



Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Chronicle

September, 2013

Visioning Conversations to begin this month.

We are going to hold some conversations in small groups and in various places with members and friends about their vision for MUUC, what they like and dislike, what they wished we had, what they are glad we have — **in short, where should we be going and how are we going to get there.**

Any and all parts of what you think the MUUC activities are or should be will be topics of conversation. Each of you will be called and invited to participate.

These conversations should be done by the end of September. Meanwhile, think about what you would expect from the MUUC community, what we can do to get there and how you can help.

The outcome of all these conversations will be a report to the Board of Trustees with a summary of your wishes and indications of what is important to you.

The report will also include recommendations to the Board for things to implement, activities to start, reduce, change or stop as you indicated your wishes and priorities.

All of you will be contacted by either the Wrights or the Steindlers to learn your schedules and availability.

Please wear your Mqt. UU green shirts or Standing on the Side of Love shirts for our Ingathering Service on **September 8th**. Why? Because we're going to be taking a few congregational photos for our new brochure and website. It's been a while since we taken a family photo, so hope you'll be there. Don't have a shirt? Tim Vanderveen along with our RE children have created a Tshirt for us to wear while we're out in the community doing volunteer work, or just showing folks who we are as we go about town. See Tim before service, call or email him. 906-236-1979, timhvv@gmail.com

Core Values, adopted by the congregation 2010

1. Create and sustain a safe space that stimulates spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth for all.
2. Empower people to live fully authentic lives, respecting needs for individuality and beloved community.
3. Engage in collective social justice work and community service.
4. Promote responsible environmental stewardship by building resilient and sustainable communities, beginning at home.



From Religious Education:

Although we have not been seen much around the meeting house, RE staff, committee members, and volunteers have been busy. These past months we have helped “send off” Marty Grey with a honoring ceremony, thanked our volunteers with collective pot luck, created an awesome T-shirt design (with a big thanks to Tim VanderVeen and Molly-Jo Noland), gotten a better understanding of what our families/children would like to learn from RE, and formulated curriculum to bring our UU principles into action. GG and Paul Grey are gearing up for the Our Whole Lives program and “the coming of age” program will be lead by Terri Rockwood this year. The major curriculum for this season will be “The Web of Life” through the Tapestry of Faith Program. We are very excited for this “World of Wonder” opportunity. This will introduce our human relationship to the earth with the seven principles as the guide. The curriculum will carry us on our way to better understanding of interdependent web of life but will not be the only topic covered.

OWL Program Update:

GG Gordan and Paul Grey are gearing up for OWL. There have been a few updates to the curriculum and GG has gotten retrained for this upcoming OWL program. This year the classes offered will be alternating between the “Coming of Age Program” lead by Terri Rockwood. The date of parent orientation is still to be determined and the approximate dates will be given in next month’s chronicle.

We are in great need of volunteers for RE this year. We have been able to keep the RE childcare up this summer but will need more help during the RE program starting September 15th. If you are interested please sign-up with Laura Nagle.

Religious Education Program 2013-2014:

The RE program will begin September 15, 2013.

This year’s curriculum will include

We did not weave the web of life;

We are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web,

We do to ourselves.

— *attributed to Chief Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Nation*

This session introduces our human relationship to the earth, the basis for this program which is expressed in our seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle: respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. The concept of the interdependent web is made concrete by tangible activities, such as the creation of a World of Wonder mural which the group will use throughout the program. A story illustrates that we are all connected in a great web of life and children are encouraged in caring for the earth. An understanding of interdependence in our human communities is nurtured as participants create a group covenant, recognizing that their behaviors affect one another.

We will also be asking the various committees within our congregation to set aside a Sunday of their own to share the ideas behind them. This will give the Children a better understanding of the different groups that they may want to be a part of in years to come.

This year we are planning to try having the intergenerational moment earlier on in the service. With the extra time we will have our own “joys and concerns” moment to make room for better understanding. If this feels better to the community then it will become an established tradition.

This will be an exciting year for RE and we look forward to the families to come. With that said, we will be asking each family to register their children to get an idea of the type of attendance we will be receiving.

I look forward to hearing your feedback throughout the year and encourage the use of phone or email. Feel free to contact Laura at (248)321-2794 or muurec@gmail.com.



