

**SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH**  
**2013 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Reports to the Congregation**  
**May 19, 2013**

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**MINISTER: the Rev. Adam Robersmith**

**Goals for 2012-2013:**

- Hire the best staff possible to oversee the administrative and faith development ministries of the congregation;
- Begin the process of developing multi-year plans and long-range visioning;
- Continue to improve leadership development, so that we have volunteers ready and able to take onto roles as other volunteers set them down;
- Continue to improve congregational communications, processes, and support for committees/ministries; and
- Support membership growth in sustainable ways, including strengthening committees and ministries that work with visitors and new members, and developing a path forward for the congregation's discernment of how best to incorporate newcomers into our community.

**Challenges: (*many of which are the same as last year*):**

- Staff transitions and changes, including an unexpected transition over the summer;
- Volunteers and staff who are working at full capacity or beyond, and yet knowing that there is more that we all would like to see done;
- Continued concerns for the stability of 2U's financial health as related to the size of the congregation and its desire for staffing and resources;
- Ongoing work of restructuring/rebuilding some committees/ministries of 2U, including Building & Grounds, Pastoral Care, and Membership; and
- Attendance that continues to fill our sanctuary (with services now topping out over 195 attendees on occasion) and limiting our ability to fully assimilate our visitor population and welcome them into membership (a good challenge to have, but a challenge nonetheless).

**Accomplishments & Ongoing Work:**

- Worked with Jennifer Duston, Office Administrator, to establish and improve administrative systems and worked with Kellie Kelly to support her work as Director of Faith Development in their first years at 2U;
- Continued development of Sunday worship with worship staff and Sunday Services Committee to provide high-quality worship (both clergy and lay led) as well as to figure out the best ways to support lay preachers and make the tasks of the Committee manageable for volunteers;
- Led weekly Vespers services on Wednesday evenings for the third year;
- Worked with the Board and Committee on Ministries on visioning for the congregation, resulting in the development of a vision statement distilled from congregational input;
- Continued support and delivery of Adult Faith Development programming, including Small Group Ministry, classes on personal religious history and prayer, and (less closely) the Sun/Moon and Young Adult Groups;
- Worked with the Membership Committee on its continued evolution, offering 3 new member 3-session orientation classes by the end of the year, resulting in committed new members and an increase in new member pledges after adding a focus on the importance of stewardship;

- Continued pastoral care support of members of 2U and worked with members to reinvigorate and restructure the Care Team with both practical and pastoral ministries;
- Worked with the Committee on Ministries in rewriting its charter and procedures as well as performing its ongoing tasks;
- Continued support of our Building and Grounds work, helping reshape our B&G committee and encouraging 2U to take seriously the needs of its physical location;
- Continued engagement and participation with Social Justice ministry and events inside and outside the congregation;
- Co-coordinated a national anti-racism/anti-oppression/multiculturalism program for UU ministers through the UUMA; and
- Was accepted into the Doctor of Ministry program at Chicago Theological Seminary, which is designed for full-time working professionals to continue their education while maintaining their ministries.

#### **Encouraging Signs for the Future:**

- Almost all members of 2011-2012's leadership development efforts have stepped into leadership roles of one sort or another in the congregation;
- Continued strong attendance at worship and religious education classes and discussions about how to approach the possibility of moving to two services;
- Significant increase in the number of Faith Development volunteers for Spirit Play and youth programming this spring;
- Deep visioning conversations regarding the whole congregation and Lifespan Faith Development, and especially broad congregational engagement with the Social Justice Council's visioning process;
- Continued strong congregationally-based fundraising, pledge giving maintained or increased for most pledge units, and strong giving during the Offering (which benefits our plate sharing recipients as well as 2U); and
- Willingness and ability to attend to deferred maintenance projects for our building, including necessary rebuilding of our windows and discussion about how to manage additional projects, such as the sanctuary floor.

