

## **Committee Reports for the June 2023 - July 2024 UUMH Chatham Annual Meeting**

### **Art Committee - Fleck Room Exhibits**

NOVEMBER 2023 - Susan Patterson, photography show ***Being Where Your Feet Are***  
DECEMBER 2023 - Priscilla Smith, textile show ***Images of War***  
JANUARY 2024 - Five Artists from Independence House, multi-medium show  
***The Courage to Create***

The art shows this year were a source of wonderful dialogue. Some pieces made us uncomfortable and pulled our emotions through hope, joy and despair, but always made us proud. THIS IS WHAT COURAGE LOOKS LIKE! Here are some "take-away" messages from the shows.

#### Susan Patterson:

"In my meanderings on Cape Cod and elsewhere, my camera picked up images of some people engaging joyfully with their world and each other, and some people who seemed lost to the addictive, black hole-like pull of technologies that attenuate our connection to nature and the other." This is what inspired Susan to use her photos to encourage us to live in the moment, to be where our feet are.

#### Priscilla Smith:

"My purpose is to provoke thought and emotion, to raise consciousness, and to galvanize change. For many years, I marched for peace and other social causes. But that is not enough. The artist must also create "images" that reflect, in the case of war, its horror and dark side."

#### Independence House:

These women are survivors of domestic and sexual violence and are now reclaiming their lives through art. For safety reasons, we cannot use their names without permission, but Susan Patterson shares this quote from the poet, Mary Oliver. "Children are powerless...the victims of every sorrow and mischance and rage around them...Whatever can take a child beyond such circumstances, therefore, is an alleviation and a blessing". We feel blessed that these brave women were willing to share their talents and stories with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Avery (Chair), Susan Patterson (Co-Designer)

### **Building and Grounds Committee**

Dolly Howell is our grounds keeper. Let her know how much you appreciate the plantings. Bill Conley is taking care of the lawn. We have decided not to irrigate the lawn again this year.

Michael Caliri has been our AV Tech since January 2023. We are still looking for a person to become familiar with the operation of the system as a backup technician. The lack of backup is problematic because Michael enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, taking off some Sundays. This leaves us with one person who knows how to operate the system.

The solar panels donated by the McClennens were up and running in May of 2023. We have had an excess of solar production every month since then, including January and February, when production just met our needs. Over those 10 months, we generated a \$2,000 credit on our electric bill. We have

also saved \$2,000 in typical electricity payments. After months of attempts, the excess production of the solar panels is now funding our streetlight. Going forward, we expect \$2,500/year in excess solar production which can be donated to a non-profit. We also have a \$2,000 credit which can be donated as a one-time event.

We installed DIY inside storm windows in the Fleck Room for about \$200 saving \$2,800 on the quote for commercial inside storm windows. It is tough to say if we saved anything on heat, but we eliminated some drafts. Those storms will stay up year-round.

The big project of the year was insulating the crawl space to make it part of the climate-controlled portion of the building. Many of our heating pipes run through the crawl space. We were losing a significant amount of heat warming the outside. We paid \$3,544 with the remaining 40% covered by MassSave. Again, it is tough to quantify energy savings, but the humidity in the Fleck Room has decreased. The crawl space is now the warmest room in the building, and we don't worry so much about pipes freezing.

It wouldn't be a B&G report without some new bad news. Our chimney is still in bad shape. The chimney starts in the attic above the podium and penetrates the roof. It now only carries the low temperature exhaust from the boilers. We have one quote of \$10,000 to rebuild the chimney. The lower cost options we investigated were not so lower cost. Does anybody know a mason who would be willing to repoint the existing chimney? The chimney is only decorative at this point.

We are looking for a few more folks for the B&G Committee. Not many meetings and plenty of fun projects. See Joe Zahka.

Respectfully submitted for the Building and Grounds Committee,  
Joe Zahka – Building and Grounds Chair    Members: Jon Nye, Dolly Howell, David Porter

### **Communications/Outreach Committee**

This year, the Communication (formerly Outreach) group focused primarily on two goals:

- 1) To simplify our communications channels to make it easier for members to advertise new ideas and programs, and to get needed support.
- 2) To constantly seek variety in modes of messaging to attract the public to our doors.

