

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
January 29, 2010

Office phone: 313-833-9107
Website: www.1stuu.org
Email: office@1stuu.org

First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2009 – 2010

Officers

President

Marilyn Mitchell

Vice President

Bill McKnight

Immediate Past President

Alicia Biggers

Board Secretary

Alma King

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jenn Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Dessa Cosma

Dan Rebb

Newsletter Editor

Ryan King

**Worship Services
held every
Sunday at
11:00am.**

A NEW PLAN!

The final draft of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit Plan, and its supplementary documents, has now been published on the church website at <http://1stuu.org>.

Final Draft of Church Plan:

http://1stuu.org/Governance/FINAL_PLAN_011010.pdf

Plan Supplementary Documents:

http://1stuu.org/Governance/Final_Plan_Supplements.pdf

You can go straight to the documents using the above addresses, or click on the links from the Governance page from the church website:

<http://1stuu.org/Governance/Governance.php>

Or, you can go from our church's home page:

<http://1stuu.org/index.html>.

If you have any problems reading these documents, please let Dan Secret know via an email to webmaster@1stuu.org.

If you have any questions regarding the content of these documents, please contact one of our Board trustees or our minister. You can use one of these email addresses or contact them through the church office at the phone number above.

pastpresident@1stuu.org (Alicia Biggers)

president@1stuu.org (Marilyn Mitchell)

president@1stuu.org (Rev. Drew Johnston)

NEXT STEP: WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 7

Now that you voted for it, this would be a good time to learn how to use the new church plan! On **Sunday, February 7**, after church, Rev. Drew Johnston will lead a workshop explaining how this plan comes alive. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend, and those who RSVP will receive written materials ahead of time!

President's Ponderings

Liberal religion is the heart of our movement, but the heart needs blood to keep pounding. The “blood” of our church is the income the church receives, primarily from our members who pledge and pay. Jan Thompson has graciously accepted our call to become Chair of the Canvass in 2010. Glenn Maxwell, last year's chair, has volunteered to assist Jan. She will also need canvassers, so please say “yes” to Jan when she calls on you to be a canvasser.

If you believe in and love First Unitarian-Universalist Church also known as “the church on the corner”, you will make that 2010 pledge. The pledge is to maintain the church and keep Unitarian-Universalism in Detroit. Some people stop pledging because they do not like the minister of the moment, or the president of the moment or the person in the third pew on the right. The minister, president and person in the third pew are transients. They will all be replaced at some point, sooner or later. But if the Church dies for lack of financial support, that is a loss forever. Therefore, I urge you to pledge what you reasonably can in an amount that makes you feel good about your commitment to liberal religion and First Church. Membership requires a financial contribution because it's the right thing to do and also because the Church is required to make its own financial contributions to the UUA and to the District for every member.

These are exciting times as the search for a settled minister continues. People are stepping up to help out. The Board of Trustees is two members short, and a third member has been too ill to attend. Sally Borden and Elayne Sikelianos have accepted the request of the Board that they fill the two vacant positions until the election in May. Since Elayne does not have transportation, Mary Lou Malone has volunteered to bring Elayne to Board meetings. If another East-sider who attends vespers would consent to hang around through the Board meeting to drive Elayne home one Wednesday a month, that would be greatly appreciated. If you can do it, please contact Elayne or me.

Finally, we had a stimulating, thought-provoking workshop on Saturday, January 23rd when about 25% of our membership attended Beyond Categorical Thinking. Great turn-out. If you couldn't attend, please ask someone who did. All the Board members attended, and you know who we are. Coming up on February 7th, after coffee hour, Rev. Drew will guide us through policy governance and implementation of the Church Plan. Both of these are critical factors in our anticipated call of a settled minister. Don't miss it.

Peace, joy and love. First Church is a wonderful place. Invite a friend to join you here.

Marilyn Mitchell

Search Committee Update

Your search committee is within an eyelash of having our packet ready to distribute to ministerial candidates, of which 6 have indicated interest in our position. When our packet is distributed, we will begin receiving those from the candidates. Then we will conduct phone interviews with some or all of them. After that we will winnow the prospects down to 2 or 3 who will be invited to meet with us in person here over weekends in March. At that time we will have opportunities to meet with them, interview them and listen to each candidate preach in a neutral pulpit.

At the end of that process we will either recommend a candidate to the board and congregation or decide that none is a good match for us at this time. Interim steps include careful checking of references and contact with members of candidates' current congregations, if any.