#### **Goals for 2013-2014**

- Increase participation in and effectiveness of the Committee Council, working with the Council Chair to continue the growth this year;
- Develop regular and ongoing leadership development opportunities for members of the congregation;
- Solidify the changes/renewals of Membership, Pastoral Care, and Building and Grounds;
- Support the Lifespan Faith Development ministry of the church as it continues to grow and add programming for youth;
- Support the stewardship work of the church to strengthen our financial position, and
- Encourage 2U to determine what kinds of growth are necessary and appropriate in the years to come.

## **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Jennifer Duston**

Since starting in this position in August of 2012, I can quite honestly say not a day has gone by that I haven't learned something new, from software to sump pumps to stewardship. I am so grateful to everyone at 2U—staff, board members, committee members, and congregants—who generously provided much-needed guidance and support as I learned the ropes, and who continue to offer so much time and hard work to the running of our church and its many ministries. Thank you for the opportunity to serve 2U!

### **Summary of 2012-2013 Accomplishments:**

- Provided organization, communications, and logistical support for church-wide activities, including the Fall Fest Fundraiser, Visioning Sessions, the Christmas Eve service, the annual meeting, and so on.
- Provided organizational, communications, and logistical support for all Sunday services, including those Sundays when I'm not at the church.
- In conjunction with Rev. Robersmith and the Music Committee, managed and maintained the Worship Calendar to track all worship service information, as well as plan for future Sunday services and special events
- Managed church-wide communications, including:
  - The Anvil
  - Orders of Service
  - Special email communications
  - 2U's Facebook page
  - Maintenance of all church email accounts and forwarders
- Managed and maintained church calendars, including scheduling all meetings and events. We made a switch this year from MyChurchEvents to a much more user-friendly Google calendar format, which has allowed me to include far greater detail on the calendar on our website.
- Managed and maintained the membership database
- Managed and maintained pledge and contribution information, including:
  - Tracking weekly plate collection
  - Tracking fundraiser income and other special contributions
  - Tracking all pledge income and sending monthly pledge statements to all contributors
  - Reconciling pledge cards against membership database, adjusting as necessary
- Coordinated with stewardship chairs and finance committee to provide support for the annual canvass, including:
  - Printing training documents, pledge cards, brochures, and letters to members
  - Providing all member information to canvassers
  - Created and maintained a new spreadsheet to accurately track all canvass information, including canvassing groups, pledges received, outstanding pledges, contact information, and so on. This has allowed me to regularly update the stewardship chairs, as well as quickly respond to questions from canvassers.
- Tracked and maintained church analytical data, including weekly attendance, visitors, orientation and new members

- Handled all bookkeeping and maintenance of financial records, including:
  - Tracking and payment of all invoices and maintenance of vendor records
  - Tracking of all income
  - Monthly bank statement reconciliation
  - Creating & distributing monthly financial reports for BoT and 'Money Matters' for Anvil
  - Regular communication with Treasurer and Finance Committee, responding to requests as needed
- Performed all HR tasks, including bi-monthly payroll, health insurance and retirement, new hire paperwork, and so on.
- Managed all building rentals. We have had both short-term and long-term renters this year, including three theater companies, a meditation group, film screenings, fundraisers, and weddings; we are also home to the monthly South East Lakeview Neighbors Association meeting, and a weekly AA meeting. The rental process includes:
  - Fielding inquiries and providing rental information
  - Building tours
  - Creating rental contracts and reserving space
  - Scheduling and supervision of event sexton as needed
- Managed all building security issues, including:
  - Maintenance of key holder list: staff, congregants, and long-term renters
  - Maintenance of alarm codes, training new users and updating codes as needed
  - 24/7 response to Stanley Security
- Scheduled repairs and maintenance, as needed, including:
  - Regular weekly cleaning, now including cleaning of all classrooms
  - Snow removal
  - Elevator repair
  - Special projects, such as the current restoration & repair of sanctuary stained glass
  - Ordering all supplies, including building & cleaning supplies, office supplies, candles & other items for weekly worship

#### **Goals for 2013-14:**

In conjunction with Rev. Robersmith, the Board of Trustees, and the Membership Committee, among others, I hope that all of these and more will be achievable in the upcoming church year:

- **Better management of member data**, whether this means making a change to our membership management software, or making better use of the PowerChurch software we use currently. One of the goals is to integrate information collected by the Membership Committee's Time & Talents survey, currently being revised.
- **Exploring options to simplify the pledge payment process**: In response to several requests from members, we're looking at the possibility of an electronic funds transfer option.
- **Updating and improving our rental process** to encourage more consistent rental interest, including making some much-needed aesthetic improvements to the loft, creating a new brochure, and establishing a streamlined policy and procedure.

