

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City



First Unitarian Church nurtures and challenges the spiritual and intellectual journey for all generations and actively engages in building a progressive and just world.



# Annual Report 2014-2015

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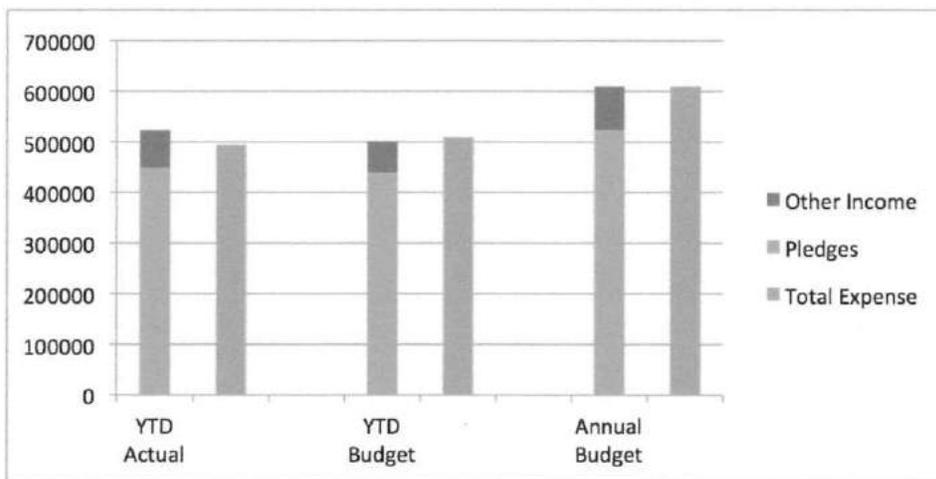
## First Unitarian Church Annual Meeting Agenda May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

1. Call meeting to order
2. Introduction
  - Reminder of Policy Governance model
  - Review Ends and how church provides avenues for accomplishing Ends
3. Board reports
  - Overview of Congregational Linkage Results
  - Plan for 2015-2016 church year
4. Operations Report
  - Ministry
  - Committees: Overview of what has been accomplished this year by our many groups
  - Financials
5. Congregation Business: member voting
  - Approval of Budget
  - Election of new Board members
  - Resolutions
6. Closing

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$448,314	\$438,434	\$523,265
Other Income	\$74,782	\$62,732	\$86,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$523,096</b>	<b>\$501,166</b>	<b>\$610,003</b>
Total Expense	\$493,792	\$509,144	\$610,003
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$29,304</b>	<b>-\$7,978</b>	<b>\$0</b>



Financial Notes for April 2015

	April Actual	April Budget
Pledges	\$27,183	\$38,947
Other Income	\$12,087	\$11,107
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,270</b>	<b>\$50,054</b>
Total Expense	\$49,159	\$51,330
<b>Net</b>	<b>-\$9,889</b>	<b>-\$1,276</b>

**\*Certified Members 329 (as of February 2015)**  
**FY 14-15 PLEDGES = 270**  
**Pledging Member (Household): 194**  
**Pledging Friend (Households): 76**

PROPOSED BUDGET

**Budget Summary FY: 2015-16**

Income	Approved Budget 14-15	Proposed Budget 15-16	% change	Material factor(s)
Total Pledges	\$ 501,000	\$ 516,479	3%	
Total Other Collections	\$ 47,800	\$ 47,700	0%	
Total Rental Income	\$ 30,688	\$ 33,000	8%	Increased "Other Building Use" fees by 20% based on current usage pattern
Total Other Income	\$ 6,250	\$ 5,750	-8%	Decreased "Christmas Fund" by 9% based on 14-15 FY actuals
Total Fundraising	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	0%	
Total Income	\$ 607,738	\$ 624,929	3%	
<b>Expense</b>				
Total Personnel	\$ 440,377	\$ 477,950	9%	Net increase resulting from CL Minister and other changes in personnel
Total Church Programs & Committees	\$ 41,650	\$ 43,500	4%	Increase in RE Program funding
Total Utilities	\$ 38,350	\$ 36,290	-5%	20% Decrease in Electrical
Total Building & Office	\$ 64,237	\$ 72,565	13%	
Total Dues	\$ 15,329	\$ 19,829	29%	
Total All Other Expenses	\$ 7,795	\$ 7,795	0%	
Total Expense	\$ 607,738	\$ 657,929	8%	
Total	\$ -	\$ (33,000)		
*From Ministerial Assistance		\$ 33,000		
		\$ -		

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

### BOARD NOMINEES

#### **Don Walton**

Don Walton moved to Salt Lake in 2008 from Annapolis, MD. He had spent the previous 25 years as the Investment Manager for the State of Maryland. He moved to Salt Lake to help his daughter, a single mom, with his grandson, Cameron.

He joined the First Unitarian Church shortly after arriving in Salt Lake. He had visited other Unitarian churches on the East Coast that he found interesting but not compelling. His initial visit to 1st UU was compelling. Every Sunday he is amazed at the depth of the talent in this church and its commitment to social justice.

Don has a personal and professional interest in videography. This led him to volunteer to help out with taping the Sunday service. He has also assisted Tom Goldsmith in putting on TED talks in Eliot Hall, is a discussion leader for the Small Group Ministry, and is new to the Refugee Resettlement Committee.

#### **Peter Esko**

I am a creative director for a Seattle based marketing and design firm. While originally from from Frederick, Maryland, I have been living in Salt Lake City since 1998 and truly consider myself a Utahn. I graduated from the University of Utah in 2003. While at the U I met my wife and better half Amanda Esko who you surely know from the welcome table. Jazz Vespers was my original introduction to First Unitarian Church and my wife and I were married by Tom back in 2008. Amanda and I have enjoyed having our daughter Grace within the church community and look forward to welcoming our second child as well. I have been active with the welcome table and RE and look forward to helping in what capacity I can to guide the church in the next few years if confirmed to the board of trustees. Outside of work and the church my passion is in the outdoors, where I love to spend time, running, skiing, and biking.

## MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT - REV. TOM GOLDSMITH

It has been a very good year at First Unitarian Church. We have completed our second full year of Policy Governance, where roles and expectations among the Board, staff, and minister have coalesced. We all seem to know what we're doing. The Board, under the warm and thorough leadership of Erin Johnson, has focused on establishing "ends" that will continue to raise the quality of church experience for members, friends, and newcomers. Thank you Erin for your leadership, and by the end of this meeting we will welcome Christine Ashworth as our new Board president.

The church staff has excelled once again, with Hal Gonzales joining me on the administrative team that makes decisions on issues confronting the church daily. The quality of our music program under David Owens' direction, with the help of David Zabriskie and Holly Stuart has offered an indelible mark of distinction.

Given the Board's attention to the "AMONG" ends, we have striven to make our church community more responsive and caring to each other. The Caring Committee has reached out effectively with the Rev. Harold Straughn and Mark Gardiner coordinating the efforts of countless volunteers. But the culture of caring exceeds the tasks of providing meals, rides, and child care for those facing medical situations. It means a generally warmer and inviting place to worship, feel welcomed, while offering a sense of belonging. The Family Fun Nights, now completing its second year, have provided a tremendous service by which mostly young families have the opportunity to connect with each other at monthly dinners and programs. Kelly Goff has not only fueled this endeavor, but has added a remarkably resourceful and creative aspect to the games adults and children can play together. We are grateful for her commitment.

The Young Adult group has likewise flourished this year under the enthusiastic leadership of Lauren Birge and Bryan Vanderheugel. By connecting with young adults through social media, we have an impressive following of about 50 young adults. It is my privilege to facilitate discussions on a bi-monthly basis. Our Small Group Ministry program remains an effective vehicle for our members and friends to connect on a deeper level than coffee hour chatter. John Rasmuson has organized the expanding program while Sandi Greene helped administratively. My deep thanks to them both. I have had another delightful year facilitating a small group to our elder population at Friendship Manor.

The greatest source of pride for me is our church's intense involvement in social justice. I'd even venture to say it's the backbone of our church community. My gratitude is unending to the leaders who make this all happen: Sue Geary and Michele Page (Social Justice Council); Joe Dubray, Ron Anderson, and Andrea Globokar (refugee resettlement); Joan Gregory and Kathy Albury (Environmental Ministry).

This year our longtime commitment to Marriage Equality was rewarded by Utah legalizing same-sex marriage and passing statewide nondiscrimination laws. How often does one see the work of making society more just actually bear fruit? So yes, it was a very good year!

