

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Board of Trustees summary

Summer 2022

Here are the highlights from the June 13 Board meeting:

The Board decided to submit to the newsletter a meeting summary, rather than the entire minutes, starting with this issue. Feel free to contact any Board member with questions or comments.

Monthly reports from the Minister, Administrator, and the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration (DLRE) were read and discussed, including discussions about Reverend Peter's request to remove his recorded sermons from the HUUF website (which was approved), our agreement to allow the Veterans for Peace to meet at HUUF at no cost (also approved), and the need for updating staff job titles and descriptions.

New staff contracts have been approved for June through September, and there was some discussion regarding who would act as staff supervisors without a minister. Staff and personnel compensation will be raised to keep up with higher cost of living.

Since there is no Human Resources Committee, it was suggested that we recruit a volunteer from the congregation to help with this position.

The Board discussed the proposal made by the ad hoc committee who called the May 15 Congregational Meeting. The proposal, which was implied in Ursula Bischoff's report, which the board supported, was to hold small group discussions over the summer to address what members want from Sunday services, and their views on future ministerial leadership. In addition, a new ad hoc committee will be formed to help with the process going forward, and will include at least one Board member.

At the recommendation from the Finance Committee it was decided that we will continue to operate under the current 2021-22 budget for now, and that the finalization of the 2022-23 budget will be postponed until September.

The next regular board meeting will be July 12. There will be a special board meeting on July 26 to discuss Ursula Bischoff's suggestions regarding our by-laws.



Sandy Lynn

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FINDING ELIM

By Dave Nelson



I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT A TYPO.

Religious Exploration

To Our Beloved HUUF Families

On Saturday, June 11, a small but determined group gathered beneath the cloudy skies at the Fellowship to conjure a bit of brightness and connectivity. Jessalyn DeLucchi led us through an All Ages Yoga Story that espoused the virtues of a simple life. Admittedly, there were more grown-body participants than young-bodied ones, but a fully-engaged crowd nonetheless. We cozied up to cups of warm tea and brown-bag sandwiches at the not-quite-dry tables out back, and let our eight or so youth gather inside for a spirited round of “The Angry Troll” game that has become a newfound favorite on our beautiful Playscape.

Sandy Lynn broke out her trusty ukulele and guided us through a masked but joyous half-hour of song, or rather, her “Uke Ministry,” as I prefer to call it, as what she does inside that space nourishes the spirit and knits hearts and minds together once more.

And we sat and pondered, in rotating groups of two, the following prompts and questions:

1. Talk about a place you remember fondly from your youth or childhood, a place that nurtured you into the person you’ve become today and opened up pathways for learning, exploration and growth.
2. What’s something you did or did not receive as a child or youth that you want to ensure your children (or this current generation) gets to experience?
3. What does Religious Education (or “Spiritual Learning/Development,” as the words suit you) mean to you?

Over the course of thirty minutes or so, I listened as recurring themes emerged. People spoke of spaces in which they were given just enough freedom and independence to explore and create a little island of thought and adventure all their own. How being offered the chance to experience a multiplicity of rituals, ideas, practices and faiths, yet the blessed autonomy to choose what resonated with their own spirit – brought deep grounding and confidence to their young lives (as well as the ones they inhabit today). We spoke collectively about ideas and traditions we’ve inherited along the way, but also dipped our toes into the glimmering pool of the imagination, as well.

As both UUs, and also members of this unique and stalwart Fellowship, we are inheritors of a rich and strong lineage. And yet, we know that our faith is ever-evolving. Just as we are shaped by the culture, so too, as we extend our hearts, hands, and ideas outward, we shape the culture anew. I am reminded of the words of Octavia Butler: “All that you touch, You Change.” And indeed, by our very presence, we construct both the present and the future of this Beloved Community. We acknowledge that the needs and aspirations of HUUF’s founders and our treasured forebears may not be precisely what we hold today. The world around us changed. And our means and spaces for connecting, replenishing and reconsecrating may need alterations (both major and minor), as well.