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Don MacGregor**

In 2013, the Buildings and Grounds Committee has been more project-oriented than meeting-oriented. The goal is to get as many people involved in the upkeep of this church with a variety of projects, which involve different levels of sophistication.

Rev. Robersmith and Jen Duston gave me a list of projects. So far, the completed projects have been:

- Insulating windows in the loft
- Insulating windows in the sanctuary
- Putting safety strips on the stairs leading up to the Palmer Room.
- Re-organizing the utility closet.
- Cleanup of the front and back yards.
- Planting of some flowers in the front yard.

I wish to thank the people who volunteered their time. This list includes, and is not limited to Dana Hill, Libby Harvey Hill, Ian McPhaden, Amber Mack, and others. Chuck Cerny deserves a lot of gratitude for taking the time to show us the circuit breaker controlling the sump pump alarm.

### **Near future plans:**

I have taken Nanna Cross's suggestion and reserved work party dates for May 26th and June 16th. I will let people know later what we will be doing in the future.

### **Future concerns & challenges:**

- To avoid “burning out” those volunteers who have helped on multiple projects.
- To get better cooperation from small group members.

Until we hire a sexton, the congregation is the sexton. I hope to involve as many people as possible into the upkeep of this church. You may not be able to replace circuit breakers or windows, but if you can pull weeds, or change a light bulb in the bathroom, you are a sexton.

## **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES: Jill Althage & Darrin Weatherspoon**

### **Purpose of the Committee on Ministries**

The mission of the Committee on Ministries (COM), comprised of members of the congregation appointed by the Board of Trustees, is to create and maintain a supportive safe and energizing environment for shared ministry at 2U. Committee members hold a commitment to the healthy tenor of our congregation supported by healthy dialog. The actions and policies of the committee are inspired by 2U's covenant and influenced by various 2U documents. With the minister, COM shares responsibility for communication with the congregation about the church ministries. We seek to build partnerships that will foster a living, evolving, sustaining environment at 2U.

### **Membership**

Jill Althage, Dan Ashley, Marilyn Hebda, John Houck, Barbara Hyde, and Darrin Weatherspoon

### **Goals from the 2012 Report**

- The Committee will become more visible and accessible to the church community.
- Clarify and strengthen the role of Committee liaisons to facilitate communication.
- The Committee and the Board will work as a task force to revise the current Committee on Ministries Charter.
- This task force will present the completed revised Charter at the annual 2013 meeting.

### **Accomplishments**

- We held one Congregation Chat last fall and plan to present the revised Charter at a town hall meeting (called by the Board of Trustees) in June.
- We hosted a Coffee Hour after service on Sunday, December 20.
- We have responded to email suggestions and face-to-face comments from the church community about church functions.
- We have kept an active liaison relationship with Council committees by attending committee meetings and receiving/responding to emails.
- We have worked alongside Board members to revise the current Committee on Ministries Charter. This document was presented to the Board on April 10.
- The Revised Charter will be presented to the congregation on June 2 in a town hall meeting.

### **Challenges for 2013/2014**

- The Committee on Ministries will become more visible and accessible to the church community.
- The Committee on Ministries will insert its energy into church projects that will educate the congregation about the wealth of ministries.
- The Committee on Ministries will be a "go to" place for members and friends to communicate what's going well and further ways our church can excel.

**Goals for 2013/2014**

- The Committee will keep an up-to-date bulletin board of members (pictures and personal statements) projects, successes, Charter and Procedures, and our goals.
- The Committee will invite the congregation to 2 to 3 Chats or Town Hall meetings during the year.
- The Committee will focus on implementing the role and mission of the Committee on Ministries per the Charter.
- The Committee will create and present a "patchwork" service on a theme chosen as appropriate by our committee.
- We will add one or two more members to our committee with consultation with the Board and Reverend Adam Robersmith.
- The Committee will explore the idea of facilitating a retreat for the Church Council Chairs, the BOT AND COM liaisons. (e.g. Role of Liaisons, Committee Reviews, Structure of Involvement Fair etc.)
- The Committee will dialog with the Young Adult Ministry as to their current and future role in the church.

