spent some time researching outstanding issues in order to close the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Entries were made to close the year and with Mary Alice's help we closed the year and prepared the reports that included reports that had been previously prepared by the Accounting firm. All of the reports needed by Bank Newport were also prepared.

· I updated membership in the UUA website to prepare for the mailing of the UU World Magazine. Also I completed the UUA financial and leadership sections in order to maintain UUA certification. These tasks were completed with help from both Rev. DL and Mary Alice.

· Working with the communications committee the Christmas Eve Eve service was advertised in the Southern RI newspapers which included the Independent. Elizabeth and Etta also listed on NK patch.com as well as FB, UUCSC website and the newsletter.

· I worked with Mary Alice on the entry of the Online Giving contributions into QuickBooks and setting up the new accounts needed to track income and expenses accurately.

- The Workers Compensation audit was completed online with a small reduction in premium primarily due to less hours worked during Covid.

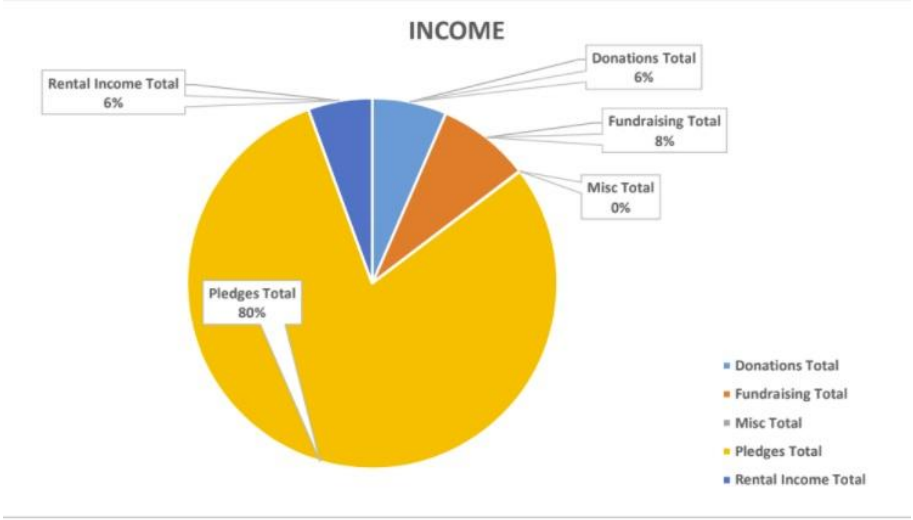
- Mary Alice and I worked together to get emails out for the 2021-2022 budget preparation requests. I have provided requested information pertaining to the current year budget and next year's budget in order to help develop accurate estimates for next year. During the year I have also provided budget versus actual information to staff and various committees as requested.
- Support was provided to committees as requested, such as Membership, Stewardship, Finance, Facilities and others with financial analysis, updating documents and records, calendar and building usage reservations and basic administrative support.

Thanks for all your support during these different times and I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming non-covid summer.

