

OCUC

2007

Annual

Meeting Agenda

and Committee Reports



Notes



Saturday, June 9, 2007, 4:00 p.m.

1. Call to order, quorum check
2. Approval of minutes from congregational meeting on June 10, 2006
3. Adoption of 2007/2008 budget
4. Election of Officers, Trustees, Stewards, Nominators
5. Vote on opening a dialogue with Tapestry to explore collaboration options
6. Other business
7. Adjournment

Congregational Meeting Minutes Saturday, June 10, 2006

T o be added.

The Nominating Committee will nominate the following candidates at the Congregational Meeting on June 9, 2007, for terms beginning July 1, 2007.

Officers (1-year term until 2008)

- President: **Nancy Loughrey**
- VP Finance: **Scott Armstrong**
- VP Program: **Cynthia Berger**
- Recorder: **Barbara Doshier**
- Treasurer: **TBA**
- Bursar: **Charles Gordon**

Trustees (3-year terms until:)

- Maurice Giss** 2008 (Finishing L. Sonnonstine's term)
- Amanda Horack** 2008 (Finishing C. Berger's term)
- Paul Gethard 2009
- Karen Anderson 2009
- Randy Kokal. 2009
- Dale Osborne** 2010 (New 3-year term)
- TBA**. 2010 (New 3-year term)

Nominators (3-year terms until:)

- Susan Rathman** 2010 (New 3-year term)
- Suzi Cassidy** 2010 (New 3-year term)
- Rachel Smith 2009
- Eva Goodwin-Noriega** . . 2009 (Finishing P. Carey's term)
- Earl Hardenbrook 2008
- Marcia Hackett 2008

Stewards (3-year terms until:)

- John Cazier 2008
- Bob Loeschen**. 2009 (Finishing S. Armstrong's term)
- Bob Krueter** 2010

*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
Marcia Hackett, Chair
Suzi Cassidy
Earl Hardenbrook
Tom Loughrey
Susan Rathman
Rachel Smith

As most of you are aware, we have had a very unsettled financial situation. A couple of months ago, we were facing a \$40,000 per year deficit. Through tremendous effort and willingness to participate on the part of the congregation, we have cut the problem below \$10,000 per year, while protecting the staffing and programs. We did this through \$22,000 of supplemental member and friend payments and improved goods and services auction participation this year, and increasing pledge levels and anticipated continuing strong auction results next year. In addition we have received a \$10,000 special grant.

Viva America's desire to redevelop their property and buy our property, and the uncertainty of our long-term parking situation, accelerated the discussion of moving to another location. The likelihood of a move was already in the approved five-year plan.

Whether we move ourselves, or vote to explore a relationship with Tapestry, the new location will presumably accommodate more members to erase the deficits and support continued expansion of staff and programs to make the church a more socially responsible and vibrant community. The Finance Council, Canvas Committee, and Ways and Means Committee want to thank you all for your past and future commitment to fulfilling our vision.

2007-2008 Operating Budget

OCUUC 2007-2008 Proposed Budget						
		Estimate 2007	Budget 2008	Fav(unfav) Variance	Percent Variance	
	Income					
1	Pledges	\$186,000	\$206,000	\$20,000	10.8%	
2	New Member/Prior Year	\$512	\$1,000	\$489	95.5%	
3	Subtotal pledges	\$186,512	\$207,000	\$20,489	11.0%	
4	Collectibility factor	95.0%	95.0%			
5	Supplemental pledges	\$22,087		-\$22,087	-100.0%	
6	Net Pledges	\$199,273	\$196,650	-\$2,623	-1.3%	
7	Contributions	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.0%	
8	Plate	\$27,400	\$27,400	\$0	0.0%	
9	Endowment	\$22,744	\$23,344	\$600	2.6%	
10	Building rent	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0	0.0%	
11	ATM donations	\$2,400	\$1,200	-\$1,200	-50.0%	2007 was catch-up
12	Fall Auction	\$8,000	\$14,000	\$6,000	75.0%	
13	Spring Auction	\$12,000	\$11,000	-\$1,000	-8.3%	
14	Spring Auction Prior	\$2,139	\$3,000	\$861	40.3%	
15	Other Fundraisers	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%	
16	Scrip sales	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.0%	
17	Luncheons	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	
18	Misc. Income	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.0%	
19	Concert & Other Music	\$12,032	\$7,000	-\$5,032	-41.8%	Holly Near missing
20	Concert Expense	-\$10,000	-\$6,000	\$4,000	-40.0%	
21	Memo: Net Concert Revenue	\$2,032	\$1,000	-\$1,032	-50.8%	
22	Grant	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.0%	One-time
23	Intern Holding	\$4,980	\$0	-\$4,980	-100.0%	
24	Prior year carryover	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	
25	Grand Total	\$311,300	\$316,894	\$5,594	1.8%	
26	Memo: Nonpledge	\$110,995	\$120,244	\$9,249	8.3%	
27						
28	Expenses					
				3% raises		
30	Minister	\$75,550	\$76,572	-\$1,022	-1.4%	
31	Minister Professional	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.0%	
32	Minister Sabbatical	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	
33	Minister Subtotal	\$79,550	\$80,572	-\$1,022	-1.3%	
34	DRE	\$28,920	\$29,788	-\$868	-3.0%	
35	DRE Health/Prof.	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%	
36	Admin	\$25,575	\$26,306	-\$731	-2.9%	

2007-2008 Operating Budget

		Estimate 2007	Budget 2008	Fav(unfav) Variance	Percent Variance	
37	Intern	\$12,667	\$0	\$12,667	100.0%	
38	Music Director	\$21,000	\$21,630	-\$630	-3.0%	
39	Music Director Health/Prof.	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$0	0.0%	
39	Choir Director	\$12,037	\$10,300	\$1,737	14.4%	2007 settlement
40	Choir Director Professional	\$0	\$370	-\$370	0.0%	
41	Associate Pianist	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	
42	Sunday Nursery	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%	
43	Playground Supervisor	\$800	\$800	\$0	0.0%	
44	Child Care	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$0	0.0%	
45	Bookkeeper	\$7,000	\$8,160	-\$1,160	-16.6%	different person
46	Janitor/Sexton	\$14,445	\$14,090	\$355	2.5%	
47	Youth Advisor	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0	0.0%	Grant funding
48	Volunteer Coordinator		\$3,600	-\$3,600	0.0%	Grant funding
49	Young Adult Coordinator		\$2,800	-\$2,800	0.0%	Grant funding
50	Payroll Tax	\$9,000	\$8,800	\$200	2.2%	
51	Comp Insurance	\$3,203	\$3,200	\$3	0.1%	
52	Subtotal personnel	\$227,397	\$223,616	\$3,781	1.7%	
53	Memo:Without Intern	\$214,730	\$223,616	-\$8,886	-4.1%	
55	Sabbatical Reserve/Intern	-\$8,199		-\$8,199	-100.0%	
57	Copying	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$0	0.0%	
58	Postage	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$0	0.0%	
59	Telephone	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$0	0.0%	
60	Supplies/misc	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$0	0.0%	
61	Subtotal office	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$0	0.0%	
62						
63	Insurance	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.0%	
64	Repair and Maint.	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0	0.0%	
65	Utilities	\$9,500	\$10,100	-\$600	-6.3%	
66	Janitor Supplies	\$700	\$700	\$0	0.0%	
67	Landscape	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	0.0%	
68	Carpet cleaning	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	
69	Parking Fees	\$2,300	\$3,800	-\$1,500	-65.2%	new rate
70	Property Taxes	\$462	\$471	-\$9	-2.0%	
71	Subtotal building	\$24,762	\$26,871	-\$2,109	-8.5%	