In addition to supplying as much clergy advocacy for marriage equality as possible, I have also been intensely involved in environmental justice. I have enjoyed taking part in a few presentations on issues like fossil fuel divesting, along with our Environmental Ministry committee, and have also taken part in a few panel discussions and protests at the University of Utah. This summer I will continue in my fourth year to teach classes at the University's Environmental Humanities Center in

## MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

Lakeview, Montana. I co-teach Spiritual Ecology and also a class with Tim DeChristopher on Environmental Leadership. (It's good to see Tim routinely every year).

This year we had an exciting Celebration Sunday on March 1<sup>st</sup> with Carolyn McDade as our guest. It kicks off our annual pledge drive, and we are grateful to Henry Whiteside, Becky Heal, and Dylan Zwick for leading the charge with enormous zest and organization. Our pledge income remains a perplexing and frustrating problem, however. For this new fiscal year, 2015-2016, we as a church community can be proud that 38 new families have pledged support for this church. This ought to propel us to greater programming and opportunities. Yet the budget will barely be the same as last year, not because many have reduced their pledge but many have simply stopped. Confounding.

The new church year will bring two new staff members to our community. Succeeding Mary Kroener-Ekstrand after her five wonderful years as Director of Religious Education will be Julie Miller. Julie is a long-time educator in Salt Lake City, and brings to the table not only strong organizational and community-building skills, but countless connections to University leaders who will help us realize our new focus on offering our children classes that are more specialized in the arts and service learning. Nancy Moos, our religious education administrator will increase her hours to ensure that our premium programs like OWL, Coming of Age, and High School service trips continue strong. I am grateful to Nancy for providing much needed continuity.

This new year will feature a second UU minister who will serve as a "consulting minister to congregational life." The Rev, Matthew Cockrum will be joining us from Seattle where he served two years as a consulting minister.

Matthew's contract is for two years with an option for a one-year renewal. During this time he will evaluate the role of Minister for Congregational Life as to the value such ministry holds for a church like ours. The Board and I feel strongly that such a ministry is well warranted for our church, and Matthew will help us evaluate the role. Aside from adding a new ministerial presence to our congregation, Matthew will work specifically with our grade 7-12 population, direct our efforts in making the church more welcoming for newcomers and helping them integrate more fully and easily into the life of the congregation, and also work with church leaders to provide stronger adult religious education programming.

Our new staff will begin their services as the church enters its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I have worked with an outstanding 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee throughout the year, and the festivities begin with a special worship service on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

I end each Minister's Report by listing the names of those who have died the previous year. It is a way of honoring them as we do with our annual requiem. This year the losses we incurred feel especially hard. Perhaps because there have been more deaths than usual, or because many of those whom we have lost played an unusually significant role in the life of the church.

May we pause for a moment to reflect on those whom we have loved.

Marjorie Williams Lancaster  
Frances Kosakowsky  
Pinky McBrier  
Michael Mullins  
John Ellison

## MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

Nicholas David DeRosso  
Shaun Collin Steele  
Steve Horton  
Ernst Beier  
Mary Lindblom  
Norman Tanner

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Tom Goldsmith

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## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ERIN PHINNEY JOHNSON

This year the Board of Trustees aimed to respond to the feedback received through congregational linkage during the previous church year. This was the second full year of the church operating under Policy Governance. To recap briefly, Policy Governance frees the Board from everyday church administration and management, transferring such responsibility to the Executive Team - thus allowing the Board to focus on long-term strategic visioning by making a direct connection to the church community on a regular basis. During the 2013-2014 year the Board initiated use of a new Policy Monitoring program to regularly evaluate church policies and engaged in "linkage" with the church community to better understand how members and friends view the culture at First Church.

For the board, the 2014-2015 church year had two primary purposes. First, our meetings followed a Future Focused Agenda approach, and second, we worked with Tom to confirm operational follow-up to the primary concerns expressed by the congregation during last year's linkage.

- One of the new responsibilities of the Board is to assess big picture issues facing the church and its future. Given the need to follow-up on previous information gained from our linkage, we felt it would be advantageous to take the time to look forward and think about a framework that utilizes what we learned from the congregation. Most meetings a different board member was tasked with leading a discussion based on current trending topics in UU futures and relating that discussion to the future of First Unitarian. Topics of conversation included "changing the way we do church", "what are we here for?", "possible futures", "what results can we produce?", and "Congregations and Beyond" (a UUA discussion guide for boards and congregations). The result of these discussions was a rough framework for moving our church forward.
- Between these ideas discussed in Board meetings, the Administration's own ideas for church management and the results of focus groups held with parents of children in the religious education program, plans began to unfold for a new organizational strategy. Knowing that our wonderful RE Director, Mary Kroener Ekstrand, had resigned and would be leaving at the end of this church year, the time was ripe for changes to organization and job descriptions.

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Thus, two RE positions (Director and Assistant) would be split into 3, allowing more time devoted to congregational life.

The administrator will take on more duties while the new Director of RE will focus primarily on younger children in the church, implementing curriculum, organizing family night, and supporting greater group cohesion among families with children in the lower grades. The new position in our church, the Minister of Congregational Life, will take over the junior high and high school kids, as well as developing SLCUU welcoming/orientation programming, organizing adult RE, and facilitating better communication within the congregation and between administration and congregation.

It is the Board's goal to be able to facilitate meaningful conversations with our church community, and in doing so, determine if our ENDS truly define our organization. These discussions guide changes to our strategic plan, which in turn may result in modifying church policy and thus how we adapt to our changing world. The results from our first Big Question have been astounding and we intend to evaluate the changes being implemented by continuing to touch base with you, the congregation, in the coming church year. This summer, with the help of a member of our congregation, Gaylan Nielson, we will work to develop our framework into a more strategic plan, allowing us to assess our progress towards our goals. In a few years, we will return to you with another "Big Question" in order to take the pulse of the congregation and focus church efforts where they will be most relevant and forward-thinking.

This year we continued to improve our use of the Policy Monitoring program that Nathan Moos created. This program allows Tom to report on his compliance with the church policies each month and for the Board to evaluate Tom's interpretation of the policy and compliance with the policy. Each policy is addressed on a set schedule, with the majority evaluated once a year, and financial reports and Ministerial Well-Being evaluated on a monthly basis. The Policy Monitoring program enables the Board to easily work with the Executive Team in our monitoring role, while giving the Executive Team the freedom to operate the church without constant approvals from the Board.

In terms of Board make-up, we maintained membership this year at seven members, with a few gaps during the year due to resignation of members. Attendance and participation in planned activities by every Board member was strong. One member is rotating out at the end of this church year, as Philip Moos is completing multiple terms. Scott Maves resigned from the board in September due to regular work conflicts on meeting days and Robert Cummings stepped into his spot. Unfortunately, Robert then resigned in January due to family conflicts. In March, Don Walton joined the board to finish out Scott's term. Don is up for official election to the board at this meeting. Next year Christine Ashworth will move into the role as President to provide Board leadership moving forward in 2015-2016. I have enjoyed leading this Board these past two years, as their passion and commitment to First Unitarian are evident in all that they do for the church. We are lucky to have such dedicated volunteers. With such a diligent, caring group of individuals thinking about the church's future, great things are on the horizon.

Submitted by:  
Erin Phinney Johnson

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - MARY KROENER-EKSTRAND

Our Lifespan Religious Education programs offer members and friends of First Unitarian Church opportunities to explore spiritual and religious topics and to connect with other congregants around shared interests, experiences, and values.

Our program offerings this year included...

- Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth – Each Sunday, we offered childcare for our youngest attendees and Religious Education classes for children and youth from preschool through high school during both the 9am and 11am services. We served 167 "regulars" and many visitors in these programs this year. While attendance varies weekly, our average was 73 participants, and our highest attendance occurred on Sun., April 11, when 111 children and youth were at church.
- YRUU – Our staff youth advisor Jillian O'Karma offered a twice monthly Sunday evening youth group for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth, serving about 12 regular participants and a number of visitors. We average about 6-8 participants weekly.
- Fall Tween Retreat – 12 of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 4 adult chaperones went up to a cabin in the Uintas for social activities and outdoor adventures.
- Mountain Desert District Youth CONs – 7 of our high school youth reached beyond our congregation to participate in Mountain Desert District youth events including the Fall CON in Albuquerque, NM, the Western Cluster CON at South Valley UU Society here in Salt Lake City, and Bridging CON at First Universalist Church in Denver, CO.
- High School Mission Trip – This year, we have tried something new and different with our annual service trip by combining it with an opportunity to attend the UUA General Assembly in Portland, OR in June. Our YRUU group will participate in a preconference social justice training with UUSC, serve as volunteers during the conference, and learn about Unitarian Universalist faith based social action in various workshops and programs. We expect 8 of our high school youth and 3 adult chaperones to attend. The group has engaged in a variety of fundraising activities throughout the church year to make this opportunity available and affordable to all youth who wish to participate.
- Our Whole Lives – We provided 12 participants in 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades and 17 participants in 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grades with age appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education classes rooted in our community values of respect, responsibility, justice, and inclusivity.
- Worship Services – We planned and presented several elementary worship programs during regular Sunday school sessions, and also presented the Solstice Service, Christmas Pageant, and High School Youth Service for the larger congregation.
- Social Justice Projects – We offered numerous opportunities for congregants, and especially for our children and youth, to put faith into action through hands on service projects such as Trick or Treat for UNICEF, collecting gifts for families in need at Christmastime through Sub for Santa/Giving Tree, and collecting canned goods for the Crossroads Food Pantry at Easter. We also offered educational social justice programs on Martin Luther King Jr., Animal welfare/rescue, and Environmental awareness.
- UU Orientation Presentations – Mary offered information about our lifespan religious education programs at several evening presentations for newcomers to our church.
- Adult Religious Education – This year, in an effort to help adults find ways to connect with a variety of programming throughout the year, we listed many ongoing monthly interest groups in our Adult Religious Education Brochure along with our multisession religious education classes. We offered opportunities for "formal" learning experiences for adults in 5 multi-session classes throughout the year, enrolling about 50 people.
- Family Fun Night – Volunteer Kelly Goff coordinated this program. Families with children from infants through 6<sup>th</sup> grade were invited to church for dinner and programming on the first Monday of each month.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT (CONTINUED)

- Social Events – The RE department planned the church Winter Holiday Party, and staff and volunteers offered various class parties for children/youth throughout the year including monthly social events for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders. The RE Department is also planning the end of year Church Picnic scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. Our high school YRUU youth group also planned several social occasions as fundraisers for their Mission Trip, including the Halloween Carnival, the Winter Solstice dinner, a Dr. Seuss performance and dinner, and a spring coffee house.

### **Religious Education Volunteers**

Our program relies on many helping hands to run. I would like to thank the following members and friends of our congregation for their important volunteer service in the Religious Education Program during the 2014-15 church year:

#### Sunday School Teachers:

Sonia Carnell, Ric Gregory, Samantha Wood, Jeffrey Ekstrand, Brenda and Tom Goodwin, John Dillier, Connie Smith, Sunita Shankaran, Kendra and Raleigh Smith, Liz Weight, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, Paula Baase, Derek Gersdorf, Donna Drown, Rob Richardson, Helen Harris, Randon and Nicole Beckstead, Lindsay Roylance.

#### Sunday School Assistants:

Nancy Howard, Charlie Johnson, Wendell Duncan, John LaMalfa, Lisa Mountain, Heather Hawkes, Milou Bottrill, Natalie Clayton, Pam Molen, Sarah Davis, Usha Spaulding, Britt Coble, Kelly Garrett, Lara LaPerle, Sven Haynes.

#### OWL Teachers:

Kris Lander, Matt Wilson, Brenda Goodwin, Patti and Steve Horton, Marti and John Major, Phil Bossart, and Diane Johnson.

#### Special Events Coordinators and Volunteers:

Kelly Goff, Kendra Brooks-Smith, Erin Johnson, Carole Straughn, Jim French, Dawn Opolous, Richard Anderton, Alison Christiansen, Paul Kuttner, Usha Spaulding, Dot Verbrugge, Todd Seymour, Lori Shields, Susan Barnum, Holly and Beverly Stuart, Martha Veranth, Marynell Hinton and Tobin Atkinson, Stacey Cole, Philip Moos, Nathan Moos, Bethany Moos, Bill Reed, Marc and Val Hoenig, Derek Gersdorf, Chuck Pruitt and Kalyani Samudra, Joan Gregory, Art Lee, John Shavers, Kathy Albury, Judy Lord, Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen, Joe Herring, Kacie Fuller, Dragan Ceilteach Irish Dancers, Learning Circle Dance Company.

### **Religious Education Staff**

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand, Director of Religious Education

Nancy Moos, Religious Education Program Assistant

Jillian O'Karma, Youth Advisor

Triniti Taylor, Jeanie Calkin, Tasia Taylor, Olivia Harris, Childcare Providers

### **In Closing**

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Director of Religious Education at First Unitarian Church for the past six years. Developing and supporting educational, worship, social justice, and community activities for all ages has been an interesting and enjoyable professional challenge as well as a great opportunity for my own spiritual growth and learning. I have appreciated the help, support, participation, and friendship of so many of you along the way. As the church pursues new directions in Religious Education programming, I wish you all well on your continuing journey of faith development.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand

Director of Religious Education

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT - DAVID OWENS

Looking back over the last church year, the Music Department once again has an exciting and hopefully rewarding review of the previous year to offer to the annual report.

David Owens has concluded his official 16<sup>th</sup> year as Director of Music, and continues to enjoy his collaboration with Holly Stuart- Assistant Choral Director, and David A. Zabriskie-Associate Director and Artist In Residence. As well, the continuing presence of Andy Walker – Choir President, Beverly Stuart – Assistant to the Assistant and Librarian, Jeffery Ekstrand – Cat Wrangler to the Junior Singers and the many others who volunteer time and effort to the Music Department have All contributed to a rich and varied year in music.

As always, we have endeavored to bring a musical ministry to not only the 'big' Sundays in our liturgical year,..but to each and every Sunday as well. This has varied from something as unique as the Brass Quartet that recently accompanied the Brecht/Weil lay service or the exquisite classical guitar brought forth by our own John Major to the always charming and meaningful contributions made by the Junior Singers. So many others, both from within – and those beyond our own congregation - bring a wealth of musical variety and import to our services and activities.

Of course, of high merit is the bi-monthly contribution made by the Chancel Choir. Under the joint directorship of Holly Stuart and guest presence of David Zabriskie, they continue to bring a musical ministry of the highest order to our Sunday services, both high and low, as well as other special events posted during the year.

Of special mention to these events, this year brought some unique opportunities.

One was the commission to both David Owens and David Zabriskie to compose original works based on the theme of 'Spirit Of Life'. This was to honor our keynote speaker- Carolynn McDade ( the composer of the original hymn ) – to our Celebration Sunday. Zabriskie's choral setting was transcendent and Owens's Piano Trio proved to be a highlight of the year.

The Chancel Choir also had a unique opportunity to join with the South Valley Choir in presenting Mary Lou Prince's 'Songs of The Earth ' on Earth Day as an evening concert. Joined by a talented string quartet, this was a remarkably moving and profitable fundraiser for the 'Living Rivers/ Colorado Riverkeeper' foundation.

Under the direction of David Zabriskie, the Chancel Choir will also present the John Rutter Requiem in their annual Memorial Sunday on May 17<sup>th</sup>. This tradition has become an important installation in the church year giving all present the opportunity to reflect on those lost recently and distantly in all of our lives.

Although tangentially, it would be remiss to not mention a wildly fun and successful fundraiser launched by four members of the Chancel Choir (and their support team). What started out as a one night 'house show' wound up being a full blown theatrical run. The Station Cabaret Players (Rebecca Heal, Erin O'Connell, Alexis Baigue, David Owens, David Zabriskie, Nikki Blackburn ) presented 'Life Is A Cabaret' to repeated sold out audiences and almost met our annual budget in fundraising to supplement and sustain the Artist In Residence line item. Thanks go not only to those involved in the production, but the overwhelming support of congregants, friends and family in making this such a successful musical event.

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

### MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT (CONTINUED)

In addition to such as mentioned above, we continue to foster the related and independent musical life of this church. Whether it be the Junior Singers, the Madrigal Singers, the solo artistry of Art Lee, or the Singing Circle and Music Jam Sessions, and innumerable others, Music continues to play a remarkably vital and important role in First Church.

Happily, we are able to report that all musical instruments in our care remain in good condition... and that the Music Department operates within its budget.

