

Annual Reports – June 2023

Minister's Report to the Congregation

Dear Ones, All –

It has been my privilege and my joy to serve the UU Meeting House of Chatham for yet another year! You are dedicated and engaged and full of potential. Your care for one another and our world is a blessing to bear witness to. This is the end of my first year of a two-year three-quarter time contract ministry and I look forward to the coming year, full of promise. Herein is an overview of my activities during the 2022-23 year and some reflections on where we have been and where we are headed.

I have provided hybrid worship services at the Meeting House on thirty-one occasions, and as in previous years this is still high for part time ministry. Three Sundays per month, less vacation and study leave weeks comes in at twenty-nine as a maximum. This year I did not use Sundays that I would already be off as vacation/study leave weeks for the most part and I will be paying attention to this going forward. I have met with all of our committees this year, some on a bimonthly basis, and our Board and Program Council monthly. I officiated five members' memorial services and as always, it is a privilege to be with families during these times of loss and grief.

Special efforts have been underway at UUMH this year and I have maintained involvement and provided support for them. These include the Safety Committee, the Cusp of the Future initiative, and most recently meetings with our potential consultant and subsequent Steering Committee. These latter two are key components of the Meeting House's effort to determine the direction it will take in the future and how best to incorporate those decisions into the life of the community as a whole. What this has brought to the fore of my appreciation is the interconnectedness of all the moving parts of this organization. Nothing happens in a vacuum! And I am of the belief that what we need to focus on is the concept of "right-sizing." By this I mean we need to bring our structure and our activities into alignment with the reality of our size – just over 80 members and perhaps half of them truly active. This is simply a result of age and attrition.

I offered two opportunities for growth and reflection this year: an Advent Reflection Series focusing on the poetry of e. e. cummings and a Trans Allyship Workbook study which evolved out of the November Transgender Day of Remembrance service. The latter sparked deep conversation and learning which is ongoing among us. I have spoken on three occasions about the proposed UUA Article II Bylaw changes and have made space for discussions. This is important because there is a vote at General Assembly regarding whether we should as an Association undertake study of the material for a year prior to a final vote to make changes. What I have observed this year is less interest in book/topical studies. I attribute it largely to our coming out of the pandemic and people being more involved in their community's writ large, however our coming together to consider how to put our faith to good use in the world through study and discussion has long been a facet of Unitarian Universalism. We are creating a new normal in these times!

I continue to engage on our behalf with the larger community. I represented us at the Chatham Labyrinth Anniversary celebration and led one of the summer Oyster Pond Sunday Services. I take a turn doing the devotional reading and prayer for the local Habitat for Humanity build periodically. I am a regular member of the Nauset Interfaith Association whose Action Teams focus on local justice work in the areas of racism and oppression, support for refugees and asylum seekers as well as unhoused youth and young

adults, and attention to climate change and its effects hereon the Cape. I participate in activities and events throughout the year and bring those to the attention of our congregation.

As we enter into a search process for a half-time contract minister to begin in the summer of 2024, I will continue to support us in our discernment as a faith community, to be available to you for pastoral needs, and to share in learning and growth that feeds our minds and spirits.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy Johnson

Board of Trustee President's Report

This has been a productive year of dealing with transition with the congregation's changing conditions.

The year began with the very important and I believe effective work of the CUSP group to determine what the congregation wanted our congregation to be and include in the unsure conditions of future years. This is particularly important as our minister completes her contract period next year. Many of you were involved in the process and may wonder what happened next. The report was accepted by the Board, and we attempted to address implementation of the key points. We decided in that effort to hire a highly recommended UUA consultant who will work with our incoming Board to address the best way forward consistent with the goals expressed by the congregation and our human and financial resources.

We established a search committee headed by Liz & Dave Van Wye for a new minister based on existing conditions given the time required. They are well underway.

We are pleased to see the exciting programs that are planned that Naomi has organized. We hope this will attract more people to know who we are.

We are pleased to be able to host a Boy Scout troop here at UUMH. This was an effort led by Gail Ethridge.

