

OCUC

2006

Annual

Meeting Agenda

and Committee Reports



Notes



Saturday, June 10, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

Call to order, quorum check

Approval of minutes from 2005 meetings

Adoption of OCUUC Five-Year Strategic Plan

Adoption of 2006–2007 budget

Election of Officers, Trustees, Stewards, and Nominators

Nomination of Tom Loughrey for PSWD rep to UUA

Other Business

Adjournment

Congregational Meeting Minutes Saturday, June 11, 2005

President Ramón Urbano called the meeting to order. Sheri Stoyanoff announced that there was a quorum. The minutes for the previous year, 2003-2004 was read by Sheri Stoyanoff. Charlie Reed moved that the minutes be approved as read. Richard Scoby seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Richard O'Neill, the VP of Finance gave a few departing words as outgoing VP Finance and produced the new budget for 2005-2006. He said that the church tried to come closer to fair compensation guidelines proposed by the UUA for our size of church. He then opened the floor for questions and discussion.

There was discussion as to what the offering plate comprised. The congregants decided that the plate that was to be donated to outside organizations would be the loose money and checks designated to be given as part of the 50% to outside charities.

Income: There was an increase in pledges to \$192,000, and they are still coming in. There has been a decrease in script. The concert series put on by the music department is a new item that hopes to generate 4400. The 50/50/50 program is now defunct and will become the Social Action Committee. They will not receive a grant this year.

Expense: There was a big increase in music this year, but the Long Range Planning did not do an appraisal this past year and is not expected to do one this year. There was an increase in staff salaries this year and fair compensation is the reason for the increase.

There was a question as to the need of the proposed youth advisor. Lynn Scoby said that there were 12 youths on the roster and they are part of a cluster group

with youths from Laguna Beach and Mission Viejo. They meet twice a month with about 12 to 13 attending.

There was a question as to the 50/50/50 income of \$3000 that was not spent, what happened to it? Nancy Loughrey said that it is in a holding account and if it is not spent on what it was earmarked for it has to be given back.

There was a question as to why the music department budget is doubling. They broke down the expenses needed for various items such as piano maintenance, supplies, guest musicians and music licenses. They department is answering a request from the congregation for more diversity of music. There is a budget of \$2500 for guest artists which would cover one artist a month. The music department is requesting \$4200 increase over last year, and \$2500 will be raised by music department fundraising events.

It was brought to the attention of Richard O'Neill that the increase in the music budget is the same as the expense and that it should be an offset in the music for concert series. The expense for the concert series of \$4400 should be offset by the \$4400 income.

It was suggested that the flex spending account for the minister and for the staff should also be there for the head of the music department and the Director of Religious Education in the amount of \$1320 for DRE and \$1000 for the music director.

Charlie Reed mentioned that the fair compensation is about 90% to 95% of what it should be. He also asked about the intern minister line item and that there should be a line item for the intern for the calendar year even though we won't have one for the fiscal year.

Maureen McConaghy mentioned that expenses for community items are reduced. Richard said that it comes from the lack this year of a volunteer coordinator and the grant for the 50/50/50 committee. But he added that we would be giving 50% of the cash plate to outside organizations. He also added that we need to budget now for an intern minister for the 2006/2007 fiscal year.

A question was asked of Richard whether the church covers health insurance. Nancy Loughrey said that staff's paychecks are reduced by the insurance premium if they elect to take it.

A question was asked about the \$8000 for a sign out front. Richard answered that there was money in the CIC for the replacement sign.

Richard also mentioned that the sexton is back in the budget as well as the projector for the church, the janitor was taken out of the budget and put towards a sexton, and a sabbatical reserve for visiting ministers was outlined.

There was much discussion on balancing the budget with several suggestions as to cuts that should be made and giving Board discretion to balance the budget at a later time when all the pledges have come in.

Maureen McConaghy moved to give 50% of the monthly cash plate to charity and that the community services committee will decide where each month goes. Mark Tabbert seconded it. The motion carried.

Marcia Hackett moved to accept the budget as is and Kindel Castle seconded it. The motion carried.

Judith Stamper listed the new officers for the new fiscal year. Ramon moved to vote on the slate presented and Richard Scoby seconded it. The motion carried. Ramon presented the new President,

Sandra Kulczyk with a gavel as a new tradition.

Sunny Harper briefed the congregation on the Long Range Planning results via slide presentation. They presented a chart that showed a cyclical plan where enriched programming would lead to membership growth which would lead to increased resources i.e., volunteers, money, staff and facilities which would lead back to more enriched programming. Bob Loeschen proposed applause for the LRP group.

Craig Anderson thanked Ramón Urbano the outgoing president and proposed to close the annual meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes Sunday, January 8, 2006

Sandra Kulczyk, President, called the meeting to order and verified that there was a quorum. She announced the reason for the meeting was to vote on whether OCUUC wants to host an intern minister for the 2006–2007 year. We have been budgeting the money for the past year for this year.

The selection process begins in Jan/Feb 2006, which is why the special meeting was called. We have received many promising names and the deadline for acceptance is February 2006.

Ramón Urbano moved to accept an intern minister for 2006–2007, beginning in August 2006 and ending in June 2007. Tom Loughrey seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee will nominate the following candidates at the Congregational Meeting on June 10, 2006, for terms beginning July 1, 2006.

Candidates for election are those listed in bold type.

