

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

2002 Annual Report of Activities and Accomplishments

Presented to the congregation April 27, 2003



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Introduction

This has been an important year in the story of our congregation. We have celebrated fifty years of continuous presence in Olympia with a look back at our history and the honoring of our founders and elders, we have celebrated the installation of the Reverend Arthur Vaeni as our minister, and we have turned to look ahead to our future.

During this year we have hired a talented and enthusiastic Director of Religious Education, we have moved ahead in our commitments to and support of staff, and significant work has been done in developing a long range plan that will help chart the course ahead.

Our committees have been busy in support of our mission, growing our ministry, attending to pastoral care and supporting the life of our community.

This was a year of a record-breaking auction, and with additional fund-raising and the award of the Chalice Lighters Grant we have been able to make important improvements to our buildings and grounds. The successful fall Canvass will help us maintain our programs in 2003.

And we have expanded our presence and outreach into the wider community through the work of our minister, our work for social justice, and the Out of the Woods Shelter.

This Annual Report summarizes the many accomplishments of the congregation through its committees and affiliated groups. The work has been impressive, both in maintaining the health and vigor of the congregation and in laying the groundwork for years to come.

Riley McLaughlin, Board President

Staff

Parish Minister

My Guiding Vision and Understanding of Congregational Life

We are called to journey with one another toward the fulfillment of our humanity. I believe human life attains fulfillment when we live with compassion, truthfulness and generosity and our words and deeds reflect the wisdom that our lives are interdependent with all other life. The work and play of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation centers on the creation of religious community. It is community that arises from the liberal religious tradition and is largely guided by the values expressed in the principles of our Association. It is community that helps each participant bring their ministry into being. Ministry in this context is the sharing our gifts in service to life's greater good.

Three Primary Initiatives for the Year 2002

During this budget year there were three primary areas I wanted to address: The first was establishing a small group ministry program; the second was beginning the development of an annual ministry assessment process; the third was beginning to move the congregation toward development of a covenant of right relations.

Small Group Ministry- Through the efforts of an enthusiastic Small Group Ministry (SGM) Task Force we introduced the concept and began the program this year. In April over 100 people began meeting twice per month in groups ranging from seven to ten members. Small Group Ministry brings people together to discuss fundamental issues of life, to deepen their personal relationships and to serve the larger community as they see fit. These groups continued to meet through the year with the intention of disbanding the following March in order for a second cycle of groups to develop.

Assessment of Our Ministry – In recent years an ad hoc group convened by our national association has been grappling with effective ways to assess ministry within our congregations. In June, 2001, it published a guide called “Assessing Our Leadership.” The Committee on Ministry and I recommended to the Board that we institute this process outlined by this guide, and the Board of Trustees concurred. This process will help us become more intentional with identifying our congregation's leadership team, i.e. Board, committee chairs, staff and minister, then helping the team identify our congregation's annual goals as well as assess our progress toward fulfilling the goals. I believe this process will help us more faithfully fulfill our vision and mission.

Covenant of Right Relations A covenant is a mutual promise between two or more parties. The practice of right relations is way of being with oneself and with other people that fully honors the humanity of each person. A covenant of right relations is mutual promise to participate in this religious community only in ways that honor our own and one another's humanity as well as respecting the integrity of the community. During the latter part of the year the Committee on Ministry and I began planning a process that would help the congregation develop and understanding of such a covenant.

We will hope to create a covenant in the spring of 2003, seeing that as a first step toward committing ourselves to being in right relationship.

Some Other Initiatives within the Congregation

Vespers – In the fall I established a vespers service each Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. The services are intended to provide a mid-week respite. Carol McKinley and Eric Ness have played important roles in this endeavor with Carol leading the service on fourth Wednesdays, and Eric leading on fifth Wednesdays and as needed. Troy has provided the music for most of the services. These services will continue into June, 2003. During the summer I will determine with the others whether to continue as they are or try something different.

Youth Adult Committee – In the fall Sierra Marie and I convened a meeting with some of our youth, parents and youth group advisors to discuss issues regarding support for the Youth Group. Within the meeting a process was agreed upon to re-establish the youth adult committee. Subsequently, a new committee was established.

Internship - Eric, who is a member of our congregation and a ministerial candidate, began a two-year internship through his work as a hospice chaplain. As an intern he needs to be in a ministerial relationship with a Unitarian Universalist congregation, and he is doing that with OUUC. As Eric's mentor through this process, I meet with him twice each month. Eric has volunteered a number of services to the congregation that include leading Sunday services and vespers, providing pastoral care, particularly around death and dying concerns, and offering adult education focused on death and dying related issues. When he completes his internship, Eric will continue this relationship with our congregation as an ordained Unitarian Universalist community minister.