2007-2008 Operating Budget

		Estimate 2007	Budget 2008	Fav(unfav) Variance	Percent Variance	
73	Children RE	\$3,500	\$5,500	-\$2,000	-57.1%	2007 control
74	Adult RE	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%	
75	Sunday Services	\$1,250	\$3,000	-\$1,750	-140.0%	loss of intern
76	Music	\$9,300	\$9,300	\$0	0.0%	
77	Membership	\$350	\$500	-\$150	-42.9%	
78	Hospitality	\$100	\$200	-\$100	-100.0%	
79	Caring	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$0	0.0%	
80	SOS	\$0	\$50	-\$50	0.0%	
81	Interfaith	\$100	\$150	-\$50	-50.0%	
82	Green Sanctuary	\$0	\$300	-\$300	0.0%	
83	Cuups	\$250	\$400	-\$150	-60.0%	
84	UUSC	\$0	\$200	-\$200	0.0%	
85	Sharing plate	\$13,700	\$13,700	\$0	0.0%	
86	Publicity	\$4,015	\$4,015	\$0	0.0%	
87	Social Committee	\$200	\$400	-\$200	-100.0%	
88	Youth Programs	\$250	\$1,000	-\$750	-300.0%	
89	Young Adult Programs	\$0	\$500	-\$500	0.0%	
90	Community Service	\$0	\$200	-\$200	0.0%	
91	Subtotal programs	\$35,815	\$42,215	-\$6,400	-17.9%	
92						
93	Debt Service	\$4,750	\$4,750	\$0	0.0%	
94						
95	Board expenses	\$700	\$500	\$200	28.6%	
96	Leadership Development	\$162	\$500	-\$338	-208.6%	
97	Building Appraisal	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	100.0%	
98	Delegate Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	
99	Staff Luncheon	\$254	\$100	\$154	60.6%	
100	Subtotal Leadership	\$2,916	\$1,100	\$1,816	62.3%	
101						
102	UUA/PSWD	\$17,430	\$17,430	\$0	0.0%	
104	Canvass	\$500	\$1,000	-\$500	-100.0%	
105	Bank	\$900	\$600	\$300	33.3%	
106	Computers	\$50	\$200	-\$150	-300.0%	
107	Contingency	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.0%	
108	Subtotal Misc.	\$1,650	\$2,000	-\$350	-21.2%	
109						
110	Total Expense	\$317,221	\$328,682	-\$11,461	-3.6%	
111	Total Income	\$311,300	\$316,894	\$5,594	1.8%	
112	SHORTFALL	-\$5,921	-\$11,788			-\$17,709

As reported to the congregation after last summer's Board Retreat, five areas of focus were identified by the Board of Trustees to steer governance activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. Outreach, Volunteer Integration, Governance Transparency, Oversight of our Five-Year Long Range Plan, and our Congregational Growth Initiative, which we named "Facility Possibility."

Our Outreach efforts for the fall of 2006 concentrated on preparation for the regional Publicity Campaign that kicked off in September. Our Membership Committee and volunteer greeters mobilized to create a welcoming, informative atmosphere for guests and implemented the Pathways Program, which helps frequent guests to make an informed membership decision. We are sorely in need of volunteers to join this committee and carry on this work—are you interested? Let me, or Rachel Smith, Membership Chair, know if you would like to help with this vital area of congregational life. Other outreach efforts included updates to our church website, which attracts guests to our services almost every Sunday, and encouragement of new focus groups including the new Women's Group, the Knit Wits, a Poetry Group, and a revival of Circle Suppers. Communication with potential members is a vital ongoing need for the church and involves publicity for events, REACH newsletter, and website maintenance. If you have talents in these areas, please let me know—we need you.

I have to report that our Volunteer Integration project still has not launched as we had envisioned it. The few extra hours given to our administrator, Sarah Jones, were quickly filled by other tasks, which require her attention. This speaks to the need for separate part-time staff

to make the concept a reality, which can only happen if there is money in our budget to pay for those hours. We applied for and received a Spirit Level Grant of \$10,000, which we must match specifically to hire a part time Young Adult Advisor/Volunteer Coordinator. Matching volunteer talent with the many tasks that are needed to make our community work is a vital role, especially if we are to grow. I would advise that budgeting for a paid staff member to fill it is a priority, but one that can only happen with generous pledging and vigorous church fundraising.

Governance Transparency has been improved by publication of Board Minutes on our website, better definition of the committee liaison role of Board Trustees, and adoption of a new format for liaison reporting to the VP of Programs and Board. Work has been initiated and will continue on creation of an OCUUC Standard Operating Procedures Manual which will answer the often-heard questions "Who do I see to make this happen?" or "What do I need to do if...?" The manual will be available in the church office for easy reference by all. A new Program Guide Manual is also available which describes the mission and activities of all OCUUC church committees and groups.

Long Range Plan Oversight is a responsibility of not just the Board, but also of staff and major church committees named in the document. I encourage ALL church groups to review the plan, evaluate their progress, update task timelines and submit their input to the VP Programs or the Long Range Planning Committee through board liaisons. The LRP Committee, which oversees and updates the plan, is another vital church group sorely in need of volunteer help. Are you interested?

Following the news from our VIVA neighbors that they plan to develop their property and thus remove most of our parking spaces, our congregational growth initiative gained new momentum. We initiated two task forces, one to focus on the potential of selling or re-developing our current site, the other to look into the cost of other properties to see what we can buy using the approximate amount of money that our property is worth.

After looking at all our options, the task forces have reported back to the board and congregation through the forums that took place this spring. The recommendation that the board is bringing to the congregation for approval is to take the direction of selling our current property and purchasing other property for remodel to suit our needs for community, parking, and growth. In light of the fact that the UU congregation in south Orange County, Tapestry, is also doing a property search with an eye to buying their first facility, we consulted them for advice on realtors and to help us with knowledge they had gained.

As part of that dialogue the presidents and ministers of both congregations met to compare notes. We discovered that there are many similarities between us that make collaboration a fruitful process. It was during these discussions that the concept of continuing to work together seemed feasible. The boards of both churches have agreed that opening a dialogue exploring the possibilities for continued collaboration relative to property acquisition would be desirable. Both boards agreed that the next step is to add to our respective Congregational Meeting Agendas a vote to determine the level of support for opening such a dialogue to

explore collaborative options. By the time you read this report more details will have been made available to you so that you can cast an informed vote.

The past year has seen satisfying progress in completing tasks set out in our Long Range Plan, but there is still much to be done in order not to lose momentum and to keep the plan a living document by adding updated and new tasks for the next five years. If you are a new member and have not read the plan, I urge you to ask for a copy from our administrator, Sarah Jones. It is also available on our web site in the member's area. Read and become familiar with it, and decide where your talents may be of use in fulfilling our vision of becoming "A vibrant religious community of about 400 to 500 members and families creating a highly-visible and respected church through outreach and service to others." The past two years has been an amazing time for OCUUC and I am honored to have been entrusted with the role of your president during this time. We have come a long way together and the rewards have been great. I wish the incoming leadership all the best in shaping the future of the church with your input and assistance.

Thank You,
Sandra Kulczyk,
OCUUC 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

The Building and Grounds Committee has had another productive year. The Long Range Plan charges us with improving maintenance so that our campus is clean, well-cared for, and welcoming. We have made great progress on three of the four tasks in that objective—identifying, prioritizing needs, and fulfilling them, creating committed teams to insure the work is done, and upgrading the audio-visual system. We have not yet completed a maintenance plan. Our second objective is to work with the Long Range Planning Committee to create a plan to accommodate a larger membership. Since there was no LRP Committee, we have not worked on this objective this year.

There were three projects that consumed most of our budget money this year, beyond normal maintenance. We installed material on the nursery playground to provide a safe base for our youngest UUs to play, we completed the electrical work in the sanctuary and rewired the run to the new sign at the driveway to bring it to code, and moved the projector and screen closer to the big windows in the Sanctuary.

Work parties continue to be a great way to get larger projects done, and to involve more people in caring for our facilities. At work parties, we moved choir risers, ran internet cables, cleaned and reorganized the tool shed, washed windows, cleaned the kitchen, pruned the roses, planted flowers, scrubbed floors, painted, applied film to sanctuary windows, installed gutters, cleaned cupboards, adjusted door thresholds, re-hung the Chalice, repaired dry wall, moved the fire exit, power-washed, raked, and worked on the sprinkler system. Whew!