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### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT - LAYNE OWENS

Projects that were completed aside from routine custodial, maintenance, and building care-upkeep from July 2014 to April 2015 were:

#### **July**

- Shelves in Atrium closet build
- Fixed A/C in RE wing
- Capped off irrigation in Zen Garden
- Removed dead plants in Zen Garden
- Deep cleaned chapel

#### **August**

- Replaced collection plates
- Cleaned rug in parlor
- Power-washed plaza & stairs
- Sealed/repared cracked cement in front of Chapel and stairs from Parking lot
- Church windows cleaned (Salt Lake Windows)
- Installed skater-stops on railings from parking lot

#### **September**

- Installed bike rack on plaza
- Rain gutters repaired/installed RE door

#### **October**

- Repaired chapel walls
- Installed no entry chain at the handicapped ramp
- Installed white and chalk boards in RE classrooms and movie screen
- Assembled and installed Plaza furniture
- Installed rope on gate for wheel chair access
- Mounted First Aid kits in kitchens
- Hung broom racks
- Secured cooktop in main kitchen
- Strengthened cabinets in main kitchen

#### **November**

- Installed forms for cement pour for sidewalk and bases for bench & sculpture in Zen Garden
- Trouble shoot and repaired Lighting control system
- Removed old furnace from basement

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT (CONTINUED)

Rent bobcat to remove and repair sidewalk & poured bases

**December**

Building re-keyed (Merrill)  
Replaced heater in elevator (Schindler)  
Repaired heater coil core  
Put higher wattage lights on exterior sconces coming from parking lot  
Got bids on installing light on playground  
Installed bench in Zen Garden  
Hearing loop installation begun (Performance Audio)  
Installed projector screen in Room 201  
Repaired RE door

**January**

Replaced faucet head in main kitchen scullery  
Build sculpture base  
Changed wall switch in Unisex bathroom  
Added outlet in supply closet  
Repaired door opener stop  
Repaired church surveillance cameras  
Hearing loop installation completed (Performance Audio)

**February**

Installed sculpture  
Tested hearing loop w/Doug Roberts  
Repaired chapel walls

**March**

Bid from COIT, Merry Maid, and 2 Local Gals Housekeeping, for deep cleaning  
Bids on replacing A/C compressors  
Verified availability of power to Zen garden

**April**

Repaired Steeple window and wind blown trims  
Installed plaques  
Repaired ladder access to bell fry

**Budget and expenditures for the year 2014 -2015:**

**Bldg/Grounds Budget**

Cleaning Supplies & linens	\$3,848.45	26%
Repairs/Maint. Supplies	\$3,058.68	21%
Bldg Repairs	\$3,158.45	22%
Tools/Rentals	\$1,692.23	12%
<u>Grounds/bldg. maint.</u>	<u>\$2,828.85</u>	<u>19%</u>
Total	\$14,586.66	100%

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY REPORT

### **Environmental Ministry Annual Report, 2014-2015**

The Earth and our civilization are in peril from the devastating impacts of climate change. It is up to us to educate ourselves, effect change and take action that will assure a livable future for ourselves, our children and those who follow us.

The mission of Environmental Ministry is to facilitate the healing of planet Earth and Earth's various life-support systems including (but not limited to) air, water, soil, and the interdependent web of life. Our purpose is to affirm, promote, and act in congruence with our 7th principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." We focus on and organize around providing information, education, and opportunities for action that will reduce the ecological footprint and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City, its members and friends, and the community around us. We advocate for, work to create, and seek to transition to a future where climate justice and ecological sustainability are the norms. Environmental Ministry serves as a member of the First Unitarian Church Social Justice Council.

Environmental Ministry is recognized as a leader, ally and partner in environmental and climate justice efforts throughout Utah. Through its Environmental Ministry, First Unitarian Church ministers to the environmental and climate justice movement in Utah.

Contributors to this report include: Joan M. Gregory, Kathy Albury, Judy Lord, Carole Straughn, and Tammy Stump.

### **Walking Our Talk**

Environmental Ministry sponsored and ran swaps in Eliot Hall in September 2014 and January 2015. Church members, friends, neighbors and the environmental community were invited to bring what they no longer needed and take what they needed. No money changed hands. Members of our sister church, San Esteban Episcopal in West Valley City, were especially invited to be a part of these swaps. A joint swap/cambalache was held in April 2015 at San Esteban. Items were donated from both churches and their surrounding neighborhoods, and Environmental Ministry ran the swap with help from the people of San Esteban.

The church recycled paper, cardboard, and plastic with the help of a very few volunteers who emptied our recycling receptacles into the proper bins each week. Three people have also been emptying Sunday coffee grounds into the compost bin. We do need more volunteers from the congregation to help with these two efforts. Our 2 volunteer families continue to pick up and deliver batteries and CFLs to the hazardous waste facilities for proper disposal and/or recycling.

Almost every Sunday of the church year, volunteers ran an Environmental Ministry table after services. There we highlighted environmentally related information, activities and actions both within the church and in the larger community, as well as environmental books and newspaper articles. Emphasis this year has been on proposed tar sands mining, transport, and refining in Utah and continued work on becoming a Unitarian Green Sanctuary.

Our Winter Solstice Celebration is a fantastic church-wide event celebrating the shortest day and the longest night ... and the coming of the light. Environmental Ministry has contributed to this event over the years by gradually enhancing our collection of reusable bowls, salad plates, and utensils to support our Solstice dinner for 150. This year, we completed the place settings with our donation of 150

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY REPORT (CONTINUED)

cloth napkins. Less waste and an array of colors and patterns now brighten our celebration. As a result, these place settings are available throughout the year for use by other groups within the church for their gatherings and celebrations.

Walking Our Talk efforts are coordinated by Judy Lord and Cynthea of the desert and are made possible only through the efforts of many volunteers including Kathy Albury, Jim French, Mark and Pamela Molen, Richard Anderton, Sue and David Click, Gertrud and Paul Carpenter, the Harty Family, Rick and Joan Gregory, Randy Lessley, and Carole Straughn.

### Garden

In 2014, all 11 plots had gardeners and produced well. A minor update was made to the drip irrigation system to better supply water to the fruit trees. For the 2015 season, the co-facilitators are Tammy Stump and Brittany Bellows. This year, we have had a work day with an irrigation consultant to update our system and replace all drip lines. We have received some donated lawn furniture as well as a donation of 4 new fruit trees. Our next priorities are to extend irrigation to the new trees and to improve the garden paths. This year, the garden is again a member of the Wasatch Community Garden network, enabling members of the garden to take free classes/workshops and to receive available plants and supplies.

### Green Sanctuary

The UUA Green Sanctuary Program (<http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary/index.shtml>) provides a path for congregational study, reflection, and action to address climate change and environmental injustice and a structure for congregations to examine their current environmental and climate impacts and move towards more sustainable practices in ways grounded in Unitarian Universalism. Green Sanctuary actions focus on: Environmental/Climate Justice, Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, and Sustainable Living. Environmental Ministry renewed its efforts this year to document our progress toward Green Sanctuary Certification. A Green Sanctuary Kickoff Potluck was held in November 2014. Art Lee, local singer/songwriter provided the music. We reviewed the criteria, made plans and assigned tasks. Judy Lord took on the daunting task of inventorying what we have accomplished – the spreadsheet she has created documents our progress in all four action areas. We have been documenting our work via photography and video as well as in Torch articles. All this material will be collected this summer for our planned Green Sanctuary certification submission this coming fall.

### Religious Exploration

The Social Justice Council and Environmental Ministry co-sponsored the reading of three books this year: ***Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*** by Debby Irving (Elephant Room Press, 2014) was discussed in Feb/Mar 2015. *Waking Up White* is the book the author wished someone had handed her decades ago. By sharing her often cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, she offers a fresh perspective. As she unpacks her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she reveals how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated her ill-conceived ideas about race. An Anti-Racism Committee is now in the process of being formed as a direct result of the reading of this book. ***Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square*** by Paul Rasor (Skinner House Books, 2013), the 2014-15 Unitarian Universalist Common Read, was read and discussed in March 2015 with discussions at South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. In this clarion call to action, leading Unitarian Universalist theologian Paul Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in the national debates on social policy. Showing that religious liberals are more numerous than many realize, he calls on liberals to embrace their prophetic heritage and

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY REPORT (CONTINUED)

bring their religious convictions to bear on the issues of our time. ***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*** by Naomi Klein (Simon & Schuster, 2014) was read in April/May 2015 and engaged 15-20 participants in each of the 5 sessions. Climate change, Klein writes, is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe. Either we leap—or we sink. Taken together, these books and discussions are inspiring us to raise our voices in the public square and to take action on climate and racial justice. *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.* - Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **Worship – Adults and Children**

Every Sunday is Earth Day Sunday at First Unitarian Church. It is rare to find a Sunday where our deep connection to the Earth and our profound responsibility to actively work for climate justice are not part of the sermon, the readings and/or the message. Rev. Tom Goldsmith is seen as a spiritual leader and minister in the local environmental community.