What a beautiful thing to be co-creators of a sacred container that remains malleable, open to rebirth and reimagination. As we enter the soft, beckoning window of Summer, with all the expansive possibilities inferred, I invite you to ponder the questions above. Share them with me if you can. (I delight in these conversations.) And think about the ways in which you wish to shape the future – for yourself, your family, community and this sweet Fellowship of which you are an indispensable part.

yours in grace and gratitude,



Amy Day (she/her) Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

RE calendar

Sunday RE, 11 a.m.:

During the month of July, Amy Day will be traveling with my family, checking in occasionally via email (comm@huuf.org) if you’d like to keep in touch. In the meantime, our dedicated and dynamic Childcare Coordinator, Jessalyn DeLucchi (djessalyn@yahoo.com), will be on hand to offer free play, craft and movement experiences to our kiddos during the 11 a.m. services.



All-Fellowship Summer Retreat

After canceling for two years, we are delighted to have our Annual All-Fellowship Retreat down on the Mattole River. However, Covid is still with us. For the safety of all, we require all participants eligible for vaccinations to be fully vaccinated and boosted. In addition, *all* participants will be required to have a negative Covid test prior to arrival.

A mixture of stimulating workshops, fun crafts, inspiring worships, hikes, peaceful time relaxing by the river or under a tree and great fellowship combine for a delightful weekend. There will be special Kid Zone activities, teen programs, a No-Talent-Required Talent show, and intergenerational happenings for all to enjoy.

We will stay at the beautiful Mattole Retreat Center (www.mattolecamp.com, for a sneak preview). In addition to the cabins with bunk beds, spaces for tents and RVs are available at the same price. There is a special swimming hole, volleyball court, and lots of green grass and shady trees. A large campfire area will be available for evening programs and campfire treats. The main lodge, with limited sleeping area, is handicap accessible.

Meals are included. We will do our own cooking (to help keep the price down) and everyone will be asked to pitch in to help with chores.

Costs are \$115 adults (13 and up), \$90 youth (6-12), \$70 child (2-5), under 2 free, \$350 max per immediate family. Some partial scholarship will be available. Numbers will be limited to 50 this year.

You may mail your registration form, deposit, proof of vaccination, and acceptance of Covid protocols to Joanna Welch, 2945 Lowell St, Eureka, CA 95501 or return it to the registration table in the foyer or call at the office: 707-822-3793. Online registration is also possible. Requests for scholarship deadline is July 11. Registration deadline is July 31.



Berti Welty

Summer Sunday Services

July

Sunday, July 3 – 11 a.m. – All-Ages Potluck of Fun, Family and Food – Montana Caouette, MC

Since we all will be creating our Fellowship future together, let's start with joyful experiences of simply sharing casual conversation, creative play, and delicious refreshments. Bring a comfortable chair or blanket to sit outside. Practice a favorite story/song/skit to perform or host a fun craft or game. Join in singing along with Sandy Lynn and her ukulele. Bring potluck food and beverages to share in COVID safety as we collectively create convivial moments and lasting memories. We will pitch in with set up and clean up as we are able.

The Caring Circle is offering rides so we can be together in person. Contact the office at 707-822-3793 if you would like a ride. There will be no Zoom broadcast or program.

Sunday, July 10 – 11 a.m. – Chaos and the Tapestry of Life – Laura Phelan-Shahin and Pat McCutcheon

For our first discussion service of the summer, Laura and Pat will lead with a story followed by guided meditation, music, and discussion on this Sunday's theme.

Sunday, July 17 – 11 a.m. – The Future of Worship I – Program and Worship Committee

This service will be the first in a three-part summer series. We will gather at HUUF and on Zoom for small-group discussions. This first discussion will explore Unitarian Universalism as an engaged spiritual tradition and what the spiritual source is at HUUF that helps you live your life in the world.

Sunday, July 24 – 11 a.m. – Know Thyself – The Rev. Tom Lewis facilitating circle discussion

The Myers-Briggs typology gives us insights into who we really are at a basic level. In our circle you will have an opportunity to learn more or validate who you are by taking a brief test to understand more about your strengths and weaknesses. You will evaluate your test results and have a chance to discuss them with the group. This exercise will also give you insights into knowing your family and friends better.

Sunday, July 31 – 11 a.m. – The Future of Worship II – Program and Worship Committee

The second in our exploration of the Future of Worship will ask what spiritual experiences at HUUF are meaningful to you, what is missing, and what would you like to try differently.

August

Sunday, August 7 – 11 a.m. – What is Ministry? – Berti Welty

Berti will lead a panel discussion about the various aspects of ministry. Select individuals will share what they have learned about ministry as well as what ministry actually is from both a spiritual and pragmatic perspective.

