



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE QUAD CITIES
 3707 EASTERN AVE
 DAVENPORT IA 52807
 563-359-0816
 WWW.QCUU.ORG

“A Welcoming Congregation” ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DUUE DATES	Silent Announcement Deadlines:
The NOVEMBER Newsletter deadline:	THURSDAY, Nov. 3 at 9 a.m.
THURSDAY, November 17 at 9 A.M.	THURSDAY, Nov. 10 at 9 a.m.
	THURSDAY, Nov. 17 at 9 a.m.
	THURSDAY, Nov. 24 at 9 a.m.
	THURSDAY, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m.

The mission of our Unitarian Church is to create a vibrant, welcoming, diverse church family
 Which embraces individual searches for meaning and devotes itself to community good.

Our vision is to be recognized in our community as a beacon on the hill— a vibrant, welcoming, thriving church that:

- Reaches out to members and community with a clear, concise, and inspiring message about Unitarian Universalism and its Principles
- Attracts and embraces people of diverse groups, ages and family types
- Feeds the mind and spirit regardless of individual pathway
- Supports social justice and social action initiatives in our congregation and the greater community
- Encourages responsibility for the earth and its creatures

BOARD MEMBERS

Minister and Staff

Rev. Jay Wolin, Minister.....minister.uu@mediacombb.net
 Sarah Moulton, Director of YRE.....youthRE.uu@mediacombb.net
 Kylee DeCuir Mattioli, Substitute Assistant DYRE
 Stephanie Lannoo, Office Administrator.....qcuu@mchsi.com
 Sheila Doak, Director of Music.....musicdirector.uu@mediacombb.net
 Mike Condon, Custodian/Factotum
 Tamara and Geoff Kelly, Child Care
 Rev. Alan Egly, Minister Emeritus.....iowastreet@sbcglobal.net
 Rev. Charlotte Justice Saleska, Minister Emerita

Contact information

Chair	Gary Anderson
Vice Chair	Beth Kundel Vogel
Clerk	Judy Teeple
Treasurer	Terry Dierksen
Trustee	Emily Smith
Trustee	Tyson Danner
Trustee	Elaine Kresse
Trustee	Wayne Oberle
Trustee	Linda Goff

SERVICE, 11 A.M.

November 6: “The Meaning of Membership”

Our associational polity and congregational bylaws dictate membership requirements and rules. However, I believe that signing the membership book and committing oneself to membership can and should create a deeply integral bond between the individual and the community that would not otherwise exist. Please join us as I explore this topic.

November 13: “The Religious Imperative for Social Justice”

A group of us have just finished a time of discernment surrounding the issue of social justice. One of the first questions we asked was why should we as individuals and as a religious organization be involved in social justice. I believe that the natural outcome of our religious life is the pursuit of social justice in our lives and the community at large.

November 20: “With a Grateful Heart”

If you have ever received an email from me, you will recognize that my signature line states “with a grateful heart”. Gratitude has become a daily spiritual practice for me. I will share with you why I find spiritual practices and gratitude in particular to be so important to transforming ourselves and the world.

November 27: Cindy Sadlek and Catherine Weideman “I AM... Sharing Ourselves Through (Our Own) Poetry.”

Poetry allows us to express ourselves in different and deeper ways than prose or a conversation over coffee might. So, November 27, we invite you to share “who I am...” through your own poetry. While we share common UU principles and values, we are still diverse in our life experiences. We are in different stages in our life journeys; we see life with different eyes. Come deepen your connection to our congregation through listening to and sharing who we are as individuals in this caring community. We will publish all poems and a number of them will be read by their authors.

FORUM, 10 A.M.

November 6: Augustana Professor Laura Hartman: Bus vs. Train: Ethics in Transit Transportation choices are moral choices, since they have an impact on the environment, society, and the soul. We will investigate buses and trains in particular, weighing them against cars, as we seek to articulate, and implement, a vision of ethical transportation.

November 13: Brian Hollenbeck: Rebuilding Rock Island Block by Block.

Brian Hollenbeck, President of Renaissance Rock Island, will be demonstrating how Rock Island has reborn itself, block by block, by pioneering mixed-use, mixed-income projects that help provide affordable housing while building a dynamic housing market in the city.

November 20: Paul Ingram: Holiday Ideas from Prairie Lights Books Paul from Prairie Lights will be back for his annual holiday trip to recommend books for gifts to yourself or others. As usual, books will be available to peruse and purchase.

November 27: **No forum**

Nursery

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Sunday mornings until Nov. 13 at 10-11a.m.

