

## 2022 Committee Reports

### Building and Grounds Committee Report

(by Dwight Micklethwait)

#### **Grounds**

- (1) We had one "Garden Party" in the spring when about six people came to help work in the gardens and planters. (Because of COVID and a hard drought this last summer, we haven't called many work parties in the recent past, but we hope to do this more often in the future.)
- (2) Dwight and Jose leveled the stones in the Memory Garden.
- (3) Added the birth and death dates to Fran's stone.
- (4) Joan McGaffic contributed money to re-stain the wooden rails on the bridge to the Memory Garden.
- (5) After Pamela Schleicher had to drop off the committee because of health problems, we asked Pam Stiver to join us and she accepted, saying she enjoys gardening.
- (6) During extreme drought, it was a challenge to help our plants and trees survive. Most of our native plants will come back in the Spring and Bluebonnets are already coming up.
- (7) Several trees didn't survive and will have those removed by year-end.
- (8) Some of the sidewalks have shifted creating fall hazards. Replacement will be completed by year end at a cost of \$2,260.00.

#### **Building**

- (1) There was unscheduled repair of our HVAC in Feb at a cost of \$1500. Meyer Heating and Air Conditioning responded very promptly as usual. We have an annual maintenance contract which includes two seasonal inspections and a 10% savings on other parts and services.
- (2) Cleaned siding
- (3) Installed a concrete slab over the large well opening at 131 Alves Lane. It isn't necessary to have wells closed until we have plans to construct on the property. Current cost is about \$4,000 and future costs will in most probability be much higher
- (4) Efforts to plat church property is discontinued until we have resources to construct on the property. Platting process is very cumbersome and expensive.
- (5) Our cleaning and grounds maintenance contracts were done satisfactorily. No expected increase in cost for next year.
- (6) Four of the air purification filters are being replaced and we can expect to replace several more annually. Replace one of the UVC filter cartridges and purifier still not working. Cause may faulty fan motor
- (7) Repaired a portion of the playground fencing.
- (8) Church sign at Alves Ln blew over during high winds. Repaired, cleaned, and repainted (Jose).

**Committee on Ministry Report**  
(by Jackie Russell)

Members: Jackie Russell, Judith Ferrari, Joan McGaffic      Advisor: Rev. Addae Kraba

1. worked to reacquaint the Board of Trustees and the congregation with its purpose. The Committee on Ministry (COM) serves the health of the congregation by supporting the effectiveness of all the congregation's ministries. Our overview is a "from the balcony" observation. As one committee member observed: *we are equipped to be mediators and fence menders in cases of conflict and misunderstanding, but if the congregation does not know or understand our function, we are not able to help.*
2. Reviewed the culture of the congregation with intent to shape spiritual growth.
3. Explored Rev. Addae's position as spiritual leader.
4. Considered which class Rev. Addae might teach that best suits the congregation's needs (Covid).
5. Reviewed recruitment, recapturing, and retention of membership post Covid
6. Encouraged attendance at UUA offerings – in particular, General Assembly and Leadership Essentials.
7. Examined the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and considered a request for a board member representative for Denominational Affairs.
8. Began the "Kudos" article in the newsletter to encourage practices/ministries that uplift congregational health.

## **Communications Committee Report**

(by Chol Romero-Dungan)

The Communications Committee (CC) revamped in 2022 after a year of no activity. CC's Goals for 2022 were to get the UUNB more connected and move UUNB into a more technology day and age. Goals and explanations below.

### 1) Google Groups:

There was some use of Google Groups but thus far has not seen much more success.

### 2) UUNB Livestreaming/Filming:

CC helped to move forward with better Sunday Service live streaming/filming. With some membership pushback and current technology issues, we have not been able to move forward as of yet. Communication is still underway and technology is being researched and we can see future progress in this area.

### 3) UUNB Facebook:

Irene took over managing the UUNB Facebook group and with her guidance it has increased in audience visibility. Currently needing another person to take of this as Irene advices that we need to keep it fresh and rolling and by changing over who manages it, this can be achieved.

### 4) Mailchimp

One other goal for UUNB to move forward n technology was to "convert" the UUNB Newsletter over to Mailchimp. Jan Estes has been in charge of the newsletter for years and had been doing so through a complex older management system. We are successful in transitioning into this as of November/December 2022. There is still more training and smoothing out the kinks, but overall, this is going smoothly. The benefits of this is less time to manage email lists, people can subscribe or unsubscribe themselves instead of having to do so manually, plus a link to our MailChimp subscription could be added to the website as well.

## **Membership Committee Report**

(by Margo Joiner)

1. Participated in the Orientation Sessions and Induction Ceremonies of 6 individuals in March and 9 individuals in November 2022. These, now members, were welcomed and assisted in their pathway to becoming UUNB members. Orientation included the following: a video of UU and its history, review of the UUNB mission and covenant, presentation of the 7 Principles, and a meeting with Rev. Addae with an emphasis on commitment to time, talent, and treasure.

### March Induction Ceremony New Members:

Irene Keller  
Toby Tate  
Lynn Silver  
Kelly Schaefer  
Susan Curtis  
Margo Joiner

### November Induction Ceremony New Members:

Pam Stivers  
Rick Stivers  
Wade Arledge  
Bill McNally  
Daria Rabotkina  
George Cochrum  
Karen Cochrum  
Amanda Pepin  
Debra Borgen

2. The Committee went through the transitioning of losing the Membership Committee Chair (Carolyn Carr) and adding three new members to the team. Current members include Margo Joiner (Chair), Mary Powell, Karen Cochrum, Judith Ferrari, Cor Ferrari, and Toby Tate.

