

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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September 7, 2008

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**First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2008 – 2009**

Officers

President

Alicia Biggers

Vice President

Dan Wiest

**Immediate Past
President**

Linda Darga

Board Secretary

Alma King

Treasurer

Sharlene Gage

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

**Minister of Faith and
Development**

Rev. Athena Kolbe

Assistant Minister

Rev. Lynda Smith

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Choir Director

Gwen Foss

Church Secretary

Wendi Winston

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Ivan Cotman

Trey Greene

David Lingholm

Bill McKnight

Newsletter Editor

DREW'S VIEWS

There is a new way your Trustees have been looking at church that you should know about. According to your newest bylaws, the Board has to designate which Committees will exist. There are only three committees stipulated in the Bylaws: Nominating, Memorial Fund, and Board of Review. The Board is required to specify other Committees and Task Groups as needed. As they attempt to implement this part of the Bylaws, they started with the obvious committees: Finance, Worship, Membership, and others. I suspect that list will grow some, but keep in mind that the Trustees are required to designate committees deemed necessary to carry out the work of the church. This is not a simple task and is not necessarily a matter of continuing to operate as we always have.

The work of the Trustees is being divided into “portfolios” that provide a great deal of flexibility. At the last Board meeting, for example, at least one portfolio item got traded for another. One result of this is that each Trustee will have areas in which they focus their attention and can assist in identifying needs and providing support. So this begins to form a list of areas you might be interested in! I was recently asked if there is a “to-do” list to help people find a task they can help with. That’s a great idea, but it’s not usually going to be that simple.

The following is an excerpt from the portfolios that are evolving at the Board level. Please consider this list and ask yourself if you are interested in participating in any of these areas:

Facilities: taking care of the building and grounds and parking lots, repairs, improvements, maintenance, and rentals.

Personnel: addressing the responsibilities of staffing, contractors, and clergy.

Outreach: ways we relate to the larger community.

Fundraising: both pledging and other events.

Worship: our Sunday and Wednesday activities, mostly.

Membership: ways we welcome and orient newcomers, and tend to long time members.

Publicity: showing our face to the world.

Finance: managing our resources.

Events: parties (both work parties and pure fun parties), special events of all kinds.

There are others, but this should give you an idea or two about participation. If you have any kind of interest in helping do some of the work in these areas, please contact me, one of your Trustees, or Reverend Lynda Smith.

I spoke last Sunday about the need to start working with people on a funding plan for the church year. Two of the Trustees will join me for a planning session this weekend. Funding is such a key part of the future health of this congregation that much of my focus of the moment has to be in that area.

There are many other keys, too.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from page 1

Participation in the activities at church is one way to contribute to our successful congregation, and you should have seen by now some listing of possibilities in Adult Education offerings provided by Reverend Athena Kolbe. Depending on the specific results of her survey, Athena and I plan to offer some classes together. Reverend Lynda Smith and I are beginning some offerings as well, including "Homiletics: To Teach and to Move." If you are interested in "how to" convey a message in the context of a worship event, please sign up for this four session offering that begins September 16th.

Returning surveys and signing up for things so we know you are coming are key to our success, too. Whether it is for work, worship, or fun! I'll see you in church!
Reverend Drew

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

This year is a pivotal year for 1st UU Detroit as it will define our direction for the next generation or place us in the history books as what was but is never more.....

It is a serious statement but one I take to heart as the future of this Church is so dear to me. I see years of future liberal progressive members seeking their own spiritual paths through our sanctuary.

With this next generation in mind, you will see your Board and its role continue to change. Our fiduciary responsibilities remain the core of our role as Trustees and Officers. You will see us work closely with the Finance Committee and the "Trust" to ensure our financial story. You play a critical role too! Your pledges and weekly contributions are the MAIN source of INCOME (revenue) upon which the BUDGET you approved is based. Without those contributions, the budget becomes just a piece of paper.

As your Board keeps its fiduciary responsibilities this year, I hope as a pledged member, you do the same.

On another note, you will see your Board transition to a "policy centered" board which

means our focus will be to create and publish policies to support and guide the business of the Church. This is a "model of governance designed to empower boards to fulfill their obligation of accountability for the organizations (i.e. Church) they govern. The model enables the board to focus on the larger issues, to delegate with clarity, to control management's (for us staff) job without meddling, to rigorously evaluate the accomplishment of the organization; to truly lead its organization." As we update or create and publish policies you will be notified. You will also be asked to help craft these policies as you participate with the Church through committees, small groups or task forces. This is an ideal opportunity for you to help write our future too!