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Sept. 1	“The Fair Treatment of Workers.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	"Fifty years after MLK's March on Washington, are minority and working class communities any better off?" Host: Sarah Redmond
Sept. 8	“Ingathering.” Service Leader: Teri Rockwood	“Trayvon Martin and Stand Your Ground Laws” with Bill Waters, retired Criminal Justice Professor at NMU. Host:
Sept. 15	“Historical Perspectives on Unitarian Universalism.” Service Leader: Kathy Klos	TBA
Sept. 22	“In Sweet Fields Of Autumn - A Fall Celebration.” Presenters: February Sky (Susan Urban & Phil Cooper) We will celebrate Harvest Home, saying a fond goodbye to Summer and reflecting on the winter to come. Bring an Autumn Harvest fruit, food or decoration to church (e.g. apples, corn, wheat, squash, acorns, autumn leaves, pine cones, etc.).	TBA
Sept. 29	“Connecting With Others: A Journey to UUA General Assembly.” Service Leaders: gg gordon, Barb Michael, Sarah Redmond, Teri Rockwood, Nancy Sullivan	“UU Study Action Issue on Reproductive Rights.” Host: Sarah Redmond

From the Communications Team:

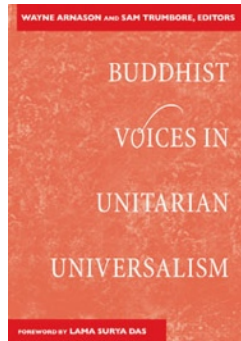
Did you know we have a communications team? We didn't either until we started listing all the ways we communicate. Here are just the ones we came up:

- Chronicle, monthly newsletter of church related activities
- This n That, weekly emailed information for church and community events
- Mqtuu.org, website
- Mining Journal notices of weekly service topics
- Order of Service
- Mqt. UU T shirts
- Facebook page and Facebook group
- Signage within and outside the building
- Phone and answering machine
- Emailing one another
- Face to face -- conversations with one another, still the best way to communicate.

Would love to have your involvement with any of these methods in our efforts to stay connected with one another. Contact Sarah Redmond, shelterbay2006@yahoo.com, or Tom Sullivan, tsulli3206@aol.com

Exploring Buddhism and Mindful Meditation

UUs come from many or no faith backgrounds. As we develop and clarify our own beliefs, we look to other traditions. In that spirit we are offering a small group exploration of Buddhism. The book we will be reading and discussing is Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism, a newly published book from Skinner House. It's also available for Kindle.



From the UUA website: *“Both the seven principles and the six sources of Unitarian Universalism affirm and encourage Unitarian Universalists in exploring world faith traditions while maintaining their UU identity. This book brings together for the first time the voices of UUs who have become Buddhists while not sacrificing that identity, and Buddhists who have found in Unitarian Universalism a spiritual home where they can sustain a practice and join in an activist religious community that accepts and encourages who they are. Also included is an exploration of how American Buddhism has been influenced by Unitarian Universalism and how UU congregations are being changed by Buddhist practice.”*

We will begin meeting on the **third Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Meeting House**. First preference will be for our members and friends, but we will open it to others if there is room. If you are interested or have questions, contact Sarah Redmond, 892-8173 or shelterbay2006@yahoo.com. We buy 5 copies to share but if you'd like your own, go to <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1794>

September Happenings

Sept 8th Congregation picture to be taken following “In Gathering” service

Sept 15th “Beginning of Religious Education programming

Sept. 15th OWL program begins

Sept. 16th, Board of Trustee meeting 6:30

Sept. 18th, Exploring Buddhism, 7 pm

Sept. 12 Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

Sept. 28th 10 a.m. Community Development meeting

Sept. 22nd Rainbow Pride picnic

Sept. TBA Program Com. meeting

Sept. TBA Soul to Soul group

Sept. TBA Religious Education

Sept. TBA Social Action

(Look for specific dates or changes in the This n That)

All events at Meeting House excepting Soul to Soul and Choir

Social Outings group forming

Ever thought “wonder what there is to do in town this weekend” Or, “would like to go to ___ but don't have any friends who want to go”? If yes, we have the group for you. Ginny Giddings has offered to organize, along with Laura Nagle, to find and let other UUs know about these social events. Don't have to commit to joining in all the time, but playing with our fellow UUs adds a nice balance to all the work we do on behalf of our layed congregation.