Civil Liberties Discussion and Other Adult Education– On November 19, I facilitated a conversation on civil liberties following a video featuring the USA PATRIOT Act. There were 12-15 people participating. A follow up with a discussion group using Wendy Kaminer's book *Free for All: Defending Liberty in America Today* will continue in January, and be followed by a group response to the 2002 General Assembly Study/Action Issue on civil liberties. In the winter/spring I facilitated a six-session discussion of the book, *A Chosen Faith*.

Some Initiatives Outside the Congregation

Convocation 2002 During March 6-10, I attended a convocation sponsored the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association in Birmingham, Alabama. We focused on our calls to ministry and the direction we are leading/being taken by our religious movement. It was a fruitful, inspiring, restful, tiring and helpful conference.

Small Church Conference – On Saturday, November 2, I co-facilitated a small church conference for the Central Midwest District in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I gave the keynote address, and provided

workshops on worship and leadership.

Good Officer– At the spring Pacific Northwest District Minister’s Chapter meeting I was elected to a three-year term as one of our district’s two Good Offices persons. In this capacity I will work as a support and advocate for colleagues who are having difficulty in their congregations or having difficulty with another colleague.

Convener I volunteered to fulfill the role of convener of the faith community leaders’ group of Associated Ministries from the beginning in June through the ensuing “church year.”

Arthur Vaeni

Director of Religious Education

In my nine months of service here as the Director Of (Children’s) Religious Education, I have overseen a Sunday School program involving two services on Sunday and approximately 80 registered children. Most of these children are ten and younger, the cohort I serve directly. I have selected curriculum for classes that did not have assigned curriculum when I came on board early this year. I have trained eleven volunteer teachers, and I regularly work with fifteen volunteer teachers and advisors and two paid staff, a group which collectively serves the needs of children from babyhood through high school. Additionally, I staff the classrooms with adult helpers on Sunday, giving me approximately five additional volunteers to coordinate each week. I support teachers for preschool through fifth grade with weekly check-ins and ongoing assistance with class planning, as well as classroom support on Sunday. I also have recruited teams of volunteers, such as a party-planning team for the Secret Buddies event that took place from mid-February to mid-March.

I have provided the classes with overall supply maintenance, including the purchase of the usual classroom supplies, such as paint and glue. I have assisted in the planning of intergenerational events, including the Yule Play and a service in preparation for the congregation’s Covenant of Right Relations. I have planned and conducted monthly children’s worship services, and I have participated in the time the children spend with the adults in the sanctuary, including telling a story on occasion. I attended monthly R.E. Committee meetings, and I provided the R.E. Committee with thorough, written monthly reports that included information about the program, as well as information about how I was spending my time. I attended other church committee meetings as needed to help plan and advocate for religious education needs. I have attended weekly staff meetings and met with Art on a weekly basis to help with my program planning and to coordinate events, etc. I have communicated with parents and families by providing occasional Order of Service inserts, writing Unitariana articles on a monthly basis, sending a parent email newsletter to registered families on a weekly basis, providing a seasonal mailed newsletter to registered families, answering phone calls and emails about our program, writing/revising and producing brochures and booklets, and providing orientation to newcomers. I also have sought to provide parents with resources for raising Unitarian Universalist children, including informing them of books I have available for loan and providing them with information and answers to questions.

Sierra-Marie Gerfao

Music Director

This past year was my seventh year as Music Director at OUUC. The average attendance of the choir this year has been about twenty-five at both weekly rehearsals and Sunday attendance. We lost one long time member to old age and its complications, and gained two new members. In addition we have had numerous visitors come for one or two rehearsals and then move on. The choir has learned and performed nearly twice as much literature as in past years. And I would say that the quality of the choir's singing has improved in tonal beauty, ensemble balance, and expressive clarity. It has been proposed that the choir tour to Romania next Spring, to visit our Sister Congregation and surrounding area. The interest seems to be high. We will take a final vote on the matter at the end of April.

This past year I have participated in the Wednesday night Vesper Services. Music seems to be a much appreciated part of this service and a real enjoyment for me. It is my perception that the congregations enthusiasm for hymn singing has increased greatly. They seem more brave about attempting new hymns, and we have attempted many new hymns at the Sunday Services and Wednesday night Vespers.

Troy Fisher

Associated Minister

In 2002 I performed 16 weddings in the community, several of these couples have attended church several times. I led two memorial services.