The "Policy Manual" will begin to take shape this year and be available in print and electronic format via the Church Office. Do you want to learn more about this governance model? Find out more at <http://www.carvergovernance.com/model.htm> or read *Boards That Make a Difference* by John Carver.

Finally, we will approve (per our By-Laws) which committees will be "official" or approved for this Church year of 2008-2009. You will see this posted afterwards on the Governance Bulletin Board.

As you see, there is much to do and as your Board steps up to do its role, I hope as a pledged member, you step up for your role too! Unsure where or how to step up? Just ask any of us.....

Your Board of Trustees for 2008-2009 are as follows:

President – Alicia Biggers
Vice President - Dan Wiest
Treasurer – Sharlene Gage
Secretary – Alma King
Trustee – Dave Lingholm
Trustee – Trey Greene
Trustee – Ivan Cotman
Trustee – Bill McKnight

Please feel free to contact any Board member or any of our three ministers: Rev. Drew Johnston, Rev. Lynda Smith or Rev. Athena Kolbe and let us know what you feel about the Church, the

ongoing changes, how you want to be of use or service, as we are listening but really need to hear from you, continuously!

Looking to hear from you soon!

Alicia Biggers

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, September 21, 2008** no later than NOON or the following Monday, no later than 9:00 a.m. for electronically submitted material. Contact Wendi Winston (info@1stuu.org) for information.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2. Gwen Foss
3. Steve Walker, Lance Halsted
13. Dan Kosmowski
16. Art Gabhart
20. Gladys Santiago
27. Dessa Cosma

CD RECORDINGS OF THE SUNDAY

SERVICE Every Sunday Service is recorded on CD by the sound crew. Copies are made after service in coffee hour at the sound table. Please fill out the order request form as soon as possible so we can graciously make your copy for only \$5. Copies of past sermons are also available.

The sound crew schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| First Sunday: | Linda Darga |
| Second Sunday: | Len Zettel |
| Third Sunday: | Glenn Maxwell |
| Fourth Sunday: | Dan Secrest |
| Fifth Sunday: | Dave Lingholm |

Contact them on their respective Sunday for questions. If you are interested in being on the sound crew, contact Glenn Maxwell or Dan Secrest.

IS IT PREACHING?

How is a sermon different than a lecture? What is it that separates a Worship event from the rest of our activities? If you wonder these things, or if you feel you have a message inside of you to deliver, please join us for a four session class called "Homiletics: To Teach and to Move." In our liberal movement we define homiletics broadly, and that is where we will begin. We will consider sources, techniques, and content, and there will be "homework." By the end you will have written a message and we will have listened.

Think of this as similar to a creative writing class, with distinctive differences! The series is scheduled for September 16th, 30th, October 21st and 28th. You may note a preference for 6 pm or 7 pm starting time when you register. We need at least 6 people to sign up for this offering, so please leave a message in the office or with Reverends Lynda or Drew, who will be leading this together.

ABOUT Us

Our condolences to Lee Thume and her family. Lee's brother, Don Stephens, died in Oklahoma, and Lee has joined family members there. Did you know that Dessa Cosma is a fourth generation Unitarian-Universalist? She traces this heritage back to her Ohio great-grandparents. Dessa grew up in Georgia, and attended the University of Georgia, where she majored in Women's Studies, Anthropology, and International Relations. Dessa is a Senior Field Organizer for Michigan Planned Parenthood, and says, "I am lucky to get paid to do something that I did as a volunteer in Georgia for five years." She enjoys lobbying and doing grass-roots, and political, organizing. She has an office in Detroit (near our church), and also travels to her Lansing office. In her formative years in Georgia, Dessa attended a fine arts school for eight years, and she was very involved in sculpture classes, as well as music, where she played the saxophone. Dessa lives with her partner, Ryan King, and they hope to buy a home in the area. "I love Detroit, and have met many great people, and am glad to have moved here."