## **GREEN SANCTUARY: Libby Harvey-Hill**

Mission Statement: The Green Sanctuary strives to empower our community to behave in increasingly responsible ways to better our environment, reduce our carbon footprint, and influence our friends and neighbors to do the same. We will accomplish this by: building awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues; encouraging personal lifestyle changes; engaging in community action on environmental issues; strengthening the connection between spiritual practice and Earth consciousness; and working to heal environmental injustices. The Green Sanctuary Program encourages individual actions to reduce our impact on this planet, but primarily it is a program of congregational action. It is about working together to strengthen our ability to create environmental change.

### **Accomplishments, 2012-13:**

- Weeded front lawn and added mulch in the fall.
- River Day: Joined Friends of the Chicago River to clean up Clark Park.
- The Stuff Swap : 2U members cleared their closets and traded their stuff at 2U. This event aims to reduce the consumerist mentality, while reaffirming the importance of community.
- Spring yard clean up, front and back, in conjunction with Building and Grounds Committee.
- Marva Williams brought in speaker Nadja Krylov from Al Gore's The Climate Reality Project. Nadja spoke on the importance of taking action through legislation after showing the grim reality of climate change in her slide show.

### **Goals for 2013-14:**

- Yard Work: Continue work on backyard Native Garden and seasonal clean-up.
- Fall Plant Exchange
- Investigate joining forces with Citizens Climate Lobby with the goal of lobbying elected officials and the media on Climate Legislation.

## **HOSPITALITY: Nathan Miller & Ann Nelson**

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Ann Nelson and Nathan Miller (current), Christine Hennessey (incoming)

**Weekly Team Leads:** Christine Hennessey, Ann Nelson, Don MacGregor, Nathan Miller, Michael Walver

**Coffee Hour Coordinator:** Laura McKee

**Mission Statement:** The Mission of the Hospitality Committee is to provide a warm, welcoming presence at each service, while facilitating the arrival of visitors and congregants to a clean, accessible church and sanctuary. Specifically the committee is responsible for sanctuary preparation, parking assistance, greeting, ushering, offertory collection, building support, and, along with the Membership Committee, helping to establish an initial connection between visitors and the 2U community.

### **Committee Successes and Challenges for the Year 2012-2013**

- Absorbed departure of 6 hospitality members. Recruited and trained 6 new hospitality members, including 3 alternates.
- Currently, hospitality has a total of 31 active members, including 5 team leads, 13 alternates, and 2 alternate team leads. Two of our 4 weekly teams are currently staffed by at least 5 people (basic level).
- Increased the number of alternates from 10 to 13, including training one additional alternate team lead, providing flexibility when substitutes are needed and allowing us to staff fifth Sundays without relying on regular monthly volunteers to work an additional Sunday.
- Worked with Lifespan Faith Development to combine the Welcome Table with LFD's table for families. The Welcome Table is now in position to be more noticeable and available, and provides a single source of information, name tags, and welcome packets for visitors and attendees with and without children, jointly staffed by hospitality and LFD.
- As has been the case since 2009, hospitality continued fulfilling pre and post-service building preparation and cleanup roles, including maintenance of bathroom supplies and trash disposal, absorbing work that would otherwise be performed by a paid sexton. Hospitality strongly supports returning to the use of a paid sexton when it becomes financially feasible for 2U, as this work is not well-matched with this committee's focus and abilities over the long term.
- Identified new Coffee Hour Coordinator.

### **Goals for Next Year**

- Transition to new Hospitality Chair.
- Increase staffing for teams not at the basic staffing level of five people. If possible, add additional weekly volunteers so that each team is fully staffed with seven members and our alternate list is more robust.
- Train additional team leads to compensate for anticipated loss of a few current team leads, to avoid burnout, and to ensure that the fifth Sunday can be led by an alternate rather than the Hospitality Chair.

