

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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MINISTER

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Of Owensboro

May 2012

## AD HOC COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

Twenty-four Unitarian Universalists of Owensboro assembled on Sunday, 22 April to begin the process of rebuilding the Congregation. Twenty-one completed the afternoon and prepared the following behavioral covenant articulating the basic expectations they have of each other in conducting business.

### UU Ad Hoc Report April 22, 2012

#### Behavioral Covenant Initial Agreements

##### TIME:

- Arrive on Time
- Set Agenda and follow
- Finish on time

##### ATTENDANCE:

- Keep sign-in sheet
- Attend All meetings
- Miss two meetings in row without notice: group may exclude
- Miss more than four meetings, even with notice – group may request no further participation

##### GROUP PARTICIPATION:

- Fulfill obligations by returning materials requested
- Take on only what you can reasonably do
- Share resources with other groups
- Maintain comment box for suggestions and concerns
- Provide positive feedback before offering constructive criticism

##### SHARING:

- Carry information and share during Religious Education
- Regular reports of activity to congregation via newsletter

##### ASSIGNMENTS:

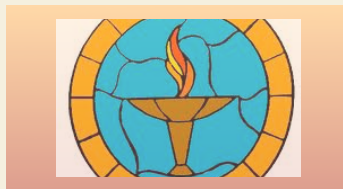
- Complete all assignments timely (thoughtfully)
- Prepare responses, action for group meeting before meeting
- Failure: two missed assignments- group may exclude participant

##### SPEAKING:

- Clearly, concisely, and civilly
- Be diplomatic
- Avoid judgmental statements
- Group may request apology ( Apologize)
- Own your feelings and actions, take responsibility
- Use "I" statements
- Group may request offender to rephrase

##### LISTENING:

- Cultivate open and receptive body language
- Allow speaker to finish before responding
- Mirror and request clarification
- Listen to all opinions and statements without comment
- Direct all comments to whole group
- Group may request side comments be given to whole group
- Redirect and focus



### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A mother's heart  
is a patchwork  
of love.

Author Unknown

### Graduation Recognition

By Rev. Christine Robinson

Divine Spirit of our comings and goings,  
bless those who go forth, and  
bless those who stay.

May you who dare new adventures be safe  
and challenged, healthy and hopeful.

May you who remain know satisfaction in your calling.

May you who stay to make a home anew  
be renewed in your own lives.

May you who depart for new homes  
find new loves and cares,

always remembering the love you have known here.

May we all be blessed in our comings and goings,  
and know, as we depart,  
that the same sun shines on us all, wherever we may be.

#### CONGRATULATIONS:

JULIE REYNOLDS, Brescia U  
Lunch Potluck: 4 May @ 11:45 am

EMILY ADKINS, Apollo High  
SAM MAYES, Owensboro High  
Breakfast Potluck: 20 May @ 9am



### Caregiver's Lunch

1 May @ 12 n

Chalice Center

Please RSVP to 683-1462 by  
30 April

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL  
Sunday, 20 May, Reception @ 7 pm/ Prayer @ 7:30 pm

## AD HOC COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK cont.

MAY 2012

The Ad Hoc Committee will begin regular meetings on Wednesday, 9 May at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. The first phase of work involves learning an organizational change method called Appreciative Inquiry. Through this method, participants will learn a technique for interviewing members, friends and ministry partners who are not serving on the committee.

The Appreciative Inquiry method is literally based on asking questions of appreciation. It looks for the strengths, gifts, and successes of an organization. Appreciative Inquiry changes an organization by first changing its energy and then pointing it in a new direction. It gives voice to more people than can normally participate in a consultation process by engaging many people in doing one-on-one interviews.

Essentially, Appreciative Inquiry practices the insight of the traditional Cherokee story about warring inner wolves. That is to say, it chooses to feed the inner wolf seeking harmony and then sorts out the needs of the organization. Said another way, Appreciative Inquiry does not use deficit and problem-solving language or seek technical solutions.

Instead it treats an organization as a living organism in a living system with adaptive needs.

Ad Hoc Committee members will first learn the methodology and then practice the technique with each other. During May we will ask you to agree to be interviewed by a Committee member. A form will be posted at Sign-Up Central or you can submit your name to Claudia at any time. ([hermitstuff@bellsouth.net](mailto:hermitstuff@bellsouth.net) or 683-1462) Please sign up soon so that we will be assured of the most possible consultants.

At the end of May, Committee members will draw names and make an appointment with you for the interview sometime in June or July. (The interview will take about an hour.) The stories and insights we collect will be displayed in the Chalice Center (with names removed if you request it.) Watch for a Wall of Appreciation when you arrive on Sunday mornings beginning in June.



### Grandfather Tells a.k.a. The Wolves Within

From [www.firstpeople.us](http://www.firstpeople.us)

An old Grandfather said to his grandson, who came to him with anger at a friend who had done him an injustice, "Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do.

"But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times." He continued, "It is as if there are two wolves inside me. One is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him, and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way.

"But the other wolf, ah! He is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, for his anger will change nothing.

"Sometimes, it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit."

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which one wins, Grandfather?"

The Grandfather smiled and quietly said, "The one I feed."

### StandingWomen.org, stood in support of our dream for the world's children and grandchildren and the seven generations beyond them:

We dream of a world where all of our children have safe drinking water, clean air to breathe, and enough food to eat. A world where they have access to a basic education to develop their minds and healthcare to nurture their growing bodies. A world where they have a warm, safe and loving place to call home. A world where they don't live in fear of violence--in their home, in their neighborhood, in their school or in their world. This is the world of which we dream. This is the cause for which we stand.

One may ask, "What good does it do to stand in silence for five minutes?" The transformative power of standing in silence, knowing that at the same time thousands of similarly committed humans are standing with you all up and down your time zone, is profound. We felt the connective tissue that binds us together as one world, one people, who have both a commitment and a responsibility to care for each other and for all of the world's children.

From the StandingWomen blogspot

UUCO Continues  
Standing Women on  
13 May 2012  
@ Legion Park  
5 min of Silence @ 2 pm