Officers

- President **Sandra Kulczyk 2007**
- Vice President Finance . . . **Richard Stoyanoff 2007**
- Vice President Programs . . **Lynn Scoby 2007**
- Recorder **Barbara Doshier 2007**
- Treasurer **Richard Carter 2007**
- Bursar **Charles Gordon 2007**

Trustees (3-year terms)

- Maurice Giss** 2007 filling out Rayna Hamre's term
- Bob Loeschen** 2007 filling out Vaughan Hargrave's term
- Cynthia Berger 2008 continuing
- Linda Sonnonstine 2008 continuing
- Paul Gethard** 2009 candidate for a new 3-year term
- Karen Anderson** 2009 candidate for a new 3-year term

Stewards (3-year terms)

- Ken Small 2007 continuing
- John Cazier 2008 continuing
- Scott Armstrong** 2009 candidate for new 3-year term

Nominators (3-year term)

- Tom Loughrey 2007 continuing
- Susan Rathman 2007 filling out Tom Winnet's term
- Marcia Hackett 2008 continuing
- Earl Hardenbrook** 2008 filling out Ramón Urbano's term
- Paul Carey** 2009 candidate for a new 3-year term
- Rachel Smith** 2009 candidate for a new 3-year term

Under the terms of our bylaws, officers serve 1-year terms and may serve two consecutive years in the same office. Subsequently, an officer can be elected to serve in another office. All other elected officials of the church serve 3-year terms. This list shows the year each term expires. All those who are "continuing" have already been elected. Candidates for election are shown in bold type.

Respectfully submitted,
 The Committee of Nominators
Tom Winnett
Margaret Armstrong
Ramón Urbano
Marcia Hackett
Tom Loughrey
Clover Behrend-Gethard

The Finance Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and friends who have supported our programs and events this past year.

Your time, talents, and financial contributions allow OCUUC to grow as a liberal church supporting our needs and those of the extended community in Orange County.

Our Concert Series was a great success this year, bringing innovative and talented musicians to our church for all to enjoy as well as serving to attract members of the local community to our church for the first time. We look forward to continued success with the Concert Series in the coming year.

A special thanks to all our committees, chairs, and volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes to support the needs of OCUUC.

Richard Stoyanoff
VP Finance

2006–2007 Budget

The Finance Council respectfully submits the proposed budget on the next three pages for your approval.

Our Canvas Pledge Drive was very successful again this year and totaled only 3.7% less than last year.

Great care was taken in projecting income for the coming year. We believe the amount presented will be an accurate reflection of the total.

Committee's requests for budget approval were included as submitted, with only a few exceptions.

We were not able to recommend the full increases in staff salaries as presented by the personnel committee, due to projected income restraints. The increases listed are approximately half the submitted amounts as approved by the Board and Finance Council.

The numbers for contributions and plate are presented in amounts that more accurately represent their origins.

Your Finance Council
Richard Stoyanoff
Charles Gordon
Richard Carter
Jenny Ballard

2006-2007 Operating Budget

OCUUC Budget			
	2005/2006 Budget	2006/2007 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Sources	Income	Income	from last year
Pledges	\$189,000	\$182,000	\$(7,000)
Contributions	\$7,000	\$3,300	\$(3,700)
Plate	\$7,500	\$12,700	\$5,200
Endowment	\$22,400	\$22,744	\$344
Rent	\$18,000	\$16,500	\$(1,500)
ATM	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
Fall Auction	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$(1,000)
Spring Auction	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$(1,000)
Intern Grant	\$—	\$5,000	\$5,000
Misc Fund Raisers	\$1,790	\$2,000	\$210
Concert Series	\$4,400	\$2,200	\$(2,200)
Music Misc Fundraising	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Scrip	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$1,500
Luncheons	\$—	\$500	\$500
Bookstore	\$100	\$100	\$0
Carryover (Cash in Bank)	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$0
Transfer Intern Holding	\$—	\$6,000	\$6,000
Total Income	\$309,390	\$311,744	\$2,354
	2005/2006 Budget	2006/2007 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Uses	Expenses	Expenses	from last year
ADR National Fees	\$500	\$500	\$0
Bank	\$500	\$683	\$183
Board	\$1,000	\$500	\$(500)
Canvass	\$1,800	\$3,100	\$1,300
Caring	\$1,000	\$2,300	\$1,300
Carpet / Upholstery Cleaning	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Computer / Equipment	\$6,250	\$500	\$(5,750)
Contingency	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Copying	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Cummunity Service Committee	\$1,500	\$-	\$(1,500)
CUUPS	\$250	\$400	\$150
Debt Service	\$8,400	\$6,750	\$(1,650)

2006-2007 Operating Budget

	2005/2006 Budget	2006/2007 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Uses	Expenses	Expenses	from last year
Green Sanctuary	\$300	\$300	\$0
Hospitality	\$750	\$200	\$(550)
Insurance	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Interfaith Council	\$150	\$150	\$0
Janitorial Supplies	\$600	\$700	\$100
Landscape	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0
Leadership Development	\$750	\$500	\$(250)
Membership	\$800	\$1,000	\$200
Music	\$8,760	\$10,000	\$1,240
Office Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$250
Postage	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0
Publicity	\$3,950	\$4,015	\$65
RE Adult	\$750	\$500	\$(250)
RE Children	\$7,520	\$9,000	\$1,480
Repairs / Maintenance	\$9,500	\$6,500	\$(3,000)
Reserve	\$725	\$-	\$(725)
Sign in front of Church	\$4,000	\$-	\$(4,000)
Social Activities/Gatherings	\$500	\$500	\$0
SOS	\$100	\$100	\$0
Staff Luncheon	\$100	\$100	\$0
Taxes	\$500	\$500	\$0
Telephone / AOL	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Utilities	\$7,500	\$6,755	\$(745)
UUA / PSWD Dues	\$16,100	\$17,430	\$1,330
UUSC	\$200	\$200	\$0
Worship Service Committee	\$4,800	\$3,300	\$(1,500)
Young Adult		\$1,800	\$1,800
YRUU/Senior High	\$2,090	\$2,090	\$0
Total Committees	\$108,045	\$97,023	\$(11,022)