A beginning discussion will take place after service, Sept. 1st. Contact Ginny at ginnygiddings@gmail.com with ideas and interest.

Tender Loving Care

TLC is our group within the congregation that provides care for those in need, be it a joyous occasion such as a birth of a child, or the need during one of life's transitions or illnesses. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Patty Sarvello.

TLC group always welcomes new friends and members to help. If you think this might be how you'd like to service our congregation, contact Patty to see if this is a fit for you.

"Balancing UU Town 'n' Gown"

A new school year! Excitement or dread? Lifelong learner? We wish all who are enrolled in school a successful year, including UU young adults who have gone off to college. Marty Gray, now a freshman at the University of Michigan, has a connection with the Ann Arbor UU congregation through former MUUC members, Kathy & Jon McLean. What about the students who might identify as UU who are at Northern? How could MUUC children, youth, and adults reach out to them?



Some examples of responsibilities for campus ministry can include:

- offering or organizing rides to MUUC forums, services, special events
- staffing a booth at the annual student activities fair with UU info, fair-trade chocolate, and condoms!
- assembling food "care packages" during exam time
- checking in with environmental groups to let them know we have shared values, offering pamphlets with organic tea bags attached
- publicizing events through social media
- meeting with those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Heterosexual Allies - perhaps making an "It Gets Better" video in an effort to prevent suicides of LGBT youth and young adults.
- discussing spiritual growth topics

Campus ministry is a ministry of presence. This is often a time when young adults are wrestling with the central spiritual questions of their lives. To be present with and listen to others as they do that, can be to stand on holy ground.

Reaching out to young adults and creating a good balance in our lives among little ones, children, youth, young adults, those in their middle years, and seniors, we not only learn from each other, but learn more about ourselves. Let us strive to maintain a healthy intergenerational congregation, as we welcome folks through our doors this year. See you at our intergenerational Water & Ingathering Service on September 8th!

In shared ministry,

Barb Michael, Board President

Upcoming Happenings in the Coming of Age Program

The Coming of Age Program is being offered from September 2013 into June 2014. If you are a youth that will be in high school this year, we strongly encourage you to participate in this program. This is a Religious Exploration program that helps youth discern for themselves what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, individually and as part of the larger faith community.

September 15

We will meet at the meeting house during Sunday morning worship to discuss the Overview of the Program
Input on Unit Five Workshop
Input on Worship Service Visits of other faiths

September 29

We will meet at the meeting house during the Sunday morning worship to share Unit One Presentations

October 20

We will meet at the meeting house during the Sunday morning worship to Review Completion of Unit Two with each other and strategize for Unit Three and set goal dates for completion of Unit Three

For information or questions about Coming of Age, please contact Teri Rockwood at teri.rockwood@gmail.com or 906-235-8064

17 cubic freezer available for donation to church

We inherited a working freezer when we bought the Meeting House 6 years ago and have no need for it. If you can use it, contact Dan or Sarah Redmond to make arrangements to pick it up. First come, first serve. If we have no takers it will be offered to the others in the community.

How to get something started (or done) at Mqt. UU

Ever wonder how new programs start at Mqt.UU? How an outreach project gets undertaken? It's pretty simple really. A member has an idea, talks to others to see if there is interested and proposes it to a committee such as Social Action, Religious Education Program or Community Development committees to seek help making it happen. There is no formal approval process, however our Seven Principles are our guidelines. If there are budget issues, it needs to go through the appropriate committee and may or may not need to wait until next budget year for funding.

Committee chairs and Board liaisons are:

Religious Education -- Sarah Johnson, chair; gg gordon, liaison

Community Development -- Tim Vanderveen, chair; Sarah Redmond, liaison

Social Action -- Heidi Gould and Gail Griffith, co-chair; Barb Michael, liaison

Program -- Tom Sullivan, chair; Teri Rockwood, liaison

Building and grounds -- Shaun Devlin, chair; Mary Maki, liaison

Communications -- Tom Sullivan and Sarah Redmond; Sarah Redmond, liaison

Music -- Barb Michael, liaison

So, you have an idea? The list above is a good place to start. Join the fun in making our merry band of UUs a success.