Regards,

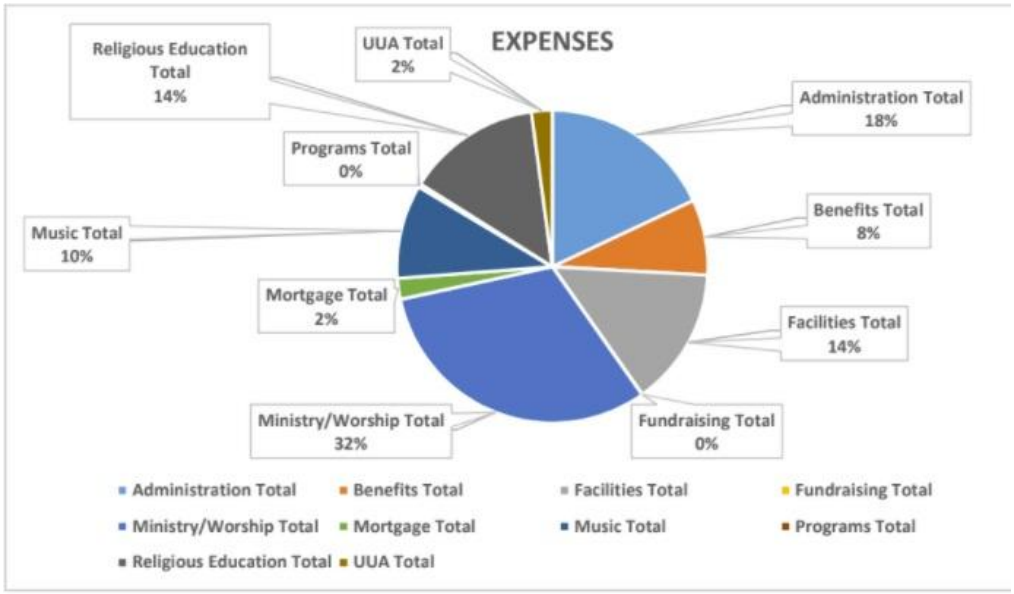
Sue

Budget Summary



Category & Account	
INCOME	
Donations Total	$14,000
Fundraising Total	$17,400
Misc Total	$90
Pledges Total	$171,000
Rental Income Total	$12,000
Grand Total	$214,490

Total Income	$214,490
Total Expense	$230,898
Net Income	-$16,408



EXPENSE	
Administration Total	$41,684
Benefits Total	$18,010
Facilities Total	$33,081
Fundraising Total	$100
Ministry/Worship Total	$72,575
Mortgage Total	$5,000
Music Total	$22,408
Programs Total	$800
Religious Education Total	$32,240
UUA Total	$5,000
Grand Total	$230,898

Total Expense	$230,898
Total Income	$214,490
Net Income	-$16,408

Mary Alice Kimball, Treasurer

Annual Report of Facilities Committee for 2020-21

We Powered Thru 2020/2021 With “Tool Belts On”!

Converted Boiler from oil to natural gas
- -US Energy Info Admin estimates cost of gas is 1/3 cost of oil -much cleaner energy
- -low cost of maintenance of boilers
- -no more oil tanks that could leak

Obtained Energy Audit and Upgraded all Lighting
- -much more energy efficient
- -better illumination

Convinced Nat. Grid to Change Category for Delivery of Electricity
- -Received rebate of almost $2,000
- -We will save every month going forward — last bill $33!

Accomplished Many Repairs and Monitored Empty Building

CHALLENGES AHEAD for 2021-2022

Making Our Home Sparkling & New for Our Re-Entry

- -Form and Put into Action Teams to Paint, Clean and Reorganize each section of our Home
- -Hire experts to clean/buff all floors

Replace Windows/Rebuild Outside Walls of Minister/Admin Offices

Replace Doors Outside RE Classrooms

New Repairs
- -Stabilize/Reinforce Railing Outside Choir Room
- -Locate and Resolve Leak in Kitchen Ceiling

Facilities Committee
Sally Barney, Chair. Jean Burke, Ed Burrell, Chris De Paola, Pete Migliacchio

Finance Committee - Annual Report - June, 2021

Your Finance Committee is comprised of

Aline Couture – Chair; Mary Alice Kimball – Treasurer; Jeff Berry- Collector;
Sue Strakosch- Clerk and Shadow Collector; Patrick Gilligan and Sandy Ketrow providing analysis
Marcia Boyd joins our meeting to give us guidance regarding investment strategies of our monies.

Good News…

Rev DL encouraged us to begin Our Living Legacy Campaign (OLL), which continues to receive pledged funds toward repayment of the mortgage.

We originally mortgaged $500,000 in 2008 when we purchased our building

The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors authorized an additional $60,000 payment on February 11, 2021 leaving approximately $98,000 to go.

We are anticipating making an additional payment of $50,000 this summer to reduce the mortgage even further. Our monthly mortgage payment will be reduced to just over $411 from $2,500 a month.

This is Remarkable – and we

Thank EVERYONE for YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

We knew 2020-2021 would be a challenging year. We began with a deficit budget. However, we were still able to convert our oil furnace to gas and upgrade our lighting with the help of a National Grid program. We also received some very generous and unexpected contributions from members and friends and in addition held a very successful on-line fundraiser.

We now expect to end the year without a deficit.

A special **Thank You** to all our members for all your support. Your pledges enabled us to plan effectively.

We continue to receive pledge payments even though we are not gathering in our building. This is a vital source of income and we are most grateful for our generous Community.

We also are able to receive donations via *PayPal.* You don't have to have a *PayPal* account you can use your own credit card. And of course we Still accept Checks.

Our budget for the year 2021-2022 has been prepared and is ready for your review. We are estimating that we will be hiring an interim minister and have added that salary into our operating budget.

