

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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May 4, 2008

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First Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
Organizational Chart  
2007 – 2008

**Officers**

**President**

*Alicia Biggers*

**Vice President**

*Glenn Maxwell*

**Immediate Past**

**President**

*Linda Darga*

**Board Secretary**

**Treasurer**

*Dan Wiest*

**Staff**

**Minister**

*Rev. Drew Johnston*

**Minister Emeritus**

*Rev. Larry Hutchison*

**Minister of Faith and  
Development**

*Rev. Athena Kolbe*

**Community Minister**

*Rev. Lynda Smith*

**Music Director**

*Todd Ballou*

**Choir Director**

*Gwen Foss*

**Church Secretary**

*Wendi Winston*

**Building & Grounds**

*Joe Brimmer*

*Leonard Swint*

(Sunday)

**Trustees**

*Lencha Acker*

*Sally Borden*

*Trey Greene*

*David Lingholm*

**Newsletter Editor**

*Wendi Winston*

## DREW'S VIEWS

Tap, tap . . . “Is anyone out there” “Is this microphone on?”

You have probably seen and heard this bit many, many times, usually offered by tired comics after failed jokes. Maybe it's funny the first time or two. But you know it's not an honest question. The real question has little to do with who is listening and much to do with the one tapping the microphone. The real question might be, “How do I get a response?” With the tired comic, it might be a new joke that will turn the tide. Or it might be a change of venue, or a new audience, or perhaps there is nothing that will get the desired response.

Of course, I'm not writing to consider comics today, I'm thinking about church. (I think about church a lot!) What, I wonder, is most likely to elicit responses that move us all towards our desired future together? Many people spoke to this question during the recent canvass parties, and I will soon see the notes from those parties and get some ideas about what you may be thinking these days. The actual question was, “What do you see in the next three to five years for this church?” There will, no doubt, be a couple of intriguing responses that are not related to our current mission, and those will be good to save for our next mission revision. And I expect there will be quite a few that speak to a healthy, vibrant, warm and welcoming congregation. There may be many ways to state that idea, but I do expect that most people would like to see us as healthy, vibrant, warm and welcoming!

I also know that there is some reluctance to act on such a fine vision of our future. Does it seem impossible to you? Does it seem too big? Are you waiting for someone else to make it happen? Here is my perspective, and one I will repeat often - all of our finest visions of the future of this congregation are entirely possible, and none of them will happen without a lot of participation in the life of the church. It takes a congregation to nurture a congregation, and that means everybody.

You know there are some individuals here who do the work of many, they are folks doing more than one person's share; and I am everyday grateful for their dedication. I see it as a real act of faith to pitch in and do what needs to be done, or to try to do what needs to be done, and to keep at it even when energy ebbs and flows.

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And I'd like to see more faithful folks step up and pitch in. In my last newsletter column I offered many suggestions, and sometimes I am tempted to tap the microphone to see if anyone is listening. But I know that it is my failure to get a message across more than anything, and I intend to keep looking for ways to let you know that there are places for your healthy, vibrant, warm and welcoming energy to contribute to the future congregation towards which we are evolving.

In the very near future, watch for some opportunities to talk about leadership, about plans, and about participation. Watch for some surprise announcements, too, any day now! And watch for each other, coming together to create the congregation that will write the next chapter of our history here at the corner of Forest and Cass. I have faith that you are out there, see you in church!

Reverend Drew

### **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> UU Detroit 2007 – 2008 Summary – Oh, look at the things we have done and the places we have been.....**

#### **How we have listened**

- Appreciative Inquiry
- 1st UU M.O.S.E.S. Core Team – Listening Campaign
- Planning Team – Survey
- Canvass Small Dinners
- One to One conversations

#### **What has happened as a result?**

- Revised the Social Justice Committee by merging it with our 1<sup>st</sup> UU MOSES Core Team
  - Social Justice Actions forthcoming
- Created Planning Team work to explain "why we matter at this corner"
  - Creating our story
  - Funding our story
- Completed Mission Statement
- Completed Sacred Places – building maintenance; new dollars for scared places – Capital Campaign 2010
- Revived the Finance Committee