On Earth Day Evening, Wed, April 22, 2015, the choirs of First Unitarian Church and South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society performed *Songs of the Earth: A Celebration of Nature*, a cantata composed and written by Mary Lou Prince, SVUU Music Director, and Rev. Patty Willis, SVUU Minister. This concert, hosted by the Environmental Ministry, was an amazing event. First Unitarian Church was filled to the brim. Among our guests were representatives of The Parliament of the World's Religion - *Songs of the Earth* will be performed at The Parliament in SLC in October 2015. Donations (\$1,500) received at the concert will benefit Living Rivers/Colorado Riverkeeper. Living Rivers/Colorado Riverkeeper empowers a movement to instill a new ethic of achieving ecological restoration, balanced with meeting human needs: restoring inundated river canyons, wetlands and the delta; repealing antiquated laws which represent the river's death sentence; reducing water and energy use and their impacts on the river; and recruiting constituents to aid in reviving the Colorado River.

On Sunday, April 26, 2015, Environmental Ministry celebrated Earth Day with our children in exploration of trees. With the help of John Shavers, director of the Interethnic Health Alliance, the children learned of an opportunity to provide seedlings for \$0.25 each to Uganda, which is being rapidly deforested. Art Lee taught them a song about trees and Judy Lord read a book focusing on the effects of deforestation. Kathy Albury assisted the children in putting together small symbolic "trees" from found materials. These "trees" were used to solicit funds from the adults during coffee hour. Altogether the children collected \$305 which John will take to Uganda to purchase 1,220 tree seedlings which will be planted by children and families in Uganda when he returns there in late May.

### **Tar Sands, Oil Shale and the Keystone XL Pipeline**

For 5 months, this summer and fall, people were on the Tavaputs Plateau in the Book Cliffs of Eastern Utah, holding vigil on the land where U.S. Oil Sands is attempting to open up the first commercial tar sands mine in the United States. The U.S. Oil Sands proposed project is located on land straddling the boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Reservations. There were 26 arrests this summer resisting this operation which is already increasing air pollution, devastating the land, and increasing carbon emissions, contributing to climate change. By Oct, U.S. Oil Sands stock was lower than it had been in 5 years. This past fall, much work went into supporting those who took action. The activists faced numerous charges and had their day in court in Vernal, UT in January 2015. All accepted pleas in abeyance. Environmental Ministry provided support in the form of housing, jail support, fundraising, and courtroom support.

Environmental Ministry worked with NOKXL-SLC in hosting a rally at the Federal Building in January 2015 calling on the President to stand strong and REJECT the Keystone XL following the Nebraska Supreme

## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY REPORT (CONTINUED)

Court's decision. But, even at the writing of this report in May 2015, the President has yet to make a final decision.

### **Partnerships and Participation**

Environmental Ministry's presence can be found in many local environmental and climate justice efforts. This year, Environmental Ministry partnered with numerous community organizations helping to present and plan, host, sponsor and/or publicize more events and efforts than can possibly be recounted in an annual report. Environmental Ministry members wrote letters to the editor, spoke and testified at hearings, marched, rallied, and took action demonstrating the seriousness of the climate crisis and our commitment to changing the status quo. First Unitarian Church Environmental Ministry was there, because YOU were there demonstrating our Unitarian principles, the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

CLEAN AIR continued as an important focus of the Salt Lake City environmental community this year. We have the right to live asthma-free and without pulmonary problems due to poor Salt Lake air quality. The Clean Air, No Excuses, 2015 Rally on January 31, 2015 on the steps of the Capitol was well-supported by our Environmental Ministry and First Unitarian Church members and friends.

The People's Climate March in September 2014 was hugely successful in showing world leaders that the movement to resist extreme energy extraction is growing larger and stronger and more diverse every day. In NYC, 400,000 people marched and the people marched in cities and towns all over the planet. Environmental Ministry helped support and publicize the SLC march of 250 people – singing, marching, and calling for climate justice, divestment, the end of fossil fuel based energy, and the transition to a clean, sustainable, renewable-energy based economy.

### **Climate Justice**

Using the Standing on Sacred Ground Series of films, Environmental Ministry has been educating itself and the community-at-large this year about how "indigenous communities around the world and in the U.S. resist threats to their sacred places—the original protected lands—in a growing movement to defend human rights and restore the environment." Through this documentary series, produced by the Sacred Land Film Project, "native people share ecological wisdom and spiritual reverence while battling a utilitarian view of land in the form of government megaprojects, consumer culture, and resource extraction as well as competing religions and climate change." The series "exposes threats to native peoples' health, livelihood, and cultural survival in eight communities around the world. Rare verité scenes of tribal life allow indigenous people to tell their own stories—and confront us with the ethical consequences of our culture of consumption." Two films (*Profit & Loss* and *Fire & Ice*) were screened in spring 2015. Two more will be screened in fall 2015. Screenings are paired with presentations from local organizations working on resisting extreme energy extraction or working with indigenous communities to resist threats to their sacred places.

### **Divestment**

The 2013-2014 Environmental Ministry Annual Report ended with the following statement regarding divestment: *Only time will tell if we are bold enough as a denomination and if our educational institutions are visionary enough to take this critical step bearing witness to our conviction that defending a livable future – taking the moral stand - is valued over profits, greed and financial gain.*

In June 2014, the UUA General Assembly voted to divest the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund from fossil fuels. First Unitarian Church was one of the sponsors of that resolution (<https://divestfossilfuels.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/fossil-fuel-divestment-resolution.pdf>), and Joan

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

### ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY REPORT (CONTINUED)

Gregory worked tirelessly towards its passage. Among the supporters, and first to speak to the resolution from the floor of the Assembly, was Tim DeChristopher, representing First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.

During 2014-2015, First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City offered our Divestment Workshop twice, once at the UT Interfaith Power & Light Climate Justice Summit in January 2015 at the Episcopal Conference Center and again at First Unitarian Church for the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in May 2015. Environmental Ministry has proposed our Divestment Workshop for The Parliament of the World's Religions to be held in Salt Lake City in October 2015 – a potential international venue for our divestment work.

The Global Divestment Day March in Salt Lake City was held on February 13, 2015, sponsored by 350.org, locally organized by Kevin Leecaster with the support of Environmental Ministry. Students and community members marched from the Stadium TRAX to President's Circle in our continuing effort to convince the University of Utah to divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry.

#### **Interns**

Environmental Ministry was blessed, yes blessed this year, with four fabulous environmental justice interns from the University of Utah. Andrea Horehled assisted with planning and presenting the divestment workshop, collected related handouts for posting on the Utah Interfaith Power & Light website, and contacted workshop participants about holding a similar workshop for their faith communities. Linda Stearns assisted with the swaps, book discussions, and provided feedback on our environmental justice efforts. Evan Smith worked with Kevin Emerson to enter our First Unitarian Church electric, solar, gas, and water use into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager to assist us in tracking and documenting our carbon footprint. Finally, Paul Seibt worked with the Endowment Committee to further analyze our endowment investment portfolio in light of our divestment from the fossil fuel industry. What a wonderful gift! It was like having clones ... only better. The interns definitely had more energy than those of us who have been doing this work for years. It was awesomely multiplicative to have their assistance.

-submitted by Joan Gregory

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## HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Maintaining the tradition started in 1999 by Hugh Gillilan as part of our environmental ministry, church volunteers remove litter from a 4-mile section of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon. This is completed in the Spring and Fall, and demonstrates to the community the Unitarian Church's commitment to preserving Utah's natural beauty. Many thanks to the church members that participate.

-Respectfully submitted by Frank Steffey



## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

# SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

Council Membership: The Social Justice Council maintained its core membership including the leadership of other working church committees and individual activists for social justice.