Finally…

We need to hear from you. If you haven't already done so, please fill out a pledge card so we can better anticipate next year's income. We recognize that in these changing times, finances can change, and these pledges can be revisited if that occurs. We need to hear from you.

Link to Pledge Card

2021 Stewardship Committee & Our Living Legacy Annual Report

The online stewardship campaign gave poor results. As a result, a direct mail campaign went to everyone who had not pledged, delaying by one month the Finance Committee's work to estimate income.

Results are down year after year, many folks uncertain about their income, some early retirements, and some losses due to members moving or other reasons. (e.g. death, leaving the church)

Recommendations going forward

1. Given the congregation will be in the search process, one to one canvassing is needed.

2. Dave Ruede and Dennis Bowman are leaving the committee. Sky Kimball is the only other member. Given his role in online worship, a new chairperson and two new members are needed.

The Our Living Legacy (OLLy) Capital Campaign has continued to receive donations. Good news about the status of this campaign is reflected in the Report from the Treasurer and Finance Committee.

Whatever you have or have not been able to contribute to UUCSC this year I am extending a heartfelt thank you to you all. Our beloved Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County will continue to be a Beacon of Hope for our community, our state and the world.

Sincere Regards, Your Stewardship Committee

Dave Ruede (Chairperson), Dennis Bowman, Sky Kimball

Annual Report for the Communications Committee, 2020-21

From Betsy Dalton, Chair

The primary accomplishments of the Communications Committee for 2020-21 were the updating and maintenance of the UUCSC website, and the establishment of a new and expanded weekly UUCSC online newsletter. The entire Communications team met numerous times to discuss and determine the final design of the newsletter, and it has been successfully maintained by its primary editor, Etta Zasloff, throughout this year of the pandemic. The newsletter serves as a vital source of communication, information, and announcements for the congregation and UUCSC staff. Links to additional content in the newsletter are connected to content posts on the website. The website is reviewed regularly for updates, and is overseen by Etta Zasloff, web content manager, and Will Bender, web master.

Due to COVID-19 closings in March 2020, the Communication team assisted Rev. DL in the following areas:

· Support for all-congregation emails and weekly UUCSC newsletter via Constant Contact;

· Expanded content in weekly newsletter, including comprehensive worship service and RE content, Announcements, social justice information and ongoing congregational stories;

· Updated and revised the website to reflect current UUCSC communication needs;

· Continued regular postings to the UUCSC FaceBook page, including links to recorded services or homilies;

· Administration support in UUCSC Zoom sessions, especially for Sunday services;

· Review of and encouragement to the congregation of the online UUCSC directory updating.

Committee Members: Betsy Dalton, Chair, Etta Zasloff, Barbara Pagh, Will Bender, Elizabeth Donovan, and Linda Dupuis.

Subject: Membership Committee Report

May 25, 2921

The Membership Committee, due to Covid-19, was not as active as in past years. We maintained communication with each other along with potential new friends and members. We offered support to those in our congregation when asked for assistance and attempted to keep abreast of ongoing activities and events via zoom meetings.

We welcomed two new members in a virtual ceremony in collaboration with Rev. DL.

We're looking forward to and anxiously await the reopening of our church and meeting again in person.

Submitted by

Elise Bender & Betty Bogutt

Co-chairs Membership Committee

2020-2021 UUCSC Music Committee Annual Report

Committee members: Alison Buffum (chair), Susan Pavlow, Nick Smith, Sandy Ketrow, Mary Iacobbo

2021 has been a most unusual year. The greatest challenges we all faced were isolation and the technology of virtual meetings. Sending recordings over zoom and recording devices was especially difficult for some of us. Many of the choir rose to the challenges and Michael surpassed himself --mixing, editing, working tirelessly to create virtual services for weeks and weeks.

The improvement we made was in the skills used in working together online. We all felt anxious to get together. Michael built his own computer for audio and video editing. The additional time, working with choir members online was immeasurable - time investment remains to be calculated.

We have very recently begun to rehearse outside in person again. The Music Service may have to be virtual this year but there will be an attempt to organize some in-person listening opportunities. Things are opening up and improving every day and we are hopeful.

Respectfully submitted, Alison Buffum

Religious Education Committee

Annual Report 2020-21

The RE Program Goals 2019-20:

1. To transition our new DRE Lee Cowan into the program.
2. To connect to and engage our children in spiritual activities.
3. To survive the Pandemic.