The committee would also like to thank the 30 or more members and friends who got up early on Saturday, January 23 and nearly filled Memorial Hall to participate in the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop led by Rev. Keith Kron from the UUA. This was an important step in the search process and your committee gained important insights into the choice of the best match for our congregation at this time. If you weren’t able to attend, we suggest you talk to one of us or another congregational member to get an idea of what happened there. Also look for additional newsletter articles about the process.

Al Acker, for the search committee: Alicia Biggers-Gaddies, chair, Carole Hosey, Mary Lou Malone, Ian McGill, Sharon Mills and Ruth Seifert.

Alliance Luncheon Wednesday, February 17

Start to Think Spring! Plan to attend the Alliance luncheon and program of Feb. 17. The speaker will be Kami Pothukuchi, Associate Professor of Urban Planning at WSU and Director of Wayne SEED. Learn about her work and student gardening projects (that's the spring part). Lunch is at Noon and the program begins at 1:00 pm. Make reservations with Eiko Takemoto or the Church Office by Feb. 15. Cost for a great meal is \$10.

Alma King

Continuing the Alliance Tradition

I attended the January 20 Alliance meeting and luncheon in Memorial Hall. Elayne Sikelianos, our caterer and a member of our church, prepared a delicious lunch for \$10. We had a business meeting and discussed the future of the Alliance. Unfortunately there were only about 15 people and we need more to keep continuing as we are. Men have always been welcome and enjoy the lunch and program.

I started attending Alliance after retirement. Sometimes, I’ve seen over 40 people at the luncheon. I remember many of the interesting programs that Alliance has put on. Toni Tront gave a wonderful presentation on quilts, at Christmas time we had some wonderful chimes and singing, Nora Holt gave an informative talk on her visit to South Africa, and there were many, many more.

Alliance also does the coffee hours for December and the social hour for Christmas Eve service. When there is a memorial service for someone, the Alliance does the refreshments and helps when there is a caterer. Sometimes we are reimbursed, but not always. We also contribute gifts to the church staff and pay national dues. In the past we have bought things for the kitchen.

Over the years I've enjoyed getting to know many wonderful people through the Alliance. Please come and join us at our next meeting on the third Wednesday of the month of February. Mary Lou Malone has an interesting program planned.

Please remember to make a reservation for the Alliance luncheon by calling Eiko Takemoto or the church office. Some friends come by just for lunch and go back to work. It would be nice to have more people stop for lunch at 12 noon. Alliance is a really important part of First UU Church and I hope that we can continue this important tradition.

Margaret Beck

Thank you, Worship Committee!

Thank You to the Worship Committee for putting together two excellent and inspiring worship services on the December 27 and January 3. Lencha Acker and Julie Brock presented on December 27. Julie Brock also presented on January 3 and was joined by Robert Johnson. We are fortunate to have their talent and enthusiasm! Their services were an outstanding example of the way that our congregation works together to lift our spirits in worship. You can listen to their presentations at <http://1stuu.org/Worship/sermonAudio.php>.

Ruth Seifert



OUR MUSICAL ADVENTURES CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7-9pm

Todd Ballou, 1st UU Music Director

Church Night is the place to be! MUSICAL ADVENTURES is a series of discussions, lessons, and demonstrations facilitated by Todd Ballou for musicians in our community to build musical skills, network, become involved, and share musical ideas for the benefit of our Sunday morning experience at 1st UU church. Topics will be driven by participants so bring your favorite musical inspiration on CD, or even perform it for us; bring a musical question you'd like discussed, or bring your most musical friend. Topics will include reading music, learning about rhythms, exploring our hymnal, finding your singing voice, sharing your musical inspirations, planning musical experiments, discovering the organ, choir repertoire, providing feedback, and instrumental music.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming topics:

Feb 3- Instrumental service music- Piano, Organ & Beyond ...yond...yond..yond

Mar 3- 2nd chance: Reading music 101: pitches & rhythms

Apr 7- Reading music 201- The "Key" to listening

May 5- The Musical Psychic- the magic & mystery of selecting music for next Sunday

June 2- If we don't have anything better to talk about, we'll have an Organ Tour!

Todd Ballou

Canvassing the Essential Green

The 2010 canvass effort needs your help. If you think you would like to volunteer, please RSVP with Jen of the front office at (313) 883-9107 for the training session on Wednesday, February 17th from 7-8:00 PM. The meeting will take place following dinner and vespers.

