

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201

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May 7, 2006

First Unitarian Universalist Church
Organizational Chart 2006-2007

Officers

Moderator
Jim Harvey
Vice Moderator
Dan Wiest
Immediate Past Moderator
Colleen Dolan-Greene
Board Secretary
Donna Walker
Treasurer

Staff

Interim Minister
Rev. Diana Heath
Minister Emeritus
Rev. Larry Hutchison
Director of Religious Education
Jennifer Teed
Music Director
Todd Ballou
Choir Accompanist
Janice Berry
Church Secretary
Wendi Winston
Building and Grounds
Joe Brimmer

Trustees

Lencha Acker
Alicia Biggers
Jim Brown
Linda Darga
Carolyn Ludwig
Mary Lou Malone
Jackie McNaughton
Irene Schultz

Newsletter Editor

Irene Schultz

Upcoming Services

Services begin promptly at 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, May 14, 2006

Mother's Day "I Remember Mama, But Was That Who She Really Was?"
Rev. Diana Heath – Flower Communion Sunday

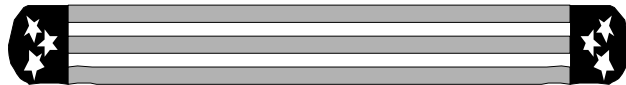
Sunday, May 21, 2006

"Some Truths About Churches – And Ministers"
Rev. Diana Heath
Blessing of the Animals – Instructions to Follow

Sunday, May 28, 2006

Memorial Day Service – Guest in our pulpit

MEMORIAL DAY



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, May 21, 2006** no later than **12:30 P.M.** 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.

From the Minister

I would like to thank the members and friends of the congregation for your welcome expressions of condolence on the death of my sister, Martha, last week. It has been a comfort and is much appreciated.

Rev. Diana Heath

Moderator's Musings

These are comments taken from my statement to the congregation at the time of the May 7 Annual Congregational Meeting. *For those in attendance, it is already known that we have adjourned the meeting to May 21.* This communication, and hopefully a separate note elsewhere in the Newsletter will remind you of the fact that the meeting is now scheduled for May 21 at 12:30. (Ed. Note – Nothing else was received)

My comments yesterday related to my observations as Moderator of this congregation for the last year. Specifically, I related my observations about behaviors of some in the First UU community whose behaviors have created obstacles to healthy growth of First UU of Detroit.

Unitarian-Universalists appropriately value the principle that each of us can and should determine for ourselves the path of our particular spiritual journey. It may be God-centered, agnostic, atheistic, or it may be informed by Judeo-Christian thought, pagan traditions, earth-centered culture, or other world religions, or an interesting admixture of all of these. But this strength can also be, particularly in First UU Church of Detroit, a weakness. There is a tendency to think that the wishes/desires of everyone of us must be accommodated within the church community. This has meant that we have endured disruptive persons in the sanctuary. It has meant that we have allowed disrespect for ministers in this church to be part of coffee table conversation or even (as happened yesterday) during Annual Congregational Meetings. Similarly, it appears that we have problems letting the leaders of the church act as leaders.

And, I think the basis for this is fallacious. If we look to the back page of the Order of Service, you will note that it says: "We often say that in Unitarian-Universalism we do not all seek to come to the same answers, nor need we, but we want the

ethical and personal values we carry with us to be refined within a religious environment which honors freedom—**WITH RESPONSIBILITY** of belief and conscience." Here is the important point – freedom carries with it responsibilities. Coming to church involves an expectation that one is engaging in a contemplative and yet intellectually stimulating process. It does not mean tolerating disruptive behavior. It does not mean tolerating disrespectful behavior. There needs to be limits and boundaries to assure that the Sunday morning experience is a good one for those attending. Similarly, the church experience on a day-to-day basis should recognize concepts of civility and respect towards one another and towards our minister and your leaders.

I believe that with the help of the Holy Conversation team and with the Right Relations Covenant (which is being framed as we speak), that we are making important progress in recognizing that each of us can have our own spiritual journey, and at the same time, be respectful to each other, recognize that the volunteer leaders have themselves taken on a substantial responsibility and that they should be honored and commended.

Along the same lines, the church has not had a good record of trusting our ministers. And there have been reasons that some of our past ministers have given us for not trusting them. But, we, as a congregation, do need to realize that a minister is our religious leader. The minister needs to be given a degree of latitude in the area of his/her expertise rather than to be subjected to criticism and a watchful eye for any possible deviance from some undefined standard. Again, respect for the person holding the position of minister is essential. It is essential because, among other things, your church will not grow and cannot thrive if new members and visitors recognize that congregation members are privately or publicly criticizing the minister.

I do believe that a larger number of our congregation members are understanding the issues I have described above. This is an encouraging sign. But the progress we have made this year – and it is substantial – is dependent upon understanding that going back to older behaviors is ultimately detrimental to the ability of the church to grow and thrive.

Jim Harvey, Moderator

From the Moderator

This is to announce that Jennifer Teed ceased providing services as Religious Education Director as of May 4, 2006. The Board is interested to make sure that the children in the Second Story program obtain a quality Sunday experience and efforts are underway with those interested in religious education to assure this outcome. With regard to May 7, I am especially appreciative of independent rescue efforts by Alicia Biggers and Athena Kolbe to make sure that the children were supervised and provided a program. Thank you.

Jim Harvey, Moderator

Fundraising

I would like to have a garage sale the last Saturday of May, Memorial Day Weekend. There are a lot of nice things to be set up and people are needed to help sort out books to be given to St. Vincent DePaul to make room for new items.

Please call Margaret Beck if you can help. I will treat you to lunch or dinner to show my appreciation. Thanks for all your help in the past with garage sales, and other fundraisers. This year our efforts raised \$2415.00 for our church budget.

Margaret Beck 313-882-7775

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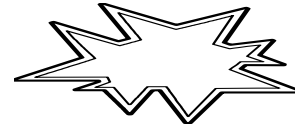
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Constitution and Bylaws

Committee


The Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee wants to thank everyone who listened and contributed to reviewing the draft revision of our constitution and bylaws.



Out and About

On Sunday, May 21st, The Funeral Consumer Information Society will host its Annual Meeting at 2:00 P.M. at the Emerson UU Church in Troy (248-524-9339). This year, Jack Lessenberry will speak about "The High Cost of Dying". Come and bring a friend.

ONE Voice Concert

 Todd Ballou and ONE Voice, Metro Detroit's LGBT chorus will be performing their annual Spring concert at 8:00 P.M., Saturday, May 20 at the Kulick Community Center, 1201 Livernois in Ferndale. Suggested donation is \$10.00. For more information contact Todd at 734-480-4480