



Universalist Anchor

February 2007

Words by Rev Lillie

TWO WORDS – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Soon we will begin focus group meetings to talk about what the church means to each of us and what we need from the church.

We are entering this process, because research shows that people want and need expectations when they join a church. They have their specific reasons for joining, and part of that is the need to contribute, to be connected, to become a part of something greater.



People also expect that by joining they will be able to make a difference in ways that they cannot make a difference alone. Many of us have our own individual spirituality, and find ways to worship and grow spiritually alone; nonetheless, we recognize that by “binding ourselves with others” we can be a greater force for redemption and reconciliation of our society ourselves.

The focus groups will help us share our religious journeys, help us establish clarity about what we need from the church, and bring us together as smaller groups within the greater congregation.

They will also give us an opportunity to explore what expectations the congregation has for its members. They will help us establish these expectations as guidelines for joining Universalist National Memorial Church.

We have many people who have been here for decades and then some who have been here for only a short while. And, while we have never had “Expectations of Membership,” this may be the time that we give ourselves to create a *paradigm shift* or to create a new model of Universalist church.

Firmly grounded in our church covenant and guided by our historical Declaration of Faith, we are rooted strong and sturdy for this change.

At our semi-annual meeting, members and friends alike shared their initial thoughts and feelings, and decided that the process was worth exploring. The welcome and membership committee will share with you soon how the process will look.

We are at an exciting and joyous place for UNMC, and it is contagious!

When you have the opportunity to join a focus group, see it as an opportunity to enrich your religious life as well as strengthen your connection to each other.



My prayer for the church is that we continue to create a congregation that expresses the kind of love Jesus taught so many years ago.

When we do this, our church membership will grow.

God bless

Religious Education/Youth Group

"Thank you!" from S.O.M.E. for UNMC donations collected through the Mitten Tree: eleven heavy shoe boxes of toiletries and a BIG bag of mittens, scarves, and hats. You did good, UNMC! We are currently conducting a "soup can" poll to determine the "Soup-er Bowl" football champs. The tally will be donated to neighbors in need. Please vote early and often!



The R.E. kids continue to study the stories of our faith ancestors and are realizing that it is not easy to memorize all 66 books of the Bible! For MLK Day, we watched "My Friend Martin" and discussed ways each one of us could perform a small act of community service. The Youth Group continues their provocative Sunday night discussions and their plans for service and fun outings. They did a wonderful job in taking the lead in the R.E./Youth Christmas service, and we thank them.

Upcoming Events

The deacons decided to organize and sponsor an indoors social event during a "cold" month. Our plan is for a Chili Cook-Off and Games Day, in Perkins Hall. We're thinking a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament for a non-monetary prize plus other games for non-poker players, such as scrabble.

For more information, contact Dave Skidmore.

For the Love of Children

The Board decided to **Share Our January Plate with *For the Love of Children.***

FLOC's mission is to offer educational services that equip high-risk children and youth with the skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty, become life-long learners, and make substantial contributions to their communities. Through example and partnership, For Love of Children will use education to empower young people and their families to close society's achievement gap.



For the past forty years, For Love of Children has helped more than 10,000 children discover and build on their dreams for a bright future....

Visit: www.flocdc.org



FRIENDS OF THE UUA

You might get a call from the Friends of the UUA the week of February 19th. They are calling folks from around the country as they build their programs for congregational support.

A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to be in charge of ordering Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate? It is a fundraising project that benefits our church's outreach budget and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Contact Pastor Lillie for details.



We've Got Mail!

Jim and Beverly Morgan wrote that they are in South Carolina for the winter, residing by the ocean in Myrtle Beach. Jim reports they are involved in the "largest church in SC" and enjoying it very much. Beverly is still recovering from illness this summer. They would be delighted to hear from friends at UNMC.



We received a letter from Food for All thanking us for the recent donation (December Plate). Because of our contribution, they were able to provide a better food basket at Christmas time for their poorer clients.

A Multicultural Future

NOW IS THE TIME

Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: A UU conference February 16-18, Arlington, VA.

Ten years ago the General Assembly made a commitment to move toward becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive multicultural Association of Congregations. At the 2006 General Assembly the following responsive resolution was overwhelmingly supported by the delegates from over 600 UU congregations.



Join congregational leaders from around the country as we explore together what we can do to lead congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future. **NOW IS THE TIME!**

www.uua.org/cde/nowisthetime2007/index.html

Leland Place Dinner Ministry

COLD NIGHT, HOT CHILI

Hot chili (with four kinds of beans and both ground pork and beef) and steaming homemade cornbread -- not to mention the fellowship around the table at Leland Place -- was the perfect recipe to warm up a chilly winter evening on Saturday January 20. Homemade apple crisp topped with vanilla ice cream rounded out the evening for UNMC volunteers and the residents of Leland Place, a halfway house for men in recovery from addictions and homelessness, on North Capitol Street.

Thanks to the chefs: first-timer Eric Solomon, Pastor Lillie, Marti Martinson, Judy Burns, Emily Skidmore, and Dave Skidmore.



Our next dinner is planned for Saturday Feb. 17. We gather in the church kitchen at 3 p.m. with the goal of serving the dinner at Leland at 5 p.m. and wrapping up around 6 p.m. Volunteers divide the cost of the meal, with the share typically between \$15 and \$25. Hungry? Interested? RSVP to Dave Skidmore.

Leland is a program of S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat), an ecumenical non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and shelters the District's homeless.

Our next dinner for Leland Place will be Saturday, January 20. We'll meet at the church. Email Dave Skidmore for more details.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THE FLOWERS FOR A SERVICE IN MARCH, PLEASE CONTACT MISS MARY SIMMONS

The *Universalist Anchor* is published monthly for the members and friends of the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, DC. It is also on our website, along with Rev. Henley's sermons, and announcements and activities.

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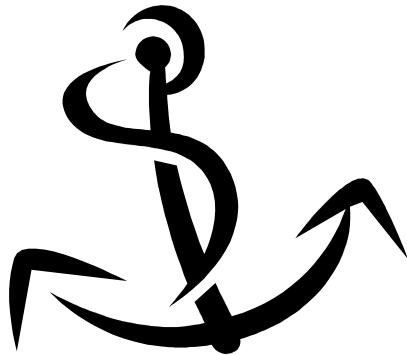
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Church Administration — email: office@universalist.org

Our Mission (adopted May 2002)

We create a loving community
for worship and service
in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We welcome all and respect individual beliefs as we grow together



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