We had three work parties, which were well-attended, and at each one Maurice and Marilyn Giss prepared lunch on the playground. Many thanks to Dan, Wendy,

Bob, Sheri, Karen, Dave, Richard, Lynn Nick, Adam, Jean, Mark, Bob, Dini, Craig, Judith, Dave, Pat, Tom, Melissa, David, Trish, Bill, David, Jean, Marty, Jim, Bob, Sheri, Craig, Dave, Joe, Judith, Richard, Jay, Dave, Maurice, Marilyn, and Tom. In addition, we received many generous contributions to help pay for workers to do some of the really heavy work. Thank you all!

Special thanks goes to David Nuñez, our Sexton. He does all the day-to-day cleaning and maintenance that keep our buildings looking good. He doesn't just run the sound system! He is here three times a week keeping supplies stocked, cleaning, and staying on top of things. Thank you, David. In addition, Joe Tyndall built a new stand for the big screen TV in the Social Hall. That was a major project, and it is so much more functional now. It is up higher, so it is easier to see when the room is full, and it has a smaller footprint. Thank you, Joe.

Finally, tremendous thanks go to Bob Loeschen, Paul Gethard, Richard Scoby, and Craig Anderson for their continued participation and expertise as committee members. Jim Olson and Craig Sperry were also consultants from afar. These people really make everything happen. They all are knowledgeable and committed to keeping our buildings well-maintained and comfortable. In addition to attending work parties, each of them has had their own work parties at other times for special projects. I can't thank them enough.

It has been a great two years as Chair of B&G. Thank you for the opportunity. It is a great committee, as many people get a chance to work together and see very tangible results.

Nancy Loughrey, Chair

Our Caring Ministry is entering its sixth year. Our three arms include the Helping Hands, the Pastoral Care Associates, and the Health Ministry/Congregation Nurse. This year we have added a political activist component as we work with the UU Legislative Ministry to promote state-wide universal health care insurance.

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. We also collect durable medical equipment donations which are stored in the attic and made available on loan to the congregation.

Currently we sponsor one twice-weekly walking group in Irvine. Once a month we hold blood pressure screenings and see 4–5 people there. We would like to increase those numbers!

OCUUC hosted its third Blood Drive with the donation of 21 pints through the St. Joseph's/Mission Hospital program.

Thanks to our partnership with Hoag Hospital we certified 13 folks including 3 of our teens in CPR and gave 112 flu shots at no cost to participants. To give you an idea of what this does for our congregation monetarily, we contribute \$600 per year to Hoag, yet they pay \$110 per vial of vaccine. We used 10 vials or \$1100 worth this year. Hoag pays the CPR instructor and pays for one continuing education conference per year for your Congregation Nurse as well as providing resource information and materials and networking opportunities.

Your congregation nurse has also been

involved this year as a consultant to UU churches in Laguna Beach, Texas, and Illinois as they set up Health Ministries of their own. It's an exciting time.

Some statistics from your nurse on her activities from April 2006 through March 2007 follow:

Even though she was traveling out of state or country or on grandmother leave in Chicago for 16 weeks, she still had about 100 contacts a month with congregants via church, phone, email, 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 has taken an average of 37 hours and 226 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.

A special thanks to Elizabeth Alexander, Marilyn Giss, Barbara Marquet, Kathryn Matthews, Pat McCully, Pat Robitaille, Judith Stamper, Shirley Thorne, and Vera Viana-Asper. We are always eager to welcome new folks to our Team!

Joan Parry, for the Caring Ministry
Adair Small, Congregation Nurse

There exists a definite sense of friendship and caring in this important part of congregational life. The children, youth, and adults who come together each Sunday have created a special place in their busy lives to be together in this unique community.

2006–2007 was a stable year for the Religious Education Program for Children and Youth. The areas of innovation and change occurred in the structure of the Sunday morning program. (See Worship Services, below)

The **Religious Education Committee** provided oversight of the program; its members serving as liaisons to classes. Tina Herod served as the committee's chair as well as the liaison to the K–2 class. Other committee members were Barbara Berrocal (liaison to preschool), Barbara Davia (recorder), Maureen McCornaghy (liaison to 3–5), Marc Nitz (liaison to mid-high), and Lucy Waters. Summer Dadah joined the committee midway through the year. They have provided a strong commitment to the children and youth, thoughtful guidance of the program, and generous contributions of time and energy.

The RE Committee and the Director of Religious Education met in June 2006 for the annual planning retreat. At the retreat the committee accomplished the significant task of articulating its mission and goals for the RE Program.

The mission of the Religious Education Committee is to provide a program for children and youth that nurtures them as they grow ethically and spiritually on their personal journeys of faith.

Additionally, by the end of the year, new Policies and Procedures had been written and ratified, and sent to the Board for its review.

Worship Services

Based on the feedback from the congregation articulated in the long-range plan there were a couple of changes for the whole church community in regards to Sunday morning worship services. The children and youth joined the larger community at the start of the 11 a.m. church service, and there were six intergenerational services. The services were: Thanksgiving: Guest at Your Table, Illuminations, Christmas Eve, *UU Heroes and She-roes*, Music Sunday, and Earth Day. Thank you to intern minister Kent Doss, who participated in some of these services. A special thank you to Music Director Beth Nakao, who has brought the voices of children into the services through the Family and Children's Choirs.

Sunday Morning Programs

The summer trimester, which started in July, was focused on the environment as the children in preschool–5th grade participated in "Keepers of the Earth." Back by popular demand, the mid-high class continued with "The Gospel According to the Simpsons."

The fall trimester started in early September with the UU Identity theme. The teaching teams at each level, from preschool through mid-high, were wonderful this year! There were dedicated teams of 4 or 5 talented and creative men and women, which deepened the children and youth's connection to each other and their teachers. The curricula used this year was:

Preschool: UU Alphabet

K–2: Around the Church, Around the Year

3–5: Spirit of Adventure

Mid-high: The Questing Year

Special Events for the RE Program included Sundae Sunday, Holiday Craft Night, Souper Bowl Sunday, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and Bingo Night.

The **Young Unitarian Universalist Rational Thinkers** met regularly, advised by Lynn Scoby and assisted by Kent Doss. Thank you to both of these individuals for their steadfast dedication.

The church has three terrific, newly-trained **Our Whole Lives**, (human sexuality education) facilitators. Tom and Nancy Loughrey and Keith Jenkins were all trained at the Jr. and Sr. High levels. Tom and Nancy facilitated a Sr. High training this spring for youth from Orange Coast and Tapestry churches.

Thank you to the childcare staff!

Childcare in the Nursery this year was provided by Jamie Gobler. With a warm smile and generous spirit, she cared for the youngest members of our community during both services.

Nicole Gross has become a close friend to the elementary-aged children who regularly attended during the 9:15 a.m. service. She also continued to provide care during the time between the services as an additional Playground Supervisor.

Davis Lettieri and Naomi Blackwood alternated Sundays during the year to make sure that everyone on the playground was safe and having a good time.

They are certainly developing their youth leadership skills here at church.

Thank you to the parents and other adults of the children and youth in the program. Parents are integral to the vibrancy of the religious education program, and we are grateful for their time, commitment, support, and feedback.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Religious Education Committee,

Katherine Martin

Director of Religious Education

Committee Goals: The goals of the Concert Series Committee are to:

- *Create unique concert series, with full slate of artists and marketing*
- *Maintain a financially sound concert series*
- *Provide an opportunity to strengthen the church community and an avenue for outreach*

The Concert Series has completed its second full year and is attaining our goals, as identified above. Overall, we are very encouraged by the progress the Concert Series has made: we have a reputation for providing an inviting venue for both concert attendees and artists, an established logo, a defined marketing approach, repeat concert-goers, positive net proceeds and a dedicated committee. We look forward to building on our successes for the upcoming fiscal year.

In the 2006/2007 year, the Committee hosted five concerts: Orange County Klezmers, Jacqueline Schwab, Susan Craig Winsberg & Blackwaterside, Holly Near, and Classical Edge Trio. Given the size of our committee this was a very full agenda, and we are indebted to the many other volunteers that assist on concert nights. As expected, Holly Near was an almost sell out crowd and the net proceeds from that concert help to offset the expenses from concerts that were less well attended. The concert with the least amount of attendance was Classical Edge Trio. We think marketing for this concert could have been better, but we were somewhat surprised with the lack of interest in this concert from the congregation. For those in attendance, they found the concert to be provocative and compelling. We will continue to work on bringing artists that are of interest to the congregation and have begun brainstorming on ways to solicit that input.