Religious Education Classes

Kids start in the church service at 11a.m. on most Sundays. They are sung downstairs after the first 15 min. to begin class until the end of the church service.

From the Mind of the Minister – November 2011

Offerings

Each week when we take the offering I say we do this “to make real the vision and mission of the congregation.” Our mission asks our congregation to “devote itself to community good”, and our vision calls us to “support social justice and social action initiatives in our congregation and the greater community.” Just as we are about to begin the offering, I say “Let this sacred time begin” Why is this time sacred? One of the many reasons I believe this is a sacred time is that it is a time for us to physically live out our shared value of generosity together as a community. I know there are some who feel that since they pledge they should not have to give to the offering. I understand and respect this, but I think there is something important about physically experiencing together this ritual of expressing our shared value of generosity. I believe our religious life should lead us to create a just and compassionate world. To do this, it must first lead us to be just and compassionate community. I believe we can show our compassion by helping others. By helping others we also help ourselves. Generosity should not be looked on as an obligation, but as a joyful experience that grows out of our desire to act and see justice and compassion alive in the world. The offering is our physical, public expression and manifestation of this value. This offering is also a way for us to model generosity to guests who are among us.

We have often heard the phrase “we need to walk our talk.” Growing up I would always say, “Put your money where your mouth is” if I wanted someone to commit to what they believed in. This Congregation has had a long tradition of giving away 25% of our offering to a charity. The board has unanimously approved to increase this giving to 50% of the weekly offering not designated as a pledge. At the beginning of each month we will announce who the recipient of the offering is, so you will know in advance to what organization your donation is going to. The board has voted unanimously that for November the recipient will be “Centro Maya Project” and for December “Dress for Success”

When the basket comes to you, I ask you to think deeply, to act generously, and to remember that our actions will lead to a more just and compassionate community and world as we act together as a community living out our mission, vision and shared values.





THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Each year our congregation joins Edwards Congregational and Temple Emanuel for a Thanksgiving Service. Being new to town, I can tell you this is something special and should not to be taken for granted. This spirit of inter-faith and community spirit that has lasted for so long is something to be celebrated. So let us all celebrate in worship together:

Sunday November 20th - 7 p.m.
Edwards Congregational
3420 Jersey Ridge Rd.
Davenport, IA

The Rev. Jay Wolin will be delivering the sermon: "Building the Beloved Community"

Coffee with the COM

Sunday, November 6th, 2011, after the morning service, the Committee on Ministries (COM) will host an open quarterly meeting with the congregation to discuss the charge that the UUCQC Board of Trustees has given the COM, which includes assessment of the various ministries of the congregation, along with mediation in the event that there are differences of opinion among the various constituencies of the congregation. The COM will update the congregation on its progress so far and invite conversation regarding the Stewardship Consultant's report to the congregation. So grab a cup of coffee and snack and meet us in the lounge around 12:30 p.m. for a meeting that will last no longer than one hour.

In the event that anyone has an issue to bring before a closed meeting of the COM, which meets monthly, please fill out a form available from the church office administrator and return to any COM member. Your concern will be addressed at our next monthly meeting, and you will receive a response from the COM.

Members of the COM: Kathy Bowman, Rita Coyne, Jim Kelley (Chair), Melanie Landa, Katie Reinhardt (Clerk), and Kriss Wells.

Want to make a difference for our congregation? Read on.

This past week Rev. Jay asked me to speak at the new member class regarding the current direction of congregational governance, and it occurred to me that this dialog should be shared with the entire congregation. There has been a lot of discussion regarding progressing toward policy based governance, and you will hear more about that over the next year. As for now, we are in a transitional stage, which is where any of you can make an impact. I feel very strongly that the strength of this congregation lies with its committee structure as committees should provide the solid foundation on which all other governance is built. The Board should provide oversight and guidance, but the real work of the congregation is done at the committee level. It is important that each of these governance subunits' functions are clear to all, and over the next year all committees, or teams, will need to examine and define their purpose and goals with dormant or minimally active committees being strengthened, redefined, or consolidated.

The goal is to develop more autonomy for committees/teams to get the Board redirected toward policy based governance. But as we move forward, the growing principles for committee/team function will need to be Responsibility, Authority, and Accountability.

- Responsibility: Each committee/team will have a defined area of concern. This scope of activity should arise from each group and will then be approved by the Board or the Minister.
- Authority: Each committee/team will have the authority to deal with all related issues in their defined area of responsibility. The Board will only be involved when clarification is needed, or if resolution cannot be reached. Authority also extends to determining how any assigned budgeted monies are spent.
- Accountability: With the first two principles comes this need. Periodic reports to the Board, and a summary for the annual meeting will let everyone know of the good work being done.

