

JANUARY 2012

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

DUWAYNE KEENAN, PRESIDENT

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER

Things to Know About Your UUCO Board's Work...

A LETTER has been sent to Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, raising issues of concern about regionalization and the dues structure, policies affecting small church life and local ministry, and asking for more direct dialogue with us and small churches in general.

A WORKING BUDGET was adopted at the December meeting giving priority to renovation (included on Pg 3 of this newsletter.)

A WORSHIP EXPERIMENT was approved after considering issues of growth, spiritual diversity, and budget. Six different models were reviewed and members of the Board all preferred different models! So the experiment was approved for 18 months--each model will be used for approximately three months and feedback gathered at each change-point. After the 18 month period, we will reassess our direction. (More info is on Pg 2)

THE SECRETARY'S POSITION remains open. Nominations are being accepted. Thank you, Christophre, for your service!

THE TREASURER'S POSITION has been filled by Elaine Winstead. Thank you, Candy, for your service.

OUR COMMITTEE STRUCTURE has changed. Linda Craig is presently our programming manager with a more limited portfolio of activities. Thank you, Lindsey, for your service. (Other changes in Activity Proposals on Pg 2.)



100%
8TH ANNUAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
COMMEMORATIVE COFFEEHOUSE
Saturday, 14 January 2012

100% of the Coffeehouse will occur on 14 January 2012

100% of the Coffeehouse will be at UUCO, 1221 Cedar St./Corner of Cedar and Parrish

100% of the doors will open to the public at 7:00 p.m

100% guarantee that great entertainment will begin pretty darn close to 7:20 p.m.

100% of our refreshments are for sale with proceeds to benefit the H. L. Neblett Community Center

ENTERTAINMENT!!

Musical interludes will be provided by maybe or nearly **100%** of Sweet Loretta! They were a big hit last year and will be an even bigger hit this year with, if the coercion proves effective, original material!

We are **100%** waiting for more musical volunteers to step forward. Come and share your talents with the best audience ever! Volunteer by email to Woodfingers@aol.com

Comedic offerings will be attempted by **100%** of The Charlot Martin Players! If you would like to join this venture, please email Woodfingers@aol.com to volunteer.

Come and share your talents with the best audience ever!

Dramatic readings will be **100%** provided by anyone who wishes to volunteer. Kathy LeMaster was volunteered to do a reading... and you can be too! Fire out an email to Woodfingers@aol.com

Poetry is always **100%** welcome so if you have a favorite poem or if you are a poet (ahem, Nikki) please come and share with the best audience ever. Guess how to volunteer...that's right! Email Charlot to Woodfingers@aol.com

REFRESHMENTS!

We will have refreshments which will be **100%** of what they are. For instance, a cookie will be **100%** of cookie, a cup of coffee will be **100%** of coffee unless you add something...

To volunteer any tasty treats to this stellar endeavor, contact Linda Craig at 570-0323, LilyAngelRose@aol.com

Please come join us as we remind ourselves of how diversity can be woven into a stronger basket than one made entirely of straw. After all, we are 100% in this together.



CAREGIVER'S LUNCH
Tuesday, 3 January @ 12 n
Chalice Center

Please RSVP to Claudia by Monday, 12 n.
hermitstuff@bellsouth.net



**SPIRITUAL MENTORING MODULE:
JUDAISM**

Mondays, January 16, 23, 30
6:30-8:30 pm/ Chalice Center

Register at Sign-Up Central in the Sanctuary

Don't Miss Any of the Good Stuff

RISKING GROWTH

Every month, the Board dedicates a period of time to Holy Conversations. This time is given to examining our practices, self-image, dreams, hopes, relationships, and direction. We consider the trends of the Association and studies of congregational life as well. We are reminded we are very different from a non-profit business. Being an interfaith congregation adds weight to the necessity of these conversations as our spiritualities are all different.

Recently, we have been considering ways to make our Sunday practices more reverent and more growth-friendly.

An easy change is to minimize the business we do... Consequently, any Board reports will be announced in advance and offered before service time for interested parties. Announcements will again return to only those given to the President in writing. (Just slip DuWayne a note before service if you need him to highlight something.) And Sign-Up Central on the bulletin board will replace passing the clipboard while worship is going on. This practice has become ineffective as it never gets to everyone. It is always distracting! All of these changes require more responsibility and forethought on our part, but we believe that we can rise to the occasion with a little extra attention.

A harder change is dealing with the different spiritual needs of our members... The range from Humanist to Hindu-Pagan is pretty wide! Our

preferences for quiet or action or lecture or story are equally broad. As the Board looked at six different potential Orders of Services, each **member** had a clear preference-- but the **group** didn't have any such clear preference!

We also had to consider that some of our present practices are more geared for a family church than the pastoral church we aspire to be. The things we cherish--like individual candle-lighting and sermon discussion--are not conducive to building a larger community on Sundays.

So we are going to be brave and risk growth again--internally and in numbers!

- We are going to try all of the models--each one for about three months. And we'll seek feedback at each juncture and at the end of the 18 months.
- Each model will keep our basic elements, but in different order or done in different ways. For example, Joys & Concerns will sometimes be read, sometimes silent, sometimes spoken in just a word or phrase. Conversation will sometimes be during, sometimes after service.
- Children's elements will be added to some models.
- Members will be encouraged to take on new roles--reading Joys & Concerns, specials texts or stories, placing candles or stones, etc.
- Non-Sunday meetings will open with individual candle-lighting to foster more appropriate sharing.