The group led by Liz helped to address the issue of safety in our new gun age, even as it is unbelievable that it is necessary.

I have truly enjoyed working with our Board and all the wonderful and hard-working members of our community. I must say that it has been a privilege and joy to work with our minister, Rev Tracy.

Submitted by Board of Trustee President,
Ed Mangiafico

Program Council

I would like to simply hit the high points this morning. You can all read the Committee Reports which cover most of what the Program Council exists to do. I will just talk a bit about the changes of the past year and a few highlights and new ideas.

Probably our biggest change was a change in focus. We have begun each meeting with the rebranding – or perhaps just the reiteration – of the Meeting House as “The place where...”. Each committee brought their ideas to the Council and various chairs made suggestions, and offered to help. How to engage the community; how to promote programs and special events.

New ideas included the July 4th Famous UUs on the lawn, complete with refreshments!; sponsorship of the local Boy Scout troop; Membership’s arranging the AED/CPR training at the Fire Station; the delightful Branching Out with friends at local restaurants; Social Justice’s support of St. Peter’s support of a Cuban family; the terrific family art show in the Fleck Room; the re-emergence – finally! – of coffee hour and summer porch refreshments; Soul Matters banners hanging from the porch.

Continuing ideas include our joy and generosity in participating in the Angel Fund at Christmas; reinvigorating Small Groups and hopefully starting a new one or two; the Pastoral Care program on Cycles of Life to be continued this fall; more art shows this fall and winter; helping to produce an online directory; beginning the process of a new edition of the Member Handbook; helping with the Thrift Shop.

Submitted by Program Council Chair
Sue Bauer

Art Committee

Fleck Room Exhibits

Jane Eccles Memorial	November 2022	Paintings
Merylle-Lee Thompson	December-January 2023	Paintings
UUMH Family Art Show	February 2023	Mixed mediums
Priscilla Smith	February 2023	Textile Art

The Jane Eccles Memorial art exhibit was made possible by eight of our UUMH members who loaned us examples of her work. Those pieces were primarily scenic, with the exception of one of her very dramatic “outer space” renditions. We will never forget her amazing abstracts and her mastery also of pastels, watercolors and paper pulp mediums. Our memorial event was an expression of our love and gratitude for her friendship and years of devotion to the Meeting House.

The exhibit of five paintings by Merylle-Lee Thompson was a way of saying “thank you” to a member who can no longer attend services or design art shows, but still expresses keen interest in how we are doing. She was thrilled to let us display some favorite oil paintings of Cape Cod.

For the UUMH Family Art Show, members and friends were invited to share art that they keep in their homes as reminders of important stories, people or occasions in their lives. Sixteen families contributed either one or two pieces. The resulting show included centuries of family history, poignant revelations, and many happy memories (including a “messy” birthday cake event). The show sparked a lot of “I never knew that!” conversations among old friends.

Priscilla Smith, our textile artist and print maker, displayed examples of the Kantha Stitch art form, and offered lessons on how to create your own pieces. This ancient embroidery technique was passed down from the women of Northern India and Bangladesh. Considering today’s imperative to recycle old

clothing, Kantha is a wonderful way to recycle those old threads! Thank you, Priscilla, for teaching us yet another artistic way to calm our minds and help the earth.

Submitted by Art Committee Chair
Beth Avery

Building and Grounds Committee

Dolly Howell has joined B&G as our groundskeeper. 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.

We have had two major projects this year. The new gas boilers were installed in October but were paid for (\$25,000) in the previous fiscal year because we had a significant surplus. The second project was the installation of a solar panel system. The McClellens donated \$40,000 to finance the project. We had our first credit on the May electrical bill. The system will meet all our electricity needs and produce some excess that can be donated to a local non-profit organization once we understand our usage.

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was installed in the foyer.

We prepped and painted the windows in the Fleck Room. We will probably organize a work party next winter to paint the rest of the room.

The front steps were power washed and repaired. It is likely that we can keep the front steps functional for the foreseeable future. The walkway to the lower level has been patched, but the spalling is severe, and we should replace the walk once the town completes modifications to our property for the intersection.