Sunday, August 14 – Retreat plus Louisiana inspiration

Because of the All-Fellowship Retreat, there will be no service at HUUF. To inspire those who are unable to attend the retreat, a recorded service from the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, La., is recommended. Titled "Happy Pride," it was presented on June 12, and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/usbT5whRrtg> as well as on our website huuf.org.

Of special note, as of July, the Rev Chris Long became the Baton Rouge congregation's full-time Minister of Congregational Life. He has the distinction of being the first African American UU minister in Louisiana.

Sunday, August 21 – 11 a.m. – The Future of Worship III – Program and Worship Committee

The final discussion in our exploration of the Future of Worship will ask what elements of worship are essential. It will also explore what innovations could we create together that would advance the Future of Worship.

Sunday, August 28 – 11 a.m. – Inspiring books – Debi Cooper and Laura Phelan-Shahin

Debi and Laura will lead a discussion about the books that have inspired us this year. Please bring a book with a passage picked out that has inspired you. We will take turns listening and sharing as a congregation.



MY CLIENT AGREES TO SPEAK AT YOUR RETREAT BUT HE WANTS HIS OWN TENT AND 10% OF ALL THE LEFTOVER COOKIES.



HOW IS IT OUR CHURCH HAS MORE COMMITTEES THAN MEMBERS?

The special congregational meeting

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the special congregational meeting on May 15. Between the people attending in person and on Zoom, there were at least 90 of us. We listened to comments from 35 people.

We're grateful to Dr. Ursula Bischoff, an experienced consultant, for facilitating the meeting and creating a positive, constructive, and healing environment. Ursula's comprehensive report is available online in the June 3 Weekly. Appendix A is her impressive notes on each speaker.

Scarlett Trippsmith and Anna Bressers did a brilliant job figuring out how to bring the Zoomers into the room by projecting each speaker on the big screen and broadcasting their voices.

Thanks also to Rev. Peter Farriday for enfolding the discussion in ritual, melding our usual Sunday service with a critical congregational meeting.

The three-person ad hoc committee for planning a special congregational meeting is disbanding. It was an intense two months (including debriefing with Ursula after the meeting). Working with Bert Taylor and Cena Marino was a pleasure.

Two points have crystallized for me. The first is that for many obvious reasons – as individuals and as a Fellowship – we are in a depleted state. In a follow-up email to Ursula after the meeting, one member hit the nail on the head: “It sometimes feels as if our elders are frustrated with us that we are not doing enough to take the reins. I'm worried about this, because I think we're all at capacity.” (See comment #15 in Appendix A for more.)

This is a thorny problem. If we browbeat people to do more, we'll drive them away. This calls for an adjustment in our expectations of each other, while we find ways to gently, compassionately rebuild cohesiveness and energy. Forming small groups that meet over the summer will be a good place to start and the Program and Worship Committee is working to make this happen. Our picnic on July 3 is another way.

The second point that has come clear to me is that in Amy Day and Bridgette Garuti we have two multi-talented, highly-skilled young staff members who have proven themselves to us over time – they have kept us going operationally and spiritually over the last two years – and who are actually telling us they want to take on more responsibility. I think taking advantage of their offer is the natural, organic next step. Taoists would see this as “the watercourse way.”

The special congregational meeting showed how much people care about this community. In the face of a perfect storm of challenges, we're demonstrating our resilience. The Fellowship has had to be flexible and creative in the past and those are the qualities we're calling on now.

Margy Emerson

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) news

CAC sent a letter of support for Arcata's Gateway Area Plan to the members of the Arcata City Council and to members of the Arcata Planning Commission. Thank you, Pat Carr.

CAC signed on to the letter of response with 350 Humboldt, CCRP, EPIC and NEC to the Governor and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the recently released draft Scoping Plan (SP) required every five years by SB 100. The SP focused on achieving net zero emissions in 2045. This would set California on a path towards carbon neutrality that is unacceptably slow and out of line with the science on global warming. We urge CARB to pursue a faster pathway to carbon neutrality that delivers significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and adverse health impacts.