### **SIMPLIFICATION**

When members have a program idea they wish to advertise, and they need support, they are encouraged to contact our Administrator, Dawn Dinnan ([chathamuumh@gmail.com](mailto:chathamuumh@gmail.com)) who forwards the information to the necessary parties. A check-list for development of new programs is available from the Outreach/Communications Committee. The UUMH website calendar is constantly being updated to keep pace with our scheduling needs. A training class was provided on how to navigate the UUMH website and Facebook page. For more training, members may send a request to Danielle Jeanloz at [daniellejeanloz@gmail.com](mailto:daniellejeanloz@gmail.com).

## SEEKING VARIETY IN MODES OF MESSAGING

Cape Cod Chronicle’s “free” options such as the Senior Page and Parting Shots provided opportunities to share our stories. (See articles submitted by Liz VanWye that tell about the social justice achievements of Priscilla Smith and Bonnie Brydges.) Our Administrator, Dawn Dinnan, is assisting Outreach with calendar listings, website updates, and media press releases. Our e-tech consultant, Karen “KD” Ryan is widening our coverage through Social Media and the Weekly Bulletin to include the Nauset Interfaith Association (because UUMH is a member) and to provide links to the social justice events of other organizations. Collaborations with community-minded activists have provided opportunities to connect with neighbors. Examples: The Tree of Hope Exhibit by Vangie Collins on the Kousa tree on our front lawn, and the Town Clean-Up event with the Chatham Conservation Connection. (Thank you, Danielle, for initiating these!) Orpheum Theater slides, as authorized, are now part of our media tool kit. The PEACE banner currently flying over the portico helps to reassure passersby that the UUMH is a source of positive messaging in our world.

## RECENTLY RENAMED COMMITTEE

The name of the Outreach Committee has been recently changed to the Communications Committee.

Respectfully submitted for the Communications Committee:

Beth Avery (Chair), Danielle Jeanloz, Liz VanWye  
with gratitude to Rev.Tracy for all her support

## ENDOWMENT BOARD

### PURPOSE OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission and work of the UUMH beyond general operations throughout the stewardship and faithful management of gifts and appreciated resources. It helps assure the long term future of the Meeting House.

### INVESTMENTS (As of March 31, 2024)

Unrestricted Funds =	\$126,443.95
Restricted Funds* =	\$28,886.59
Total Funds =	\$155,330.54 (Up \$26,713 >last year)

Over the past few years we have restructured our investment options to provide improved flexibility, better performance, and better reporting. Funds are invested with several institutions, including Cape Cod Five Bank/Infinex, Fidelity, and The UU Common Endowment Fund. All investments are made in socially responsible, sustainable funds. Donating to the UUMH Endowment Fund, therefore, not only helps the mission of the UUMH, but it is also a way to put social justice at the forefront of your giving.

All of our investments have an environmental, social, or governance (ESG) focus. For example, the UUCommon Endowment fund has an “Advocacy Fund” that hold shares in corporations to advocate for

UU values. The Fidelity U.S. Sustainability Fund tracks ESG performers, and the Vanguard FTSE Social Index Fund screens for ESG criteria.

\*Restricted funds distributions are limited by purpose. Currently, all of these funds are in the "Sally Taft Duplaix Memorial fund," with provisions they be used for Adult Programming and Social Justice

#### MEMBERS OF THE ENDOWMENT BOARD

- Dave Van Wye, Chair
- Jeff Dykens, Financial Secretary
- Steve Shorey, Recording Secretary
- Sandi Porter
- Margaret Tompsett

#### **Membership Committee Annual Report**

This report is for the period between July1, 2023 and July 1,2024  
During this time we have welcomed 4 new members to our congregation:  
Evan Howard, Pam Ebeling, Linda Jean Kirkpatrick, and Gayle Capulli.

We have coordinated with Rev. Tracy in preparing 2 New Member Recognition services. (The 2nd to be held 6/16/24.)  
There was a New Member Brunch in March which was well attended and well received. Many members of our congregation pitched in to help with this.

We coordinated efforts with Rev. Tracy to offer an Intro to UU Class to anyone who might want to learn more about UU. Five members/non members attended along with Rev. Tracy and representatives from the Membership Committee. All of these events were supported by other committees in advertising, promotion, etc.

There are New Member Packets now available. These contain the By-laws, Pledge card, Member Handbook and a copy of the latest edition of The UU Pocket Guide.