Priorities: The Council established these priority areas in which to direct its actions this year: criminal justice reform, immigration reform, refugee support, LGBTQ equality, climate justice and gun violence prevention.

Activities: Joan Gregory, Council member for the Environmental Ministry, was instrumental in facilitating collaboration with the Social Justice Committee at South Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Representatives of both congregations joined for discussions of the book Waking Up White, by Debby Irving. The group is also discussing the book Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square, by Paul Rasor. Joan also continued to provide leadership to the Environmental Ministry and its critical work for climate justice. Joanna Straughn lead the formation of the group People Challenging Racism whose goal is to move from discussion to action that will change our culture.

Council member, Victoria Sethunya, presented a program entitled Fighting Classism and Racism with Opera. Joe DuBray, chair of the Immigrant Resettlement Committee, organized a Sunday service with the International Rescue Committee and featuring recipients of resettlement goods and services. Sven Haynes and Joanna Straughn prepared and presented a Sunday service on the Unitarian principles from a Socialist perspective.

Wesley Green assumed the assignment of coordinating the church's annual entry in the Pride Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday, June 7. Mark Rothacher continued to provide an important flow of information among the Issues and Action Group and the Council. Katie Parnell joined the Council as a new member.

The Council voted to support two agencies through the sale of holiday gift cards: the international organization, Room to Read, and the local agency, The Inclusion Center.

Budget: The Council had a budget allocation of \$1,700. Funds were distributed by request to the Refugee Resettlement Committee, for entrance to the Pride Parade, for displays for the Social Justice table, for Standing on Sacred Ground films, and for training in Right Relations with Indigenous People. Total expenditures will remain well within our budget allowance.

-Submitted by Council Co-chairs: Sue Geary and Michele Page

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

First Church members and friends donate household goods and set up homes to welcome International Rescue Committee (IRC) refugee families. Items donated, but not used by refugees, are donated to the People with Aids Coalition Thrift Store and DI. During the past year, May, 2014 - April, 2015 **183 pick-up truckloads of household goods and clothing** have been **donated by 185 Church members and friends.**

Donations included gently used: microwave ovens, end/coffee tables, chairs, cribs, sofas, dining room/ kitchen tables and chairs, upholstered chairs, TVs, lamps, bureaus, bookcases, entertainment centers, desks, bicycles, washers and dryers, vacuums, sewing machines, and stereo equipment. Too numerous to count but also contributed were dishes, pots and pans, glasses, cups, kitchen equipment, small appliances, flatware, towels, sheets, pillows, blankets, rugs, radios, telephones, and decorative items.

IRC sponsors the immigration and settlement of families worldwide to the US. The Refugee Resettlement Committee provides basic furnishings and household goods to get families started in their new lives.

**52 IRC refugee families, comprising 264 people, received 177 truckloads** of household goods. These families were resettled from Burma, Eritrea, Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia, Congo, Togo, Burundi, Afghanistan and Sudan.

Team members donated **901 volunteer hours** to this program, driving more than **9,249 miles** to pick up and deliver goods. Special recognition for the time, muscle and vehicles provided by Joe Dubray, Ron Anderson, Johanna Whiteman, Nancy Rasmuson, Jim Wilcox, Richard Anderston, Andrea Globokar, Marley Balasco, Bonnie Batey, Renate Beer, Sandy Biel, Colleen Bliss Rick Bliss, Jens Bowman, Ross Chambless, Ashley Cimmino, Nancy Douglas, Carolyn Erickson, Irene Fryer, Catherine Groseclose, Sam Hagan, Cody Hancock, Sven Haynes, Nancy Howard, Bob Johnson, Richard Lane, Gene Mahalko, Abbas Mathlum, Ron Mildenhall, Mohammed Mushib, John Rasmuson, Bill Reed, Bob Rees, Doug Roberts, Frank Steffey, Vickie Steffey, Suzanne Tronier, Jim Turner, Greg Van Dyke, Don Walton, Adam White, Henry Whiteside, Gary Widdison and Sue Ellen Wilcox.

In addition, volunteers mentored refugee families and provided English tutoring. Thanks to the following people who gave of themselves to provide smooth resettlement for families: Frank and Vickie Steffey, Ron Anderson, Carolyn Erickson, Andrea Globokar, Diane Johnson, Nancy and John Rasmuson, Sue Ellen Wilcox and Johanna Whiteman.

The Committee led a lay service on April 19, "Refuge and Renewal in Salt Lake City". IRC staff and refugees from Iraq, Congo and Burma shared their stories. Members of the Kachin Trinity Church provided music. Thanks to David Owens, Joe Dubray and Lee Shuster for their contributions.

Endless appreciation to Ron Anderson and Joe Dubray (directors of good will and scheduling), Andrea Globokar (chief bean counter), John Rasmuson (marketing guru and muse), Johanna Whiteman and Nancy Rasmuson (children's toy and joy captains) and managers of our small donated items storage unit. Johanna Whiteman, Nancy Rasmuson, Joe Dubray, Ron Anderson, Richard Anderton and Jim Wilcox lead delivery teams and the overall effort. Appreciation to Irene Fryer, our quilt queen, for providing handmade quilts. Many thanks to Nancy and John Rasmuson for providing their garage as a way station for donated items.

The International Rescue Committee expresses continued appreciation for this program and the generosity and giving spirit of First Unitarian Church as we complete our 17<sup>th</sup> year of partnership.

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

This program would not be possible without the commitment of First Church volunteers who live our principles as they participate in the Refugee Resettlement Program. The team is privileged to be part of this program and awed by the kindness displayed by donors. It is truly an enriching experience to meet the IRC families and to provide support as they strive to improve their lives and the lives of their children. This past year we celebrated with four refugees we helped resettle, as they became US citizens. **It takes a village!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Dubray, Ron Anderson, Johanna Whiteman, Jim Wilcox, Nancy Rasmuson, Richard Anderton and Andrea Globokar

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## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY REPORT

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is the heart of our church because it provides a secure, intimate setting in which people can share stories, experiences, ideas and feelings. As they expand personal horizons or explore interior spaces, group members develop lasting friendships. The cohesion of our congregation is dependent on those friendships.

More than 140 people registered on the church website for the 2014-15 SGM season. Leading 12 groups in monthly discussions were: Shirley Ray, Don Walton, Joe Martone, Darlene Thayne, Karen Hayes, Cali Letts, Sue Geary, Michelle Page, Bill Ashworth, Emily Normandeau, Rick Bliss, Colleen Bliss, Bill Reed, Gary Widdison, Wesley Green and Louisa Ingalls. Thanks to all.

John Rasmuson served as lead facilitator. Sandi Greene was registrar.

Among the goals of the 2014-15 season were: stabilizing the size of the groups at 13, increasing options for daytime meetings, and offering childcare. Two groups met on weekday mornings; one nighttime group provided childcare (down from two in 2013-14). We were also able to increase membership in outlying groups meeting in Bluffdale, Bountiful and Park City.

The year's discussion topics included: "Spirituality and Biology," "Materialism and Happiness," "Re-thinking Leisure," and "Intention, Attention and Willpower to Change." The May topic, "Moral Foundations of Belief," concluded the eight-month season.

Registration for the 2015-16 SGM season commences August 30.

-submitted by John Rasmuson

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

### CARING NETWORK REPORT

The year 2014 saw a successful expansion of the Caring Committee into the Caring Network. The name change signaled a larger reach to meet people's needs, both in terms of more volunteers participating and more types of help being offered. The goal of the increased levels of care is to encourage as many church members as possible to hear about as many needs as possible, and to keep to a minimum any danger of someone's needs falling through the cracks.

Some highlights:

1. Development of a church-wide Emergency Fund. Rev. Goldsmith selected a planning group composed of Ed Dierenger, Teresa Dierenger, Sue Geary, Mark Gardiner, Peter Grundfossen, Pam Molen, Mark Molen, and Vickie Steffey. The group met several times to establish policies and procedures regarding the types of needs the Fund would meet. Rev. Goldsmith reported several times to the congregation as the Fund approached completion, and then a special offering over and above pledges was very successful—a clear sign that the congregation is fully behind the idea of helping members and friends with short-term emergency financial burdens.
2. Professional volunteers. A special list was compiled of about 50 individuals with professional positions who have offered consultations in their fields of medical, legal, therapy, mediation, finance, crisis intervention, housing, and other expertise.
3. Goal for 2015: Create a continuum from welcoming to hospitality to caring for newcomers and members at services. As Caring Network volunteers, we will especially reach out in ways that encourage more diversity in the congregation, and more wholeness in our ministry to body, mind, spirit. Current new expressions of caring include the People Challenging Racism group led by Joanna Straughn, and a Mindfulness Meditation group led by Shirley Ray as a local chapter of Buddhist Unitarian Universalists, organized in more than 100 congregations.