**Committee Interfacing**

- Within hospitality: Currently, Hospitality Chairs maintain an email list for the entire group (shared with 2U office manager), and weekly team leads maintain email lists for their weekly volunteers.
- With other committees: Hospitality currently has limited interaction with other committees. Additional coordination with the Membership committee could help facilitate welcoming new members.

## **LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Sue Dunmore**

### **Members:**

Kellie Kelly (DFD); Sue Dunmore (chair); Rev. Adam Robersmith (Adult Faith Dev.); Janice Stashwick (Nursery); Carey Farrell (preK – 3<sup>rd</sup> Spirit Play); Lew Harding (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> UU Explorers); Mary Sue Barrett (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> OWL); Libby Harvey Hill (3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Roots and Shoots); Lizzie Kepler (Welcome Table); Erin Rusmi, David Dyer (Young Adults)

### **Vision Statement** (not stated in full):

The vision for Lifespan Religious Education at Second Unitarian Church is to guide children and adults towards a lifelong spiritual journey. We will blend our Unitarian Universalist traditions with personal pursuits to create an educational experience that:

- Promotes Unitarian Universalist principles.
- Draws from many sources of wisdom.
- Promotes sharing of knowledge between people of all ages.
- Creates varied opportunities for each person to explore his or her faith.
- Motivates children and adults to question the world around them and spurs compassionate action.
- Provides a safe haven for open discussion and exploration.
- Encourages children and adults to participate by offering accessible, innovative experiences.

### **General Faith Development Accomplishments:**

- Recruited and supported our amazing Director of Faith Development Kellie Kelly. Hard to believe she's just been here a year!
- Maintained a strong base of amazing 2U volunteers in the Faith Development programs.
- Provided faith development programs for all ages.

### **Children and Youth Faith Development Accomplishments:**

- Spirit Play program expanded into two classrooms: preK – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Recruited and trained additional teachers, provided additional stories and story baskets as well as art resources for the classroom.
- Partnered with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Unitarian Churches to provide OWL (Our Whole Lives – Sexual Education) for Junior High / High School youth. Intensive program supported by 2U teachers. 2U families worked together to provide a welcoming space for participants and their families.
- Roots and Shoots (social justice for children and youth) started a second successful year. Students are planning fund-raiser to support 2U's commitment to the Night Ministry.
- Plans underway to restart a senior high youth program. Stay tuned! (Meagan Selby, Jonah Bondurant, Jenny Dunmore, Tyler Duston among those involved).

### **Adult Faith Development Accomplishments**

- Provided a variety of adult classes in addition to Small Groups.
  - Community Yoga, taught by Andrea LeVasseur
  - Making Peace With Your Religious Past, taught by Rev. Robersmith
  - Creating Connection: A UU Exploration of Prayer, taught by Rev. Robersmith
  - Early summer AFD class to be scheduled and taught by Rev. Robersmith

- The Young Adult Group expanded its programming to include at least two social or religious events a month.
  - Volunteered for social justice functions such as Night Ministry.
  - Young Adults becoming more integrated into the life of the church.

**Goals for 2013-14 ...**

- Build on our successful program by looking forward and taking us into the future. Visioning sub-committee looking at the best ways to respond to the changing social culture and leverage technological advances in our Faith Development program.
- Build on our success recruiting and involving youth in Our Whole Lives by offering a youth group at 2U. Reach out to other UU youth through Chicago area programs (specifically, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Unitarian) and district conferences.
- Recruit and train volunteers as teachers and other support roles for our growing program.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: John Broome**

The role of the committee remains constant: to join the hospitality committee and the entire congregation in creating an engaged and connected community. This includes welcoming newcomers as well as connecting all members and engaging them in the life of the church. The committee charges itself with organizing orientation sessions, now incorporating the minister, in-gatherings of new members, and other community events, as well as writing biographies of new members, reaching out to all members and supporting retention of a growing and vibrant community.