The RE Committee met monthly by Zoom with Etta Zasloff and Barbara Pagh in attendance along with Lee Cowan. It was a great time to brainstorm and offer feedback to Lee. Lee took the lead in the beginning with ideas for offering live Zoom meetings for the children on Sunday mornings and creating a weekly RE newsletter. Etta has reported that the newsletter has a strong % of people who open it. Lee has done an amazing job with her videos and integration with Sunday morning worship. Intergenerational projects have taken place throughout the year where families (and congregants) could pick up materials at the front entrance. Considering the restrictions of the Pandemic, we have managed to maintain a connection to our children and parents through her leadership.

In May we were excited to introduce two new members of the RE committee, Daniel Peltz and Cathleen Carr.

Submitted by Barbara Pagh and Etta Zasloff, Co-chairs

May 2021

Social Justice Annual Report 2021

Jean N. Bowen, Social Justice Team Chairperson

The mission of the congregation has been implemented this year by the numerous members of the Social Justice Team and its sub-committees. The Racial Justice Committee merged into the Anti-Racist Monday night meetings to carry out the networking and advocacy of members. Over the 11 months of meeting weekly, 54 occasional and regular attendees met to discuss our privilege, awakening and how we could and can be anti-racist. Rev. DL Helfer, Jonathan Sigman and Jean Bowen were regular facilitators. Halfway thru the year we agreed to split the month to two activist/advocacy meetings. Two meetings were devoted to reading My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem. Facilitated by Jonathan Sigman, Martina Muller, Barbara Holzman and Etta Zasloff. The enormous commitment by members also swept through the congregations' committees to understand the 8th Principle proposed by Black Lives of UU. In an all-congregation meeting UUCSC unanimously adopted:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

UUCSC Leaders in social justice are activists in Climate Action RI, Nature's Trust RI, The Womxn Project, Together Women Rise (formerly Dining for Women), The Arc RI, Domestic Violence Resource Center, South Kingstown affordable housing initiatives, T.A.S.K., Chariho Anti-Racism Task Force, SoRI League of Women Voters, The Huddle, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense and Safer Communities for Justice, West Kingston Elementary School Anti-Racist groups for staff and families, AMOR, Interfaith Power and Light and UU Legislative Ministry. Many thanks to Cathy Solomn, Barbara Holzman, Lisa Petrie, Taylor Ellis, Jonathan Sigman, Gail Burchard, Donna Caldwell, Rev. DL Helfer, Johnny Rodriguez, Etta Zasloff, Jean Bowen and Mary Alice Kimball.

The Share the Plate resumed in January - March featuring Guest at our Table, The Womxn Project was featured for April - June. Thanks to Mary Alice Kimball, Essjay

Foulkrad for their continued support to bring community justice to the congregants. The Jonnycake Center was featured for the Agape Fund at the Christmas Eve Eve service.

On International Women's Day in March 2021, Dining for Women changed its name and became, "Together Women Rise". The mission and vision remains the same; cultivating the collective power of community to achieve global gender equality and envisioning a world where every person has the same opportunities to thrive regardless of their gender or where they live. Our Peace Dale Chapter is one of 480 in the nation, and we continue to meet on the first Tuesday.. May began our first meeting in person, gathering at the Club House at the Village at Warden's Pond - and we will continue to meet there through the summer. Besides our chapter meetings, TWR offers opportunities for travel, participating in our book club, recipes and working as an advocate to get more funding for women and girls through Congress. Our own chapter has raised $32,483. since we began in 2018, with approximately 20 - 40 active participants. Thanks to Gail Burchard for her leadership.

During this past year, the disability justice sub-group has not been very active, as most accessibility issues occur face-to-face, however the following actions were sustained:

- The UUCSC website continues to be maintained to support maximum visual accessibility by its large-print design.
- Recorded sermons of Rev. DL Helfer's homilies, first audio recordings and later video recordings are shared with the UUCSC via the website and FaceBook. Video recordings have the capacity to generate closed captions.
- Disability justice issues and needs will be reassessed following return to face-to-face services

Thanks to Betsy Dalton, sub-committee organizer for her leadership.