## Religious Education Committee Report

### *Children's Religious Education (by Jessica B-Acox)*

1. We've navigated reopening in-person sessions for Kids' RE and childcare when vaccines were not yet available for all ages and while families continued to juggle the dynamics of work/family/school in a Covid world. This has required the Committee to reframe and reevaluate the needs of UUNB, our families, and our congregation in relationship to Kids' RE and childcare.
2. We also continue to work through how best to meet the needs of diverse populations in both RE and childcare while dealing with the challenges of keeping childcare consistently staffed with paid employees. Through all this, we are slowly but successfully rebuilding our RE and childcare programs and seeing consistent improvement in attendance.
3. We are seeing familiar and new faces, kids and teens connecting and reconnecting in meaningful ways during our time in RE and childcare and benefitting immensely from the reintegration of younger people in The Gathering Room.
4. We hope to see more return of familiar families in 2023, while keeping our doors and hearts open to welcome new families into the community.
5. As ever, our focus is to offer welcoming, inclusive programming that enlivens the spirits and hearts through creativity, mindfulness, personal connections, and living our UU values.

### *Adult Religious Education (by Steve Botts)*

1. This year, we have been focusing on The Great Courses programs on religion and culture. We started with "Understanding the New Testament" series presented by Professor Bart Ehrman followed by "Comparative Religion presented by Professor Charles Kimball." Currently, we are on "Death, Dying, and the Afterlife" with Professor Mark Berkson. I usually send a weekly letter to let people know what topic is coming up and briefly describing it.
2. The format consists of 24 lectures on these subjects with the topic of the week presented in a 30 minute video lecture each Sunday morning. This begins at 9:30 in the RE room. After the lecture, we usually have about 15 minutes of discussion and dismiss by 10:15.
3. Occasionally, we have a guest speaker. Once we had Chili and Peggy Ornelas come and describe the work they are doing with immigrants. We have also had a gentleman come and give us some information about green burials near New Braunfels.

## **Safety Committee Report**

(by Rob Acox)

1. Reviewed the previously adopted UUNB Safety Plan and is in the process of generating additional policies and procedures for Board approval.
2. Church Mutual has provided a questionnaire to direct the committee in meeting standards for best practice, and committee members are analyzing and addressing all areas.
3. Rob Acox, chair, provides security and surveillance on every weekends when he is available.
4. The committee is attempting to enhance its membership and training meetings to ensure consistent volunteer coverage.
5. Rob will conduct training in “Stop the Bleed” in early 2023.

## Social Service Committee Report

(by Peggy Vieira)

1. **SOS Food Bank:** During the past year 13 volunteers gave a total of 440 hours of service to the food bank. We also donated 1,600 lbs. of food and \$525.00. This was the lowest amount of food donated since 2009. In the past, we have collected over a ton of food each year.
2. **Meals on Wheels:** This year 8 volunteers (1-2 per week) gave 63 hours of their time to deliver meals to shut-in seniors in our community. UUNB drivers deliver meals on Fridays and the deliveries take from 1.5 to 2 hours.
3. **Family Promise:** Six volunteers provided 3 meals and spent 3 hours each meal time with the guests in the program. The guests are staying the week at Unity Church of Practical Christianity on Gruene Road. We are Unity's support congregation and help them when they host the families 3-4 times per year.
4. **Habitat for Humanity:** The UUNB congregation and members sponsored 4 studs that were decorated and used to frame a Habitat house. We also have two members of the congregation who are active Habitat volunteers for special projects.
5. **Interfaith Welcoming Coalition (IWC):** Under the leadership of members Chili and Peggy Ornelas, twelve members of our congregation met and filled 50 backpacks to send to the border. This involved 35 hours of preparation by Chili and 2 hours of work by the volunteers to fill the packs. We also donated blankets, clothing, shoes, toys and hygiene items throughout the year. These items were taken to the border cities. Chili and Peggy made 4 trips with Peggy Jenkins joining them for 2 of them. Three trips were to Nuevo Laredo and one trip was to Piedras Negras. These are nine-hour round trips. Sr. Mercedes from IWC delivered our collected items at other times after receiving them from Chili in San Antonio. Our congregation collected over \$1100 to spend on needed items for refugee support.

## Sunday Service Committee Report

(by Jan Estes, Irene Keller)

1. Moved from zoom only program to hybrid (zoom & in-person) to in-person only.  
Laptops capability could not continue with zoom hosting.
2. In August, discussed and planned to have Sunday services reflect UU principles, leading to a true UU message instead of interesting topics only;  
  
programs to include, explicitly, UUNB's mission statement or specifics of UUNB's covenant, or specific UU principles and if applicable monthly theme;  
  
program committee is responsible to guide and encourage a speaker to incorporate elements of UUNB's spiritual beliefs in Sunday messages;  
  
entire Sunday service provides a spiritual connection for the congregation, not just Sunday message from pulpit.
3. Successfully, learned how to include canned sermons and music. Continue to research and discuss different music options.
4. Last quarter of the year, congregants allowed to sing once again.
5. Always had a speaker, worship associate, music, AV tech for every Sunday.
6. Some new Worship Associate volunteers, with new typed guideline for them.
7. Agreed on speaker stipends. UU ministers 325 for complete service; 200-250 for others
8. Planned for half of the 2023 speakers.
9. When Covid stress began to wane, program committee members seemed more relaxed and were able to work more effectively as a committee team.



