

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro

TOM HICKS, PRESIDENT

JULY 2013

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER

[WWW.UUOWENSBORO.ORG](http://WWW.UUOWENSBORO.ORG)



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CAREGIVER'S LUNCH  
TUESDAY, 2 JULY @ 12 N  
Chalice Center

RSVP by Monday to  
[hermitstuff@bellsouth.net](mailto:hermitstuff@bellsouth.net)

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE UPDATES

**JUNE EVENTS** were well attended by the congregation, friends, and folks from the community. Charlot's presentation on her Women of the Bible carvings was well received and the Messenger Inquirer covered it. We even sold a pound of coffee during the "Meet the Artist" event! We will miss the carvings and we are grateful to Zion United Church of Christ in Henderson for loaning them to us for the month of June. We look forward to partnering with Zion UCC in future events. A bonus thought was discussed and Charlot is intrigued by the idea of perhaps creating carvings for our sanctuary with the theme "World Religions." If anyone wants to assist with grant writing to fund this project, please contact Charlot ([woodfingers@aol.com](mailto:woodfingers@aol.com)).



**Sr. Rose Marita O'Bryan**, director of the Contemporary Women Center at Brescia University preached about the contrast of our expanding awareness of the interconnectedness of all life and a continuing debate about torture. She asked how it was possible that we could still be debating such a thing. O'Bryan challenged us to be people of compassion and hope and to create a torture-free world of peace.

**THREE EVENTS PLANNED FOR JULY** Please sign-up as you are able to participate in the events. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.

The 3rd Wednesday of each month we will host themed **Coffee Houses** from **6:30-8:30 pm. July 17** will be our first event featuring **Heath and Molly**, a musical duo seeking Peace and Justice. We will be selling cups of coffee, tea, and aqua Fresca plus sweet and salty treats.

Saturday, **July 20** will be one busy, busy day! **Be Cool, Go Green** returns to the Farmer's Market at Owensboro Christian from **6:30 am until 12 n**; we will sell our fair trade/organic coffees and teas by the cup and by the package.

Also on **July 20**, at **6:30 pm** we are having our annual **Man Cake Auction and Talent Show**; Peggy will be our MC as usual. Come prepared to laugh and enjoy each other's company. Remember cakes for auction are made by the men of the congregation--yes, you have to make your own!

**July's Charity Collection** is school supplies. Please bring glue, glue sticks, crayons, wide ruled note books, and pencils.

We gathered over 30 boxes of cereal for June's for Eaton Memorial's summer food program. Boxes can still be dropped off on 6/30. Thank you!

**THANK YOU** all for your continued support for the vision and growth of our community. We look forward to working with all of you on our continued work to embody UCO's covenant and mission statement.

Come join us in planning our future.  
~Linda Craig, on behalf of CLC

### DENOUNCE TORTURE

Our 9th Annual events were well received. **Glenda Guess**, PFLAG counselor, GLBTQ Civil Rights Activist spoke about bullying and the effects on our GLBTQ youth and their families. She provided information on how to become active in GLBTQ services. Mrs. Guess brought along Michelle Woolwine who read two very moving original stories about two young girls that were bullied verbally and physically. Mrs. Guess explained there are programs on the PFLAG website if you would like to provide information to local schools.



**Congregational Life's**  
Next meetings are Wednesdays  
**July 10 and 31**  
From **6:00-7:00 pm**  
In the Sanctuary

**Summer Met Me**  
By Fay Inchfawn  
(Elizabeth Rebecca Ward)

Summer met me in the glade,  
With a host of fair princesses,  
Golden iris, foxgloves staid,  
Sunbeams flecked their gorgeous dresses.  
Roses followed in her train,  
Creamy elder-flowers beset me,  
Singing, down the scented lane,  
Summer met me!

Summer met me! Harebells rang,  
Honeysuckle clustered near,  
As the royal pageant sang  
Songs enchanting to the ear.  
Rainy days may come apace,  
Nevermore to grieve or fret me,  
Since, in all her radiant grace,  
Summer met me.



