

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
October 16, 2011

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First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2010 – 2011

Officers

President

Sally Borden

Vice President

Robert Johnson

Immediate Past

President

Marilyn Mitchell

Board Secretary

Kathe Stevens

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Rev. Roger Mohr

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jenn Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Newsletter Editor

Robert Johnson

Worship Services

held every Sunday at
11:00am.

Presidents Corner

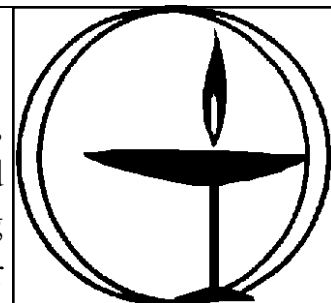
I hope you're excited about our new church year, enjoying our new Minister, Rev. Roger Mohr and thinking about the changes that we are undergoing and how you might contribute to the success of our transition from a congregation with a lot of building to a congregation with a focus on our members, our surrounding community and the organizations with which we interact that share many of our values.

One of the changes that I want to bring to your attention is that the role of the vice president of this congregation, who is currently Robert Johnson, has been extended to include some additional duties. Some of these duties that Robert, I and the Board of Trustees have agreed upon are that he will review the agenda before each board meeting (as does the rest of the Board), act as a liaison between the church and EMEAC regarding building issues, head up special task forces as needed, become a conduit between the congregation and the board in designated areas, such as Communications, and head up a security group on behavioral issues arise.

Please feel free to discuss these changes with myself or Robert and continue to give us your ideas about your vision for the church and the specific ways to achieve this vision.

Your Board of Trustees, along with some other leaders in the church, had a retreat on Saturday, October 1, 2011, led by our minister, which helped us clarify our past, identify our current strengths and weaknesses, and make some concrete plans for this year and beyond. One of our main foci will be on improving our communications, both in how we carry out communications and how we make sure all members and other interested parties receive timely information about activities and events at the church.

As many of you know, East Michigan Environmental Action Council, has begun managing the overall buildings and is paying most of the bills for the



upkeep and maintenance of the building as of September 1, 2011. We expect to have a budget to present to the congregation in the near future for your review and approval, which will reflect the lessening of the significant financial burden that has held us back in many ways.

Please let me and the Board know about your concerns, but also about your successes and hopes for our future.

It is an exciting time to be a member of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit.

Sally Borden Board President

October Sermon Schedule

October 23: "Race, Class, Gender, and...Plato?" Many of the structural biases we struggle with in our society reach back well before the advent of Christianity, into our foundational philosophies. Real change requires deep awareness, contemplation, and transformation.

October 30: Dia De Los Muertos presented by Lencha Acker and Elayne Sikelianos

Events and Announcements

Carolyn McDade

Beloved UU songwriter and singer, Carolyn McDade, is coming to the Detroit area to launch the release of a new CD, Widening Embrace. The free concert with Carolyn and local singers will be on November 18 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church (38651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, Mi.) at 7:30. The concert is co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary committee of BUC and by the Gaia Women of the Great Lakes Basin who sing on the CD. Please see the attached flyer about this concert. We hope you will take the opportunity to meet Carolyn and hear this beautiful music calling us all to widen our embrace to include species, habitats, galaxies and new ideas. Proceeds from the sale of the CD at this concert will go to individuals, projects or organizations whose work is consistent with the Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org).

Jay Michaelson God Vs Gay?

Join us on in McCollester Hall on November 6 at 12:30pm as religious scholar and LGBT interfaith activist, Jay Michaelson, presents his book: God vs. Gay?, visits 1st UU Church for a reading/signing! In God vs. Gay?, Michaelson makes the case that religious people should favor gay rights because of religion, not despite it. Weaving in his personal coming out story, he speaks to those who struggle to reconcile their faith and sexuality. Michaelson re-examines

Scriptures from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, and argues that homosexuality is not only natural, but that, “put in stark religious terms, sexual diversity is part of God’s plan.”

Jay Michaelson is the author of three books and numerous articles about the intersections of religion, sexuality, and law. A leading activist on behalf of LGBT people in faith communities, Michaelson and his work have been featured in the New York Times and on NPR and CNN. He is the founder of Nehirim, the leading national provider of community programming for LGBT Jews and their allies, and lives in upstate New York.

The Alliance

Dear 1st UU congregation participants, the “old’ Women’s Alliance is dead, long live the New Alliance! Ever wonder what we do at our monthly meetings? Well we CARE about all things 1st UU and ... we WANT and we NEED and we WILL CALL on ALL congregation members for involvement in our functions and help when needed. Men? Yes men. People who have not ever been to an Alliance meeting? Yes! Them too. Soooo look for information on future events and plan for your participation. Possibilities include pool party, fundraisers such as Noel Night, plays, excursions, field trips, adventures. SEE YOU THERE, we will let you know when, where, how, etc. Sincerely, The New Alliance

Charity

Continuing with the UU-UNO theme, “Empowering Women for a Better World”, here are two ways that 1st UU is helping out:

Alternatives for Girls Collection:

They have asked for: Gift cards (Target, Meijer, Bath & Body Works, Movies); New socks and underwear; Bottled water; Hats, gloves and scarves; Winter Coats; Personal hygiene supplies; Plastic cups, bowls and plates; Scrapbook supplies (e.g., Cricket Expressions). Cash donations are also accept by Jenn in the office. Please bring your donations to McCollester Hall before November 6th.

Tutoring at Siena Literacy Center:

See Sharon Mills to sign-up to volunteer to be a tutor at Siena Literacy Center. Education opens doors to opportunity.

Harvest Potluck, November 13th, 2011

Let’s gather together once more in fellowship and give thanks for all of the dedication and hard work that has enabled us to remain together in our church home as we prepare for a coming year full of challenges and promise! On Sunday, November 13th, First UU will have a Harvest Potluck in McCollester Hall after services. Please bring a dish to share! (Entrée, salad,

dessert etc.) We ask that all members:

1. Bring their contribution in its own container, prepared and ready to serve. (Food should be able to be served at room temperature unless it is in a crock pot, which can be plugged in.)

2. Place their contribution directly on the food tables before services and be responsible for retrieving their own dishes and/or serve ware after the Potluck. (Note: serving spoons will be provided if needed).

Any questions may be directed to Sharon Mills or Sandra Thottakath.

Occupy Detroit

1st UU's board has come out in support of the Occupy Detroit movement. We are offering whatever assistance we can during their stay in Grand Circus Park. EMEAC has signed on as well as being in support of the movement so be prepared to see rabble rousers and other protestor types around the church from time to time for the next couple of months. If you are interested in helping out with the movement contact Robert Johnson at (313)799-2667 or hurin2@gmail.com.





First Unitarian-Universalist Church is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit.