



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley



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Annual Report 2022



The Meeting:

The Annual Meeting is on Sunday, June 5 in person and via Zoom. An informational budget meeting will be at 9:30 am in person and via Zoom. Our Annual Flower Communion Worship Service is at 10:30 am followed by an outdoor potluck at 12:00 pm, and the Annual Meeting will be starting at approximately 12:45 pm.



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From Your Minister

Rev. Wendy Jones

As this calendar year comes to a close, I would like to express my love and appreciation for this faith community who has stayed together through these very trying times.

If I had to describe this year with one or two words, I would use the term "turbulent transformation." The last few years have been years of transformation into something that is not yet defined and therefore has felt turbulent. We spent this year attempting to come out of a pandemic that continues to linger, and so, it has been a bit "touch and go" so to speak as we would begin to open back up only to look at the virus numbers and need close back down.

The year began with our beloved Director of Religious Education



Chelsea Craine letting us know that she was going to be taking on a new job in the valley directing our local food bank. While we were so excited for this opportunity for Chelsea, it meant that we would be without a formal director of religious education for the year. I am pleased to say that our parents and other loving volunteers stepped up to the plate and we were able to offer quality programming for our children on Sunday mornings. We are now in the formal search process for a new Director of Religious Education, and I am humbled and inspired by the hard work, and deep commitment that the DRE search team is giving to this process.

Our worship services continue to be offered as a hybrid option. We were lucky that our facilities coordinator Jimi Blevins is also skilled in sound technology and his expertise has been very much appreciate and deeply valued this year as we have embraced a new paradigm of virtual and in person worship. We continue to be able to offer high quality worship on Sundays in a large part due to Jimi and his technical expertise.

We offered a number of fun interactive outdoor services in the summer and fall, which helped us get back into the habit of coming

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together in person. By the end of this church year, we are averaging more people who are attending in person than on zoom. We will continue to offer the hybrid option moving forward. While the services are never “perfect” they are always filled with joyful connection and community which is what matters the most.

The care team has resumed regular meetings, and the priority for this coming year is to help reestablish connections, as we slowly begin to emerge from two years of isolation.

There were a few bumps along the way, as our community and leadership struggled with what it means to live into our deepest values in regard to COVID and vaccine policy. The board and leadership team were asked to do some deep discernment and make hard choices in regard to whether or not to require a vaccine mandate for our staff.

The decision to require staff to be vaccinated was a heartfelt and thoughtful decision which did result in the resignation of our music director. I believe that we have some healing to work through as a community as a result of this process and final decision. My hope is that the

coming year will offer the space and opportunity for healing and re-connection to take place.

Being a community of faith can be messy at times, and occasionally we stumble and don't live up to our highest aspirations. When this happens, I am grateful for the grace, compassion and renewed commitment to stay in relationship when we are not at our best. And, very few human beings have come out of the last few years being able to say that they were “at their best” all of the time.

Because of this I have to say that I am truly honored and grateful to serve this congregation at this point in history. I am humbled by the dedication, generosity and commitment so many UUCGV congregants have shown.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge & thank our wonderful staff, Maya & Jimi, for helping hold everything together in such a professional manner. I am honored to work with these two amazing people, and we are a true team.

As this year comes to an end, once again, I am honored and humbled to be your minister and to have been given the opportunity to serve you this year.

With Love,
Rev. Wendy



Laurel Carpenter (President), Melissa Humphrey (Vice President), Sue Brown (Treasurer), Elizabeth High (Past President), Kitty Tattersall (Stewardship), Laura Jeffries (At-Large), Jeanie Hendricks (At-Large)

This year our UUCGV Board of Trustees worked hard to balance our congregation's needs and desires with an ever-changing world, and with circumstances beyond our control. Our faith community has grown and changed, and has emerged from our challenges with a forward vision.

In navigating the pandemic, we relied upon guidance from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Mesa County Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control. We revised our COVID-19 policy several times throughout the year, to reflect the changing conditions of the pandemic. We offered our worship services and additional programming via Zoom, with steady attendance. We slowly resumed offering services in person, and congregants' began reappearing

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UUCGV Board

Laurel Carpenter, President
UUCGV Board Annual Report for
2021-2022 Fiscal Year

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in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings. By springtime of this year, the number of people attending worship services in person finally outnumbered the number attending virtually via Zoom. We will continue offering the Zoom option for the foreseeable future, with the hybrid worship services being a part of our new normal.

Our staff has grown to include a new facilities manager, Jimi Blevins, and we're currently seeking to fill open positions for Director of Religious Education and Music Director. We installed shade sails on the patio, enhancing the usability of our outdoor space during the warm summer months. We purchased new technology to improve the quality of our Zoom offerings. Our care team began sending birthday cards to all congregants. We conducted our annual auction and Spring cleanup, and some of our most popular programming is back—Men's Cooking Group, Green Team, Soup Kitchen Saturday, Laughter Yoga, Aging Graciously, Goddess Group, and more.

One of the most significant ways our congregation has contributed to the community at large is by hosting Mutual Aid Partners Distribution Day every Tuesday, for the past 26 months. There has been 320,238 pounds of food distributed to 20,614 local families **from our parking lot** since the beginning of the pandemic! We are making a difference.

The near future brings a summer filled with new UUCGV memories to be made. Upcoming events include our yard sale, the

flower communion worship service, and a Middle School OWL course. There are so many ways to become involved if you have some extra time on your hands! Please reach out to any board member or to Maya in the office to learn more about our teams and volunteer opportunities. The Board will continue to work hard to listen to the needs of our congregation, and to meet those needs with care, respect and intention.

The Board would like to acknowledge the enduring financial support of our congregants. Our church has been able to maintain stable finances through an unstable time, due to your generosity and commitment.

Written with gratitude from your Board President,
Laurel Carpenter

Finance Report

Sue Brown was the treasurer and the finance team was comprised of a number of past treasurers including Janet Cummings, Steve Watson, Floyd Joramo, and Carmine Nugent, with additional members Tad Hutchins, Joel Prudhomme, and Kitty Tattersall. Meetings were held monthly at the church. The Church Administrator handles the financial affairs of the Congregation with the treasurer and finance team providing oversight.

During the 2021-22 church year, UUCGV was without a Director of Religious Education for most of the year, and the Music Director resigned in February. This meant we did not spend as



much money as we had budgeted. Pledge payments have stayed strong but the Service Auction brought in less money than had been budgeted. Overall, we expect to end this year with a surplus.

What's in the budget?

The money paid on pledges makes up about two thirds of the expected income of UUCGV. The rest is from offerings, grants, and fundraisers such as the service auction. In addition, part of our mortgage is paid from a special fund set up when we bought the building. As we withdraw from the fund, that money is counted as income.

Currently, salaries and benefits for our talented staff (the minister, administrator, facilities coordinator, and (when filled) the RE Director and Music Director) make up about two thirds of our expenses. Mortgage and interest, utilities, maintenance, insurance, supplies, and contributions to the UUA and

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District comprise the rest of the expenses.

Looking ahead to next year, Sue Brown has completed two terms and is now term-limited. Kitty Tattersall has agreed to serve as Treasurer with the assurance that the very capable Finance Team will continue.



Stewardship Team

Kitty Tattersall
Stewardship Coordinator

Kitty Tattersall was the Stewardship Coordinator for the 2021-22 church year. Reverend Wendy opened stewardship season with a sermon on February 20, 2022. Member moments were provided at five services in March and April by Joanie Leinbach, Adrienne Cascarella, Jeanie Hendricks, Monte High, and Chelsea Craine. Our talented administrator Maya Kraushaar

produced a beautiful stewardship brochure. Opening festivities were combined with the virtual service auction where my favorite joke was: What kind of ship can't float? Steward-ship, without your help!

After about two thirds of the pledges had been received, a team of stewards contacted folks who had pledged last year but not yet this year. The stewards were Sue Brown, Debbie Buchele, Janet Cummings, Elizabeth High, Monte High, Joel Prudhomme, Kitty Tattersall, and Steve Watson. Several anonymous donors provided a total of \$12,000 in matching funds for new or increased pledges.