Judith Holt and Mass Save did an energy audit of the building. We do not have the proposal from Mass Save but they recommend three actions.

1. Install inside storm windows in the Fleck Room and tune up the storms in the sanctuary. While the quote for inside storm windows was more than our annual heating cost of \$2,500, we think we can make our own storm windows for \$200.
2. Insulate the crawl space and make it part of the climate-controlled portion of the building. Many of our heating pipes run through the crawl space. We lose a significant amount of heat warming the outside. Much of this cost will likely be covered by Mass Save.
3. They also recommend installing heat pumps in limited areas of the building. These costs must be carefully studied. Jon and I doubt that it can be economically attractive.

It wouldn't be a B&G report without some new bad news. Our chimney is 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. It is tough to get a mason on the Cape. We think it will be less expensive to vent the boilers out the driveway side of the building, dismantle the chimney, and patch the roof. We are working on getting quotes for that option.

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

Endowment Board

ENDOWMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - JUNE 1, 2023

PURPOSE OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND

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

INVESTMENTS (As of March 31, 2023)

Unrestricted Funds =	\$105,003.46
Restricted Funds* =	\$23,613.75
Total Funds =	\$128,617.21

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.

*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

- David Van Wye, Chair
- Jeff Dykens, Financial Secretary
- Sally Davol, Recording Secretary
- Margaret Tompsett
- Steve Shorey

Submitted by Endowment Board Chair,
Dave Van Wye

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has had a productive year.

In April Liz VanWye stepped down from her co-chair position to focus on other responsibilities. Kathy Nye will now co-chair with Bonnie Brydges.

We welcomed four new members into the Congregation . They have all signed the Membership Book. They are: Mary Byrne, Sandy Porter, Carol Lewis, Susan Patterson.

We hosted a “Bring A Friend Sunday” on 11/13/22.

The Committee arranged for an AED device to be installed in the foyer. To date we have offered 2 training sessions conducted by the Chatham EMS Team at the Fire Department. Eighteen UUMH members participated. More sessions will be offered as needed.

Laurie Noble researched relevant quotes attributed to UU historical figures. These quotes are available to view on our website. They are also used as screen presentations at Sunday services. KD assisted Laurie in the layout and design of the slides.

Gail Eldredge initiated the Historical Figures Project to take place July 4th on our front lawn. She is working with volunteers who will represent well known UU historic figures.

Gail Eldredge also coordinated volunteers to participate in the Annual Pumpkin People Project last Fall.

Safety Guidelines were developed and approved by the Board. They detail the greeter’s responsibilities regarding locking the downstairs door after the service has begun as well as the policy for the doors at the foyer entrance. Signage was put up over exits and they are pointed out at the start of each service. New wallet sized UUMH information cards were designed and are available in the Thrift Shop and on the sign in desk in the foyer. We also now offer name tag options; Clips or pins.

Submitted by Membership Committee Co-Chairs,
Bonnie Brydges and Kathy Nye

Nominating Committee

UUMH Nominees for 2022 - 2023

Board of Trustees		
May serve two consecutive 2-year terms		
Vice President	Jonathan Nye	First year of first term
Moderator		
No term limits		
Moderator	Jeffrey Dykens	15th year
Nominating Committee		
May serve two consecutive 2-year terms		
Member	Joan Konopka	First year of first term

UUMH Continuing Elected Officers

Board of Trustees		
May serve two consecutive 2-year terms		
President	Ed Mangiafico	Second year of first term
Treasurer	Joe Zahka	First year of second term
Secretary	Danielle Jeanloz	Second year of first term
At Large	Liz Van Wye	First year of second term
At Large	Greg Heyl	Second year of first term
At Large	Naomi Turner	Second year of first term
Program Council Chair		
May serve two consecutive 2-year terms		
Chair	Sue Bauer	Second year of second term
Nominating Committee		
May serve two consecutive 2-year terms		
Chair	Beth Avery	Second year of second term
Member	Bonnie Brydges	Second year of second term
Member	Joan Caputo	Second year of second term
Member	Debbie Zahka	First year of second term
Endowment Board		
May serve two consecutive 3-year terms		
Chair	Dave Van Wye	Second year of fourth term
Member	Sally Davol	First year of second term
Member	Margaret Tompsett	Second year of first term
Member	Jeffrey Dykens	First year of second term