Nineteen of our members have received AED/CPR training from the Chatham Fire Dept. We will continue to offer these sessions.  
We continue to monitor our Greeter roles and our role in welcoming new members to assure a smooth, informed, easy transition into our community.

Submitted by  
Kathy Nye and Bonnie Brydges, Co-Chairs

## **Pastoral Care:**

The Pastoral Care Team has visited several homebound members this year. The team has also visited members who were hospitalized or at home for a shorter period of time. In past years we have provided refreshments in the Fleck Room for gatherings after Memorial Services. We were fortunate that we did not have to do this in the past year. Tracy has been very willing and available to visit and phone members who needed her touch, for which we are very grateful.

Last summer we presented three speakers in a second Cycles of Life program, this time on Care for caregivers, Natural burial options, and Grief and grieving. Small but appreciative audiences. We hope to do this next year as well.

Members and friends receive cards from the Meeting House celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries. Get well and/or Thinking of you cards are also sent. The Team also sends cards acknowledging family losses.

## **Program Council**

As things stand now, this will be the last Annual Report for the Program Council. UUMH has embarked on a new adventure – one that better fits our current size. The Board of Trustees will take over many of the Council functions, but the activities of the Meeting House will continue with only minor changes. I want, one more time, to highlight what the Council has done this year. It has been a year of change, but also a year of familiar events, projects, and celebrations. So here we go!

Each committee has worked hard to prepare services, sponsor programs, and inform and entertain us. Pastoral Care sponsored another series of speakers on topics of interest to the public at large. Membership threw a wonderful New Member breakfast and worked on creating an up-to-date Directory for members and friends. Social Activities welcomed a new chair who will start off with a bang on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Welcome Sandi Porter! Social Justice provided both a monthly collection for worthy causes and occasional speakers on a number of important subjects. UUMH now holds the charter for the local Boy Scouts and Gail Eldredge keeps us up to date with both a bulletin board and Newsletter articles. Branching Out continues to plan gatherings at local restaurants; MUUGS has been resurrected with Evan Howard's help and is holding monthly lunch meetings for the men of the church. The Council has helped with Pumpkins in the Park, a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event on the front lawn, the sale and delivery of poinsettias, the Angel Fund.

What this all says, of course, is that we are all still engaged and involved! Old and new groups create more memories and support more causes. Our final Council sponsored event will occur on June 23. We will all gather for a Celebration of Shared Ministry with Tracy and say our farewells to a minister who has seen us through some hard times and hard decisions with ideas, enthusiasm, and love. So, my deep and loving thanks to all of you for a great run. The committees, now under the Board, will continue to keep this place alive and engaged.

Sue Bauer  
Program Council Chair

## **Restructure Committee**

The Board of Trustees appointed a committee of five leaders to develop a plan to restructure and simplify our board and committees to make them more efficient and to make it easier for active participants to volunteer. Working with a consultant, Scott Tayler, who is a minister and has worked with both small and large congregations, the group developed a model with which to experiment and fine-tune in the coming year. The Board of Trustees has endorsed the model. It was also recently introduced to the leaders of volunteer committees and was well-received.

Members of the Restructure Committee include - Beth Avery, Sue Bauer, Danielle Jeanloz, Mary Parsons, and Jon Nye (Ex-Officio)

## **Scouts Report**

Boy Scout Troop 71 & Cub Scout Pack 71  
February 2024 annual report

To the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House of Chatham:  
I am happy to report that we have successfully completed our first year of being the Chartering Organization for Boy Scout Troop 71 and Cub Scout Pack 71. We have filled all required committee positions for both units for the coming year. Our charter has been renewed for the upcoming scout year. (see copy of charter renewal attached)  
We currently have twelve (12) boys registered in the Troop and eight (8) children (7 boys and 1 girl) registered in the Pack.

We have two (2) trained Cub Scout leaders and three (3) trained Boy Scout leaders. All adults who interact with the scouts have completed the requisite Youth Protection Training. I am also trained in all Cub Scout positions and am available to fill in when necessary. At the Troop level I am a certified merit badge counselor for First Aid. We are very happy that Dave Carlson, Scout Master, has agreed to stay in the position another year.