In 2002 I attended many meetings representing the church to, the Housing Task Force, Committee on Homelessness, county sponsored research groups on homelessness, meeting on the future of Bread and Roses, meetings on the future of the Defoe Street Shelter, meetings with Safe Place concerning the use of our shelter (Out of the Woods).

I received several community awards including the Thurston County Human Rights Award.

I talked to a number of church and community groups, including Olympia and Tumwater City Councils, regarding OUUC's commitment to the community. I met one on one with the Mayors of Tumwater, Olympia, and Lacey.

I wrote letters to many people interested in OUUC's programs.

William Arensmeyer

Administrator

In looking back at 2002 I found four main areas in which my work has been concentrated. These areas are communication, information management, church finances and building management.

In the area of communications I have prepared the weekly order of service, weekly announcements, newsletter items, member directories and reports (to include the annual report). I have provided information to the Unitarian Universalist Association as required and have updated the mailing list for the magazine, *The World*. I have attempted to keep our busy calendar up to date. I work with the minister and the Membership Committee to communicate with newcomers. I have served on the Long-Range Planning Committee and have attended the meetings of Membership, Buildings and Grounds, Hospitality, Communications, Personnel, the Church Administrator Support Team and the Council of Committees. Weekly staff meetings are also a part of my schedule.

Another important task of the church administrator is the management of information. I maintained the church database to include visitor records, address changes and Religious Education registrations. I worked with volunteers in 2002 to provide the information for the photo directory project. Management of church files is ongoing. In 2002 I was able to sort (with assistance of our treasurer) and file a number of years worth of financial records. For the first time these file boxes are marked with a discard date.

In the area of church finances I have prepared bank deposits, posted contributions, tracked pledge records, prepared checks for signature and prepared quarterly reports. I assisted our Investment Officer by preparing investor payments and end of year tax forms.

In the area of building management, I have met with renters (weddings, memorials, concerts, meetings) throughout the year. I had numerous communications with our Saturday renter, the Worldwide Church of God. I revised our building use forms and wedding guide. I met with church members to plan a new lock system. I provided supervision to our custodian and sexton.

Outside of these main areas of responsibility I participated in the following activities: assisted with Food Bank and Shelter clients, bought supplies, assisted with the holiday Giving Tree project, did background checks on employees and volunteers working with children, researched and leased a new copier, updated the policy manual, updated computer programs, rearranged office supplies and color-coded phone and computer cables. To add to my education I was able to attend meetings of the National Association of Church Business Administrators and a seminar on *How to Supervise*.

Darlene Sarkela

Organizational Structure

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation (OUUC) is a network of interconnected and interdependent individuals and member groups. It takes many hands to operate effectively an organization as complex as a church. The essential elements of OUUC's organization are the elected board of trustees, minister, associated minister, Director of Religious Education, Church Administrator, committees and affiliated interest groups.

As an organization we are committed to open communication and a sense of collective responsibility for and participation in OUUC's ministry. OUUC is a member organization, supported by a small number of dedicated and energetic staff and a large number of dedicated and energetic volunteers. We are a Welcoming Congregation, which means that we have made a commitment to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.

Our values are consistent with our denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and its regional manifestation, the Pacific Northwest District. These national and regional organizations give us a way to magnify our voice and values in the larger world.

Mission Statement

Our community is a place to grow in mind and spirit. We promote a loving, just and sustainable world through service, learning and action.

Congregational Covenant

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist congregation is a caring, inclusive community bound by shared values. We welcome diversity. We respect freedom of thought and the personal search for truth. We passionately uphold lifelong spiritual, ethical, and intellectual growth. We provide opportunities and encouragement for people to act responsibly on these values and beliefs. We nurture a sense of family.

We gather to renew our connection to each other and to our world. We celebrate with music, meditation, and inspiring messages from ministers and lay people. These messages move us to tears, joy, laughter, and meaningful action.

We share an appreciation of the arts, the natural world, and the companionship of one another. Together we relish conversation, coffee, good food, and laughter. To support the well-being of

this congregation, we devote our time, talents, and personal resources.

We work together to promote social justice, the rights and dignity of all people, and respect for the resources of the Earth.

OUUC Board

Mission: to help guide and support the OUUC community, its committees, staff and ministry as it pursues its mission and goals, and to be responsible for the financial health of the congregation.

Members: Ann Colowick, Joe Dear, Diana Larsen-Mills, Riley McLaughlin, Joe Shorin, Peter Teets, Emily Ray, the Reverend Arthur Vaeni (ex officio), Wim Verhoef and Mary Welsh. (In November, Peter Teets was appointed to the board as Treasurer, replacing Mary Welsh who resigned the position but who continues as the congregation's bookkeeper.)