Due to the Holly Near concert, the Con-

cert Series will have a positive “fund balance” this fiscal year. We are completing final budget reports, but expect to have a balance of approximately \$800. We have requested that the Finance Board allow the Concert Series to have a dedicated fund, so that these monies can be used as seed money for the 2007/2008 Concert Series. This will be especially important because we will not likely have a concert artist like Holly Near in the coming year upon which we could rely for netting a profit.

As an avenue for outreach, we know that the Concert Series has been favorably received. Through on-line purchases, we have feedback about the high quality of our performers, the intimate venue, and reasonable purchase price. We also have concert attendees who have asked to be put on our mailing list for the next Concert Series. We are confident that we can build on these experiences. The Committee also believes that the Concert Series serves a useful role in strengthening the OCUUC community.

If you and/or the board have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Mary Beth Broeren, Chair

Other Members:

Rebecca Burton-Key

Suzi Cassidy

Tom Key

Dan Lettieri

Margarita Miller

Beth Nakao

Richard Scoby

Covenant Groups



No report submitted.

The Faith-in-Action Council (FIA Council) transformed itself from the small task force in 2005-2006 to a vital Council in 2006-2007. Today the FIA Council is a passionate group of advocates for social justice.

What is the FIA Council?

The FIA Council is the collective body of OCUUC-approved committees, groups and outreach initiatives whose underlying purpose is social action and community outreach:

Mission Statement

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.

The Council today is comprised of 16 committees, 13 of which were approved during the creation of the FIA Council, and three that have been approved since. They are listed below in alphabetical order, following the FIA Council.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR(S)	OTHER MEMBERS
<p>Faith-in-Action Council Present an organized and unified approach to, and voice of, social action at OCUUC</p>	<p>Charlie & Birdie Reed Board Liaisons Cynthia Berger Amanda Horack</p>	<p>Judith Stamper Pat McCully Maurice Giss Eva Lu Goodwin-Noriega Joe Tyndall Gus Mau Dan Noël Lucia Muñoz Scott Armstrong Ramon Urbano Jacques Kilchoer Adair Small Dolly Doran Jacques Kilchoer Summer Dadah</p>
<p>911 TrUuth Seek answers to lingering 9/11/01 attacks questions</p>	<p>Dan Noël <i>dan.uu.noel@earth-link.net</i> (949) 631-0602</p>	<p>Gus Mau Joe Tyndall</p>
<p>AIDS Team Ministry Frozen meals for AIDS patients</p>	<p>Charlie & Birdie Reed cmreed654@socal.rr.com rareed657@socal.rr.com (714) 969-1824</p>	<p>Tom Loughrey Ted & Mary Lundholm Paul Gethard Jay Miller</p>

Faith in Action Council

COMMITTEE	CHAIR(S)	OTHER MEMBERS
American Civil Liberties Union	Charlie & Birdie Reed	Earl Hardenbrook Karen Stoyanoff
Americans United for Separation of Church & State	Charlie & Birdie Reed	
Amnesty International Working to protect human rights worldwide	Jacques Kilchoer <i>Jacques@kilchoer.name</i> (714) 557-8427	Birdie Reed Charlie Reed
Anti-Oppression Group Anti-oppression and diversity work	Birdie Reed <i>rareed@657@socal.rr.com</i> (714) 969-1824	
California Legislative Ministry Represents California UU congregations in Sacramento	Summer Dadah <i>summerdadah@gmail.com</i>	Birdie Reed Charlie Reed Adair Small Ramon Urbano (liaison)
Círculo de Amigas Service and support in Nicaragua.	Pat McCully <i>pmccully@juno.com</i> (714) 962-6136	Board Mark Tabbert, Pres., Ginger Mazzapica, VP, UU from Lakewood Clover Behrend & Paul Gethard, Co-Treasurers Caroline Fuelling, Sec Pat McCully & Birdie Reed, Pres Emeritus
Community Services Matches congregation with community services opportunity	Maurice Giss <i>mmgiss@cox.net</i> (949) 215-3113	Dan Lettieri Davis Lettieri Kathleen McFarlin
Corporate Study Group Opposes corporate personhood and corporate dominance in society	Eva Lu Goodwin-Noriega <i>evagnoriega@comcast.net</i> (949) 642-8522	Mark Tabbert Joe Tyndall Susan Rathman Pat McCully Gus Mau Jean Roberts [visitor]
Criminal Justice and Prison Reform Works for prison reform, opposes death penalty	Dan Noel <i>Dan.noel@ieee.org</i> (949) 631-0602	

COMMITTEE	CHAIR(S)	OTHER MEMBERS
Earth Ministries/Seventh Principle Project Promotes conservation-minded / living relationship with nature (successor to Green Sanctuary)	Open [covered by Amanda Horack] <i>msborack@yahoo.com</i> (714) 478-1763	Irene Graff [hiatus] Karen Urbano [moved] Denise Flanagan [left due to planned move] Amanda Horack [Green Sanctuary member] Charlie and Birdie Reed Adam Goldman Valerie Henry Joe Tyndall
Interfaith	OPEN [covered by Karen Stoyanoff] <i>revkss@earthlink.net</i> (714) 964-9830 (714) 906-9830 (cell)	
Mujeres Iniciando en las Americas (MIA) Improving conditions for and opposing femicide of Guatemalan women.	Lucia Muñoz <i>Luciamunoz2004@yahoo.com</i> (714) 915-3805	Chris Hill
Peace Studies and Action Group	Ken Arnold [temporary] <i>arncomp@pacbell.net</i>	Lucia Munoz Eva Lu Goodwin-Noriega, Sheri Stoyanoff Summer Dadah Birdie Reed Charlie Reed Joe Tyndall
Share Ourselves (SOS)	Judith Stamper <i>stamper3@pacbell.net</i> (949) 548-6136	For Dec. Adopt-a- Family, add Jan Steury & Birdie Reed
UU Service Committee Maintains communication, facilitates activity concerning UUSC	Lucia Muñoz <i>Luciamunoz2004@yahoo.com</i> (714) 915-3805	Charlie Reed Birdie Reed

What are the FIA Council's lessons learned?

We have much to be proud of, and our accomplishments have been the result of the true grit that comes with the tough business of affecting social change. Before we celebrate our achievements, we'd like to acknowledge and share some of our

frustrations and lessons learned:

FIA efforts have implication to the UUA at large; to the OCUUC congregation, board and staff; and finally to the communities we aim to serve. Navigating this maze oftentimes requires a series of meetings and e-mails among FIA Council chairs and members, FIA board officers

& liaisons and OCUUC staff to address issues of policy, process, protocol and culture. This process can take days, weeks or months.

Church policies and procedures are difficult to learn, particularly for newer members and friends, and are not available in an organized, unified, living system. We

will be better able to affect social action and community outreach once such a procedural system exists and is equally accessible to all.

We often reflect upon OCUUC's mission—Seeking truth, Building just communities, Caring for one another—to evaluate matters of conflict.

