After a competitive search process, the Campus Planning Team has selected aba architects to guide us through our first phase of planning: to determine the options available to us in either expanding our existing facilities or building new ones, including the sanctuary, meeting hall, offices, and class rooms.

There are a number of considerations that will influence these options: our property’s physical characteristics, the degree to which our buildings are in compliance with existing codes, what current zoning and codes would allow for new construction, our aspirations for growth and building design, and finally, the cost of construction.

Staff at aba architects are doing site visits, reviewing our past architectural plans, and meeting with City of Tucson staff to better understand the zoning and codes governing our property. They also want to hear from you. So, we have set aside a half–day congregational meeting from 1-5pm on Sunday, March 25th to brainstorm ideas and solicit input. Please join us for this important meeting! This first phase will culminate in a report at the end of April that will detail recommendations on the range of options available to us. The report will outline likely costs associated with these options. The congregation will then have an opportunity to choose a preferred course of action for future campus improvements.

Next fiscal year, we will conduct a feasibility study for a capital campaign to carry out these improvements. This study will help us determine whether the congregation is ready to take on the expense and effort of a capital campaign, in addition to annual pledges to support the church.

Based on the study’s findings, the congregation will vote whether to proceed with a capital campaign, and our selected architectural firm will begin drawing up plans for the improvements we want. This latter phase would not begin before the fall of 2008.
From the Minister’s Study

What They Dreamed Be Ours To Do: words from a hymn that raises goose-bumps on my whole body when it is sung. These words call us as Unitarian Universalists to carry forward the dream of our religious ancestors. It is also the theme for the service of installation on March 18. A service of installation recognizes the mutual choice between a minister and a congregation to serve together. This way of determining ministerial succession is part of the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism. The service of installation will formalize the covenant that exists between us as we engage in transformative ministry together. It is a day of honor for me, for it truly is an honor to be called as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. More importantly, it is a day of honor for the congregation, too, a day that uplifts the purpose for which this church exists, and has existed for nearly 60 years. It is a day of hope as we look to the possibilities this relationship may bring. It is a day of courage, for no one call foretell what the future may bring. The courage comes in facing the future as it unfolds in each moment, faithful to the covenant we make together. With eager anticipation for this important day in the life of the congregation,

Diane

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A report to the congregation by the Finance Committee

The following issues were addressed at the Finance Committee at its meeting of February 20th. Income and expenses for the 2006-07 fiscal year are in balance for this time of year. The target percentage of the full year budget for February is 58.3% assuming an equal spread of income and expense throughout the calendar year, Income is now at 59.5% and expenses are at 59.4%. These percentages include how the church is implementing the congregation-approved deficit of $100,000.00 for this year. The planned deficit over the next three years is part of the church’s strategic plan and is to be paid back by increased pledging and future membership growth of the congregation. The Finance Committee believes an effective membership growth auditing system that will help us monitor our progress toward this end is required. To accomplish this the Board of Trustees must act on this idea. (Complete and easily understood financial reports are available monthly to UUCT members from Carol Evans, Treasurer, upon request.)

With only 133 pledges tallied and 93 pledging units undetermined at the time of the meeting, the Finance Committee is concerned about the apparent lack of urgency in the Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship Chair Margo Newhouse reported that only $245,806.54 has been pledged toward the goal of $400,000.00 to meet UUCT’s 2007-08 fiscal year needs. It is important that all pledges be made immediately so the Finance Committee and the Empowerment Team can prepare a realistic budget for presentation to the congregation and approval at the annual meeting in May. The Finance Committee discussed ways in which this urgent matter can be brought to the attention of pledging members.

The church’s endowment funds appear to be safely invested according to the recent audit, but the Endowment Board’s meeting schedule and record keeping have not been consistent in recent months. Our concern, after repeated attempts to rectify the situation, is that the Endowment Board has not provided the Finance Committee with the information needed to provide for the checks and balances called for in both the UUCT bylaws and the recent audit report. I was directed by unanimous vote of the Finance Committee to formally bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Trustees for resolution.

