

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
December 17, 2006

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First Unitarian Universalist Church
Organizational Chart 2006-2007

Officers

Moderator
Linda Darga
Vice Moderator
Alicia Biggers
Immediate Past Moderator
James Harvey
Board Secretary
Donna Walker
Treasurer
Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister
Rev. Drew Johnston
Minister Emeritus
Rev. Larry Hutchison
Director of Religious Education
Athena Kolbe (Interim)
Music Director
Todd Ballou
Choir Director
Gwen Foss
Church Secretary
Wendi Winston
Building and Grounds
Joe Brimmer

Trustees

Lencha Acker
Sally Borden
Jim Brown
Charlene Evans
Earl Harvey
Mary Lou Malone
Irene Schultz
Donna Walker
Dan Wiest

Newsletter Editor

Irene Schultz

Upcoming Services

Services begin promptly at 11:00 A.M. (except Christmas Eve)

December 24, 2006 6:00 pm *Reflections on the Season*
Reverend Lynda Smith

December 31, 2006 *Transitions, Reverend Olaf Lidums*



January 7, 2007

Rev. Drew Johnston, First UU Detroit
Rev. John Weston, UUA

January 14, 2007

Reverend Drew Johnston

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, January 7, 2007** no later than **NOON** or the following **Monday no later than 5:30 P.M.** for electronic material. Articles may be emailed, by the deadline dates and times, to ieschultz1945@yahoo.com If you email items they **must** specify they are for the Newsletter.

Moderator's Missive

It has been turbulent year but as I uttered Sunday in calling the Congregational Meeting to order, "I'm having a surge of optimism." We had a chance to meet our new interim minister, Rev. Drew Johnston, and from the comments relayed to me, we shared in the delight of the moment. While Rev. Johnston invited us to contemplate who we are and why we choose to come together on Sunday mornings, he gave us much in addition to think about and I am really looking forward to the next 6 months. I would also like to thank Todd Ballou, our Music Director, and all the beautiful children who gave us the gift of song. The whole experience made me very grateful to be a part of this church.

After the service, while sharing in the delicious potluck meal, we took the affirming step of approving the new constitution and by-laws. We are indeed poised to look forward to a new year of opportunity. But before we plunge into 2007, I would like us to take a moment and thank those who have donated so much time and effort to our Congregation. First, thanks to the committee who revised the constitution and by-laws, taking our comments and criticisms into account to bring us documents with which we can grow; the Future Facilities Task Force for hours of devotion and clear presentations that greatly enhanced our understanding and commitment; the Interim Minister Search Committee and the Settled Minister Search Committee; the Religious Education Committee and Athena Kolbe, our Church School coordinator, who, in difficult times put the children's needs first and foremost; the new (and old) volunteers who run the sound system; the Worship Committee who kept us going with beautifully meaningful worship services; Todd Ballou for his magnificent music each Sunday and Gwen, our new Choir director, plus the choir who devotes time and energy to practice and perform; John Angry, head usher, and his team of ushers; to the Women's Alliance who make our church a richer place; and

finally, to all of you who choose to spend your Sunday mornings with us.

And I want to say a special thank you to Drew Johnston who, despite what he might have heard about our church, and despite the difficulties he was apprised of by the Search Committee, and despite the thought of leaving the Pacific Northwest's Puget sound area, Seattle and Mt. Ranier to live in Detroit (where Mt. Eliot just cannot compare) chose to be with us for the next 6 months. I am so happy you stayed with us while you visited and we had a chance to get to know each other. I got the distinct impression that you well understand our history and that you come well equipped by training and generosity of spirit to help us become the church we would like to be.

Linda Darga, Moderator

Committees and Affiliates

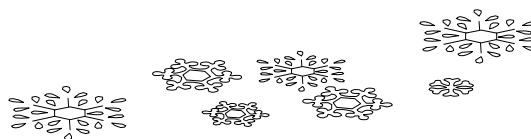
Membership

I am planning a fundraiser Sunday, January 14, at 2 p.m. at the Detroit Repertory to see *Between Men and Cattle*. I have reservations for 14 and will be selling tickets at coffee hour or you can contact me by phone or email margretbeck@comcast.net. The plays are excellent and we can go to dinner afterwards at the Traffic Jam. Hope you can come. Margaret Beck

Search Committee News

The Settled Minister Search Committee continues to stay in touch with the U.U.A. Transition (formerly Settlement) Office and our Interim District Representative, Rev. Lisa Presley. The final packet is hot off the press and tucked into binders. Rumor has it that Federal Express has been busy!

The MSC Committee once again thanks every member of the Congregation for your patience, contribution to the process, and enthusiasm.



Women's Alliance

Calling all writers! If you have poems, short stories or other original short written works that you would like to share, you are invited to participate in the program for Women's Alliance on January 17, 2007. Lunch is at Noon. The program will begin at 1:00PM. Please contact Alma King to be included in the program. To make reservations for the luncheon call the church office at 313-833-9107 or Eiko Takemoto. The deadline for reservations is January 15th. The membership fee for the Women's Alliance is \$25.00.

Book Discussion Group

We will be meeting on January 7th at 1:00 P.M. The selection for January is *The Memory Keepers Daughter*. Please pick a question from the back of the book and come ready to discuss it.

Thank You

Friendly Faces

Thank you to Earl and Ann Harvey, Dan Wiest, Jon and Irene Schultz, and Donna Walker who provided support for Unity Fellowship's Celebration of Rev. Darren McCarroll's 10th Anniversary as their pastor.

Michigan UU Social Justice Network

Thank you for all of your generous donations. At the December 17th service, First UU donated \$105.00 to MUUSJN.

January Birthdays



- 11. Len Zettel
- 15. Eiko Takemoto
- 16. George Waterman
- 20. Colleen Dolan-Greene
- 21. Richard Thomas
- 24. Faye Colling, Marlyn Meyer

Items From the Internet

Strange Laws Around The World

Check out these nutty laws from across the U.S.A. and around the globe!

* In Alabama, prison guards are forbidden from referring to their spouses as "the old ball 'n' chain."

* In Texas, it's illegal to threaten somebody with an UNLOADED gun.

* In Samoa, it's a crime to forget your wife's birthday.

* In Cannes, France, it's illegal to wear a Jerry Lewis mask.

* In Kentucky, it's illegal to paint your lawn red.

* In Tennessee, it's illegal to tell someone to quit smoking.

* It's illegal to tear a phone book in half in Montana.

* Anyone caught selling a "smoothie" that has lumps is breaking the law in California.

* In Pennsylvania, it's against the law to put a dollar on a string on the ground and yank it when someone tries to pick it up.

Drew's News

My visit to Detroit was busy and exciting and, in some ways, incomplete. I look forward to my return and our brief time together. I am scheduled to serve as your interim minister for six months, through the end of June. The time will pass quickly and I hope we will use it well.

Several of the folks in attendance on Sunday, December 17th, gave me cards with their thoughts in response to some general questions I raised during the service. This is a great start! On top of my list of critical accomplishments for us to make together is the clear statement of what First Unitarian Universalist, Detroit does, what is the mission of this congregation? We will talk about this in depth and probably have to struggle some with the ways time has passed since there was a sense of a unified mission for the congregation. During that passing of time many things happened, many wonderful things I am sure. If there had been a clear, widely held agreement on why the congregation exists though, I expect I would have heard that by now.

As we get to know each other in the beginning of my time with you, we will also be getting to know our collective purpose for being. I find this exciting and compelling! Having met many of you briefly I know that there is much goodness in the congregation and I am honored to join you for a brief part of the journey.

But first, I have to get the rest of the way back to Seattle, pack my things, and drive across the country to see you again in Detroit. I will take notes along the way and carry you in my thoughts.

As I am able I will also check my email and answer my phone. Both are listed below.

Blessings on you and the beginning of a new year!

- Reverend Drew

drewjohnston@mac.com

(206) 229-1918 mobile phone