2006-2007 Operating Budget

	2005/2006 Budget	2006/2007 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Staff	Expenses	Expenses	from last year
Administrator	\$22,020	\$24,375	\$2,355
Admin Flex Spending	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$100
Associate Guitarist	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Bookkeeper	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$0
Child Care	\$750	\$750	\$0
Choir Director	\$9,400	\$9,870	\$470
Choir Director Professional	\$500	\$800	\$300
DRE	\$26,400	\$27,720	\$1,320
DRE Professional	\$1,900	\$2,000	\$100
Flex spending	\$1,320	\$1,200	\$(120)
Intern Minister (Reserve)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Minister	\$72,800	\$74,050	\$1,250
Minister Flex Spending	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Minister Professional	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Minister Sabbatical Reserve	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Music Director	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$1,000
Flex spending	\$1,000	\$1,100	
Music Director Professional	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$600
Payroll Taxes	\$9,000	\$9,500	\$500
Sunday Nursery	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$0
Sunday Playground	\$750	\$750	\$0
Volunteer Coordinator	\$-	\$-	\$0
Workers Comp	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Youth Advisor	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0
Sexton	\$10,400	\$12,612	\$2,212
Flex spending	\$-	\$1,100	\$1,100
Total Staff Costs	\$209,040	\$220,327	\$11,287
Grand Total Costs	\$317,085	\$317,350	\$265
Grand Total Income	\$309,390	\$311,744	\$2,354
Excess Cost vs. Income	\$7,695	\$5,606	

Support of *Alianza Indigena* (the Indigenous Alliance) has been the major activity of the committee since it was formed following the Orange Coast participation in of Jubilee II several years ago. The Alliance is based in Anaheim, but covers a much wider area. We supported them this year by selling service Committee Equal Exchange products at their fall fair and donating any profits. It is hoped that the Faith in Action Council can help us can expand our support to the Alliance and others next year.

Birdie Reed

The ATM is finishing perhaps its best year. Since the new managers have come to Shanti-Orange County, for whom we provide meals to clients, we have experienced increased volume. We are now at our capacity of 15 clients.

Sandy and Tony, who were our cooking coordinators are leaving in June for Iowa. Tony also was our chair. Fortunately, Ted and Mary Lundholm have taken their places as cooking coordinators and we anticipate a continuation of excellent meals and well-organized cooking sessions. We cook every second Saturday and provide about 280 meals. That amounts to over 3000 meals per year. In March 2006 we delivered 315 meals, a record.

We also provide scrip and birthday and Christmas presents to the children in the CHOC program for kids with HIV and AIDS. The presents are provided through the amazing efforts and generosity of Bob Leidner and the MCC church of which he is a member.

With 15 clients, our delivery people are busy. Some clients take meals weekly, some every two weeks. With such a busy

schedule we always need new delivery people. It is a pleasant job; deliverers meet interesting people; and they can deduct their mileage on their income tax.

Our steering committee consists of: Charlie Reed, meeting convener and secretary; Birdie Reed, delivery coordinator and CHOC liaison; Ted and Mary Lundholm, cooking coordinators; Tom Loughrey, treasurer; and Paul Gethard, jack-of-all-trades.

ATM has a constant need for volunteers, both to deliver and also to prepare food. Although we like to have delivery teams of two people, we don't often have enough volunteers to go around. Cooking sessions can always use new volunteers also. Those of you reading this report should consider volunteering for such an important and satisfying ministry.

Charlie Reed

At our board retreat last August, we agreed to focus on three primary and three secondary areas from our developing OCUUC Strategic Plan. We finalized goals and created objectives in these areas: Primary areas included Congregational Development, Governance and Leadership, and Community Service; Secondary focus areas are Worship/Music, Workforce (Staff), and Religious Education. The latter three were designated as secondary because we felt that these areas are in good hands and would only need board support, input and final approval. The primary focus areas were selected because of their need for more board participation in their development and implementation. Here is our progress so far:

Congregational Development—

OCUUC has hosted Presidents' roundtables for and been a major player in the South Bay Marketing Campaign being sponsored by the UUA in our area. It involves the coordinated efforts of seven churches and will roll out in September of this year with newspaper and radio spots describing our UU faith and inviting the public to come and see our churches. We are sharing ideas for "Radical Hospitality" in an effort to welcome the increased number of guests we expect as a result of this attractive and contemporary campaign. Based on results of congregational surveys, and some trial changes, a board task force has made recommendations to the Worship Associates Ministry for ways to enhance our worship services, both for our current church family, and to be more

welcoming to guests. We hope that many of them will want to make OCUUC their church home.

Governance and Leadership—a governance chart depicting the structure of our church life has been created, and will be available at this meeting. The various church activities and committees have been grouped functionally and assigned liaisons from the board according to these three groups created from our statement of purpose: "Seeking Truth,

Building Just Communities, and Caring for One Another." Our goal is to make our structure and function more transparent to members and friends, and invite participation.

Also in process are a procedure and policies manual and the creation of a Judicial Council for policy interpretation in areas of possible conflict.

Community Service—Our monthly sponsoring of a local charity has been a smashing success with \$700-\$1200 being contributed during each of the last 11 months to qualifying organizations in our community. A Faith in Action Council has been created to coordinate and oversee other ongoing social justice projects and activity groups. We have truly demonstrated our willingness to "walk the talk" and we are on our way to becoming known in our area for our willingness to give of our time and money to help others.

Worship/Music—this area folds into Congregational Development as described above, and additional projects included a successful campaign to buy the new hymnal supplement “Singing the Journey” and ongoing efforts to add visual and musical enhancements to our services.

Workforce—An employee handbook for staff is being put together by our hard-working Personnel Committee, who are also working to be sure that OCUUC is following Fair Practice compensation guidelines set out by the UUA. An area of focus in the coming year will be to create a database and coordinate volunteer activity.

Religious Education—We have successfully completed the three goals we set: Quarterly Intergenerational Services, a viable Adult Program, and the hiring of a Youth Advisor for High School age youth. Our vibrant RE program speaks for itself in increased attendance thanks to our wonderful DRE and Children’s RE Committee and volunteers. Look for even more integration of our kids in our Sunday services in the future.

I want to thank the board, staff, Rev. Karen, and all of you for your willingness to do what it takes to nurture our beloved community.

Sandra Kulczyk,
President

During the past year we saw an increase in coffee sales and in chocolate. These sales are of fair traded and organic products, which are sold through a program of the UU Service Committee. Raw material producers thus make a fair return on their sales and the consumer is guaranteed a product, which is not contaminated by chemicals. We also sell fair-traded tea and powdered cocoa. We order from our supplier on the average of every two weeks and look for increased sales next year.