A number of Members who are listed as committee chairs have already been contacted to affirm their current and future leadership, and eventually, hopefully, all slots will be filled. So if you are contacted and asked to lead, please consider doing so. If you do not serve on a committee or team, examine the list as it evolves and see where you might contribute your time and talents.

Gary Anderson
UUCQC Board Chair

Also, feel free to contact me anytime at garya.uucqc@hotmail.com.

Share the Plate Proposal

The congregation's mission asks our congregation to "devote itself to community good", and our vision calls us to "support social justice and social action initiatives in our congregation and the greater community." In accordance with fulfilling this vision and mission I propose the following:

Policy passed:

That 50% of non pledge collections from our offering of each month go to a local non profit organization whose values are shared with our congregation.

How to choose the groups:

Preference would be that we support groups that we as a congregation are working with.

When the social justice council is formed, one of the subgroups would make recommendations to the board of Trustees.

Until such a time the subgroup is formed, the minister and the board will collaboratively decide on which groups to support based on recommendations from members.

Groups should be limited to **4-6** groups a year so that our impact with each group could be greater. I would recommend changing the group each month, so seasonality does not preference one group over another.

We should announce prior to each share the plate collection in service what group we are collecting for. It should also be noted in the silent announcements for the week and the order of service.

I think it should be a requirement that any group chosen, must be willing to send someone to present at least once at the forum during the year.

All recipients must be a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization

At a minimum, annually we should report to the congregation the amounts collected for each group.

The recipients work must be in accordance with Unitarian Universalist Principles and this Congregation's mission and vision.

The Board unanimously passed this and unanimously selected the following two organizations as recipients for November and December:

November: Centro Maya

December: Dress for Success

The following is a highly condensed version of UUA Stewardship Consultant Mark Ewert's report on his recent visit. The full report may be found by signing into your account on our website: qcuu.net and looking under "Documents" and "Special Reports".

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities, IA

Assessment Visit Report

September 30 - October 2, 2011

Presenting Issues

The purpose of the assessment visit was to gather information and provide an objective review of activities. The assessment helped to identify UUCQC's strengths and challenges in the areas affected by stewardship, for consideration in congregational activities, and to recommend next steps. Some presenting issues and challenges:

Giving levels to the Annual Budget Drive that are below national averages. The budget is supported by a few larger givers and many givers in the smallest giving range. This makes the congregation financially somewhat unstable.

The congregation is not in a place where they feel that they can "dream big" and provide the support for increased growth, new initiatives, and additional staff (required by growth).

Steps Already Taken

This congregation has a long history of generosity, which has fueled the church functioning all of these years, the purchase and building on two properties, renovations at each location. These long-standing and sometimes bold actions have been fueled by generations of members of the congregation so there is already a culture of stewardship at UUCQC. In addition, the lay leadership has been attending District and national meetings to learn more about stewardship, and particularly a year-round, broad-based stewardship team.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Commendations and Assets

Note: this is not a complete list – UUCQC has many strong programs!

This congregation provides real community and fellowship to its members, which is palpable even as a visitor. Also the caring seems to delve to a profound level; feeling like a family. This is shared with long-time-members and newer people.

The Board of Trustees is an intelligent and thoughtful group. They continue to strengthen as leaders, are developing in governance, and have a commitment to growing a Stewardship Team, which will look at the broader aspects of how the community gathers and uses all of its resources.

The congregation has successfully called a new permanent minister, who is skilled and mature, and seems to be a great match for the congregation. He already seems to be well respected and embraced by the congregation.

UUCQC has a beautiful, well cared for, and sacred-feeling building in a convenient and desirable location. It also has sizable grounds, so has room to grow and change in the future.

The children's religious education (RE) program, headed by the Sarah Moulton (Director) and the RE committee are not only strong and stable, they are providing intergenerational, social justice, and stewardship opportunities to the kids.

Observations

The leadership group is peopled primarily by longtime members. These are intelligent, experienced, and caring people. They contribute greatly to UUCQC and have done so for a long time. In addition there are many committees and initiatives all going at the same time, so some of these people are stretched somewhat thin and risk burn out.

The congregation has many wonderful activities going on, yet few efforts that involve larger groups of congregants. There is also a culture of independent projects being implemented by very few people, so it is hard to know where you are all going together

The operating budget is squeezed every year to do what is absolutely necessary, although the budget does not seem to be out of scale and it is used carefully. This leaves the congregation with no resources to respond to unplanned needs, opportunities, or to launch significant efforts.