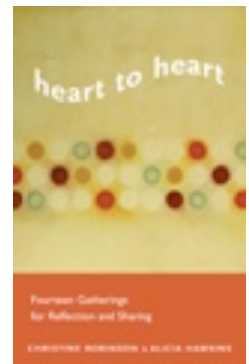
From Soul to Soul to Heart to Heart

Last fall we started two covenant groups using the book, Soul to Soul: Fourteen gatherings for reflection and sharing. A third group started in the winter and still continues. This fall we hope to start new groups using the text, Heart to Heart.

The groups follow a structured format which consists of candle lighting and reflective readings, sharing from the heart about current experiences, and then two or three times of sharing about the particular group focus for that meeting. The groups have allowed participants to move deeper in their thinking and allowed members to grow deeper relationships.

We would like to get a few people together to plan for the next series. There are a number of free online resources we could use to expand the topics discussed or to tweak the group process. Once the group gets used to the process, leadership of the group can be shared or passed around the group.

If you think you might be interested in leading or participating in a group, please let me know (nance249@gmail.com or 249-3790).



Thanks, *Nancy Sullivan*

Want to get more involved at MUUC?

Consider joining the Community Development Committee. We are looking for more members. The committee has a TLC (tender loving care) outreach component for members in need; a membership & hospitality component to greet and welcome newcomers into our community; and a community building function to create events or lend support to other events which draw us together in fun and worthwhile activities.

We meet once a month for laughter and planning. Please consider joining us. Our next meeting is Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Meeting House.

Tim VanderVeen, Chair CDC and Nancy Sullivan

Did you know Mqt. UU has not one but two Facebook presences? We have a page, which is open to everyone, the general public who may be searching for us (125 likes). The second one, the group, is by invitation and authorization, and is more private and for sharing internally with our members and friends (currently have 79). You have access to both; any member can add another, so if you are friends with someone in the congregation who's not in the group, just "invite" them. You 'like' the page and are 'invited' to the group. Confusing? Contact Sarah Redmond and I'll walk you through how it works.



Resources from Heidi Gould's service on volunteering within the community:

<http://www.transitionmqt.org/> Mission is to promote a compassionate and creative community response to the challenges of peak oil, climate change, and financial crisis from oil dependency to resilience!

<http://www.ourcommonplace.com/Marquette> OurCommonPlace is a civic technology organization that works to revitalize the spirit of local community engagement in towns across the country.

OurCommonPlace.com is a "community web platform that's designed to make it delightfully easy for community residents to share and connect with the others in their community.

<http://www.natw.org/> The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime", in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

<http://greatstartma.org/> The Marquette-Alger Great Start Collaborative (M-A GSC) is a network of parents, service providers, business and community leaders, and educators who work together to provide coordinated support for families of children from birth through age five. Our vision is for all Alger and Marquette children to be safe, healthy and eager to succeed in their education and in life.

<http://www.marquettecommunitygardens.org/> The Marquette Community Gardens is dedicated to cultivating a healthier community by providing a means to grow organic foods, educating our community and sharing our bounty with those in need.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/283451855120768/> MQT Growth Facebook Group

MQT Growth is dedicated to starting community gardens in Marquette MI.

<http://www.streetbank.com/splash> Streetbank shows you all the things and skills your neighbours are offering. It's a giant garden shed, toolkit, fancy dress chest, book and DVD library and skills bank for your neighbourhood.

http://www.mqtcty.org/community_network.html Available appointments to Marquette City Authorities, Boards Commissions & Committees.

Inspiration for the music <http://youtu.be/o4fWN6VvgKQ> Get together by Youngbloods!

Church of the Larger Fellowship coming soon



Heads up! The congregation is in the process of joining the Church of the Larger Fellowship as recommended to us by visiting UU pastor Emmy Lou Belcher. This will give us access to additional programming and educational resources for our congregation. Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, you can visit the public website for more info. <http://www.clfuu.org/>





Mqt. UU Choir



Board of Trustees: Barb Michael, gg gordon, Teri Rockwood, Mary Maki, Sarah Redmond at end of Board Retreat at gg's camp.



gg gordon and young people showing fleece blanket made for Camp New Day children



Flower Communion wrapping up our church year.



Tim VanderVeen leading the Lakemontland summer service.



Recognition by Sarah Johnson and RE student for Alice McMahon for her long term support of religious education at Mqt.UU



Nancy Irish leading her last service after seven years as our Community Coordinator/ Celebrant