Bookstore sales have been slow. The titles that sell are those describing Unitarian Universalism and its history. Other titles generally sell only at holiday times. Sales of coffee products and books help finance the purchase of pamphlets about UU and its many aspects, which are distributed free to all comers. Visitors are encouraged to take pamphlets that interest them.

Charlie and Birdie Reed

This has been a good year for the Building and Grounds Committee to have a large budget! We have been able to accomplish a great deal of the work we planned to do, as well as deal with emergencies as they arose.

This year, we have changed the position of Janitor to Sexton, to expand the role of the paid help we have with building maintenance. In December, David Nuñez was hired. He has quickly learned to be indispensable. Not only does he do the routine cleaning, but he also does minor repairs, has become a part of the Building and Grounds Committee, and attended one work party. He gets the building ready for us to use, and is now running the sound system on Sunday mornings. Thank you, David!

Our building is actually below the city sewer lines, which are not on Victoria but the street behind us. Our sewage collects in a tank at the back corner of our lot (under the handicapped parking spaces), and is normally pumped into the city system. Our sewer pump quit without any warning in the fall. In order to get everything moving in the right direction again, the tank was drained and the pump replaced. This was a major unplanned expenditure.

The largest project this year has been rewiring the Sanctuary to relocate switches to the rear of the room, accommodate improved lighting, the new sound system, and the projector. It is not complete as of this writing, but this project is well underway and should be complete soon. Another addition will be fans in peak of each end of the building to allow the heat that builds up in the summer to escape. Once this work is complete, we will be covering most of the new cabling,

and repainting.

Smaller projects have included progress on a true Nursery/Preschool playground. This project is taking much longer than intended, but we have added a new concrete pad, and completed the fence. All we need is a play surface and some shade! The Spirit of Life patio at the top of the steps by the office was re-leveled. Lighting was improved on those steps. The leak at the back peak was at least partially repaired. Several doors were replaced. Several posts on the guardrail were replaced, and one side has been painted. The attic was cleaned and reorganized. Windows were washed. There are too many projects to list them all, but many, many volunteer hours have contributed to all the accomplishments.

I want to thank all the many volunteers who have come to our three work parties, and those who paid for workers when they could not attend. We intentionally had fewer work parties, and we have been rewarded with higher attendance at the ones we did have. We have also served lunch each time, which is a great way to finish the morning.

I especially want to thank each of the Building and Grounds Committee members, Craig Anderson, Paul Gethard, Bob Loeschen, Jim Olson (by e-mail!), Richard Scoby, and Craig Sperry. They have each been incredibly knowledgeable, helpful, hard-working, and good-natured about working with me as Chair. We met roughly every other month, and it has been extremely useful to have such experts for advice and help! Thank you!

Nancy Loughrey

OCUUC's Caring Ministry is well established as it enters its fifth year. Our three arms include the Helping Hands, the Pastoral Care Associates, and the Health Ministry/Congregation Nurse.

We try to serve as a central source for members and friends to reach out to one another during times of need. Our table on the patio each Sunday has cards to send and health-related information. Recently it has been the scene of our biggest project: the sale at cost of 50 Emergency Kits for Auto Trunks. We combined with Religious Education on one of their Social Justice Sundays for education about Disaster Preparedness and to assemble the kits. Vera Viana-Asper created a list of Pet Emergency Supplies to add for those animal lovers among us.

Our regular activities include a monthly Parenting Support Group and two weekly walking groups. We see 4-5 people a month for blood pressure screenings.

Thanks to our partnership with Hoag Hospital we certified 13 folks in First Aid and gave 90 flu shots.

OCUUC hosted its second Blood Drive with the donation of 25 pints through the St. Joseph's/Mission Hospital program.

Programs sponsored included a presentation by Dolly Duran on the responsibility and skills necessary to maintain a valid driving privilege; "What Do I say? How to Help a Grieving Friend" by Bill Hoy courtesy of O'Connor Mortuary; and Emer-

gency Preparedness by Brenda Emrick of the Costa Mesa Fire Department.

We also provided the labyrinth walk experience for the Sunday RE program that explored different spiritual practices.

Some statistics from your congregation nurse on her activities from April 2005 through March 2006 follow:

Total contacts with congregants: About 100 per month via church, phone, e-mail, cards, home, nursing home and hospital visits. Individual services have included health & nutrition education, medical equipment loan, first aid, emotional support, counseling, self-help groups, screenings, advocacy, research, referral, transportation, and coordination of care. Accomplishing this takes an average of 40 hours and 180 miles per month including meeting and administrative time.

None of this includes all the time spent by our other Caring Ministry volunteers who transport folks to medical appointments, provide meals, staff the Caring Table, take blood pressures, assist with the Flu Vaccine Clinic, and otherwise provide the loving support that enriches the spirit of our community.

Judith Stamper, Caring Ministry Chair
Adair Small, Volunteer Congregation Nurse

This was a busy year for the Religious Education Program for Children and Youth. The summer trimester, which started in July, was filled with excitement as the children in pre-school–5th grade experienced world travel through the stories and experiences members of the congregation. The mid-high class thoroughly enjoyed a study of “The Gospel According to the Simpsons”.

The Religious Education Committee continued to provide caring and insightful guidance to the Program. Mike Scott extended his service to the committee by providing able leadership as chair for a second year as well as liaison to the Midhigh class. Other committee members were Randy Kokal, Venita Lovelace-Chandler, Tina Herod (liaison to preschool), Wendy Lettieri (liaison to K-2), and Maureen McConaghy (liaison to 3-5) and Tony Host. I commend them all for their commitment to this vital part of the church.

The RE Committee and the Director of Religious Education met for the Annual Planning Retreat in early August. The Committee decided on the 4 Pillars (or themes) for religious education—UU Identity, Social Justice, the Sources of Living Tradition, and the 4th Principle: The Search for Truth and Meaning—World Religions.