## Board begins work with Policy Governance

**Policy Governance** is different from other kinds of Board work. Ultimately, Dreamers and Thinkers are in charge not Politicians. We have great Dreamers and Thinkers so I am in hopes that our transition will go well! Here are some of the things you need to know about what your Board is doing with this new paradigm.

The Board is entrusted with the Big Picture; other bodies do the detail. For example: Board does governing, Minister does ministry, Congregational Life does programming. For awhile we will have to be very firm with each other about our structure to be clear we let each do their proper work. It should be both challenging and exciting... and ultimately transforming!

### Board Governing has four functions:

- **Discernment**- shared with the Congregation, but led by the Board. This involves dreaming, imagining, thinking about the relationship of cause and effect. The Board must always ask the three questions of priority: What does this mean theologically, for our governance, for us as a Safe Congregation? The Board must always think about those who cannot vote—namely, those who will come after us.
- **Strategizing**- making the major decisions about staffing, programming emphasis (not specific programs,) property and facilities, budget, and the major means by which we will meet our mission.
- **Oversight**- ensuring proper use of resources and personnel through policy, reporting procedures, consultation, and standards of accountability.
- **Management**- delegating authority appropriately, following through on delegation and policy, establishing procedures of evaluation.

Policy in Policy Governance **always begins with values** and philosophy. The first concern is a statement of ENDS—

- a) What outcome, result, or benefit do we desire as an organization? What impact do we want?
- b) Who will benefit from the stated outcome, result or benefit? For whom is this done?
- c) What will this cost? Or what is the worth of this outcome? Or by what priority/order?

### What else should you know?

- The Policy in Policy Governance says “just enough.” Persons in charge of things are given clear limits and lots of freedom. Limits are the parameters that actually foster creativity and energy and define categories of responsibility. This also allows that folks may come up with solutions you don’t anticipate. If that happens, the Board’s question is: Did it meet our guidelines? If so, they leave it alone no matter the squawking. If not, they set up a consultation with the person in charge. Then they decide if the change needs to be with that person or with their guidelines. They do not micromanage or mediate staffing disputes.

- All policy is local. Though we may look at other policies from other places, timing is the key. First, the Board makes its own broad philosophical/faith statements of values. Next it establishes ENDS (What outcome? For whom? At what cost?) Then it will consider how others have done things and decide how to adapt it if it’s applicable here.
- Policy works from broad to specific not from case to case nor from case to principle. Policy is intended to be forward looking not reactive to problems.

### What the Board will be doing this year:

- YES:** Dreaming big and bold for the Congregation. Considering carefully what role we will play in Owensboro and the Association.
- YES:** Learning about Policy Governance in depth, preparing a Board Operating Policy, and keeping abreast of monthly reports on other things.
- YES:** Writing ENDS for the 5-year plan and for the policies prioritized by Ad Hoc: Safe Congregation, Membership, Finance. Preparing 1-2 of these policies this year.
- YES:** Reviewing the Budget and preparing a Stewardship strategy.
- YES:** Taking as much time as it takes to come to full agreement on a policy or decision.
- YES:** Delegating day-to-day operations to the Minister and programming to Congregational Life (with the CL Chair supervised by the Minister per the Letter of Ministry.)
- YES:** Learning to say: X is in charge of that; ask him/her. Learning not to say: Sure, it’s fine with me—unless you actually are the person in charge!
- YES:** Stepping into our leadership in Owensboro—paying attention to what the Congregation needs to act or comment on that reflects our values and ministry.
- YES:** They will be consulting you!

### What the Board and won’t be doing:

- NO:** Discussing the content or logistics of a program unless it is exclusively done by the Board
- NO:** Supervising Scott doing the lawn or Linda doing Congregational Life.
- NO:** Determining the specifics for the programs at each step in the 5-year plan. In some cases they won’t even determine the programs—they’ll ask for that info from the Minister or Congregational Life.
- NO:** Imagining that they speak for the Board if they attend a Congregational Life meeting or an event. (They will take off their Board hat and defer to whomever is in charge.)
- NO:** Deciding what color of letters Tom must use on the heading on the new webpage or mediating disputes between Claudia and Linda!
- NO:** Making a list of who gets keys though they **will** determine the criteria for such privileged access.