As of Thursday, June 2, a total of \$141,230 has been promised through pledges. There are 27 new or increased pledges with a total increase of \$11,960. The net increase over last year's pledges is about \$6,000 due to dropped or decreased pledges, plus an extra \$1,960 in matching funds (likely to reach \$2000 once one new person makes a pledge).

While this year's stewardship team focused on treasure, we recognize that time and talent are also needed to keep the community afloat, and we thank all members and friends who contribute time, talent, and/or treasure to UUCGV.

Membership Team

Bill Conrod, Chair

Due to Covid restrictions through the fall and winter, Membership has been dormant with the

exception of having greeters at the front door on Sundays. In May we started seeing in person Sunday attendance greater than on Zoom, and we hope this continues. Zoom serves as a stop gap but probably is not the best for keeping members engaged.

We need volunteers to help out growth this fall, including a new chair (Bill is timed out), renew outreach hospitality to returning guests to smooth the path to becoming involved and joining, plus continue greeting at the door.

We have had three new members sign the membership book in the past year. Our current membership level is at 83.



Safety Team

Bill Conrod, Chair

With continued low attendance during Covid, the Security Team remained dormant. This was partially due to lack of volunteers

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attending in person. With return to normal activity (we hope), security should not be forgotten. We need volunteers to re-establish a team and chair.



Staff Congregation Relations (SCR)

Richard Hyland

Mission: The Staff-Congregation Relations (SCR) Committee reports to the Board and oversees the hiring, evaluation and performance of the paid staff of the Church. It mediates issues among staff members, between staff members and supervisors, and between staff and members of the congregation on a confidential basis. It serves in an advisory role to the Minister in her/his role of staff supervisor. It seeks to achieve and maintain a healthy balance between the need for skilled professional staff

and volunteer involvement in the growth and evolution of the Church.

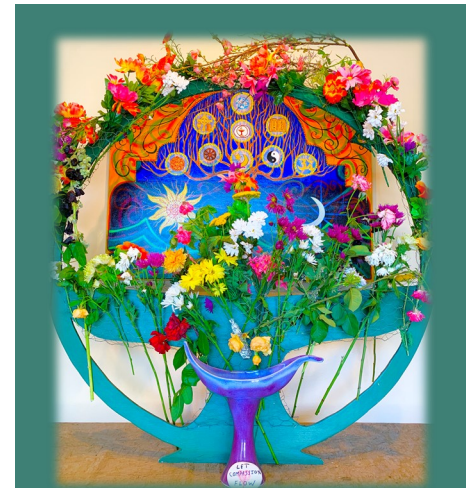
Members: Richard Hyland, Joanie Leinbach, Monte High.

Activities: Over the past year, the SCR has continued to grow into its mission, confronting and resolving challenges as UUCGV continues to grow. This past, second year of COVID-related changes has been especially challenging. Among the notable events are the following:

- Formed and oriented 8-person DRE search team and initiated search process on 18 April 2022.
- Proposed and gained Board approval for a 5% cost of living salary increase for staff to take effect on 1 July 2022.
- Conducted second annual Christmas staff bonus drive in December 2021 which was very successful and provided funds well in excess of the targeted 1% of staff base salary.
- Accepted the resignation of Miriam Deming as Music/Choir Director, on 20 January 2022 after 9 months of service.
- Hired Jimi Blevens as the new UUCGV Facility Manager on 15 July 2021.
- Accepted the resignation of Chelsea Craine, Director of Religious Education, effective 1 July 2021 after 2 years of service as DRE. Chelsea, who will join UUCGV as a member, resigned to accept a

fulltime job with the local Food Bank.

- Continued to update and standardize job descriptions, hiring documents (including employment agreements).
- Continued to work with the Board and volunteer teams to educate all Congregation members and friends on the roles and responsibilities of staff and their importance in UUCGV operation.



Thank you to everyone who has been part of this community.

Whether you have been with us for years or just found us...

You are welcome here.