Membership of the committee includes David Leaman, Erin Edwards, Fran Simons, Monica Drane, Nancy Kloetzli, Joyce Haeckel, and Sally Harding. Barbara Hyde is the liaison for the COM and Monica serves as liaison for the board. John Broome chairs the committee.

### **Major activities for 2012-2013:**

- Addition of 19 new members since July, 2012 (as of 15 Apr 13)
- Co-hosting “2U-101” sessions with the minister the first Sunday of each month for visitors interested in learning more about 2U and its minister
- Publication of interviews with new members in *The Anvil*
- Conducting two of three (with the third upcoming) three-session orientation sessions for folks interested in moving from the ranks of visitors and friends into the ranks of membership
- Coordination of the summer picnic service
- Facilitation of the two in-gatherings for new members
- Providing follow-up (though not as timely as desired) for visitors who complete information sheets
- Connection between new members and veteran members

### **Major activity shifted to Council:**

- Fall involvement fair

### **Looking ahead into 2013-2014:**

- Improving the orientation format based on data from 2012-2013 participants
- Coordination with an active recruiting campaign
- Re-integration of the “time and talent” survey
- Implementation of fresh vision from a new chair

## **MUSIC COMMITTEE: Rosalind Hurwitz**

**Members:** Nanna Cross, Carey Farrell, Gail Gallagher, Rosalind Hurwitz (chairperson), Gregory Redfeairn, Neal Shankman, Jim Simonis, Kat Wyand and Music Director, Marianne Parker

Meetings are held at 9 a.m. and are scheduled approximately once a month.

### **Mission Statement:**

- Provide opportunities for the congregation to make music together.
- Provide quality musical experiences for the congregation as listeners.
- Provide music program integral to the worship experience.

### **Goals:**

To provide a variety of musical styles and opportunities for members to participate in the music program at 2U.

### **Responsibilities:**

Marianne Parker is the Director of Music Ministry and is the pianist for Sunday Services; she directs the choir which performs once a month and provides support for individuals and small groups to ensure the quality of music.

The music committee and the Music Director schedule volunteer musicians for Sunday Services. Musicians are typically scheduled six weeks in advance of the services. The music committee is also responsible for scheduling volunteers to manage the sound system during Sunday Services. Jim Simonis serves as the liaison between the Sunday Services and Music Committees. Monica Drane is the liaison from the Board of Trustees and attends music committee meetings. Dan Ashley is the liaison from the Committee on Ministries.

### **Opportunities for members to participate in music at 2U**

The choir is open to all members and friends regardless of musical background or experience. Weekly rehearsals are held to prepare for monthly performances during Sunday Services.

Members were encouraged to participate in All Music Sunday Services held in December and June. The December service consisted of primarily seasonal music. The next All Music Sunday Service is scheduled for Sunday, June 9th with the theme Around the World.

### **Additional music/musicians:**

The following members/friends have provided music as a soloist, part of a small group or as the pianist. Kimberly Bares, Mary Sue Barrett, Tom Clowes, Nanna Cross, Jonathan Dunmore, Erin Edwards, Carey Farrell, Rosalind Hurwitz, John Houck, Susie Inverso, Gail Gallagher, Adelaide Meyers, Laura McKee, Ian McPhaden, Karen Mooney, Liz Przybylski, Katie Wolf, Audrey Shadle, Walker Shadle, Neal Shankman, Jim Simonis, Kat Wyand, Gregory Redfeairn, Melissa Staas, and Hugh Visor.

**Outcomes:**

- **Choir:** The choir has continued to expand, with many new members and friends of the church participating.
- **Database of Musicians Available for Sunday Services:** Monica Drane compiled a list of musicians at 2U who are willing to provide music for Sunday Services.

**Feedback:**

There continues to be a lot of energy and enthusiasm around the music program this year. 2U is fortunate to have many talented musicians who are willing to share their time, talent and energy during Sunday Services. Marianne and members of the music committee have received positive feedback regarding the music and music program at 2U. Many thanks to everyone!

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL: Curtis Smith**

**Social Justice Leaders:** Curtis Smith (Chair), Megan Selby (Vice-Chair), Norman Groetzinger (Treasurer/Plate-Sharing Coordinator), Katie Wolf (Secretary).