What are the FIA Council's past achievements? While we've seen the FIA Council accomplish much in the two years since its inception, we have a number of goals for the coming year:	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.
What did the FIA Council achieve in 2006–2007?			
Conducted monthly meetings that grew from 5-6 participants early in the year to 12-15 by close of year.		X	
Implemented an approval process for committees and their activities that serves to preserve the UUA's 501(c)3 status and OCUUC policy, while integrating with the staff's administrative process.			X
Refined procedures for evaluating and approving new FIA committees and evaluated and approved 3 new committees: Corporate Study Group, 911 TrUuth and Peace Studies and Action Group.			X
Refined procedures for evaluating and approving new movies, posters, and REACH and Order of Service notifications and, particularly for the Corporate Study Group, approved many items in support of their educational movie program.	X		X
Updated FIA Council Charter to reflect and communicate process refinements.			X
Opened the line of communication between FIA Council and the board.			X

<p>What are the FIA Council's past achievements?</p> <p>While we've seen the FIA Council accomplish much in the two years since its inception, we have a number of goals for the coming year:</p>	<p>Foster the growth of social action and community outreach in the life of the church.</p>	<p>Encourage support among the different groups in the Council.</p>	<p>Communicate OCUUC's administrative requirements to the Council members.</p>
<p>Created and regularly maintained and posted FIA Calendar to OCUUC.org and church bulletin board.</p>	X	X	
<p>Set up a regular FIA patio table covered by the eye-catching new FIA tablecloth sewn by Judith Stamper.</p>	X	X	
<p>Regular <i>REACH</i> articles</p>	X	X	
<p>Developed a new FIA logo (created by Richard Scoby) to increase recognition and visibility of the FIA Council.</p>	X	X	
<p>Donated 9 music books in honor of Lila Lovell: 3 new hymnals, Singing the Journey and 6 "May This Light Shine" song-books for children and youth.</p>	X		

<p>What are the FIA Council's planned achievements?</p> <p>While we've seen the FIA Council accomplish much in the two years since its inception, we have a number of goals for the coming year:</p>	<p>Foster the growth of social action and community outreach in the life of the church.</p>	<p>Encourage support among the different groups in the Council.</p>	<p>Communicate OCUUC's administrative requirements to the Council members.</p>
<p>What are the FIA Council goals for 2007–2008?</p>			
<p>Continue to hold monthly FIA Council meetings, maintain current membership and attendance, and continue to stimulate new interest and participation</p>	X	X	

Faith in Action Council

<p>What are the FIA Council's planned achievements? While we've seen the FIA Council accomplish much in the two years since its inception, we have a number of goals for the coming year:</p>	<p>Foster the growth of social action and community outreach in the life of the church.</p>	<p>Encourage support among the different groups in the Council.</p>	<p>Communicate OCUUC's administrative requirements to the Council members.</p>
<p>Make council meetings crisper Agenda with open time at end—take care of business first Use the white/chalk board to capture and agree upon key notes</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Continue to consistently publish REACH articles, and perhaps pass the writers pen to alleviate the burden on the Council Chairs</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	
<p>Continue to maintain and post the FIA Calendar to OCUUC.org and the church bulletin board; let groups write to calendar.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	
<p>Plan for and transition FIA Council leadership: Council Chairs (Charlie and Birdie Reed) and Board Liaisons (Cynthia Berger and Amanda Horack)</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Maintain and build the working relationship between the FIA Council and the board</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Continue to advance our understanding of, and access to, OCUUC policy in order to streamline process and intensify our emphasis on social action</p>			<p>X</p>
<p>Cross-reference FIA Committees goals and progress to OCUUC's Long Range Plan (LRP) and evaluate priorities accordingly. Report LRP successes to board liaison(s) and LRP Committee</p>			<p>X</p>
<p>Build out content for VP Program's "Program Guide".</p>			<p>X</p>

<p>What are the FIA Council's planned achievements?</p> <p>While we've seen the FIA Council accomplish much in the two years since its inception, we have a number of goals for the coming year:</p>	<p>Foster the growth of social action and community outreach in the life of the church.</p>	<p>Encourage support among the different groups in the Council.</p>	<p>Communicate OCUUC's administrative requirements to the Council members.</p>
<p>Maintain, update and enhance FIA Council content on OCUUC.org/Social Action, OCUUC.org/MemArea & OCUUC.org/Visitor</p> <p>Information about each FIA Committee (tied to Program Guide project)</p> <p>Links to other areas within OCUUC.org and appropriate outside organizations.</p> <p>FIA Charter</p> <p>FIA Calendar</p> <p>FAQs</p> <p>Volunteer Opportunities / Classifieds</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>

How can I participate in the FIA Council or its committees?

First, we suggest you start by reading the reports of the individual FIA Committees within this Annual Report to learn more about their achievements and goals. If one or more committees speak to you, reach out to the chair or a member, or attend a committee meeting. If you're not sure, or your interest lies more in the FIA Council at large than any one committee, join us at our monthly meetings (3rd Sunday following second service).

If that's still more than you had in mind, we hope you will regularly peruse our FIA Calendar—posted in the bulletin board and on OCUUC.org's Social Action and Calendar pages—for events that might pique your curiosity and interest.

Thank you.

Kudos to the FIA Council and its Committees—and our supporters throughout the congregation and community at large—for a year of hard-earned and significant progress toward social action and community outreach. Finally, many thanks to Ramón Urbano, who facilitated the founding task force last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie & Birdie Reed,
 FIA Council Chairs
Cynthia Berger and Amanda Horack,
 FIA Council Board Liaisons

Aids Team Ministry

The ATM is finishing another good year. We now average 15 clients who we are assigned by Shanti-Orange County. Mary and Ted Lundholm, our cooking coordinators, hold a meal preparation session on the second Saturday of every month. They prepare as many as 320 meals, almost 4000 per year. In March 2007 we delivered 329 meals, a new 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 generosity of Bob Leidner and the MCC church of which he is a member.

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

With 15 clients, our delivery people are busy. Some clients take meals weekly, some every two weeks. With such a 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. Although we like to have delivery teams of two people, we often don't have enough volunteers to go around. We also need volunteers to help with meal preparation once a month. Please consider volunteering for this important and satisfying ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie and Birdie Reed

American Civil Liberties Union— Orange County Chapter

OCUUC has worked with this civil liberty chapter by giving it meeting space in past years. This year, along with the End Corporate Rule committee, ACLU-OC Chapter was one of the sponsors of the showing of "Crossing Arizona" described in the Anti-Oppression Committee report. From time to time the Faith in Action Council offers the opportunity to write letters to legislators in response to ACLU, Southern California Affiliate Take Action alerts. The ACLU chapter works with the Los Angeles and Orange County branch offices to educate on issues surrounding the erosion of the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution as well as alerting the public on local issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Birdie Reed

Americans United for Separation Of Church and State

AU is a national organization devoted to maintaining the wall of separation between church and state. Church members may participate in political affairs, but religious organizations may not participate in partisan political campaigns. They may, however, state opinions on issues.

AU Orange County meets twice a month at the Irvine Ranch Water District office. One meeting is devoted to a speaker's presentation, and the other to the discussion of a topic or issue. Meetings are open to the public. AU also tables at relevant events.

Anyone espousing separation of church and state may join AU. Membership is welcomed. Birdie and Charlie Reed are members of AU Orange County.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie and Birdie Reed

Amnesty International

Birdie and Charlie Reed are members of the Huntington Beach AI chapter which meets the last Monday of every month at St. Simon & St. Jude Church in Huntington Beach. At a typical meeting there is a video presentation and/or a speaker. Members of AI write letters and postcards primarily concerning political prisoners held in circumstances considered inhumane or in violation of international law.

Membership in AI is welcomed and there are many chapters in Southern California. Jacques Kilchoer is active in the Irvine chapter.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie and Birdie Reed

Anti-Oppression

The Anti-Oppression Committee grew out of UUA Jubilee I and Jubilee II programs OCUUC participated in several years ago. The committee worked with Alianza Indigena (Indigenous Alliance) and its co-founder, Orange County UU Lupe Lopez, addressing some of the problems faced by indigenous Americans of the North, Central and South America and Mexico. We aided them financially and shared programs with them. This year our End Corporate Rule Committee co sponsored with the Alliance, LULAC-Garden Grove Chapter, Amnesty International, and the Orange County Chapter of ACLU, the showing of the Academy Award nominated documentary, "Crossing Arizona". Michael Wilson of the Tohono O'Odham nation spoke after the showing. He has carried water to the desert water stations on the cross border reservation for the past six years.

There are many issues that could be addressed to alleviate oppressive practices. Please see me if you are interested

in working in this area.

Respectfully submitted,
Birdie Reed

Bookstore

There are two aspects of the bookstore—book sales and Equal Exchange sales. These latter sales are of fair-traded, organic products, which are sold through a program of the UU Service Committee. They are part of Faith-in-Action outreach. Book sales are generally about UU philosophy or history. They often are made because of an adult education class at OCUUC.