Two boys have advanced to the Rank of Eagle Scout during the year: Paul Carlson and Skyler Baker. The Eagle Ceremony will be held on May 11, 2024.  
One scout is in the process of planning his Eagle Project. We will have more information soon. We had five (5) Boy Scouts and three (3) Cub Scouts participate in the Scout Sunday Service on February 25, 2024. We also included the three Girl Scouts from Troop 80272. Hopefully, we will continue this tradition next year. Thank you notes have been sent to all three units, (see copies attached).

Because we own a Pine Wood Derby Track and Harwich Cub Scout Pack 76 is in need of a track; and because our Pack is inexperienced in running a Pine Wood Derby and the Harwich Pack is experienced, we are joining the two small Packs for the Pine Wood Derby this year. A Pine Wood Derby clinic to help the boys create their cars will be held on March 9 th and the Derby will be held on March 16 th . Harwich is struggling with a lack of very young Cub Scouts and Chatham only has very young Cub Scouts. It is hoped that the cooperative Pine Wood Derby will result in more shared activities between the Chatham and Harwich Cub Scouts

The 2nd year Webelos scouts in Harwich Pack 76 intend to join Chatham Boy Scout

Troop 71 when they cross the bridge in June. This will result in several new scouts in our Troop. This also means the leaders of the existing Harwich Webelos Den will join the leadership of our Troop.

There have been several discussions with the Harwich leadership and the Chatham leadership to facilitate this cooperative arrangement.

I thank the board for allowing me the privilege of working with the scouts this past year and I hope to continue in this position for the foreseeable future. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Eldredge - Chartering Organization Representative

### **Search Committee**

In March 2023, following the announcement that Rev Tracy would complete her service to UUMH in June 2024, the congregation, through the CUSP process, decided to try to engage a half time contract minister to continue to serve us. The Board then approved the appointment of Liz and Dave Van Wye to co-chair a Search committee, with members Sally Davol, John Raye and Deb Zahka.

Over the following nine months, the committee developed a proposed salary package to offer a part time minister, put together an extensive online profile of the church, including describing our history and membership, activities and programs along with information about our community and conducted a survey of the congregation to get their input into what they want in a minister.

The committee received inquiries from prospective candidates starting in December, and in March 2023 the committee make a recommendation to the Board that we enter into a contract with Rev. Chris McMahon.

The Board executed a one-year contract in spring 2024 and Rev McMahon is expected to serve from July 1 2024 to June 30 2025.

### **SHARED MINISTRY COMMITTEE May 10, 2024**

This report represents the consensus of the committee members:  
Sally Davol, Bonnie Brydges, and Eric Riley

#### Points of discussion/concern

- 2023/24 attendance remained at approximately 25 in the pews, 8 to 10 on Zoom.
- The committee reported a mixed reaction toward service leaders. Some are more comfortable with the responsibility than others.
- There have been issues with the sound system. All speakers should err on the side of louder.
- Some congregants have expressed a concern that there is too much applauding during the service- blurs the line between what is exceptional and common.

#### Worship services:

- Congregants continue to be pleased with worship services, finding them relevant and thought provoking.
- Rev. Tracy has changed the order of service – offertory before the sermon, alternate words for chalice extinguishing, etc. The congregation has accepted these without comment.

#### Pastoral care:

Reverend Johnson continues to shine in this category. She has her finger on the pulse of the congregation and follows up with congregants as needed.

#### Administration:

Even though Rev. Tracy's contract went from ½ time to ¾ time, she continues to attend more meetings than which she is being compensated. Rev. Tracy has been a truly committed minister to the UUMH. She will be missed!

In summary, this committee has been honored to serve our minister. We hope we have ministered to her as well as she has ministered to us.

#### **Social Justice:**

Social Justice is a small but hard-working group. It has been busy throughout the year supporting worship by helping to find interesting speakers to fill the pulpit on Sundays that Rev. Tracy was off. It has also kept the Community Outreach program working well. Over the 23-24 church year, the UUMH has made over \$3,000 in contributions to local non profits as well as helping the UU Church in Montpelier after the horrible flooding they experienced. Social Justice is always looking for a few more members who want to jump in and help.

Robin Hubbard - Chair

#### **Worship Service Report**

We had another full year in covering all Sundays with someone in the pulpit. Rev Tracy Johnson did a wonderful job for us as our part-time minister. Her services were always enlightening and challenged us to think about who we were as UU and as fellow human beings. We managed to fill the other Sundays with various people from all walks of life who also helped us to get to know our community and the greater world.

Updated 6/9/2024