The church school month was organized with the following schedule:

First Sunday: Social Action Sunday

Second Sunday: Time for All Ages in the sanctuary and then class time

Third Sunday: Class time

Fourth Sunday: Youth Worship

The cornerstone of a successful church school is the classroom teaching team and there were 4 strong ones this year. They did outstanding jobs in adapting and presenting the curriculum in ways that made it accessible to each child or youth. The

curricula used this year were:

Preschool: We Are Many, We Are One

K-2: In Our Hands

3-5: In Our Hands

Mid-high: It Starts with Me

There were two events that featured the Our Whole Lives program this year at OCUUC. The church hosted a Pacific Southwest District OWL Training for the Elementary level. The church, the CREC, and particularly organizers and hosts Keith Jenkins and Mike Scott received a lot of praise from the participants and the UUA trainers. OCUUC member Susan Davis attended the training, and joined with Keith Jenkins as a dynamic teaching team for a K–1 OWL class in the spring for six children and their parents.

Our Intergenerational Activities this year (IG services and Events) were a Día de los Muertos service, Christmas Eve, Music Sunday, Easter, Christmas. Additionally there was a family Craft Night, a Family Game night and Parent Meeting, and two social events sponsored by the new Gatherings group.

Starting in October, RE Program participants in grades K–5 participated in Social Action Sunday activities. (Occasionally the mid-high and YRUU classes joined, too.) The activity areas were determined by a prior-year decision by the children to support four areas with the money that they collected during their Children's Collection. The areas were Helping People, Helping Animals, Helping the Environment, and Helping the Church. Social Action Sunday activities included trips to Centennial Farms, Audubon Ponds in Irvine, and the Back Bay Interpretive Center, assembling hygiene kits for Serving People in Need, and emergency kits for the Caring Ministry, collecting food and making Mother's Day gifts and cards for the Share Our Selves, and a car wash

to benefit the church.

Youth Worship services were held the 4th Sunday of the month in the social hall. We started with music and were fortunate to have the accompaniment of Wendy Lettieri on guitar and the gift of Kindel Castle's voice. Each Sunday ended with a whole group activity. The pre-schoolers joined for the first 15 minutes and sometimes the whole time. Highlights of these Sundays were the creating of fabric panels, Wendy Lettieri's brother as a guest, and a service that was planned by the mid-high class.

A new cluster youth group, the Young Unitarian Universalist Rational Thinkers, held gatherings twice a month rotating between the Orange Coast and Laguna Beach churches. This group is a small, but dedicated group who are lead by the Youth Advisor, Lynn Scoby.

Following UUA and PSWD guidelines and direction from the new Safe Congregations Handbook, new Child and Youth Protection Guidelines and a Child Care Policy was created and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Childcare in the Nursery this year was provided by Katharine Anderson, Kathryn McKenzie, and Kelly Welles. They cared for the youngest members of our community in a loving and attentive manner.

Davis Lettieri and Corey Stamper were

fun and responsible Playground Supervisors, alternating during the year to make sure that everyone on the playground was safe and having a good time.

Although we did not have a formal religious education program during the 9:15 a.m. service, Jamie Gobler did an excellent job as the childcare provider for elementary-age children during the first service.

2005–2006 was an exciting and fulfilling year in the Children's Religious Education program, and I wish to thank all those who were involved... in particular the children and youth who inspire us to learn with them every day!

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Martin

Director of Religious Education

Círculo de Amigas (www.camigas.org) was born at OCUUC and continues to involve many people from this congregation. Other local congregations—the Unitarian Church of Orange County (Anaheim), Pacific Unitarian Church (Rancho Palos Verdes), UU Church in Fullerton, and UU Church of Long Beach—also support the work of Círculo de Amigas.

Our own congregation alone sponsors the schooling of 9 young girls in Jinotega, Nicaragua. There are 4 other girls who would like to continue their schooling, but whose sponsors have had to drop out, leaving an obvious opening for others to help.

We have dissolved our relationship with Project Concern International, as they were unable to attend to the personal nature of donors that Círculo depended on. We will eventually be run by a Nicaraguan organization.

Respectfully submitted by *Pat McCully*

As a result of feedback from the congregation in the long-term planning meetings, the Board suggested that a committee be formed to coordinate the following projects:

- An extension or continuation of some form of the old 50-50-50 project
- Coordination of the plate donation nomination process
- Other community-oriented outreach projects as the membership deemed advisable.

The committee met once a month on the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. We had only three active members for much of the year. The committee publicized the “Community Service Matching Program” (the renamed 50-50-50 project) several times in the REACH, at the committee table on the patio, and via announcements in the pulpit. As of the end of April, only two people had signed up.

The committee received and forwarded to the Board 14 nominations for receipt of one-half of the cash plate in FY06. These nominees, if approved by the Board, will

carry the plate donation program through September 2006.

Because of a lack of interest in renewing the old 50-50-50 project, and because recruitment for committee members was largely unsuccessful, the only work the committee did in FY06 was the plate donation program. It is possible that next year, when a new chair is recruited, that congregants will become interested in pursuing more forms of community service activities, both as a church and individually.

The committee had a budget of \$1,500 and we estimate that we will spend \$163 of it by the end of June 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Mallette, Chair

Covenant groups continue to be an important part of church life for their many members. We are completing six years of this program at Orange Coast.

We currently have twelve groups meeting monthly on most days of the week, with average participation in each group at about eight members. That is more than one-third of our adult membership participating in covenant groups. The young adult group is thriving.

We've trained some new facilitators, and other members have expressed interest in facilitating their own or a new group. These small groups develop into friendships that extend beyond Sunday morning church. Members of the covenant groups know about each other's lives, what matters most to us, and how we live out our beliefs in community with each other and the larger world. We covenant to meet monthly, get to know each other better,

and connect back with the church. What develops is the genuine caring that comes from understanding the other person. No small wonder that covenant groups are thriving at OCUUC!

After six years of lay leadership of the Covenant Group program, Richard and Lynn have decided to step down. Judith Stamper and Sheri Stoyanoff have agreed to be the new lay leaders.

If you haven't been asked yet to join a group, please contact one of us and we'll find you a group.