2020-2021 UUCSC WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Adria Evans, Chair

This very different Covid year calls for a different-from-usual report. The Worship Committee met in September 2020 and resumed meeting in February 2021. Thus throughout the autumn and into the winter, Rev. DL with Lee Cowan and Michael Galib picked up more work during this time, and tried a variety of worship formats for online services to reach congregants. Starting with recorded sermons, services expanded to include both music and congregation members' participation. Elise Bender, Sky Kimball, and Cathleen Carr encouraged us all to vote in the November election, for example. Our first live-on-zoom first Sundays began on February 7, and by April 6 services became live zooms with coffee hours. *The Worship Committee wants to acknowledge DL's inspirational work and leadership.*

There were other treats this winter. With increasing technical savvy, Michael and the choir brought us music and the joy of seeing their faces. See the Valentine Day video, And Lee's ongoing puppetry, stories, and outdoor teachings gathered us all, children and adults.

When we reconvened in February, Adria Evans became chair, and we began to think about summer in earnest, while also providing feedback to Rev. DL about where changes to the current virtual services would feel helpful. The meetings this spring have been extremely productive. We have planned for an exciting summer of worship, and recently the Communications Committee stepped forward to provide technical support for our zoom-based summer services. Truly a collaborative labor of love.

In addition to three 2020 services led by other UU congregational ministers and/or the UUA, DL and the Worship Committee brought the following speakers:

January 10: Sally Barney, Sarah Bell, Tracy Hart

January 26: Valerie Tutson

January 31: Eva Agudelo (plus Nessa Richman for coffee hour)

February 21: Christopher Johnson, Big Lux/Kevin Lowther

March 28: Matt Meyer

April 11: Mwangi Gitahi

April 25: Kathy Swink

May 8: Linda Whyte Burrell

May 30: Adria Evans

The Worship Committee is responsible for summer zoom services (July 11-August 15).

We all hope to reconvene in the chapel in September 2021.

MEMBERS: Adria Evans, Amber Collins, (recently relocated to RI) Ann Seemann, Johnette Rodriguez, Kathy Swink, Susan Strakosch

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
UUCSC Annual Business Meeting
June 20, 2021

The Nominating Committee nominates the following members for election to the following positions:

President – Elizabeth Donovan, for a term ending in June 2023.
Treasurer – Mary Alice Kimball, for reelection to a second term ending in June 2023. Director – Nancy Dean, for reelection to a second term ending in June 2023.
Director – Charlie Donnelly, for election to a term ending in June 2023.
Director – Bill Rodriguez, for a term ending in June 2023.
Nominating Committee -- Val Follett, for a term ending in June 2024.

The pandemic has resulted in a number of resignations and appointments. This is an explanation of who currently holds office:

Article 6(D) of the UUCSC bylaws says that officers are elected to two-year terms. The President and the Treasurer are elected in odd-numbered years and the Vice President and the Clerk are elected in even numbered years.

Natalie Herbermann is completing a two-year term as president. She is not running for reelection. Elizabeth Donovan has agreed to accept the nomination as president. No clerk was elected in September 2020. In March 2021 the Board of Directors appointed Elizabeth to serve as clerk for a term ending in June 2022. She resigned from that position to accept the nomination for election as president, and on June 16 the Board appointed Mary Fulton to serve the remainder of the term.

Rosemary Galani was elected vice president in September 2020. She has resigned. On June 16, the Board appointed Elise Bender to serve the remainder of the term, which ends in June 2022.

Mary Alice Kimball was elected treasurer in June 2019. She is nominated for reelection to another two-year term.

Directors are elected to two-year terms in odd-numbered years. The bylaws were amended in 2020 to reduce the number of directors from five to three.

Nancy Dean was elected as a director in June 2019. She is nominated for reelection to another two-year term.

In April, the Board appointed Charlie Donnelly to serve the remainder of Dave Hurdis's term, which is now expiring. Charlie is nominated for election as director for a full two-year term expiring in June 2023.

Rosemary Galani was elected as a director in June 2019 but resigned in September 2020 to accept the nomination as vice president. The Board appointed Bill Rodriguez to serve the remainder of her two-year term. Bill is nominated for election as a director for a full two-year term expiring in June 2023.

The Nominating Committee consists of three members who serve staggered three-year terms. In March 2021 Gail Burchard was appointed for a term that expires in June 2022. Linda Whyte Burrell currently is serving a term that expires in June 2023. Val Follett is nominated for election to a three-year term that will expire in June 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Donovan, Chair