

**ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2019-2020**

June 14, 2020

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF THE OUTER BANKS**



**ANNUAL MEETING
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF THE OUTER BANKS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

1. Chalice Lighting

2. Reading of the Covenant

We believe in freedom, love, and reason in religion.

We commit ourselves to an organized religious community, recognizing the greater effectiveness of common effort. We come together to enrich our spiritual lives, to share our ideals, and to increase our sensitivity to the needs of others.

We believe we can achieve our goals without conforming to set theological doctrines.

We welcome and offer friendship to kindred spirits of any race, nationality, sexual orientation or religious background.

Within the limits of our abilities and in keeping with our personal choices, we dedicate our time, effort, and financial support to this Congregation.

3. Meeting Opening and President's Report – Jennifer Gilbreath, President

4. Adoption of FY 2019-2020 Budget - Bryan Jones, Finance Chair

**5. Adoption of the UUCOB Mission Statement:
Fostering wonder, creating connections, nurturing hope, working for justice**

5. Election of Board & Committee Chairs

6. Other Business/Comments

7. Adjournment

Treasurer Report

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (Report as of end of May 2020)

submitted by UUCOB Treasurer, David Feild

- Annual Budget: Our budgeted amount for this fiscal year was \$84,000. As of the end of May we are projected to be well under that amount in total expenditures (even with the income shortfall caused by covid-19). This is due to careful attention to expenditures paid by Board members and committee chairs alike throughout the year.
- Pledges: We are close to meeting our pledge goal this year of \$43,000. We should meet the goal if June pledges hold up as expected.
- Fund Raisers: The Riff Tides concert and book and art sales have brought in over \$1,750 this year.
- Reserve Funds: We have a healthy amount of \$134,808 in our Edward Jones account. This includes several specific funds (Allen Valpey, Munson, Minister's Discretionary and Building Reserve) in addition to our overall rainy day fund.
- Share-the-Plate: Due to congregational generosity, twelve local charities have received a total of over \$2,000 this fiscal year in donations.
- Covid-19: The virus has so far had relatively modest impact on our income. The major issue has been loss of rental income from all of our tenants. We have been able to cover this loss to date within our annual budget. However, the losses will mount up significantly if the crisis continues much longer.

Vice-President

Submitted by Sherrie Lemnios

- Served as a member of the Finance Committee
- Played piano for services
- Organized and installed art shows
- Chaired the Cultural Crossroads Committee

Program Committee

Submitted by Rev. David Morris

Program Committee members are Lola Davis-Jones, Nancy Byrne, Joan Liston, Donna Mohler, and Dennis Tromba. Committee highlights for this year have been:

* Offering feedback to Rev. David concerning Sunday services, with a focus on learnings and ideas that will enrich our worship experience.

* Supporting Donna Mohler in her creation and leadership of our new Children's Program

* Scheduling and supporting lay speakers and guest ministers for Rev. David's Sundays out of the pulpit

* Supporting the transition to online services by offering feedback about that experience from a participant's point of view.

Buildings and Grounds

Submitted by Buildings and Grounds Co-Chair, Dennis Tromba

Buildings: I cannot boast of any major renovation project in either building; however every critical maintenance issue has been successfully addressed. I understand these actions to fall under my janitorial responsibilities to the congregation and in themselves are not worth enumerating.

Grounds: It will come as no surprise to those who have come to know my persona that my emotional association has been rooted in the outside spaces at UUCOB. In this arena it is the doing not the saying which most clearly expresses our participation in this venture. We should all take note of Dick Liston's unswerving attention to lawn maintenance throughout the year and consider his perseverance as much of a 'religious act' as any proclamation from the pulpit. My Co-Chair, Kathy McMahan, and a small bevy of volunteers have done an admirable job of sprucing up the landscaping particularly this spring and the grounds look great even though few eyes have beheld the beauty. We received a fair measure of assistance from a select group of people during the past year for which I am thankful.