Richard Scoby

Lynn Scoby

Karen Stoyanoff

There was an effort to organize and put into action the FAITH IN ACTION COUNCIL through a task force. While it was slow to bring it to life, a draft as to its mission, goals, policies, and procedures was presented to the Board of Trustees. There are some changes that have to be submitted to the council for approval to go forth.

It is important to note the Councils:

Mission

To coordinate OCUUC's efforts in social action and community outreach

Goals

Foster the growth of social action and community outreach in the life of the church

Encourage support among the different groups in the Council

Communicate OCUUC's administrative

requirements to the Council members

Have a role in deciding which group or organization receives the undesignated portion of the Sunday collections

The work of the Council is important to the life of the church and there is yet much to be done to have this come to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramón Urbano

For the past couple of years, we have been able to provide flowers on some Sundays but not all. We still welcome OCUUC Members and Friends who wish to bring flowers, or donate flowers or money for flowers in honor of a person or occasion. Please note that this has been with any using any of the OCUUC budget for the provision of Sunday Flowers. Please contact Karen Anderson if you wish to make a donation.

We have held several Flower Arranging Workshops in which members learned more about arranging flowers for their own homes as well as for the benefit of Church. And the payoff has been quite wonderful. Do you recall the flowers provided for the Canvas Lunch in both 2005 and 2006? The flowers were arranged by several members of the committee, and many people commented on how beautifully decorated the room was.

Have you noticed what a spectacular array of flowers show up on Easter Sunday when we invite members of the congregation to bring flowers? Well, we are going to do that on a smaller scale more often. Starting in the July, we will be inviting people to bring flowers from their garden (or from the market) on specific days throughout the year. Once a month, will ask a only part of the congregation to bring a few flowers to be assembled into a bouquet. And by dividing the alphabet into 3–4 parts, each family will be asked to bring a few flowers only 3–4 times a year. Please give us feedback on how this works for you and how well you like the flowers that we provide this way.

We welcome new members to the com-

mittee. No experience is needed. You can help us to arrange flowers (we will teach you), to help us transport flowers, or to help us find people who would like to donate money for flowers. It's also quite wonderful if we have people bring flowers from their garden or bring in a potted plant for Sunday Service. If you would like to help us in any of these ways, please contact Karen Anderson.

The Flower Committee gives special thanks to the following members of OCUUC for their floral gifts and their service to the committee and to the Church: Gayle Carter, Joan Kreuter, Lynn Scoby, Sandra Kulczyk, Colleen Anderson, Frankie Harrigan, Beth Winnett, Lili Laksberger, Ken and Adair Small, and Katharine Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Anderson,
 Flower Committee Chair

GATHERINGS was formed this year with the objective of promoting community through fun, social events for newcomers, visitors, members and their families.

We held two potlucks, which were successful, with people enjoying and fulfilling our main goal of getting people together to enjoy each others company, with food as an added bonus.

In addition, there was a Chile Cook Off which again was in the spirit of what the committee is trying to accomplish and hopefully will become a church tradition in the future.

With some of our budget monies we bought some events from the church auction and offered them to new people at church. Our success in this regard could have been better and it is one of the challenges that has to be overcome, how

to best make contact and offer these to people and involve them in the church community. We are hoping to

work more with the Membership Committee and try other avenues of contact with newcomers.

We are trying to keep the events simple and periodic on the church calendar, between all the other events at the church. Any and all ideas and people interested in the group are welcomed!

Respectfully submitted,

*Wendy Lettieri
Pat Robitaille
Judith Stamper
Sheri Stoyanoff
Ramón Urbano*

The Long Range Planning Committee serves as an advisory group to the Board.

Committee meetings are open to any Board member at any time. Both the minister and the president attend our meetings. Several times during the church year, the LRP reports directly to the Board and presents suggestions for the Board's consideration and/or action.

Major duties of the Committee are

- To develop a guide for the church that will enable the church to attain its goals and fulfill its vision
- To suggest short and long term goals to the Board
- To evaluate those goals on a regular basis and communicate progress to the Board
- To keep documents and records in an orderly fashion concerning this committee's work
- To communicate regularly with the Board, the Minister and other relevant committees

The Committee has developed a Five Year Strategic Plan from material generated in January of 2005. Small group workshops were attended by a total of 116 members, friends, and youth. The results of the workshops were posted on the Member Area of the church's website and a copy was kept in the church office.

We have worked directly with appropriate committees and with the Board on the Strategic Plan. We have done further work with the congregation through Program Council and communicated with the congregation through the Reach. In May we held two Hearings with the congregation in order to present the Strategic Plan and clarify any questions people might have.

The members of the Long Range Planning Committee will present the completed Strategic Plan to the congregation for ratification at the June 2006 Annual Meeting. Upon ratification of the Strategic Plan, the duties of the Long Range Planning Committee will include monitoring and evaluating objectives and tasks with appropriate committees and communicating changes in the Plan to the Board.

Sunny Harper,

Chair

Long Range Planning Committee

The membership committee welcomed 32 new members to our community in 05–06, an increase of 8 new members over last year. We greeted over 300 visitors and nearly 50 visitors attended our “Pathways to Membership” orientation sessions. Question and Answer sessions for newcomers were held quarterly also. A new Photo/Bio New Member Bulletin Board was put up this year and the same information was added on-line, thanks in large part to Lili Laksberger’s efforts. A greater effort was made to do follow-up with each new members to assist them in feeling at home in a new church. Membership also produced a new Pathways Booklet and an updated Visitor’s Booklet, thanks in large part to Ken Small.

I want to express my thanks to all the full time volunteers and to the “at-large”

volunteers (specialists doing specific jobs year-round) who served on the membership committee this year. Everyone’s hard work was appreciated. Each of you contributed to making all the work and even the meetings enjoyable. It has been a pleasure to serve as chair. I also want to say thank you to Craig Anderson, last year’s chairman, who stayed involved and made my job easier.