Who's Who In Cultural Arts! If you want to know about cultural events in Detroit, talk to John Angry, our head usher for the past three years. He knows a lot about which music, drama, movies, art exhibits, etc., are available in the city, and he is quite willing to discuss cultural events with you. John began attending our church in the 1950's. Influenced by three of his favorite Wayne State University professors who were First U-U's, he was curious about what our church offered. As a child, John lived with his mother and brother in Albany, Georgia, until age 12, when his family relocated to Detroit. After entering Wayne State, he studied chemistry in the pharmacy school; then, he changed his major of English Composition and specialized in poetry writing. In graduate school

at WSU John studied library science, as well as advanced Shakespeare. He also studied dance, drama, photography, and other fine arts, and modeled for Life Drawing students. He has been very active in all phases of theater, and has worked as a photographer. As a child, John sang on the radio until his soprano voice became bass baritone. Look for him in the choir, as well as attending to his head usher duties. Volunteer to be an usher, as John welcomes more assistance on Sunday mornings. Please contact me at helenmary3@gmail.com or phone me at 313-562-0776. Mary Neale

CHILI SUPPER

Quote from Hoagy Carmichael – tune and words by Johnny Mercer for movie “Here Comes the Groom”

*“In the cool, cool, cool of the evening
Tell them I’ll be there
In the cool, cool, cool of the evening
Better save a chair
When the party’s getting a glow on
And singing fills the air
You can tell them, I’ll be there”*

You are invited to party also! Where?

The First UU Church
Chili Supper Dance
Saturday, October 18
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Line dancing for all ages.

Save the date. Put it on your calendar – You and your friends will be there in the cool of a very special October evening.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The young adults of 1st UU have formed a social group that plans outings once a month. For more information, or to be added to the listserv, please email Laurel Hoa at alwagner@umd.edu.

NOEL NITE PLANNING MEETING

Noel Nite is a celebratory event in the Cultural Center on the first Saturday in December that includes caroling, cuisine, arts and crafts bazaars, story-telling, the odd reindeer corral and other holiday fare. It is an opportunity for First UU to open its doors to the wider community to provide warmth and entertainment. If you are interested in planning and/or participating, please attend a

meeting on Sunday, September 21 at 12:30 in Memorial Hall. Contact Dan Wiest for more info.

WOMEN’S ALLIANCE

Everyone is invited to join the Women’s Alliance! We have weathered many changes and seem to be an inherent part of the landscape here at 1st UU. Even so, we need your support. How can you do this? (1) Attend our monthly luncheons and programs. We work hard to plan programs on topics that we think will be of interest. There is no charge for attending the program portion, but lunch will cost \$8. (2) Join the Unitarian-Universalist Women’s Federation (UUWF). Membership is open to all. Dues are \$25 a year that are sent to the UUWF to support their projects. UUWF is an organization that supports projects through grants that benefit women. Funded projects around the world advance equity and justice for women through education and advocacy. Other grants are available to support UU women in scholarly, prophetic and innovative explorations of religious feminisms. Descriptions of the projects supported are available on the UUWF web site, UUWF.org. You do not need to join UUWF to be part of our monthly group, although it is strongly encouraged. Those who pay dues have voting rights with regard to Women’s Alliance business. UUWF is an independent non-profit and one of three associate member organizations of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. (The other two are the UU Service Committee and the UU United Nations Office.) Our first luncheon/meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Our program topic will be adult literacy. Sharon Mills, volunteer coordinator at the Siena Literacy Center, will be our speaker. Reservations for the luncheon need to be made by Noon of the previous Monday by contacting Eiko Takemoto or the Church Office. Please consider joining us!! Remember that membership is open to everyone! Other questions? Contact Alma King.

GOODSEARCH

What if First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit earned a penny every time you searched the Internet?

Well, now we can! GoodSearch.com is a search engine similar to yahoo or google that donates half

of its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities and nonprofits that its users designate.

Use it just as you would any search engine. It's powered by Yahoo, so you get the same results you would using a traditional search engine.

Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com>. Enter in the box under "I am supporting" First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit as the nonprofit you want to support. Then click on the Verify box.

After that, just "Bookmark" it or add it to your "Favorites" so you can quickly return for more searches. Just 100 of us searching twice a day will raise about \$730 in a year without anyone spending a dime.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

I will be selling Entertainment Books every Sunday I attend church at coffee hour. The books are \$20 with the church getting \$4 from each sale. I will soon have \$100 for our church treasure from the sales to a few members, friends, and my family. The new books have Meier grocery and dept. store coupons, Avalon Bakery, Hillberry Theatre, Edsel Ford Estate tours and tearoom, the Polish Yacht Club, The Ivanhoe near church and many more great values. There are big savings on hotels and car rentals and stores. You will not only save money and help the church, you will also have a lot of fun. Margaret Beck