During the past year we saw a continuing increase in Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea sales. We also sell powdered cocoa and nut snacks (a new product). Coffee and tea are also used for the OCUUC Sunday morning coffee time. Sales in these two areas help finance the purchase of pamphlets published by the UUA.

These are about the many aspects of UU religion and are free to everyone. We have also begun selling 23-watt fluorescent (75-watt incandescent) lamps under the name of the Green Sanctuary program.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie and Birdie Reed

Círculo de Amigas

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

We want to give a rousing cheer to our wonderful congregation for the marvelous generosity in the special collection for Círculo de Amigas at the March 4 service. It was an unprecedented plate of \$2,138.00. And even more wonderful, the response of five new sponsors to see girls make a new life for themselves through education; the very best gift of all. Wow!

The Costa Mesa congregation alone now sponsors the schooling of 19 young girls in Jinotega, Nicaragua. There are four 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. Altogether we currently have 102 sponsored girls; of those, at least 75 are sponsored by UUs around the country.

Our operations in Nicaragua are now run by a strictly Nicaraguan nonprofit organization, CEPS—Center for Education and Social Promotion. But our original team in Jinotega is the driving force; Fanny Morales, our CEO who got her MBA with a scholarship from UUs in Arizona, is incredible. She has formed a cohesive, well-oiled machine that works beautifully together.

Fanny loves to have visitors and has become an accomplished hotelier/travel agent, caring for our guests from airport in Managua, to overnight B&B, to van trans-

port to Jinotega and points in between.

Pat McCully's protégée, Maribel Torrez received her title in Pharmacy on June 30, 2006 in Leon, Nicaragua, and we just had one young woman, Elica Centeno, receive her Engineering degree in Agronomy in May, and the Reed's protégée received her MBA at the same time!! Four young High School graduates all chose to enter local college programs. All were the poorest of the poor. We are making a difference!

Last year we built a new multipurpose room next to our house and clinic where we have had preschool graduations, that all important Quinceañera party for six reaching that happy milestone, a holiday celebration with our own young dancers performing, and even an evening seminar on HIV/AIDS. This summer we hope to install equipment to permit the showing of movies there, thus giving Círculo an income that will help it to become more self-sufficient.

This year we are going to build a dormitory/boardinghouse for young women who come from the boonies to attend University in Leon, a vibrant University town. These are young women of very limited means who would otherwise have to live in slum conditions; we will provide a decent, pleasant atmosphere conducive to learning. My last hurrah! I doubt that my health will permit much future travel; still looking for my replacement.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat McCully

Community Service Committee

During the past year, by sharing one-half of the Sundays plate donations; nearly \$12,000 was designated to help support the important work of twelve non-profit organizations that serve the needs of Orange County residents. All recipients were nominated by members and friends of OCUUC. This program is just another way we strive to build community and broadcast our real intent to improve the quality of life. There are hundreds of deserving groups that need our assistance. As we continue to share, we act to live out our principles and to farther the Faith-in-Action goal "...of service and outreach that makes OCUUC visible and respected in Orange County..."

2006–2007 Recipients

- Someone Cares Soup Kitchen
 - Orange Coast Memorial Foundation
 - FISH—Friends in Service to Humanity
 - Orange County SPCA
 - A Light in the Window
 - Saint Josephs Ballet
 - United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County
 - AIDS Service Foundation
 - YES—Youth Employment Service
 - Orange County Deaf Advocacy Center
 - The ALS Association, Orange County
 - Kids First
- Respectively submitted,
Dan Lettieri
Kathleen McFarlin
Davis Lettieri
Maurice Giss

Earth Ministry—Green Sanctuary—Seventh Principle Project

Membership. Led by: Irene Graff, originally. She went on hiatus starting in January 2007. The position of leader is open at the current time (May 2007). At the request of the Faith-in-Action leadership, Amanda Horack agreed to cover the leader position until Irene returns (sometime around July 2007). Original members: Irene Graff, Denise Flanagan, Karen Urbano, Sheri Stoyanoff. Original members left due to moves elsewhere as well as Irene’s hiatus in December 2006/January 2007. New members as of January 2007: Amanda Horack, Charlie Reed, Birdie Reed, Adam Goldman, Joe Tyndall, Valerie Henry.

Meeting times. First Tuesday of each month as of March 2007. The Earth Ministry had its first 2007 meeting on February 13, 2007 at Amanda Horack’s home. Amanda put up advertisements on the church bulletin boards for the “new” Faith-in-Action group. About three members show up for each meeting.

Goals for the group as of February 2007:

- Write a monthly article in the REACH
- Have an event once per month to get the church involved
- Promote education of environmental issues
- Attend Faith-in-Action Council meetings
- Meet once per month
- Share duties
- Screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The group scheduled a screening of Al Gore’s documentary on global warming in October 2006. The screening was part of a nationwide event sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light. Discussion followed the screening, which hosted about 70 people from the congregation and wider community.

Environmental Justice Project. The process for our congregation to attain the status of “Green Sanctuary” is well on its way to completion. One major outstanding task is development and participation in a year-long project that involves environmental justice. Several ideas were put forth during summer and fall discussions. These included 1) fighting the proposed Huntington Beach desalinization plant, 2) working to promote the cleanup of a hazardous waste site located near the beach (also in Huntington) and 3) joining with/supporting an organic school garden program. A possible option would be to partner with other organizations on a given project but this has not yet been pursued. There was also some discussion about whether the concept of justice could be extended to non-human environment. The project was tabled due to the lack of energy and broader congregational interest, which is essential to the Green Sanctuary process.

Bolsa Chica. The group’s first event for the spring was native plant restoration with the Bolsa Chica Stewards on the 3rd Saturday of March. Birdie and Charlie attended.

Earth Day. The group discussed doing something to celebrate Earth Day. Karen Stoyanoff encouraged church members to go to the urban farm in South El Monte to support the UU minister who ran the program. Members were disinclined to take part due to the great travel needed in order to drive to/from South El Monte. Their reasoning was that we should take part in an event nearby. Amanda Horack volunteered to help the Bolsa Chica Stewards plant native plants, and represented the Earth Ministry by reading the meditation during the 2nd Service on April 22 for Earth Day.

Amanda on the mend. Amanda had some health difficulties in the spring. That made it difficult to keep the communication going with group members between meetings as well as with other church members. That also affected further advertising to the church community about the group and its events.

Success. The big success for the Earth Ministry for the spring was the great church member response to buying energy efficient light bulbs for \$1 each, which was suggested and managed by Charlie and Birdie Reed.

Waning Interest. Other than the light bulbs, little was accomplished by the Earth Ministry as of May 2007. There was little response to the group and its activities by the church community. Amanda thought it might be that church members were focused on other causes. Or else, she thought the church might not be ready for the Earth Ministry at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Horack

January–June 2007 (Amanda Horack)
May–December 2006 (Irene Graff)

Criminal Justice and Prison Reform Working Group

On Sunday 2006/4/30, the Group organized a very moving presentation by Juan Melendez, a migrant worker from Puerto Rico who spent 17 harrowing years on Florida’s death row for a crime committed by someone else and may very well have been executed with little media attention if jurists had not taken a special interest in his case. The Group also disseminated information and a few invitations to lobbying to its members.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Noël

Health Insurance Reform

(from Caring Ministry, with UULM & other FIA Implications)

The local OneCareNow group has held small demonstrations in various O.C. cities on that city's day of the 365-day campaign to raise awareness. Joe Tyndall and Gus Mau have been most active on Health Care in the wider community.

The two most successful events have been at a recent Costa Mesa City Council meeting where five people addressed the council, and a meeting at Senator Tom Harman's office with one of his aides. Adair Small attended that to represent the nursing view, along with Joe and Gus from our church. Seven attended that meeting in total. We are encouraging Sen. Harman to take a pro-active position on health care reform and to sponsor a public forum to discuss the issue with other Orange County officials.

The UULM is now broadening its emphasis from single payer insurance (a system like Medicare) and is working with the diverse proposals, which seem to be mushrooming in Sacramento. The organization behind SB840, Senator Kuehl's single payer approach, is the most well-structured. We plan to keep soliciting signatures supporting that as the best way to keep the pressure on for the most comprehensive reform.