**Introduction:** Working for justice in our world is a principle way for Unitarian Universalists to express our faith. Acting on our values is what we do and who we are. As we walk the path toward justice; however, there will be great successes and there will be times of great challenges. This is why we do not walk alone. Engage our UU faith as a source of strength and reflection for yours and the church's social justice work.

### **Accomplishments (2010-2011):**

- December 2012 - 17 people attended the 2U Social Justice Visioning Retreat.
- January 2013 - Social Justice Council established a leadership structure and Executive Committee.
- February 28, 2013 - The first of a four part session, the Social Justice Council Book Club began reading *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander. 20 people signed up to participate. 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the Palmer Room. The last session was on April 18, 2013.
- March 10, 2013 - The SJC had a successful Town Conversation with members and friends of Second Unitarian Church about the purpose, vision and work of the 2U Social Justice Council. 45 people attended. This number was close to the SJC's upper goal for participation of 30 to 50 people. We unveiled the SJC new messaging, "Standing on the Side of Love," and our new SJC structure of 11-15 Action Groups.
- March 21, 2013 - Three members of 2U took part in a Lakeview Action Coalition/ONE action to preserve affordable housing in the Uptown community. 200 hundred people marched and heard testimony in front of Alderman Cappleman's office (46th Ward).
- March 23, 2013 - The SJC held a social justice leadership training on Charity and Social Justice. The training was led by organizers from Community Renewal Society (CRS). 30 people attended held in the sanctuary, surpassing our goal of 25 people. There is a second training on April 13, 2013 where 20 participants learned skills on how to build social justice ministries within a faith community.
- April 16, 2013 - Faith-in-Action Lobby Day in Springfield, IL. Goal is to have at least 10 people from 2U to go down to Springfield and lobby members of the Illinois General Assembly.
- May 2013 - The first issue of the Social Justice Council's online newsletter was produced called "The Hammer."

### **Action Group Accomplishments:**

- **2U- Night Ministry:**
  - **Homelessness.** The Night Ministry continues being an important way for our congregation to serve the most vulnerable in our community. 2U-Night Ministry were plate-sharing recipients twice during the church year and received almost \$2,000 in generous donations from the church. The Social Justice Council is lobbying the 2U board and the congregation to include a permanent budget line-item so that the 2U-Night Ministry coordinator can have a more stable source of funding to purchase food and supplies.

- **Equality Illinois:**
  - **Marriage Equality Bill.** Since the enactment of the Civil Unions bill in January 2011, the march continues for full marriage equality. Katie Wolf has coordinated phone banking work for 2U members and friends during the past year with Equality Illinois, and the effort has led to the passage of an equal marriage bill in the Illinois Senate and at the time of this writing, waiting for the hopeful passage in the Illinois House. Governor Quinn is on record that he will sign into law if passage in both chambers.
- **Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC):**
  - **Access to Healthcare.** Charity care legislation was passed and signed into law in Illinois. It provides a uniform charity care application, and presumptive eligibility allows for a more streamlined process for those that do not have health insurance and are clearly indigent and without financial resources to get care without having to jump through hoops.
  - **Economic Justice.** Corporate tax transparency legislation passed in the Illinois Senate, but failed to get out of committee in the Illinois House. More than 2/3 of public corporations in Illinois do not pay any Illinois income tax, but most do not know that because there is no requirement for corporation to disclose tax information. LAC is continuing its efforts towards passage by door knocking in targeted Illinois state house districts in order to gain the votes for passage in the Illinois House.
  - **Affordable Housing.** Every night, more hundreds of people on the north side of Chicago homelessness. Even more are housing insecure. Over the past year and half, Lake View and Uptown have lost almost 700 affordable single room occupancy units or SROs to market rate developers. LAC has been in a fighting to preserve what's left. Over 200 people attended a march and rally in Uptown in March 2013 as a part of a campaign to preserve affordable housing on the north side.
  - **Merger Discussion.** For over six months, LAC and the Organization of the North East (O.N.E.) have been discussion of a merger between these two community organizations. A final decision and vote will be made by each respective organizations' members and boards in June 2013.
- **Community Renewal Society (CRS):**
  - **F.OR.C.E. Project (Fighting to Overcome Records and Create Equality).** Expanding Sealing of Records for People with Low-Level Felony Convictions passed in the Illinois House in March. Roughly 35,000 people are released from Illinois prisons each year. Within 3 years, more than half of all those released are returned to prison. Expanding sealing records would allow thousands of ex-offenders opportunities for employment, housing and education.