Financial Stewardship

If the distribution of financial commitments is examined, some concerns arise. There are too few pledges at the highest level and too many at the lowest level. With too few high level pledgers, if only one of them reduces their pledge or does not pledge at all, it will endanger the budget. And the proportionately large amount of people pledging at low amounts means that there may be a group of people in the congregation who are not fairly supporting the congregation, either because they have not been given clear guidance about giving to UUCQC or do not understand their roles as stewards of the congregation.

In addition, there are a number of different times during the year when members are asked to make contributions (coffee house, silent auction, rummage sale, special collections, etc), yet there is no group coordinating or looking at these opportunities to ensure there are not too many or too few, and that they give the congregation a variety of options. This system goes from year-to-year with no vision of developing stewardship over time. This last aspect is highlighted by the fact that the congregation does not have a program to engage the congregants in considering long-term financial planning and possible future gifts to UUCQC.

Recommendations

With an inspiring new minister, strong staff members, and skilled leadership, the congregation is in good shape. It may be poised for growth in membership and identity in the Quad Cities and beyond. This exciting period may be supported by the following initiatives:

Gain Assistance with your Annual Budget Drive

Although positive efforts have been made in financial stewardship at UUCQC, some direct assistance by a knowledgeable outsider will bring a fresh approach and might help build your annual giving levels. Part of this may be learning how to converse about money in a way that is caring and accords with our UU values. Because this is a cultural shift, it will take creativity, engagement, and open-mindedness by the whole congregation.

Create a Year Round Stewardship Team

This is a year-round leadership group to help create better support for the core funding and volunteer support of the congregation, and helps prepare for its future. In essence this group has a number of functions. The first is more operational; it looks at year-round opportunities for giving to ensure there is a variety of ways to give, and that the priorities for the larger mission for the congregation are clear. Secondly, it provides education and opportunities for spiritual growth in stewardship to the congregation. It also connects with the stewardship team in other UU congregations and publicizes learning and connecting opportunities outside of UUCQC (in the District, at General Assembly, etc.).

Put Focus on your Leadership Development

A leadership development program will help you identify future leaders, help fill open leadership positions, and provide skill-building opportunities for your congregants. In addition, current leaders will be able to lighten their responsibilities if there are more and newer leaders involved. The program does not need to be overly complex or costly. Resources for this are available on UUA.org and additional resources may be available through the Prairie Star District.

IV. CLOSING

My hope is to have you understand, as a result of this Assessment Report, that you are a warm, powerful, and spirit-filled congregation. Although a number of recommendations are provided, they are with the intent of helping you move toward your greatest congregational visions.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to consult with your congregation. I look forward to the opportunity to provide additional consultation and help to guide you toward growing stewardship.

Faithfully submitted, Mark Ewert, UUA Stewardship Consultant

Immigration as a Moral Issue: November 8, 2011-- 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The Lost Bridge will present a summary of the key points from the 6 week study recently completed. The class this fall faithfully attempted to use the UUA study guide but because of the daily news the class took much additional research making this totally new. In other words don't stay away because you heard it all before. Dream Sabbath, Native Americans, Private Prisons, ALEC, who is taking care of the families of the nearly 400,000 detained or deported.

This class is co-facilitated with Kate King, Public Policy Chair for the Davenport-Bettendorf chapter of American Association of University Women. We share a common mission of education in order to think for ourselves. We hope the combined audience of AAUW members, Congregation member, and local citizens will bring out the best in discussion and questioning.

It's fall, and the NUT SALE is in the air!!! The Centro Maya Supporters Group is sponsoring the annual Nut Sale; proceeds will go towards providing Domingo, a special needs student, with an individual aid so that he may continue to be mainstreamed into the regular school (the school in Guatemala does not make accommodations for special needs students). Nuts will be delivered at church on Sun Nov. 13. If you have any questions, contact Lucia D. 563-843-2848, Mudcreekprairie@netins.net, or Jeanne N. at 563-332-6354

Circle Supper will be on Saturday, November 19th. We could use a host and people that want to converse and enjoy great food. Please contact me after Nov. 1st.
Jo Ellen Langerman (joeln1951@aol.com) or 563-593-1036.

The Caring Team is pleased to have additional volunteers to be supportive in the four identified areas: Long and Short Term Visitation, New Parent Support, Memorial Reception Help, Miscellaneous Short Term Needs. We will continue recruiting more persons and help them explore specific duties in each of the areas. Please contact Joanne Macjeko and Sue Witte- co-chairs if you'd like to volunteer your time....Always flexible with your situation.

IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW NEEDS THE CARING TEAM'S ATTENTION
PLEASE CONTACT: Jackie Erikson, Joanne Macjeko or Sue Witte.

As Melanie Landa said in her spotlight announcement October 23, 2011, she and I will be doing a series of workshops each Saturday in November. There will be one two-hour workshop in the morning, then a potluck lunch, followed by another, different workshop. We hope you can attend some of these. They promise to be a fun way to get to know fellow UUs better while taking a less commercial approach to the holidays. A sign up sheet for each workshop will be downstairs after services, today.



The schedule of workshops is:

Saturday, November 5th, we'll do soap making at 10:00 a.m. and felted Christmas ornaments at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 12th, there will be bird/bat house making at 10:00 a.m. and organic silk scarf dyeing at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 19th, we will learn candle making at 10:00 a.m. and candy making at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 26th, we'll do block printed holiday cards at 10:00 a.m. and we have the 1:00 p.m. spot still open...any ideas? Please, let us know.

There will be a small cost to cover materials and we would appreciate knowing who wants to attend, so please sign up! We're looking forward to seeing you there.

If you have questions or if you have ideas for the 1:00 p.m. November 26th time slot, please contact Ed at tj_n_ed@yahoo.com or (563) 323-5678, or talk with either one of us at church.

Ed Hazen and Melanie Landa



PIZZA AND GAMES NIGHT FRIDAY, Nov. 11th

Join us for a meal, conversations, and games on Friday, Nov. 11, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the church Social Hall (downstairs).

We'll provide pizza.

Bring your favorite games; we'll find you some friendly opponents! Also bring a dish to share, if you like.

See you there! George Robinson. Terry Dierksen., and Ed Hazen.



You're Invited to the 2011 Halloween Carnival Sunday, Oct. 30 at 12 p.m.

Bring your family and friends to this fun annual event!

We'll be serving walking tacos and there will be games and activities for everyone!

Don't forget to wear your costume to church!



WOW A social gathering

5:30 p.m.

November 1, 2011

Exotic Thai

3922 38th Ave.

Moline, IL

Everyone is welcome

Call Sarah Smet

for more information



Mitten Tree Begins Sunday, Nov.13

Please donate new or gently used winter wear which will be donated to a local inner city school with children in

Stocking Stuffers Project Begins Nov. 13!

The kids in RE will be decorating and filling stockings for children in need at the Sisters of Humility shelter in Davenport. Please help them with their vision to give back this holiday season by donating items to be stuffed in the stockings. Our goal is 100 stockings!

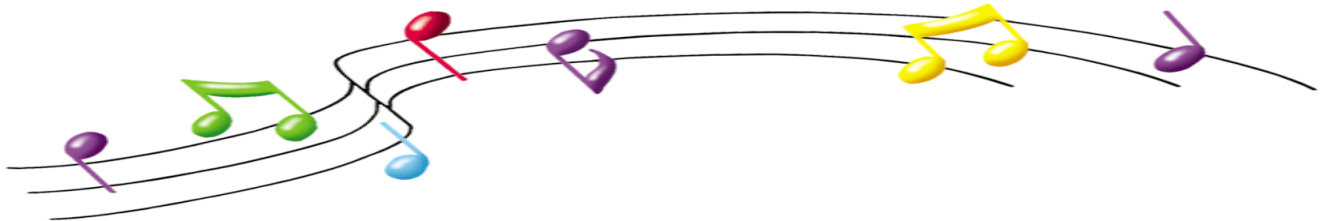


the **Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

Sunday, December 18 at 11 a.m.!

Rehearsals: Sundays, Nov. 20-Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m.

Please contact Melissa Anderson Clark or Sarah Moulton if you would like your child(ren) to participate in the show!



Children's Choir Starting In January!

Lorna Johnson has graciously volunteered her time to work with the kids in RE twice a month starting in January. If your child(ren) are interested in participating in choir then please contact Sarah or Kylee!

"Music Notes"

Haven't we had some beautiful music performances this Fall? Lots to be thankful for this November! There is still plenty of room for you in the choir, so join us Wednesdays 5:45-6:45 p.m. We also are looking for new voices and new instrumental sounds, so don't be shy about offering your talents to the congregation! We're especially interested in starting a Band to provide music once a month, so see me if you can play guitar, keyboard, percussion, or any other instrument. Look for Youth Choir opportunities coming in January!

Sheila Doak, Music Director