The Caring Ministry is semi "passing the torch" to Joe, Eva, and Gus as Adair has really been the only one involved and is going to be away so much over the coming months.

Respectfully submitted,
Adair Small

Share Our Selves (SOS)

Share Our Selves is a group of caring individuals in Costa Mesa who describe themselves as "servants who provide free care and assistance to those in need and act as advocates for systemic change." OCUUC has supported SOS for many years with periodic collections that help replenish their stock of items their clients need. For the past few years we have held three collections each year: school supplies in August, mother and baby supplies in May and gifts and food for the winter holidays in December.

In December 2006 OCUUC members and friends again showed great generosity by providing holiday gifts and food for 12 families from SOS as well as three families connected with Children's Hospital of Orange County's AIDS Clinic, and a family from a school where one of our members works. In August we amassed a huge pile of pencils, notebooks, backpacks, and other school supplies for children returning to school. The same happened at our Mother's Day collection, where the number of packages of diaper and wipes and baby bottles is truly impressive. Due to the new babies at OCUUC, we have been able to pass on many gently worn articles of clothing and other supplies.

Unfortunately, it seems we will never reach the point where the working poor are not struggling to provide all the necessities for their families in Orange County. It is heartwarming to see how willing OCUUC members and friends are to share so generously with those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Stamper

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM) educates and organizes for justice, focusing on changing policies and structures that inhibit human development, harm the environment, and destroy communities. In so doing, the UULM seeks to build a statewide education and advocacy network.

Three issues have been the focus of the UULM:

- Water Justice
- Health Care Reform
- Marriage Equality

In January the UULM held a workshop at Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church (OCUUC) focusing on the three areas listed above (Clean Money for Fair Elections was added as well). Most recently, the UULM hosted a phone conference regarding Marriage Equality and a Healthcare Information and Advocacy Training session at the UU Church of Anaheim.

Further, there is a wealth of information on the UULM website for educating congregational members on these various social justice issues. UULM would like to see California congregations become affiliated with the UU Legislative Ministry by signing the Covenant of Collaboration

wherein we state that “We will join with the network of California UUs who are living out our faith by educating, organizing, and advocating for public policies that:

Uphold the worth and dignity of every person

Further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Ensure use of the democratic process

Protect religious freedom, and

Promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence

Respectfully submitted,

Summer Dadah

Gayle Carter will chair the flower committee next year.

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 we have provided flowers for Sunday Services without using any of the OCUUC budget for the provision of Sunday Flowers. Please contact Gayle Carter if you wish to make a donation.

This year, 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. And have you noticed what a spectacular array of flowers show up on Easter Sunday when we invite members of the congregation to bring flowers?

We welcome new members to the committee. 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 Gayle Carter.

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, Lili Laksberger, and Ken and Adair Small.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Anderson,
Flower Committee Chair

This year, OCUUC hosted an Intern from Iliff Seminary in Denver, Colorado, Kent Doss. Karen Stoyanoff served as Kent's supervisor.

The intern committee plays a critical role in a successful internship. The intern committee serves as a valuable interface between the intern and the congregation. The committee orients, supports, advises, and reflects with the intern on their experiences in the setting. The committee's primary goal is to help the intern to develop and hone the personal and professional skills of ministry. The committee is a caring, resourceful liaison with the congregation, a group to whom the intern can turn for information and guidance. We also seek feedback about the intern and share our assessment with him and we are there to address any issues that may arise.

This was a very successful internship year. Among other things, Kent conducted the service and presented the sermon about once each month. He has provided pastoral care and performed ceremonies, written articles for the REACH, and participated in committee activities. In his writings and sermons we feel his compassion and understanding and think he is skillful in his relationships. Kent has taught Building Your Own Theology along with our minister. He focused on the development of our programming for youth and especially for young adults. The young adult group has continued to grow and to become more established; Kent's presence especially here will be missed.

The feedback from the community was

overwhelmingly positive; we have been very lucky to benefit from Kent's service to our community. Kent graduated from Iliff this June and has gone on to become the half-time consulting minister at Laguna Beach UU Church.

In 2007–2008 we will not have an intern, as planned; we will be looking at the possibility of hosting a new Intern in 2008.

The members of this committee are thanked for their service: *Karen Anderson* (Chair), *Sandra Kulczyk*, *Tom Loughrey*, *Marcia Hackett*, *Eva Lu Goodwin Noriega*, *Bob Melville*, and *Allie Hamre*.

Long Range Planning

No report submitted.

This year the Membership Committee continued with some of the programs developed in the past years. We provided Pathways to Membership—now called UU Pathways—to guests, many of whom became members.

We spent a lot of energy on welcoming people—in the UU fashion of open arms to everyone and I think we were quite successful. Our table for greeting new guests and returning guests has grown and is quite inviting.

This year we lost several long-time and very active members. We need to continue focusing on growing our wonderful community with new and equally active members.

I would like to thank all the Membership Committee Members for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year—Scott Armstrong, Paul Gethard, Bob & Jean Schrimmer, Melissa Sowden, Sheri Stoyanoff.

Submitted by,
Rachel Smith
Chair

Another wonderful year is coming to a close for OCUUC. 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. I am continuing as a member of the Affiliate Board of the ACLU. I am also continuing as a member of the Huntington Beach Rotary Club and as a Board member of the Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council. I am co-chair of the Board for the Immortal Chaplains Foundation—work that is very dear to my heart. 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 was on the staff for the leadership weekend training session held this winter. 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 Executive Board of Trustees for Meadville Lombard Theological School. I will be attending General Assembly in Portland at the end of this month.

My most important work, however, has been here at OCUUC. We have had some difficulties to surmount this year, but it is still true that most of what has happened is very positive. I joined many of you in the important task of mentoring our intern minister, Kent Doss—something which gives me great satisfaction and allows us to make an significant contribution to the future of the movement. I was involved at several levels with the media campaign, which was held in the fall of 2006 and am pleased with the results both for us and for the other churches in our cluster.

I think the additional benefits that come from working together with other UU congregations on a project such as this one are very important in building Unitarian Universalism in Southern California. I continue to work with the Worship Associates, the Covenant Group program, and the Pastoral Care Lay Ministry.

Those are just some of the highlights of the past year—it would not be possible to catalogue all the exciting and vital programs that are part of this community. Perhaps the most exciting development of this year for me has been to watch the growing young adult population of our community and to see them begin to truly interact with the whole community. A J Blackwood and Kent Doss have done wonderful work in building this group and making them part of OCUUC.

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

The Music Committee supports the music staff in creating a Music Ministry that meets the needs of OCUUC's worship services and spiritual growth. Music is a vital component of this church—it draws people in; it helps people think (and feel) about spiritual matters in ways that words alone never will; it brings our community together; and music is a powerful healing force in the world.

According to OCUUC's Long Range Plan, the Music Committee is encouraged to provide a variety of music that appeals to many tastes, and especially to families, youth, and children, and that provides opportunities for youth and children to participate in worship. In September 2006, the Music Committee had an all-day retreat where we discussed the status of last year's goals and we made new goals with the Long Range Plan in mind.

One of the main goals of the Music Committee is to monitor the music on Sunday morning and provide suggestions to the Music Director to make sure the music is diverse and pleasing to as many people in the congregation as possible. Choirs, guest artists, concert series, congregational singing, and special solos provided a wide variety of music this year—from African drumming to English sacred music, from Celtic flute to gospel, from classical piano trio to contemporary UU composers...and everything in between. We also have been lucky enough this year to have a "band" at the 11:00 service made up of Members and Friends consist-

ing of guitar, flute, clarinet, violin, and drums. We will miss flutist Trevor Watkin when he moves to Chicago soon!

Another major goal this year was to get more involvement of children and youth in the music ministry. In November 2006, we launched our new children's choir, the MUUsical Magicians. Though small, the children's choir has given 5 grade-school children opportunities to be featured in the Sunday morning services once a month. Plus, they receive musical education in their weekly rehearsals. They have built quite a community together this year. Other children have served as Assistant Songleaders this year, plus several young soloists have performed for various services and events.