### **Opportunities:**

The Social Justice Council's challenge and opportunity is to be successful at building our capacity to love and bring about social change. As a people of faith we must intentionally set a path for justice work. Be in relationship with other members of this church and outside this church; and then the actions we, as a church, take and as individuals must be concrete, specific and manageable.

All are welcome to the Social Justice Council's monthly gatherings. Schedule is on the website.

## **SUNDAY SERVICES COMMITTEE: Linda Marquis**

**Committee Members :** John Broome, Gary Bondurant, Jim Simonis, Margaret Redlich, Jill Siegel, Shauna Womeldorff, and Rev. Adam Robersmith

### **Mission:**

The primary mission of the Sunday Services Committee (SSC) is to engage, encourage, and support lay involvement in Sunday Services. The responsibilities for all Sunday Services lie along a continuum of involvement and authority between the SSC and the minister. We share a common purpose of providing meaningful and transformative worship services.

Congregants are welcome to bring questions and feedback directly to the Sunday service provider – lay, clergy, or guest – and also to the SSC. We welcome congregational input on all aspects of Sunday services.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Revised each section of the SSC guidelines including the committee guidelines, proposal package, and confirmation packet.
- Finalized the mission and scope statement with Board of Trustees review.
- Reviewed purpose and scope and determined to rename the committee from Religious Services Committee to Sunday Services Committee. Met with BoT for approval of name change and publicized the change in the Anvil.
- Provided three trainings for lay preachers following extensive outreach and publicity.
- Added two new committee members.
- Started a new lay preacher support group which met several times.
- Clarified the role of the minister and worship coordinator for seminarians who preach.
- Requested that the BoT preach in order to fill vacant lay slots and assisted with their service.
- Provided a patchwork service from SSC.
- Provided worship coordinators for 3 guest preachers and 10 lay services.
- Updated the worship associate list , trained additional WA's, and coordinated their role in all services.
- Convened a Town Hall meeting following numerous discussions within SSC , with the BoT chair, and the COM chair. Presented concerns re the insufficient number of volunteers for lay preaching and gathered feedback for how to proceed.

### **Goals:**

- Continue to develop a culture of shared ministry that welcomes, encourages, and supports lay involvement
- Provide training for lay preachers at least once a year
- Provide training for Worship Associates as needed
- Review and modify committee roles to meet committee functions and responsibilities
- Develop and maintain an accurate Sunday service calendar assuring services are scheduled and coordinated
- Review the elements of service as needs and interests arise {e.g. story for all ages}

- Develop at least one service to be used should a lay or guest preacher become unavailable
- Continue to provide a Worship Coordinator for every lay or guest preacher service and develop alternative models of support as necessary
- Put SSC guidelines, proposal and confirmation packet information online
- Respond effectively with clarity and transparency to any Sunday service concerns or suggestions brought to SSC
- Restart a support group for potential lay preachers
- Develop and maintain a list of available guest preachers

## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Erin Rusmi and David Dyer**

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the young adult group is to provide a welcoming and supportive space for young adults at 2U to make connections with one another and increase their involvement in the wider church community.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Third Sunday brunch every month, circle worship every other month, and additional events, including craft nights and game nights with steady attendance
- Young adult service in fall 2012
- Encouragement and facilitation of opportunities for young adult involvement in the wider church community
- Strong participation by young adult members in hosting events and creating a welcoming and supportive environment

### **Goals:**

- Continue to contribute to a welcoming environment for visitors and new members
- Create a more user-friendly young adult listserve
- Create more points of interaction between young adults and other members of the church
- Provide increased opportunities for service to 2U and the wider community
- A second young adult service in fall 2013