**Stay tuned for more details! Claudia**





**Tai Chi**  
6 pm On Thursdays

[www.uowensboro.org](http://www.uowensboro.org)

**NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED**

You don't want to miss this! Our website is **brand new** with pages for Visitors, Worship, Ministries, Special and Justice Events, and About Us. You'll find links for the fliers on current events on the front page as well as links to UU resources and the UUA. There is a very spiffy archive of calendars and newsletters, access to our rental policy, and forms for the This Little Light Mini-grant. If you are getting this newsletter online, just click the link and check it out right now!

[www.uowensboro.org](http://www.uowensboro.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

02 JUL/TUE	CAREGIVER'S LUNCH @ 12 N (CC)
03 JUL/WED	BOARD MEETING @ 6:30 PM (CC) [Board School]
04 JUL/THU	NO EVENTS: INDEPENDENCE DAY
06 JUL/ SAT	REIKI APPOINTMENTS @ 8:30-? : Schedule @ 570-0323 HABITAT CAN COLLECTION
07 JUL/ SUN	TWISTER'S @ 1:30 PM (S)
08 JUL/ MON	DRUM CIRCLE @ 6:30 PM (S)
09 JUL/ TUE	COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY @ 5:30 PM (CC)
10 JUL/ WED	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE @ 6 PM (S) BOARD MEETING @ 6:30 PM (CC) [Safe Congregation]
11 JUL/ THU	TAI CHI @ 6 PM/ MEDITATION @ 6:30 PM (S)
13 JUL/ SAT	REIKI SHARE @ 6 PM (S)
17 JUL/ WED	MUSIC COFFEEHOUSE: MOLLY & HEATH @ 6:30 PM (S)
18 JUL/ THU	TAI CHI @ 6 PM/ MEDITATION @ 6:30 PM (S)
20 JUL/ SAT	BE COOL, GO GREEN @ 6:30 AM-12 N (Farmer's Market) MAN CAKE AUCTION & TALENT SHOW @ 6:30 PM (S)
25 JUL/ THU	TAI CHI @ 6 PM/ MEDITATION @ 6:30 PM (S)
31 JUL/ WED	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE @ 6 PM (S) BOARD MEETING @ 6:30 PM (CC) [Safe Congregation]

**General Assembly Highlights**



Water Puppet and Wendell Berry At the Public Witness on the Belvedere on the Ohio River



Eating from our Lunch boxes in the Exhibit Hall



Kentucky-West Virginia Parish Minister's Coalition  
Rented the booth that Charlot, DuWayne, Gracie & Linda Staffed before the Public Witness



**INTERFAITH MOMENT: RAMADAN (Begins 9 July)**  
(From: [www.bbc.co.uk/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools))

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and a time when Muslims across the world fast during the hours of daylight. It is the fourth of the five pillars of Islam. The Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during this month. The actual night that the Qur'an was revealed is night known as Lailat ul-Qadr ('The Night of Power').

Almost all Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan, and some will try to become better Muslims by praying more or reading the Qur'an. Many Muslims will attempt to read the whole of the Qur'an at least once during the month. Many will also attend special services in Mosques during which the Qur'an is read.

Fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. It is common to have one meal (the suhoor), just before sunrise and another (the iftar), directly after sunset.

Because Ramadan is a time to spend with friends and family, the fast will often be broken by different Muslim families coming together to share in an evening meal.

The end of Ramadan is marked by a big celebration called 'Eid-ul-Fitr', the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Muslims aren't only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the help and strength he gave throughout the previous month to help them practice self-control. The festival begins when the first sight of the new moon is seen in the sky.

There are special services outdoors and in Mosques, processions through the streets, and of course, a special celebratory meal - eaten during daytime, the first daytime meal in a month. Eid is also a time of forgiveness, and making amends.

During Eid-ul-Fitr, Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children, and spend time with their friends and family. At Eid it is obligatory to give a set amount of money to charity to be used to help poor people buy new clothes and food so they too can celebrate.

**Reminder: Claudia will be on vacation 22 July-2 August. Please call Deanna with pastoral care concerns.**