Communications Committee

Submitted by Communication Chair, Susan Pfaff

- Redesigned Weekly Announcements to be a more readable, inviting Weekly Newsletter format.
- Compiled, edited, and sent e-newsletter each Thursday.
- Sent other announcements as necessary.
- Reworked website homepage with content to reflect new mission statement (still awaiting info to revise and edit content on additional pages).
- Managed and updated website.
- Helped to promote UUCOB events to the community through website postings.
- Created and helped distribute flyers for UUCOB events.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Membership Chair, Lindsay Dubbs

- A responsive and caring group of people volunteered to serve on the membership team: Sandy Anderson, Vincent Berg, Sue Braun, Nellie Dixon, Dave Feild, Joe Heard, Vickie Moore, Merry Mendelson, Rosemary Rawlins, and Sara Zimmerman. We started off the year by meeting to discuss personal experiences with welcoming and membership at the UUCOB.
- We moved to a quarterly system of arranging for sextons and greeters for Sunday services.
- With the help of Lee Fallon, former Membership Chair, I have learned Breeze, a church database system. I have entered all membership information into Breeze to try to streamline communication and engagement. I have also been using Breeze to remind sextons and greeters when the dates that they volunteered for are coming up.
- I worked with Reverend David to arrange for quarterly coffee with the minister information sessions for visitors interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and becoming members.
- We have held two new member ceremonies, welcoming nine new members to the congregation, including Dallas Bossola, Andy Bossola, Sandi Byers, Gary Crane, Emily Kenyon, Gaye Morris, Donna Rawson, Laura Singletary, Fred Wahl, and Pat Wahl. We were planning on another ceremony before this summer, but have had to put that on hold.
- I have followed up with visitors to Sunday services who sign in and received messages back from most of those I have contacted. The feedback on services and the welcoming by the UUCOB community has been overwhelmingly positive.
- With the help of many members of the congregation who donated experiences and meals, I

organized a Fellowship Meals and Experiences Silent Auction to raise money for the UUCOB and encourage small group fellowship experiences. That auction has been put on hold and will be revisited following the COVID 19 pandemic.

- I worked with Reverend David, Nancy Byrne, Rosemary Rawlins, Nellie Dixon, Sue Braun, Vickie Moore, and Sara Zimmerman to organize and carry out an outreach effort to check in with UUCOB friends and members at the start of the period of isolation due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Please note that additional sextons and greeters are always welcome!

Children's Religious Education (RE) Committee Submitted by RE Coordinator, Donna Mohler

We held 6 once monthly sessions starting September, 2019.

The highest number of participants was 10, lowest was 1, average was 7.

Age range 4 years old to 12 years old.

On 4/4 I sent out a video RE session that according to You Tube has 14 views. Other highlights include: making a clay chalice together that we use every session, displaying a gratitude wreath and a "Everybody is Important" poster in the sanctuary and decorating chalice shaped cookies and sharing them with the congregation during coffee hour

Volunteers who help on a regular basis are Nancy Byrne, Donna Rawson and Caroline Johnston (and a big thank you to them). There is no RE Committee but I would love to have one comprised of parents, helpers or other interested members. Going forward if we want to grow the program, either by meeting more than once a month, or splitting into 2 age groups, we will need additional leaders. Training and resources will be provided!

UU the Vote Team Submitted by Rosemary Rawlins

Laura Singletary, Rosemary Rawlins and Nancy Byrne serve as co-captains for the UU the Vote Team.

The Team applied for and successfully received a \$3500 grant to be shared amongst six other congregations for supplies to send postcards to voters who have been removed from the voter registration list by the NC Board of Elections. Twelve UUCOB congregants have signed up to help this important social justice action.

Additional action items are available in the newsletter and on our Facebook page. Anyone can join the Friday action hour calls as well. During this hour, people have an opportunity to work on justice issues with other UU members across Eastern NC. We call state representatives, write letters, sign petitions, and perform several tasks in a high-energy hour of UU community.

Currently, we are waiting for the postcard kits and will distribute them to our members who signed up to complete this action. We plan to write and mail 400 postcards from our congregation. We will continue working throughout the election year on issues of voter repression and get out the vote initiatives.

Special thanks to Laura Singletary, Rosemary Rawlins, Nancy Byrne, Gaye Morris, and Susan Pfaff, and to Rev. Morris and the Board of the UUCOB for expediting the approval of the grant; with gratitude for the expert direction of Lisa Garcia-Sampson, who has made this work easy,

accessible, and fun.

Women's Journey Group
Submitted by Joan Liston, Organizer

This group of women have been meeting for 8 years monthly through the school year. This year we have been reading, "Women Rowing North," by Dr. Mary Pipher, who is a well-known author. This book explores aging, both the challenges and joys. There is a different facilitator for each meeting. It is a deep sharing group where we give each other no advice but only quiet respect. Since we have been asked to stay at home for safety, we have been using zoom weekly to check in and encourage each other during the three weeks we don't have discussion.