Mark Tabbert
Chair

This year, in addition to preaching, counseling, committee work, and general administrative work, I have continued to work on extending our influence in the larger community. I continue to be active in community events. My most significant work this year has been as an elected member of the Southern California Affiliate Board of the ACLU. NCCJ Orange County has become part of the Southern California Chapter, but I continue to be a member of the Orange County Advisory Committee. I am also continuing as a member of the Huntington Beach Rotary Club. Within the denomination I am a member of the Leadership Resources Council for the PSWD and am once again a member of the executive committee for the district UUMA Chapter. I continue to work with the district leadership development program. At the continental level I am a member of the UUA President's Council, and one of the organizers of the President's Roundtable in Orange County. I serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for Meadville Lombard Theological School.

My most important work, however, has been here at OCUUC. And this year, more than ever, that has been collaborative work as I prepared for my sabbatical. I am proud of all of us as we enhanced the sense of teamwork and enlarged our concept of shared ministry. The proof of the pudding has been the most recent 3 months when the daily operation of the church and the programs of the church have run under your leadership. The Worship Associates program and the Pastoral Care Lay Ministry program have been actively involved with me [and most recently, without me] in moving forward those two aspects of the ministry of this congregation. Our Covenant Group pro-

gram continues to be a strong element in our community. The Congregational Nurse program is integral to the overall health of our community and I am delighted to work with those who are involved in making it so. Two exciting new developments are the addition of a Young Adult group and a Youth Advisor staff position. I find growth in those two areas central to the overall growth and development the Long Range Plan is outlining for us and look forward to continuing to work with both these areas. As we continue to prepare for the Media Campaign which will run in our area this fall, these groups will be important elements in welcoming our visitors. The work that has begun on being ready for newcomers, including major work on the nature of our two services, will continue to be important over the summer and into the fall.

Meanwhile, on sabbatical, I have had an opportunity to read extensively, to relate to students and faculty at one of our Theological Schools, and to teach classes and workshops. All of this has fueled my own vision and I return with renewed excitement and energy for the tasks ahead! One great joy is that we will once again have the opportunity to work with an intern this coming year – something I know will enhance the experience ahead.

One of the great blessings of my life is the wonderful staff, the dedicated board, and the creative and hard-working committees of this church. They are responsible for much of the real work of this community and I am fortunate to share the larger ministry of this church with all of you. I believe we continue to build a supportive community and honor our faith tradition.

Let us all continue to go shining,
Karen Stoyanoff, Minister

Looking back at the past year's achievements of the music program reveals an abundance of events to celebrate and rejoice in. Probably the largest single undertaking was the decision to get the new songbook supplement available for everyone to use on Sunday mornings. Thanks to Martha Bergman's dedication in staffing a table and the response of members of the congregation who donated generously, the new hymnals were presented to the church early in January.

The Music Committee's goal of providing diversity in the musical experience was met in many ways. Music We Can't Play on Sunday Morning, the concert experience provided by the church's three pianists, not only provided music that we aren't accustomed to hearing in church, but it also raised money to benefit the Steinway Maintenance Fund. With the congregation's continued support, it is hoped that there will soon be enough money in the fund so that the piano's case can be refinished, making it look as good as it sounds.

There was more diversity as Sunday morning guest artists including singers, guitarists, drummers, a Native American flutist, and pianists presented a variety of pop, rock, Celtic, classical, rumba flamenco, folk, American jazz, and classical selections. The Choir provided anthems ranging from gospel to opera to show tunes in languages going from American to Zulu. Then, there were the performances by the Family Choir and the Chil-

dren's Choir and, of course, the OCUUC instrumentalists who came out of hiding to play. Christmas Eve brought a musical extravaganza that included all OCUUC singers plus harpist, cellist, and oboe player.

The Concert Series was another demonstration of how diverse music can be with Marti Walker's Latin Jazz, Larisa Stow & Gathering Guru with their presentation of Kirtan chants, and Bayadera with their Alternative music. And, to top it all off, the Bonne Musique Zydeco concert which not only provided sprightly music and dancing but also raised over \$800 to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief. This was doubled by a matching grant from the Veatch fund.

News for celebration was that Beth Nakao, our Music Director, was invited to participate in a new UU Musicians Network program to train music directors to serve as mentors to new directors. And, of course, Alexandra Berrocol's acceptance into the GA children's choir was more good news. For a "little" church on the far-flung frontiers, we seem to be making a big mark.

Several members of the Music Committee are working with the task force currently exploring questions of what Sunday services will be like in the months and years to come. Whatever challenges come from that group, OCUUC can count on

having the Choirs and Music Committee ready to find ways to provide the appropriate music.

To round out the year, Choir did a performance with Kendra Wohlert, former OCUUC Choir Director; sang “just for fun” with other choirs from the PSWD; and their own concert of opera and show tunes. As the year ends, they will be celebrating those who have joined the choir this year, and remembering their fellow singers who have left the choir.

Without the dedication of choir volunteers, who commit about five hours a week to OCUUC’s music program, non-singing committee members, Beth Nakao, Music Director, and Jonas Sills, Choir Director, none of this would have been possible.

Colleen Anderson
Chair

The Personnel Committee is responsible for the development and administration of personnel policies and procedures. A major portion of our work consists of the timely evaluations of our fine staff, recommendations for salary changes, development of job descriptions and revision of the policies and procedures themselves as needed.

Our goal for the coming months is to complete the major review of the policies and procedures and provide staff training to implement the changes. Because of the privacy issues associated with personnel most of our meetings are closed, however, if any members have any questions please feel free to contact us for information.

Personnel Committee
Tom Loughrey, Chair
Rebecca Burton-Key
Lucy Waters
Vaughan Hargrave
Birdie Reed

During the past year the OCUUC publicity committee's primary focus has continued to be public witness and external communications to visitors and prospective members, with a secondary emphasis on internal communications to OCUUC members.

We continue to regularly update the church's website, www.ocuuc.org to provide an opportunity for visitors to "sample" OCUUC via the web with a virtual visit to our congregation. We also continue to regularly update the "member only" section of the website (which can be accessed by all members using the username `ocuucmem` and the password `newstuff`) and continue to invite all OCUUC committees and leaders to provide materials to be posted for member access.