Jan Thompson- future canvass chairperson

MLK Day of Service A Success!

Hi Everyone! I just wanted to say thanks to everyone who came out today to do a little MLK Day Service with City Year and other 1st UUsers. We had a great time painting Osborn High School - a boys bathroom and the central office, in fact. And, we even did part of it in the dark when the electricity went out! (I think we get extra points for that.)

A special shout out to Sherry, Sharlene, Robert, Ryan, Teriese, and CaSandra!

It was definitely better as a "day on, rather than a day off."

Thanks again!

Dessa Cosma



Upcoming Moses Banquet

The annual MOSES banquet will be on Saturday, March, 6, 2010 at 6 pm at Burton Manor in Livonia, MI. It's a chance to get to know other churches and groups that support the work of Moses and to provide much needed financial support too. Tickets remain at \$35.00 and you can buy them from Sally Borden and others at the church. You can place an ad in their commemorative booklet or be a patron (\$10 for your name to be listed).

Last year, First UU won their community service award for all our efforts to work for change in the community. So let's support MOSES and ourselves!

Sally Borden

"Beyond the Motor City" on PBS, Monday, February 8

Church Member Lee Gaddies has been very involved in a documentary "Beyond the Motor City" which will air on PBS Monday, Feb. 8, 2010 @ 10:00 P.M. Watch for it!

Lee Gaddies

Michigan Good Food Summit on Thursday, February 25

The MI Good Food Summit will be held on Feb. 25, 2010. Visit [http://www.michigan food.org](http://www.michiganfood.org) for more info.

Donna Walker

Call for UU Legislative Advocates

UUs are stepping up to organize teams of MUUSJN legislative advocates in their congregations. These teams are forming in congregations in Traverse City, Birmingham, Lansing, Southfield, Detroit, Ludington, Petoskey and Kalamazoo and in a UAW child care providers union. Legislative advocates and team leaders are needed in all Michigan communities to call State legislators to urge them to answer MUUSJN's survey of state budget crisis options before February 5th. Go to the MUUSJN website (www.uujustice.org) for links to talking points and your State Representative and Senators. If you're interested in becoming a UU legislative advocate in your congregation, call Randy Block at 248-549-5170.

Randy Block

Kick off LGBT Rights Petition Drive on Valentine's Day!

MUUSJN invites your congregation to start collecting signatures on LGBT Rights legislative petitions on Valentine's Day.

The petitions, which call for equal treatment for people from GBLT communities, should be collected throughout the month of February and then mailed to MUUSJN at 4220 Arlington Dr., Royal Oak, MI

48073. Persons who sign the petitions will be connected to the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love campaign work nationally and (through MUUSJN) here in Michigan. We'd like to hear what your congregation is doing as part of the SSL campaign.

The petitions can be found by clicking the link at the left of this webpage:

<http://www.uujustice.org/Issues-CivilHumanRights.html>

Randy Block

UU Youth Organize Sock Hop Saturday, February 6 as Benefit for the Homeless

Youth from BUC, UU Church of Farmington and Northwest UU Church organized a Sock Hop and Potluck for all ages. It will be held on February 6th at Birmingham Unitarian Church to have some family fun and to collect socks and financial contributions for the homes in Metro Detroit. Admission: 2 pairs of socks in advance/3 at the door; \$3 in advance/\$5 at the door. Register at UUCF, NWUU and BUC or via e-mail: uucftapestry@gmail.com. For more information, call Nancy Otto, 248-227-4159

Nancy Otto

Passing of Two First UU Members

Dorothy Kirby passed away January 20, 2010. She was an active member of 1st church and the Women's Alliance at one time. She was also an extremely interesting speaker for the Women's Alliance. I remember at one of our goods and services auctions, she fixed dinner and treated us to a local play in Downriver Detroit.

Margaret Beck

Margaret Shopbell passed away Saturday, Dec. 26 at 10 pm. She died peacefully after telling the nurses at her nursing home that her father was coming to see her and take her home. Margaret was very active at 1st UU church and had many friends here.

Jen Hurtt, Office Manager

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for all newsletter submissions, both printed and electronically submitted material, is Wednesday, February 24, 2010. Please send articles to the Newsletter Editor at newslettereditor@1stuu.org. Your feedback is welcomed and appreciated in the spirit of liberating truth, radiating kindness and loving courageously.

Note:

Your photos are welcomed for submission and possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Ryan King