

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

*One who has never sacrificed a present to a future good or a personal to a general one
can speak of happiness only as the blind do of colors.
Olympia Brown*

Caregiver's Lunch

1st Tuesday, 3 April @ 12 n
Chalice Center

Caring for elderly, disabled, chronically ill, homebound family or neighbors? Join us for lunch and conversation. Our meeting lasts about an hour. It includes a healthy home cooked meal and confidential sharing.

*Please RSVP
By 2 April, 12 n
To 683-1462*

Need resources? Our church library includes several books with excellent practical advice for caregivers. The GRADD Office

(926-4433) also has a Resource Center for Aging and the Elizabeth Munday Center offers many services and programs.



Caregiving

Easter Celebrations

Christian Service With Footwashing & Communion

Saturday, 7 April, 2 pm

*Please RSVP
By Thursday, 5 April to 683-1462*



Sunday Easter Service With Flower Communion

Sunday, 8 April,
10:30 am

*Please bring cut flowers
to fill the Communion vases*



UUCO Gives Two Grants

The This Little Light Grant program was suspended this year due to the Congregation's inner turmoil. On 24 March, the Board voted that the money already given in good faith for our grant program would be split between this year's applicants.

Checks for \$250 each were sent to Imagination Library for their Spelling Bee Program and to the Brescia Education Department for its Summer Tutoring Program for Foust and Estes Schools. Congratulations Tina Wolken and Kimberly Johnson on your initiative in applying and blessings on your work! We are delighted to be able to encourage two literacy programs benefitting children.



AD HOC COMMITTEE

As announced at service on 25 March, the Board has voted to suspend its usual operations and take up work as an Ad Hoc Committee devoted to redevelopment of UUCO with three objectives:

- To create an environment of trust and goodwill at UUCO congruent with our covenant
- To change the direction of UUCO from primarily self-care to mission-directed
- To establish structures and procedures that rebuild our capacity to be a change-agent in Owensboro

The approved process includes:

- Suspension of present bylaws for nominating/electing a Board and appointing committees for a period of no less than 5 weeks and no more than 13 months.
- Exceptions to this are: The Committee on Ministry, the present Treasurer will function as fiscal agent of the Congregation with authority to continue paying expenses authorized in the approved budget, the Congregation's Legal Counsel will function as our representative to "deliver and sign any documents on behalf of the Congregation" until the new Board is elected.
- All policies and Board decisions to date will remain in place and operative. (POLICIES: Babysitting, Building Rental & Facilities Use, Disruptive Persons, Gift Acceptance, Pastoral Care, Social Media, This Little Light, etc.)
- The Worship Experiment will continue.
- Annual Meeting 2012 will be an informational meeting regarding the plan of operation.

The Ad Hoc Committee has three purposes:

1. To learn Appreciative Inquiry and Collaborative Change skills and practice them substantially.

Call to Worship on Easter

By Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong

Out of the earth

Rises light,
Rises life,
Rises spring.

May we join with the miracle that is springtime,
and enter into life with lightness and joy.

Out of the spirit

Rises faith,
Rises hope,
Rises love.

May we join with the miracle that is Easter time,
and enter into life with hope and love.

Let us resurrect with spring,
let us resurrect with the spirit

and enter into renewed life as we gather
into our time of worship together this Easter.

These will be the core of Board formation and practice going forward.

2. To participate in Safe Congregation and Non-Violent Communication training and establish Safe Congregation/Non-Violent Communication policies for UUCO and all groups operating as part of UUCO. Such policies will be drafted for implementation by the new Board.
3. To review bylaws, governance structure, programming and missional direction of UUCO and prepare any revisions or changes to be presented at Annual Meeting 2013.

Commitment of Ad Hoc members is to an extensive process:

- The process will begin with a retreat on Sunday, 22 April 2012, from 1:30-4:30 pm. The entire scope of the process will be explained then. The retreat will also include time for the assembled group to write its behavioral covenant for the year. A behavioral covenant articulates a group's expectations of each other and consequences

for not meeting those expectations. The retreat is a required part of the process because participants in the Ad Hoc process need to be part of writing and ratifying this covenant.

- Weekly meetings of 1.5 hours begin after the retreat and extend April-May 2012
- Four meetings of 1.5-2 hours June-July 2012 (while the Minister is on Sabbatical)
- Weekly meetings of 1-1.5 hours August 2012-April 2013
- Participation in discussion and exercises at meetings, personal study, and personal and group homework assignments

The three purposes will inform three phases of work:

- Appreciative Inquiry training and practice- April-July 2012
- Safe Congregation/Non-Violent Communication training- August-Mid-October 2012
- Collaborative Change training and practice- Mid-October 2012-March 2013
- Final document preparations and election preparation- April 2013

Every meeting will be structured to include: A chalice lighting (reading, candle lighting with joys and concerns, song,) input, and group work (discussion, role plays, exercises.) Resources will be provided to the Ad Hoc committee (e.g. notebook, handouts, any required texts) by the Congregation.

General programming will be minimized and evaluated in light of newly articulated directions. When possible, Sunday RE will be synchronized with the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. If the Committee is able to complete its work before next March, it will make proposals and nominations to the Congregation in a specially called Congregational Meeting.

Stay tuned for updates on this exciting process!