We also continue to update the graphic usage guidelines developed to maintain consistency in all materials being distributed by OCUUC for external audiences. These guidelines and appropriate support materials remain available to all committee heads and church leadership and are posted on the member area of www.ocuuc.org for access by committee chairs and leadership as needed. We regularly provide input to committees in usage of these graphic guidelines and welcome the opportunity to continue doing so in the year ahead.

Throughout the year, press releases and accompanying photos were provided to reporters and editors at local newspapers to generate awareness of and build audiences for events taking place at OCUUC that would be of interest to the community-at-large, including salon discussions, film screenings, justice events and concerts. Updates on these and other happenings were also regularly posted on the

bulletin boards by Clover Behrend-Gethard and Sarah Jones.

The REACH was produced by editor Richard Scoby on a regular basis, supplemented by congregation-wide e-mail communiqués as needed for communication between REACH publication dates. We also provided input and assistance to A.J. Blackwood in launching a newsletter for young adults that is now being distributed with the regular REACH and also used independently for other outreach.

Additionally, graphic design services were provided to the canvass committee for a new logo to "brand" the canvass campaign. We also continued to provide graphic design services to the Orange Coast Concerts series for promotional materials and created Power Point presentations for a special Martin Luther King service and the contemporary-style early service trial period. Finally, the committee played an instrumental role in finalizing the design and installation of the new lighted sign at the church property driveway.

The committee welcomes your input, feedback, and new committee members interested in continuing our outreach mission for OCUUC by assisting with press releases, media contacts, photography, website updates, copywriting, graphics, and other related skills. Contact linda@sonnpr.com for more information and to volunteer your much needed services!

Linda Sonnonstine, chair

Richard Scoby

Clover Behrend-Gethard



No report submitted.

This year is marked by the formation of the Faith-In-Action Council, Young Adult Connections, and Gatherings. Though newly born, they have been active and developing. The Faith-In-Action Council is a collaborative effort among several social action and justice groups. The council design is to coordinate and support individual programs to create a more visible whole for the church. Many thanks to Ramón Urbano, who facilitated this organizational change, and to all of the participants, who actually made it possible. Our Young Adult Connections is burgeoning with enthusiasm and membership, thanks due in large part to AJ Blackwood. But he is the first to acknowledge that he couldn't have done it alone. So three cheers to all of the young/er adults who helped realize this goal. Finally, we owe a lot of fun, food, and goodwill to our newest social group, Gatherings. From potlucks to chili cook-offs, this group offers fun, fun, fun for all of us! Kudos should go to Judith Stamper, Ramón, and all of you others whose behind-the-scenes efforts brought these great parties to the church.

Special thanks are given to Jay Miller who agreed to spearhead this year's all-church Thanksgiving Dinner; Merrie Lee Wooten who organized the annual spring weekend at de Benneville Pines, our district's local camp and conference center; Joan and Bob Kreuter who managed

the Canvass Luncheon; Tom Loughrey for two Goods and Services Auctions; Beth Nakao, Jonas Sills, the Music Committee, and choir for hours of music throughout the year; and to Katherine Martin and the RE Committee for several intergenerational events. All of these individuals and programs invited our church community to gather in celebration of each other and the many gifts we bring to share.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended Program Council. We began the year by greeting new committee chairs and group leaders. We scheduled events and activities on the main church calendar, including the fall committee fair. Sarah Jones, our office administrator and official "keeper of the master calendar," facilitated these postings. She also explained how to make future requests for dates and rooms, and to get announcements into the Sunday Order of Service. Program Council continued to meet bimonthly to share updates on committee activities and achievements toward reaching committee and Long Range Planning goals.

It has been a very good year!

Lynn Scoby,
VP Programs

Worship Service Committee

No report submitted.

Young Religious UUs (YRUU)/ Young UU Rational Thinkers (YUURT)

These are two of our youth groups. YRUU is our senior high school age youth who meet on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 service for religious discussion, peer connections, and social justice activities. YUURT is our cluster youth group, ages 12-18, from three churches (OCUUC, Laguna Beach, and Tapestry). They meet semi-monthly, on the first and third Friday evenings, for community building, worship, and social action.

We have tried a new format this past year for YRUU. Pairs of adult leaders signed up for one Sunday per month, with rotating programming that included "Messages in Music," Small Group Ministry for Youth, games, free-flow discussions, intergenerational services, and social action Sundays with the children's RE classes. Attendance has varied from as many as thirteen youth to as few as one, without apparent relationship to the program offered. The youth enjoy getting together, playing games, listening to music, and checking in with each other about their outside activities. As always, it has been a delicate balance between enough directions to develop structure, with enough independence to promote youth leadership. We have experienced a mixed result. Just as the adults in our congregation have differing views as to what their church experience should be, so do our teens. It all seems to hinge on the sense of community generated by and between the youth who attend, and to some lesser degree on the programming we offer. (Sound familiar?) So, encouraging regular attendance will be my primary goal for next year, as well as more proactive outreach to our youth. With that, we have planned a new curriculum for next fall. Thanks to Steve

and Rayna Hamre, we will be able to offer religious study through film as a ten-week curriculum. The youth will be invited to select the programming for our second term. The third term is yet to be determined.

YUURT has undergone several metamorphoses since its conception in the spring of last year. Its current stage is one meeting and one outing per month. This seems to be working nicely for the core group of youth who meet regularly. Consistency in adult leadership and committed youth who make attending YUURT a priority have helped. Many thanks must also be extended to the parents who support their youth in this commitment by driving them to our meetings at peak traffic time and then retrieving them again after settling in for the evening.

As your Youth Advisor, I thank you and encourage you to continue supporting these youth programs. The growth I have seen in our youth this past year is incredible. They are wise beyond their years at times, and at other times just want the security of their friends accepting them now. They can lead a serious, thoughtful discussion; then dissemble into delirious giggling. They have trusting relationships, display honesty and care, and are willing to overcome their own prejudices to be inclusive. They are my biggest challenge and my favorite heroes.

Lynn Scoby
Youth Advisor

Notes