Special thanks to:

- The entire congregation and community in support of the extended Steve Horton family in the wake of his tragic death
- Carolyn Erickson, Marion Johnson, and all who planned and celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Flo Wineriter, a leader of the congregation and humanism in Utah for more than 60 years
- Mark Gardiner, communicating needs to volunteers through email
- Dylan Zwick registering the latest information on our Caring Network Facebook page
- Paula Julander, ministry through cards for many occasions

WANT TO HELP? HERE'S HOW:

Each volunteer pledges to participate in the following four levels of care:

1. Give special attention to needs you hear about—illness, hospitalization, deaths in the family, and other setbacks, and report your findings to the Caring Network. Harold Straughn's email is [haroldstraughn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:haroldstraughn@sbcglobal.net)  
Mark Gardiner's email is [mg@xmission.com](mailto:mg@xmission.com)
2. Stay informed about the needs the Caring Network reports to its volunteers (confidential when appropriate) by reading the emails sent to you as a volunteer.
3. Offer your help when the need is something you know how to meet.
4. Learn more about caring for people in need through private and adult RE study.

As a result, here are some of the needs that were met by Caring Network volunteers:

- notice of rallies supporting Healthy Utah
- post-surgery well wishes
- sympathies on death of member's father

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

CARING NETWORK REPORT (CONTINUED)

- consoling words on death of pet
- Birthday Wishes for member at 75
- remembrance of Ron and Norma Molen's son
- outreach for legal counsel
- meals following surgery
- TLC for Ri Hanson after skiing injury
- bed donation
- outreach to those fallen thru the cracks, esp Michael Mielke
- help finding room to rent
- cheer for Connie Sedler after hospitalization
- Steve Horton memorial
- 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Flo Wineriter
- birthday celebrations, announcements, and cards for long-term members
- notice of Community Emergency Response meeting and outreach to that group
- medical supplies donation
- research Food Pantries
- emergency funding requests routed to Tom
- research free dental clinics
- rides to church
- crisis counseling
- prison visitation
- Facebook page notices of all Caring Network needs
- rides to outpatient therapy
- nighttime rides to small group ministry
- hospitality and emergency support for travelers
- new baby needs
- home repair assistance

A partial list of our volunteers:

Mark Gardiner; Kate Gardiner; Chriss Meecham; Sonja Decker; Usha Spaulding; Don Walton; Colleen Bliss; Robert B. Johnson; Paull Trane; Carolyn Erickson; Paula Julander; Peter Esko; Susie Johnson; Randy Lessley; Teresa Williams; John Diller; Nancy Howard; Teresa Bulkley; Paul Zimmermann; Jonathan Nolan; Susan Barnum; Renata Beer; Betty Anderson; Jacob Wood; Melanie Hall; Jerry Lazar; Maureen Gerard; Joan Proctor; Christine Ashworth; Erin Phinney Johnson; Joe Martone; Gertrud Carpenter; Emily Normandeau; Andrea Globokar; Patricia Renzetti; Wesley Green; Robert Broadhead; Ladd McClurg; William Hynes; Heather Sanders; Cali Letts; Amber & Bill DeBirks; Diane Johnson; Carol Romagosa; Dylan Zwick; Daniel Paterson; Danny Hartmann; Joyce Nielson; Matthew Boyce; Kelly Garrett; Charlie Johnson; Britt Coble; Mary Elizabeth Mitchell; Krista Bowers; Pam and Mark Molen; Marion Johnson; Marynell Hinton; Tom Goldsmith; Kasandra Atkinson; Sharon Strong; Tammy Stump; Kelly Goff; Patty Horton; Molly Butterworth; Hugh and Jan Gillian; Teresa Dieringer; Carol Shaughnessy; Bill McNeil; Coral Coffey; Beverly Jackson; Bill Reed; Judi Evans; Carole Straughn; Julia Rossi; Sam Hagen; Heidi Moore; Irene Fryer; Carol Lindsay; Kendra Brooks-Smith; Beverly Jackson; Ken Long; Bev Cooper; Lauren Wood; Stacey Cole; Cathy Chambless; Linda Waters; Diane Wilde; Charity Best; Ed Dieringer; Constance Smith; Cody Egan & Heather Davis; Marjorie Wilson; N. J. Douglas; Melissa Pittman; Mike Dixon; Skip Ryneerson

- Submitted by Rev. Harold Straughn, Chair

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

### WOMEN'S SACRED CIRCLE

Women's Sacred Circle was started in February of 2012 and continues to be offered to enhance the spiritual journeys of women of all ages. In August of 2014, we met to decide on what topics we would like to cover for the upcoming year. It was decided by the group to have two offerings: Sacred Contracts and Moon Circle.

#### Sacred Contracts Report

By: Adrienne Splinter

We met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of the month in the UU Haven. This group studied Caroline Myss's book Sacred Contracts: Awakening your divine potential. The facilitators were Adrienne Splinter and Carol Romagosa. The participants of the group read and developed an understanding of their individual archetypes and spiritual energies. As Myss observes "this may help shine a light on the purpose and meaning of your life."

#### Moon Circle Report

By: Judi Evans

We met monthly on the evenings of the full moon, usually at the UU Haven, but other places if the Haven was unavailable. Each month a different woman or several women told us about the meanings and legends surrounding the different monthly full moons. Some of the meetings incorporated crafts like twig vases to commemorate the Beaver Moon in November. In February, we indulged in decorating Valentine cookies. We also were asked to go deeper to align ourselves with the different energies the full moons represent. We were encouraged to become more aware of the monthly phases of the moon, and how that would enhance our lives.

#### Retreats

In addition to the monthly meetings we have two yearly retreats to Ivins, Utah. These retreats allow us to spend three to four days together enriching the spiritual aspects of our lives, eating, talking laughing and learning. A friend Kathy Munson provides a place for us to stay in the shadow of Red Mountain. Our next retreat is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, and is titled Holy Heyoka Holiday.

In August of 2015, we will meet again to decide on meeting times and topics we would like to cover for the upcoming year. This group promises to be cognizant of the changing aspects of our lives, supportive, open, and ongoing.

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### DINNER AND DIALOGUE

Once again, we have had a lively year of Dinner & Dialogue. There has been at least one dinner per month, sometimes two or three- with many new members and friends attending. We even had a dinner on Christmas Day! This is a great way to extend the church community in a friendly relaxed way, creating new connections while enjoying a meal and conversation together. We appreciate all who opened their homes and to those who participated. Signups are continually encouraged through Order of Service and Torch announcements and by staffers at the Welcome Table. It would be nice if we could incorporate online signups- I am looking for someone with expertise to help. Respectfully submitted by Jan Crane, Dinner & Dialogue chair

-submitted by Jan Crane

## ART FAIR

The 2015 Art Fair was held at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City on April 18th and 19th. Saturday hours were 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Entertainment on Saturday was provided by Aerial Arts of Utah, First Unitarian Church Junior Choir, Aere Greenway, Art Lee, John Major, and "Quattro Amici" (Four Friends) a madrigal choir of church



members: Jessica French, Jim Thornburg, John Major, and Kathleen Wilson. Sunday hours were between services and after last service. Sales were essentially evenly split between the two days. We had 22 artists participating in the event. Total sales were \$6,384.00. The church retained 25% of sales, the artists 75%. The art sales made a total (after expenses) of \$1221.65 for the church and an additional \$415.00 for YRUU (a church sponsored youth program). One artist was the winner selling close to \$1,500.00 of her art and art items, of course she only got 75% of that. Expenses covered by the church included wine and Square transaction charges (the cost of accepting credit cards). Food was donated for the event by Bill Reed and Diane Johnson. The event continues to be an outstanding opportunity that is open to all church members and local artists who are Unitarian friendly. It continues to be a premier church social event and fun fund raiser.

Chairs: Bill Reed - Visual Arts, Marcia Walker - Performance Arts, and Jim Turner - Head Cashier.