- Created the new Religious Education Program for Youth – Bridges
- Updated Membership and Directory (coming soon)
  - Offered new member and member orientation classes
- Created 1Q08 Advertising Campaign
- Enhanced Worship Committee
- Added Vespers Services and "Church Night"
- Launched Building a Better World Program – 1<sup>st</sup> UU the "beta" for this UUA program
- Continued Ethnic Dinners
- Continued Noel Night
- Hosted numerous community groups, weddings, memorial services
- Continued Movie Nights
- Created Singing Circles
- Hosted Students for Democratic Society (June 2008) / Allied Media Conference (June 2008)
- Continued Women's Alliance Rummage Sale
- Continued Dally in the Alley
- Continued Kwanza Concert (best year yet)
- Enhanced the 2008 Canvass by having it led by our Trust "trustees" who know the importance of a financial plan!
- Focused the Board on policy and creating policies for the Church
  - Look for new / updated policy announcements soon
- Placed 3 Ministers in our Church
- Created a new p/t position to manage the building and its safety and security for use by members and guests – funded by our rental income
- Installed a new heating and cooling system in the Church House which supports our principles
- Painted and cleaned McColleston Hall for use by our members and the community
- Upholstery the couch in Memorial Hall
- Reinstated the Memorial Funds Committee to the By-Laws
- Supported UUA and Heartland affiliations with partial "fair share" payments

- Hosted "Just Friends" group for annual New Year Day dinner for local citizens
- Offered Literacy Training to support programs to increase the literacy rate in our community
- Supported Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) by membership and donation drive
- Said good-by to members
- Said hello to new and returning members

We have together, moved our Church and its community forward with the help, assistance and actions of every member. So when you believe it cannot be done, or you think no one listens or no change can be seen, just step up and join us as we create our story and sustain our future together. The list above would not be accomplished had not every member (and some members more than once) step up, showed up, and acted on their passion for the Church.

I am personally challenging you to join us next year and if you have been sitting on the sidelines, waiting, watching, expecting someone else to do it, I challenge you to be the change you want to see. Join us as we let our community, our city and ourselves know, we matter at this corner and we are here to stay.

I expect to see every member who is able to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in McCollester Hall.

Alicia Biggers

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, May 18, 2008** no later than **NOON** or the following **Monday, no later than 9:00 a.m.** for electronically submitted material. Contact Wendi Winston (info@1stuu.org) for information.

### **Please "hold" Sunday, May 18, 2008 at 1pm for our Annual Congregational Meeting!**

Let's continue to "liberate the truth, radiate kindness and love courageously", together.

Alicia Biggers

**CD RECORDINGS OF THE SUNDAY SERVICE** Every Sunday Service is recorded on CD by the sound crew. Copies are made after service in coffee hour at the sound table. Please fill out the order request form as soon as possible so we can graciously make your copy for only \$5. Copies of past sermons are also available.

The sound crew schedule is as follows:

First Sunday:	Linda Darga
Second Sunday:	Len Zettel
Third Sunday:	Glenn Maxwell
Fourth Sunday:	Dan Secrest
Fifth Sunday:	Dave Lingholm

Contact them on their respective Sunday for questions. If you are interested in being on the sound crew, contact Glenn Maxwell or Dan Secrest.

### **WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

Please consider joining us for one or all of our luncheons and/or programs to complete the Church year. The meal is at NOON for \$6. The program begins about 1 PM. Reservations can be made with Eiko Takemoto or through the Church office. They should be made by noon of the Monday preceding the meeting day.

Programs to come:

May 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) Topic: Trip to Africa; Speaker Dave Robinson

June 11 (Note change to 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) Musical Performance by Shades of Gold

Alma King

### **EARN OR BURN?**

Our MOSES Core Team/Social Justice Team is taking action against the Incinerator. A public meeting will be held here on Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 P.M. We need you to come to the meeting and bring your friends. More information about the issue is available in McCollester Hall.

### **PORCH PATROL**

Saturday, May 17, from noon to 2:00 P.M., we are going to canvas the neighborhood, talking to our neighbors about their concerns and inviting them to a community meeting where their issues will be

addressed. You can sign up to participate in this event with any member of the MOSES Core Team: Sally Border, Linda Darga, Lee Gaddies, Nora Holt, Mary Lou Malone, Gene Perrin, Lynda Smith, and Janet Thompson.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

June 25-29<sup>th</sup> Fort Lauderdale, FL. GA Information and Tentative Agenda for Congregations, Delegates, and Attendees is available. Please let the office know if you need copies.

### **BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT**

#### Reminders

1. May sessions continue on Sunday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 21. Please note that the Sunday, May 18 session time will be from 9:00-10:50 AM in Memorial Hall. This is because the Annual Congregational meeting will be at 1:00 PM. If the Sunday session time doesn't work for you, please plan to attend the Wednesday, May 21 session as part of Church Night.

2. Saturday, May 17 will be the MOSES Core Team "Porch Patrol" event. BWWDA members are urged to join in and walk through the church neighborhood to talk with residents to learn of their concerns about neighborhood issues. Information gathered will be used to plan future actions. BWWDA members are asked to join because this activity is similar to one we may do in the fall. For more information about May 17, contact Mary Lou Malone or Lee Gaddies.

--Alma King