In new business, the Finance Council reviewed the concept of a multi-year budget process, increasing the level of financial awareness within the congregation, and the financial needs of the Board of Trustee’s campus development planning. This first-in-a-series of reports from me to the congregation is a partial result of these discussions.

Michael Greenbaum
Music Notes
Agnes Paulsen

Jeni Foster to Present
“Mother Jones, The Miners’ Angel”
on Saturday, March 24, 7:30pm

Jeni Foster, a folk singer and lecturer from Grant’s Pass Oregon who specializes in songs related to history and literature will present a Women’s History program at UUCT on March 24 at 7:30 pm.

This hour-long program tells the story of a dynamic woman from our national history. Mother (Mary) Jones devoted herself to the cause of labor as a Union organizer. She was a fascinating personality whose life spanned probably the period of greatest change in world history, from 1830 to 1930, which encompassed the industrial revolution. She was a woman of great heart and courage who made a difference in the lives of American workers, particularly those of the coal miners of Pennsylvania, Colorado and West Virginia, who called her Mother and considered her a saint.

Interspersed throughout this lecture are union songs and songs of the miners, many of which have choruses for people to sing along with. The songs are set in the context of Mother Jones’ life to illustrate a time in our history when workers were virtual slaves to the owners of mines and factories and the government supported big business, showing little compassion or concern for working men and their families. It was a time when women had few rights and little power, yet this tiny, elderly woman could inspire and lead thousands of men to strike and was said by a West Virginia Attorney General to be “the most dangerous woman in America” because of the power she wielded through her dynamic rhetoric.

Tickets cost $10.00 for adults and $5.00 for students and will be available in Goddard Hall after Sunday services Mar. 4, 11 and 18 and at the door. To read more about Jeni Foster and to hear some of her music, go to her website at http://www.jenismusic.com.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 11 “Feminism & Religion: Modes Of Reconciliation”
Presented by Sheila Tobias, Author & Activist
Music by Anne Roberts, Desert Chorale, Brian Moon and Agnes Paulsen

Sunday, March 18 “Living Our Dreams”
Can dreams when lived help us to fulfill our soul’s deepest longings? Children (age 7 and over), youth and adults are invited to worship together as we explore how to “hold fast to dreams.”
Leaders: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca Froom, Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
Music: Family Singers, Agnes Paulsen, Terry Polowy.
Outreach, the strategic plan, and You!
by Natasha Warner, Chair of the RE Council

One of the points of our strategic plan is outreach. Outreach shares our vision and message with others. I think UUism and UUCT are onto something good, and I want people to have a chance to hear about it. I think there are a lot of people in Tucson who would be interested in what we have to offer at UUCT. For example, I think there are many parents who would love to have their kids learn about sexuality in a way that teaches respect for all people, as in our OWL classes. I think there are a lot of people out there who would get spiritual fulfillment from singing in a fun intergenerational choir: Family Singers. Our strategic plan commits us to doing outreach through the web and through free and paid advertising, particularly to families with kids and people of various sexual orientations and ethnic backgrounds.

In December, we had an outreach brainstorming meeting. In January, middle schoolers distributed fliers at the Martin Luther King Day March. In February, we distributed fliers about the OWL sexuality education classes. This is a start, but we haven’t been able to get very far on this. We very much need a few people to work on outreach, if not now, then starting next fall. We need someone who knows something about how to develop effective print ads. We need a few people who can call up newsletters and ask about their advertising policies. Can you help? Do you think that UUCT has a message and programs that you think the rest of Tucson would benefit from? If you, like me, think that our church and our denomination are onto something good that could make a difference, please consider getting involved with outreach! Contact Mary Wiese (macbrude@cox.net).

Including You:

a new twist on volunteering for RE
By Rebecca Froom, Director of Religious Education

We talk about our congregational life as being a shared ministry, a spiritual journey we embark on as a community of all ages and many interests. In few places is this more true than in the context of religious education, where children, youth and adults take turns learning and teaching.