Visual Artists and Authors: Bill Reed, Mary Pusey, Victoria Sethunya, Randy Laub, Stephanie Saint-Thomas, Christy Montrone-Burns, Heather Hawks, Susan Mumford, Art Lee, YRUU, Jan Crane, Joan Johnson, Molly Hames, Ron Molen, Norma Molen, Barbara Pence, Jane Grau, Lissa Lander, Thatcher Goff, Cooper Goff, Keifer Goff, and Harold Straughn.

Special thanks to all who made this event a success, including: Bill Reed, Marcia Walker, Jim Turner, Diane Johnson, Donna Drown, Greg Johnson, Hal Gonzales, David Owens, Lee Schuster, Richard Bliss, Dave Click, Mary Pusey, Molly Hames, Jane Grau, Lori Shields, CJ Sadiq, and Sonia Carnell. And a very special thanks to Aerial Arts of Utah.



-Submitted by Bill Reed

## THEATRE GROUP REPORT

### U.U. Theater Group

The 2014 - 2015 theater group has had a wonderful year. We have attended monthly plays at the Babcock, Pioneer Memorial, Hale, Plan B and Salt Lake Acting Company theaters. This year we had an enormous interest in "The Book of Mormon" at the Capitol Theater on July 29th. We purchased over \$3000 worth of tickets and look forward to a raucous evening. We also have our annual pilgrimage to Cedar City for the Shakespeare festival. This year it is August 4th to the 9th. By the way, some people come for only one or two days, others come for the entire time. There is still room so come join us.

Sincerely, Your Drama Queen, Helen Stanhope

### Planned group

#### U.U. Movie Club

You've heard of book clubs right? Well this is similar but with movies at the Broadway or Tower. Year long passes are available. One week before the planned movie we will select a movie to see. After the movie, we will go to a restaurant to discuss the movie. Plan on the 4th Thursday of every month. This plan is in its embryonic stage so expect many changes as the group develops

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## COFFEE HOUR

The Coffee Committee brewed up 7,840 cups of coffee for 90 coffee hours in 2015. Our dedicated band of volunteers arrive early and stay late to ensure a warm welcome for our church friends at every service and Summer Forum. Pauline Higgins is our volunteer coordinator. She recruited new baristas, scheduled training and managed the coffee calendar all year except for a brief time when she was deep in the jungle visiting elephants. Gwen Trefts graciously helped out during that time. Marion and Greg Johnson were also on the look out for new volunteers but their primary responsibility was purchasing and delivering supplies each week to the kitchen's coffee cupboards. Their car has taken on a slight smell of freshly ground Rimini coffee beans. Pauline, Marion and Greg thank Hal Gonzales for keeping the kitchen organized and deciphering our reimbursement requests. They also thank the volunteers in the Coffee Committee for making the coffee hour so enjoyable.

-submitted by Marion Johnson

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

SUMMER FORUM

**First Unitarian Church Summer Forum 2014**

**June 15** Kyle Lamalfa, City Council Member, District 2,  
"How Liberals Can Get Elected in Utah"

**June 22** Paul Reeve, Ph.D., U of U associate professor of history,  
"Teaching About Mormonism in a Secular University"

**June 29** Deborah Dean, Founder of Engendered Species,  
"Bridges Across the Gender Gap"

**July 6** George Pyle, Salt Lake Tribune chief editorial writer,  
"What's the Matter with Kansas—and How It Is Spreading To Utah"

**July 13** Victoria Sethunya, social activist, and Makuena Mohlakola, singer, "Immigration from Both Sides of the Razor Wire—In Story and Song"

**July 20** Sue Geary, First Church Social Justice Co-Chair,  
"Sheckie's Advice on Life in Her Own Words—  
"Sum Things Dat Will Help Yas Dat I Loined frum Cruizin"

**July 27** Lee Shuster and Courtney Smith with Harold Straughn narrating,  
"How Music Can Free Us from Our Compartmentalized Lives"

**August 3** Pat Shea, former director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management,  
"Public Lands and Private Rebellions:  
The Clash Between the BLM and the Armed Resisters"

**August 10** Kathleen Cahill, award-winning playwright, "How I Write"

**August 17** Panel on the Climate Crisis—

"There's Still Time to Make Creative and Effective Changes"

\*Hans Ehrbar, Ph.D., U of U economics professor on Mormon efforts to return to simple living

\*Vicki Bennett, Director of the Sustainability Division for Salt Lake City, on local responses to climate change

\*Brian Moensch, M.D., president of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment on climate health risks to children



## ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 2015

### Activities This Year:

- Met monthly to review the Endowment Fund investments, new contributions to the Fund, and to address any other issues relating to the effective functioning of the Committee.
- Sought to promote continued awareness of the Endowment Fund through periodic announcements in the *Torch* and the Order of Service, recognizing donors with their permission.
- Held a dinner for the members of the Emerson Society and guests as an attempt to recognize those members and acquaint others with the purpose and goals of the Endowment Fund. Planned for a second Emerson Society Dinner, to be held this Fall, on October 23, 2015.
- Invested \$100,000 of cash on hand in another fund with promise of future growth that is consistent with our divestment position.
- The Committee met with Attorney Robert Cummings to discuss “frequently asked questions” about estate planning.
- Continued to provide \$2,000 for upkeep of the Memorial Garden, as a continuing commitment of the Endowment fund.

### Endowment Fund Resources:

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015 (April 7, 2015)	
\$760,383	\$811,246	\$961,143	<b>TOTAL</b>
	\$102,201	\$106,274	BGNMX American Century Ginnie Mae
	\$110,751	Divested	Appleseed Fund Investor
	\$104,265	\$121,770	VFTSX Vanguard FTSE Social Index
	\$128,138	\$171,258	VGHCX Vanguard Health Care
		\$110,990	GCEQX Green Century Equity
		\$103,013	JAGTX Janus Global Tech
		\$105,582	NEXTX Shelton Green Alpha
\$318,882.97	\$72,024	\$ 25	Cash held at Charles Schwab
	<b>\$517,380</b>	<b>\$718,887</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

Note: The increase in the total is the sum of investment growth and \$100,000 new investment.

\$230,911	\$226,982	\$174,981	U of U Credit Union Money Market
	<u>\$7,617</u>	<u>\$8,008</u>	Checking and Savings
	\$234,600	\$182,989	<b>TOTAL Cash on Hand</b>
\$58,997.21	\$59,267	\$59,267	Cash Value of Life Insurance Policies

- **Annual Endowment Fund Distribution:** As in the past, there were no distributions other than the last “activity” item. However, as we approach \$1 million investment, the committee voted to recommend that all interest accrued from the “second million” of the endowment fund be committed annually in the optimal way of promoting and supporting social justice.

**Continuing Endowment Fund Philosophy:** The highest priority of the Endowment is to insure the continued existence of the First Unitarian Church for the long term future. At the same time, the endowment should be available to meet emergent issues, and – when in strong health – to annually promote First Church programs and projects that otherwise would suffer. It is in this connection that we recommend the “second million” policy.

At the same time, the endowment of the First Church reflects the will of the membership in contemporary issues; thus the policy of divestment of investments in fossil fuels, while continuing to remain conservative and productive our investments.

**Contributions to the Endowment Fund:** The following people made contributions in the period 4-1-14 thru 4-15-15, total \$3,950:

Cosette Joesten  
Bill & Ruth Ohlsen  
Andrea Globokar  
Hugh & Jan Gillilan

Ron & Janet Anderson  
Beverly Taylor  
Robert Rees  
Tim & Cathy Chambless

**The following Ralph Waldo Emerson Society members have included First Church in their estate plans:**

Ron & Janet Anderson  
Tim & Cathy Chambless  
Alan & Marjorie Coombs  
Harold & Sonja Decker  
Ed & Teresa Dieringer  
Sue Geary & Michele Page  
Andrea Globokar  
Tom Goldsmith & Mary Tull  
Doug & Sandy Greene  
Dolores Chase  
Henry Whiteside & Karol Kumph

Cosette Joesten  
Rob Mayer & Carol Blackwell  
Bill & Ruth Ohlsen  
Hugo & Julia Rossi  
Dick Teerlink  
Flo Wineriter  
Myrna Wolf (contributed by Barbara Samuels)  
Joan Proctor  
Martha Vernanth  
Richard Haacke

**Committee Members:**

Cathy Chambless, Recording Secretary  
Cosette Joesten, Corresponding Secretary  
Bill Ohlsen, Treasurer  
Hugo Rossi, Chair