Submitted by Nominating Committee Chair,
Beth Avery

Outreach Committee

Outreach has been laser focused on broadening media options to provide high quality advertising of UUMH activities to both our internal and external communities. With equal energy, it is working to streamline communications within and between our groups and individuals who are eager to bring their creative ideas to fruition. Here is a snapshot of the work:

Promotions for recent events:

Tibetan Buddhist, Rev. Paul Raushenbush, and Thrift Shop opening/ongoing

Designed website banners.

Created fliers.

Listed on Chatham Chamber Events.

Listed and promoted ad on Cape Cod Times online events section.

Listed events and provided additional details on UUMH website.

Listed and promoted banners, photographs, event details on Facebook/Instagram.

Promoted in Weekly Email Bulletins and Monthly Newsletters.

Published ads in Chronicle Weekly Email Newsletter and Chronicle newspaper.

Created Eventbrite Listings for In-person and Zoom reservations.

Produced ad for Orpheum Theater public service announcements.

Examples of collaborative promotions this year

With Program Council and Board of Trustees: Cycles of Life programs, Cusp updates

With Worship Services: Promotions for Singalong (Native Americans), coming Buddhist and Raushenbush events

With Membership: Co-initiated Branching Out, assisted with "Words to Live By" screen savers and social media; designed seven "Theme" banners for building

With Art: Chronicle Press release for *The Family Art Show*

With Safety: Signage for Exits, Masks policy, AED machine

General communications updating

Updated website regularly and transitioned more work to consultant, KD.

Collaborated with KD to develop ways to increase social media audience.

Submitted by Outreach Committee Chair,

Beth Avery

Members include: Danielle Jeanloz and Liz VanWye

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Team has carried on with its usual activities this year. Visits to those we do not see at the Meeting House, meals, if needed, cards sent for birthdays, anniversaries, and get wells, and collations after Memorial Services if requested.

Our new program was a three-part program entitled Cycles of Life which took place last October. Well received, it featured information on Funeral Home services, Holistic Care, and Legal matters to be considered and put in place. The committee is planning another similar program this fall.

The committee meets monthly. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to speak with Tracy or Sue Bauer.

Submitted by Pastoral Care Committee Chair
Sue Bauer

Social Action Committee

Our UU Social Justice Committee met monthly on Zoom. During the Covid pandemic we concentrated on our monthly outreach collection.

Our total collection through March was \$3,785.

April's support to the South Eastern MA, Woman's Health Network and May's to the Syrian Civilian Disaster group (White Helmets) are still pending. In June our designated donation will be the Homeless Prevention Council's Backpack project which is done in August for September.

Our areas of interest and Sermon guests have included St Peters' program sponsoring an Asylum Seeking Family, Homeless Prevention and assistance to homeless youth on the Lower Cape, and gun violence prevention, looking at monthly meetings of police Chiefs from local towns with the Nauset Interfaith Association.

We announce many local meetings and programs on the weekly eblast.
Robin Hubbard will be chairing this group 2023-2025.

Submitted by Social Justice Chair,
Joan Caputo

Worship Services Committee

During the past year the Worship Committee has developed, organized, assisted with, or presented 14 services and arranged for an additional four services and two events scheduled for the coming year.

We have changed the structure of the committee. There are seven worship leaders (readers) who are available to lead services only for Reverend Tracy or other traditional U.U. ministers. They are always welcome, but not expected to attend meetings. In addition, there are three members who are available to lead services for any speaker. One additional member acts as scribe.

The media list for publicity purposes has been updated.

I have produced and overseen the creation of Pavia's "I Love the UU in You" featuring Pavia as lead singer and instrumentalist with five back-up singers and dancers. Videography by Dana McCoy. It has not yet been released to the public but has been shown to the congregation.

Submitted by Worship Services Committee Chair,
Naomi Turner