Please give the experiment all you've got and let's see how we grow!

| JANUARY | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 03-Caregiver's Lunch | 12n |
| 04-Board Meeting | 6:30pm |
| 05-Meditation | 6:30pm |
| 08-Grant Committee Drawing | |
| 09-Men's Group | 6:30pm |
| 10-Interfaith Study | 12n |
| 12-Meditation | 6:30pm |
| 14-MLK Coffeehouse | 7pm |
| 15-Twister's | 1:30pm |
| 16-Spiritual Mentoring | 6:30pm |
| 19-VOAD | 1:30 pm |
| 19-Meditation | 6:30pm |
| 23-Spiritual Mentoring | 6:30pm |
| 26-Meditation | 6:30pm |
| 30-Spiritual Mentoring | 6:30pm |

PROGRAMMING APPLICATIONS

New Suggestions for Programming must be submitted in writing to the Board for consideration at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Proposal must include:

- Rationale and connection to our Covenant
- Event plan, preparation timeline, team managers and members, funding source

Proposers should also present the plan in person at the meeting.

"THIS LITTLE LIGHT" COMMUNITY MINI-GRANT

This grant is funded through the commitment of members and friends~ Member and friends give **5 cents** a day or **\$18.25** a year to fund a \$1000 grant to a project meeting our Grant Vision. The Elvis bank by the sanctuary door is for donations to this effort. Checks for the entire amount should be clearly marked GRANT on the memo line. The grant process was designed as part of a series with UUCO's Adult RE.

"THIS LITTLE LIGHT" GRANT COMMITTEE

It's time to form the Grant Committee and solicit applications for our This Little Light community mini-grant. The committee is to be comprised of three voting members, President-Elect, and Minister. The three members are drawn by lot from names submitted at Worship on the First Sunday of January. **This year's drawing will be on 8 January.**

"THIS LITTLE LIGHT" COMMITTEE DUTIES

- To serve only until projects are chosen for presentation at the Annual Meeting (roughly two months from mid-February through mid-April.)
- Committee meets to evaluate all applications between 16 Feb and 15 Mar.
- Up to 5 applicants who meet all criteria are invited to an interview with the Committee between 16 Mar and 15 Apr.

"THIS LITTLE LIGHT" GRANT VISION

Projects should address one of these issues in a new way: Domestic Violence, Hunger, Homelessness, or Literacy. Preference will be given to projects that enhance the self-sufficiency of those served or that have an extended reach into the community. Preference will also be given to projects with sustainable or repeatable plans. Grants will not be given to "keep the lights on" for already established work.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO
WORKING BUDGET (2011-2012)**

COMMENTS

| BUILDING | 55K @ 5% 84 pymt | 35K @ 5% 84 pymt | 25K @ 5% 84 pymt | Annual |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Renovation* | 777/9324 | 495/5940 | 353/4236 | x |
| OMU | | | | 2100 |
| Atmos | | | | 1080 |
| Phone | | | | 840 |
| Insurance | | | | 1584 |
| Cleaning | | | | 1590 |
| Maintenance & Pest | | | | 360 |
| Mowing | | 1040 | 1040 | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL | 18787 | 14534 | 12830 | 7554 |
| MINISTER | | | | |
| Salary & Housing** | | | | 28740 |
| Health Insurance | | | | 4764 |
| Long-Term Disability/Life Ins | | | | 444 |
| UUA Retirement (2%) | | | | 0 |
| Ministers' Meetings | | | | 1000 |
| Office | | | | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL | | | | 34948 |
| PROGRAMMING | | | | |
| Child Care | | | | 1980 |
| Library | | | | 0 |
| Religious Ed | | | | 0 |
| Worship | | | | 0 |
| Pastoral Care | | | | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL | | | | 1980 |
| UUA MEMBERSHIP (56) | | | | |
| Fair Share UUA | | | | 0 |
| Fair Share Heartland District | | | | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL | | | | 0 |
| OFFICE | | | | |
| Postage | | | | 150 |
| Website | | | | 100 |
| Copier | | | | 300 |
| SUBTOTAL | | | | 550 |
| TOTALS | 54356 | 52012 | 50308 | 45032 |
| Discrepancies result from rounding some numbers to nearest dollar in individual cells | | | | ANNUAL |

- Bids have been reopened on external waterproofing/ Capital Campaign will resume by 1 March

- If the Capital Campaign raises \$20,000 or more then mowing will be restored to the budget. Otherwise, we will have to do it ourselves.

- Enrollment has been deferred
- Reduced by half/GA cut
- Eliminated

- Eliminated
- Eliminated
- Eliminated*
- Eliminated**

- Temporarily suspended pending dialogue w/UUA

*The Worship Experiment as described on Page 2 will reduce our use of supplies (e.g. candles.) No further hymnals or resources will be purchased in this period.

** The Caregiver's Lunch will continue to be funded by the Minister for this fiscal year.

NB- The Wish List in the pledge packet reflects priorities of the Board. These items are needed for ongoing operations or for the direction determined in our Five Year Plan.