Niké St. Clair was hired in fall 2006 as our new Choir Director. Her musical expertise has been very much appreciated by both the choir and the congregation. We look forward to another productive year with her next year, after she and the choir take a summer hiatus.

Ed Reay has been the technical guru of the Music Committee this year. His problem-solving skills and technical expertise have been invaluable with regards to the sound equipment and computers. He has also spent many hours on the new choir library database (still in process). We will miss Ed when he moves to San Diego soon.

The Music Committee, inspired by Nick Simon, completed several musical out-

reach projects this year. Colleen Anderson spearheaded a fundraiser selling Singing Valentines. About 12 choir members donated their time and energy to sing for four lucky families around Valentines Day. We hope to continue this project with Christmas carols in December, since it both brought in money and was a community outreach project. Choir members also sang for members who were ailing, and for Leila Lovell's memorial service. The singers realize that their music brings healing and joy to the wounded in our midst.

After several years of purposely creating identical worship services at 9:15 and 11:00, this year the worship team shifted to a more contemplative service at 9:15 and a more family-friendly, contemporary service at 11:00. The Music Director and the Music Committee have worked hard to create two totally different musical moods by using more instrumentalists, upbeat songs, and songs from outside our hymnals at the 11:00 service.

The Music Committee produced three musical events this year outside of the Orange Coast Concerts (which the concert series sub-committee produced). Beth's third annual "Music I Can't Play on Sunday Morning" raised several hundred dollars for the Steinway Maintenance Fund. No Talent Nite was less well-attended than previous years, so look for it to be revamped next year. And the Com-

mittee is busily preparing the details for the spring choir concert on June 9.

The Music Committee collects a congregational survey in June (with the bribe of a free donut) to keep tabs on what kind of music experiences the Members and Friends enjoy. Over the years, the main thing we have learned from these surveys is that the congregation enjoys the variety of music we provide.

The Music Committee would like to thank all those who sing and play in the music program, those who listen and receive the musical gifts, and those who volunteer their time and efforts behind-the-scenes. We are always open to suggestions and comments so the Music Ministry can best suit the needs of the congregation.

Music Committee:

Colleen Anderson (Chair)

Mary Beth Broeren (Acting Chair during Colleen's illness)

Dave Hardenbrook

Earl Hardenbrook

Ed Reay

Pat Robitaille

Richard Scoby

Susan Shaw

Nick Simon

Beth Nakao (Music Director)

Niké St. Clair (Choir Director)

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

No report submitted.

This committee was started in 2002 to recognize volunteers on a monthly basis. Since its inception, OCUUC has honored over 100 volunteers with Shining Star certificates. Responsibility for this committee is under the leadership of the current Vice President of Programs, but everyone may submit nominations. The little silver box in the Social Hall is the place to vote for big acts of kindness. May our lights always shine!

Lynn Scoby,
VP Programs

The church's endowment has held steady and grown slightly in value, while continuing to provide an important contribution to the operating budget. Assets were valued at \$482,591 on March 31, up slightly from \$466,695 a year earlier.

The endowment contributed \$22,749 to the operating budget during 2006–07. Next year it will contribute \$23,475. These contributions are based on the Stewards' policy of contributing 5% of the value of assets at the end of the quarter, averaged over the past six quarters. The 5% figure is an estimate of the average return that can be withdrawn indefinitely while retaining the value of assets, while, in fact, allowing them to grow at the rate of inflation.

Of course, as the church grows in size we hope the endowment will also grow due to contributions. This year the endowment received no new gifts, but in each of the previous two years it received bequests from deceased members; we know of one additional such bequest which is currently in process by the executor of an estate. Gifts during life are also welcomed, and the Stewards are prepared to work with any member wanting to include long-term donations as part of retirement and estate planning. The UUA investment managers also can provide guidance in this process and can arrange for transfers of financial assets directly to

our endowment fund.

During this year, the transfer of our funds to new accounts was completed following a decision made the previous year. The reasons were dissatisfaction with our previous manager's ability to tell us where funds were really invested, and a belief that too much of financial returns were being lost in expenses. In addition, we thought many members would like to see our investments pass scrutiny by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Investment Committee, which monitors company's social policies along with their financial worthiness. Therefore approximately half of our assets is now being kept with the UUA's General Investment Fund, which is a pooled fund of assets of member congregations. The other half is being kept in Vanguard's Balanced Index Fund.

For the Stewards
Ken Small, chair

We had many of our regular programs this year, as well as several new adventures.

Thank you to Jay Miller who again agreed to spearhead this year's all-church Thanksgiving potluck. He generously accepted an invitation to hold a Seder dinner this year as well.

Mary Beth Broeren, Wendy Lettieri, and Jeanne Criss accepted responsibility for organizing our annual weekend at de Benneville Pines, our district's local camp and conference center. Katherine Martin and Beth Nakao are on board to help.

Bob and Sheri Loeschen, assisted by previous coordinators Joan and Bob Kreuter, took over the Canvass. Pies and pledge cards were abundantly present. Finance Council put on the fall Goods and Services Auction, and a small committee (including but not limited to Judith Stamper and Scott Armstrong) promoted it this spring.

Beth Nakao, Niké St. Clair, the Music Committee, and our fabulous choir delivered hours of music throughout the year. The Concert Committee produced five concerts, including an evening with Holly Near who is known internationally for her songs and political activism, and was the Ware lecturer at General Assembly in Long Beach.

Katherine Martin and the RE Committee sponsored intergenerational game nights and craft events. Lance Jencks started up

a poetry group. Adam Goldman brought the atheists together. The Knit Wits shared food, laughter, and conversation while knitting blankets for the homebound and ill. Lili Laksberger revived the women's group. They can be seen frequently meeting for a picnic in the park.

Charlie Reed, with the aid of Birdie Reed, brought the budding Faith-in-Action Council to a working group with process and guidelines. Sharing our Plate continued to be a success under the guidance of Maurice Giss. Mary and Ted Lundholm carried on with ATM cooking.

And these are just some of the programs we offered this past year. Thank you to all of the individuals who introduced or continued these programs. You are what makes our church the vital community we all enjoy.

It has been a very busy 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 religious education class for youth, ages 14–18. This group meets on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 service for religious discussion, peer connections, and social justice activities. YUURT is our combined mid- and senior-high youth group, ages 12–18. This group meets semi-monthly for community building, worship, and social action.

Youth who completed our YRUU class survey last year wanted to see more youth attend the Sunday morning program and to know in advance about the curriculum for the upcoming class. To this end, I asked our adult leaders to commit to the same Sunday every month and use the same curriculum each time. Our theme this year was exploring our UU principles. The first Sunday focused on inherent worth and dignity through creative expression and using *The Artist's Way* as a guide. The second Sunday used *Building Your Own Theology/Ethics* as the basis for seeking truth and promoting spiritual growth. Third Sundays were the launching pad for discussing our religious roots and exploring our religious diversity after watching carefully selected and edited film clips. The fourth Sunday was devoted to how we can put our faith into action. Our senior-high youth participated in several Sunday morning services this year, including presentation of a video they created to show their year's study of our UU principles.

YUURT changed this past year from a cluster church group to just OCUUC. This was a request by the other churches. Their adult leaders wished to spend this time developing their individual youth programs. It is our hope that next year will bring the four groups back together. We moved our events from Friday evenings to Sunday afternoons due to conflicts with sports, dances, and other social commitments. However, we still went to a football game, attended live theater, watched movies, went on a ghost hunt, and survived a video arcade. We ate lots of food, played games, and even danced to our favorite music.

We have the following adult leaders to thank for the success of our youth programs this year: Kent Doss, Maurice Giss, Rayna Hamre, Katherine Martin, Walter Piper, and Karen Stoyanoff. Thank you also to our Sunday morning guest speakers: Simone Bentley and Kathleen McFarlin. I extend special thanks to all of the parents of our youth who have supported this program in numerous ways. It has been my pleasure to work with all of you. I cannot begin to thank the youth for everything they have brought to class and events. Being their youth advisor has been my great privilege.

Lynn Scoby,
Youth Advisor