CAC requested CARB to follow the law and science, and revise the SP as follows:

1. Exclude any new investments in fossil fuel infrastructure and pursue renewable energy.
2. Pursue direct emissions reductions rather than gambling on carbon capture and other unproven technologies.
3. Reduce emissions from the transportation sector to comply with the Governor's Executive Order.
4. Phase out oil and gas extraction and petroleum refining earlier.
5. Set a date for electric appliance retrofits in addition to replacing gas appliances at end-of-life

Thank you, Margy Emerson and Bert Taylor for help with CAC tabling at the "Summer in the Redwoods" event at Prairie Creek State Park on June 18.

Over the summer, members will continue to write letters, sign petitions, and attend local jurisdictional meetings where climate related issues are being considered.

Change in meeting times for the summer:

Due to event conflicts, CAC monthly meetings in July and August will be on the third Sundays of July and August at 1 p.m. on zoom. We will resume meeting in September at our usual time on the second Sunday of each month at 1 p.m.

From Jane Goodall: "Together, we can do so much. I believe we have barely begun to discover what humans are truly capable of when we become engaged, when we work together, and when we take constructive action to build a world that is worthy of the dreams of our children."



Sue Lee Mossman

Ministry history

HUUF began in 1953. The first 12 years, members set up all the organizational structures along with inspiring and caring for each other and their families. Lewis McGee, their first professional minister was installed in 1965 and stayed 1½ years.

In our 69 years we have had 11 professional ministers who served for 36 years. None has been full time. Only four ministers served more than four years, the most being 13. In the intervening 33 years we have ministered to each other – though for most of that time we didn't think of it as ministering. We frequently invited guest ministers to our pulpit.

Besides the first 12 years, we were without a minister for 13 years from June 1993 to December 2005. In years between 1965 and 1993 when we didn't have a minister, we saw ourselves as "between ministers" – usually for no more than two years.

Currently, we have five members or friends in our congregation who are ordained ministers: Rev Jamal Tharp, Rev Tom Lewis, Rev Shawn Nichols, Rev Suzanne Kimmel, and Rev Todd Hoberecht (non-UU). The first three were ordained here at HUUF.

Sources: "In Our Own Words: Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 1954-2000; assembled by Beverly Allen; and, HUUF Newsletter Archives at HUUF.org.

Bonnie MacGregor



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 506
Bayside, CA 95524

24 Fellowship Way, Bayside (off Jacoby Creek Road)

(707) 822-3793 <https://huuf.org/>

e-mail: office@huuf.org

Administrator: Bridgette Garuti

Mon.-Wed. 9:30-4:00, Thurs. email office@huuf.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration: Amy Day

Tues. & Thurs. comm@huuf.org

Technical Administrator: Anna Bressers

it@huuf.org

Newsletter Editors: Pat Carr/Jo Ann Huffman

newsletter@huuf.org

Board of Trustees:

President Debi Cooper

Vice-President Sally Williams

Secretary Sandy Lynn

Trustees Cassie Brilbeck, Chris West,
Michael 'Montana' Caouette

Treasurer Rebekah Paez

Passing the torch

After 13 year of involvement, the last seven as sole editor, I am turning over the reins of the newsletter to the team of Pat Carr and Jo Ann Huffman. Pat will edit articles and Jo Ann will layout the newsletter. Both are eminently qualified. I'll stay behind the scenes for a while to ensure a smooth transition

As I leave, I want to take a moment to ask the Fellowship to contemplate what the newsletter is for and whether it is doing that task. In the last couple of years, submissions have dropped and other venues have taken part of the newsletter's former purpose. There is also a trend to not mail the print newsletter. This is something that was tried years ago and failed. People don't read the newsletter online. Either they don't think about it, or they have a device such as a phone or tablet that doesn't work well with the format the online newsletter is presented in. When a person physically gets the newsletter in their hands, they're more likely to open and read it, and unless it's read, it's useless. If we can't afford to mail the newsletter, we should consider an alternative or simply drop the idea. My parting \$0.02.

Stephen Sottong

CLASSIFIED ADS

Raspberry Shortcake plants for sale
in one gallon plants, \$5 each.
jfwelch22@gmail.com

Classified ads are 10¢ per word.
Send your check to the HUUF
office and email the text of your ad
to newsletter@huuf.org.

Deadline information

Deadline for the **September** newsletter issue is Saturday, **August 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF (email only) to newsletter@huuf.org.

Many file formats are acceptable, but .doc, .docx, .rtf and text are preferred, and .pdf cannot be used. Late submissions are not accepted without prior approval. Full guidelines at: <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFNewsGuide>

Stephen Sottong, editor