Our Religious Education Program has historically used the team teaching model where a group of four volunteers collaborate to present curriculum based and experiential learning opportunities for our children, with two volunteers “working” and two volunteers “off” on any given Sunday. Team teachers have the privilege to form unique spiritual relationship, with the children or youth in their group, with one another, and with the content of their class, which mat cover UU history and heritage, UU principles, world religions, social action, life transitions and the sense of wonder we all share.

For our 2007-2008 curriculum year the RE Council will be keeping our traditional team teacher model, but with a new twist. For the coming year the Council is asking congregants to volunteer in the RE Program for a whole curriculum year - September thru May. While this may strike some as a large time commitment, this system has many benefits:

It is better for our children. Children and youth of all ages benefit from consistency, and will be more likely to feel part of a caring, loving community (something we can all agree we want for our children) when they can form a true relationship with adult mentors.
It is better for our teachers. Team teachers are able to form open, trusting and reliable relationships with one another, our children, and the curriculum they are engaging with. Also, there will be fewer trainings and meetings.

It is better for RE leadership. Instead of draining our energies constantly begging for new teachers all year long, the RE Council and staff can provide consistent high quality support to a core set of volunteers, while also focusing on creating comprehensive and transforming faith development program opportunities that extend beyond Sunday mornings and even our church campus, as both our congregation’s Mission/Covenant Statement and our Strategic Plan call us to do.

It is better for our religious community. A thriving Religious Education Program helps us grow our faith, which benefits UUCT and UUism at large.

Beginning in mid-March and running thru April the RE Council will be asking you to test your commitment to our children, our church and our faith, as we begin to recruit volunteers for 2007-2008. Past volunteers will give testimonials in service to the transformative power that working with our children and youth has had on their faith development, and a table will be available in Goddard Hall for you to learn more about our Religious Education Program and how you can be involved.

In the shared ministry of our church, we need a strong RE Program for our congregation to grow, and we need committed volunteers to make that happen. We need one another (and that includes you).

Adult Faith Development

Although the seven UU principles, which are part of the covenant UU congregations make with one another, are not a creed or a statement of our theology, many of us use these principles as a guide for living or as a statement of what is important to us.

On the surface their meaning seems both attractive and obvious, but on closer examination, they’re much more complex in their implications and more demanding to put into action than they first appear.

This year, for the first time, Adult Faith Development will be offering “Living Our Unitarian Universalist Principles,” a seven-week class in which participants will examine and discuss these principles and challenge themselves to find practical ways in which to integrate them into their daily lives.

The class will meet Monday evenings, from March 12 through April 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Awareness room. The cost is $21, and scholarships are always available (see Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings or Mike Greenbaum).

You may sign up in Goddard Hall, after the service on Sunday with cash, check, or credit card, and you may also register by email (mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net) or by calling the office during regular business hours: 748-1551.

And watch this space in the next newsletter for more information about a congregation-wide workshop on April 14, led by Reverend Diane Dowgier, on how to handle religious language which is not always comfortable to us as Unitarian Universalists, why we should even be concerned about doing so, and how this all links to social justice and outreach.
Get Involved in Church Life!

First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, April 6. It is held in the Awareness room from 6pm until 10pm and provided for a nominal fee. If you would like to reserve a space for your child, you must RSVP to Kathleen Hogue, 312-0441, by Thursday, April 5.

Sunday Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers for a Sunday morning service, request forms are available in the Holland foyer. Please follow the directions inside the request form and leave the completed form in the Office Manager’s inbox. If you have any questions, please call Mary Wiese-514-5483.

Kitchen Ministry

We are once again asking for your contributions to our Sunday lunches and coffee hour. Commitment of time, food, and/or money is appreciated. The Sunday lunches provide an opportunity for community after church. Please consider being apart of this vital ministry. Please call Judy Dare for more information -624-9272.

Rummage and Book Sale

The Rummage sale that was originally scheduled for March 23 and 24, has been rescheduled until the last weekend in April, the 27 and 28. This decision was made because Mary Wiese has doctor’s orders to be off her feet for the next 6 weeks. This will probably be our last Rummage/Book sale due to waning interest and available storage space. Please contact Mary Wiese if you can help in any way-514-5483 or macbrude@cox.net.

How do I Plan for an Event?

This is often a question that is presented to staff members. Well, we have the answer for you. If you or your group is planning for an event that is not a regular weekly activity, you need to fill out an event form. The forms are located on the bulletin board in the main office. There are also ‘How to’ brochures available on Jean’s desk. Recent events that required an events form were: The Birthday Bash, The Stewardship Lunch, and the Service Auction. (If you have any doubt as to whether or not your event qualifies, ask a staff member.) These forms are basically a check sheet and time line to help you plan your event. The forms include questions like: Do you need a custodian? Do you need childcare? Do you need office support? Etc. The staff, along with the Empowerment Team, designed these forms as a way to help facilitate events in a more efficient manner. Please use them, feel free to ask questions, and have fun!

Yours in Community Spirit,
Mary

Alliance News

At our February meeting we heard a wonderful talk by Laszlo Veres of the Tucson Pops Orchestra. He is a great speaker and has some marvelous stories to tell. And our pot-luck lunch was delicious.

We will have no meeting in March. Please keep bringing in the aluminum cans and recent magazines for re-cycling.

Marcia Schenck, Pres.
Unofficial Summary of the February 13\textsuperscript{th}, 2007, UUCT Board Meeting

\textbf{Note:} This summary is provided to inform the congregation of Board discussion and actions. These are not the official, complete, or approved minutes. \textit{MSP} = Motion made, seconded and passed.

\textbf{Empowerment Team (E-T) report was presented by Reverend Diane Dowgiert:}
- A task force (Carolyn Saunders, Brad Weeks and Lyman Grover) will conduct a review of church bylaws and policy governance policies to bring them into conformity and ensure they do not conflict with each other.
- \textit{Share the Plate} reports a donation of $250 in the name of UUCT to Borderlinks from the January collection, and $300 to Habitat for Humanity from February;
- A “Forward Through the Ages Demonstration Project” application has been completed for a pilot program sponsored by the UUA which provides consultation and other services related to fundraising and stewardship development by congregations.

\textbf{Discussed} financial planning for the coming year. Board recommends scheduling a meeting for conversation about financial planning for UUCT’s future.

\textbf{Status Report Committee on Ministry (CoM)} Gabrielle Burns submitted CoM Draft Policies to the Board for approval. Board discussed various aspects of implementation, roles and responsibilities of a CoM.

\textbf{Status Report Two Services Initiative} Board discussed recommendations submitted by the task force, which are: 1) offer two Sunday morning worship services on an interim basis, 2) Implement a second service for a trial period of approximately November 2007 through March 2008, and 3) conduct an assessment and evaluation of outcomes at the conclusion of the trial period.

\textbf{Status Report Leadership Development} Nominating Committee will be working on revising roles and responsibilities toward a year-round effort to develop and strengthen leadership skills and to match individual’s interests and skills with positions and jobs available in the organization.

\textbf{Status Report Campus Plan} A contract has been signed with an architectural firm to undertake a study of the current status of church facilities and present recommendations, which are a necessary first step toward developing a comprehensive campus design and building plan.

\textbf{Status Report Minister Installation Service} Invitations have been mailed for the March 18\textsuperscript{th} Installation of Reverend Diane Dowgiert, as settled minister at UUCT. Most of the budget for this event has been allocated, and most of the plans are in place.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy McDaniel
Board of Trustees
A Different View

A radio show entitled “A Different View”, hosted by Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder, the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise, AZ, has begun. The show is carried on 1480 KPHX in Phoenix, AZ and can be heard worldwide via web stream.

The station has a website (www.aaphx.com) where you can click on a page for “A Different View”. They are interested in having you listen to them and to also recommend ideas about guests.

Annual Reports Due

Everyone wishing to include something in this year’s annual report presented at the annual meeting on May 6 is hereby notified that the deadline for inclusion in that report is SUNDAY, APRIL 1. No extensions or exceptions will be allowed. Please turn in your entry via email (uu1@qwestoffice.net) or by hard copy to the office. Annual reports will be available two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 6.