Activities and Accomplishments:

- Provided oversight and guidance in the annual budgeting and canvassing process, including refining and approving the final budget proposal which was brought to the congregation for approval at the January 2003 congregational meeting;
- Adopted a resolution to commit OUUC towards becoming a Fair Compensation Congregation and acted on recommendations by the Personnel committee regarding compensation and insurance issues in support of OUUC staff;
- After initiating and helping secure the Chalice Lighters Grant, oversaw the distribution of the funds for improvements to the building and placed the remaining amount in the sinking fund;
- Reviewed and supported the work of the Long Range Planning committee in their goal of bringing a plan to the congregation for approval at the 2003 Annual Meeting - a key decision in how we will go about achieving our mission;
- Reviewed and approved the hiring of Sierra-Marie Gerfao as our new DRE;
- Reviewed and decided on a number of fundraising proposals, including the successful Books, Brownies and Beans, which raised funds for both Out of the Woods and the Adult Literacy of Thurston County while raising the OUUC profile in the community, bringing in potential new members;
- Developed, reviewed and approved updates to the OUUC policy manual;
- Approved the establishment of the new Membership committee, which will be a key part of our developing plans for growth;
- Provided ongoing support, review and guidance for OUUC committees and affiliated groups and moved to develop the breadth of the leadership team through the empowerment and support of the Council of Committees;
- Enthusiastically supported the various activities surrounding our 50th anniversary year.

A key board goal in 2002 was to develop an effective process for the assessment of our congregation's ministry in support of our mission. Work was done throughout the year to determine a useful approach to that process and to assign its further development and management to the Committee on Ministry in consultation with the board. This included a day-long retreat with the two groups along with efforts to communicate the importance and value of this process to the congregation. This assessment process will be brought to the congregation for approval at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

Committees

Adult Education

Mission: The Adult Education Program is an endeavor to facilitate the search for truth and knowledge.

Goals:

- Create program opportunities for active and reflective experiences which:
 - explore the roots of our faith
 - move us toward personal, ethical and intellectual growth
 - tap into our inner creative process to discover and share our innate gifts
 - explore and illuminate the mysteries in life
 - deepen the personal bonds among community members
 - teach by example that learning is a life-long process and
 - challenge us to practice Unitarian Universalism in our daily lives.
- Designate a committee representative to attend/participate in the Council of Committee meetings.

Committee members: Milton Bard, Winston Mullen, Molly Gibbs

Activities: Plan, schedule and implement Adult Education Programs

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: Re-formed committee

Aesthetics

Mission: To oversee and make decisions about plans, purchases and donations that affect the character, ambiance, safety and comfort of our buildings and grounds.

Committee members: Jan Sogge, Carol Murphy, Pat McLachlan

Activities: We have given opinions on selection of landscaping plants and placement; plans for the Endowment garden; plans for the bike parking area; furniture, cabinets and story rugs for the Religious Education program; and hanging of Auction art.

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: We worked with others to help create a beautiful and aesthetic environment that supports our community.

Buildings and Grounds

Mission: Maintain and enhance OUUC buildings, grounds and related mechanical systems.

Contacts: Bill Arensmeyer, Jim Lengenfelder, Pat McLachlan

Accomplishments: More than 120 OUUC volunteers augmented by members of the Worldwide Church of God put in thousands of hours (and extra financial support) to make our environment both inside and outside more pleasing and restful. Thanks to everyone for your special efforts this year!.

A landscape design team made many recommendations for improvements to our grounds. Many volunteer work crews moved, replanted, nourished and added many wonderful new plants while establishing a two benched meditation areas. One of these was dedicated in honor of UUF/OUUC's fifth anniversary celebration. Rock walls were built, pavers were laid and a sprinkle system installed to support all contribute to the new ambiance.

The new flooring for the RE wing, administrative office and the Minister's study were completed. That was followed with a Chalice Lighter's Grant to add storage cabinets, counter tops and display areas. This work is continuing.

A new look was taken at recycling efforts. A number of changes were implemented for handling and storage for all recyclable material. (Some folks said that OUUC finally started to recycle.)

Eagle Scout candidate, Alex Sodhi, completed a project that made our "Trail In The Woods" more accessible.

And of course, the usual maintenance of replacing plumbing, touch up painting, gardening, changing filters, adjusting thermostats and addressing a safety concerns were done as a matter of routine.

Care and Concern

Mission: To provide neighborly assistance to OUUC members and pledging friends in emergency situations when they are sick, injured, or distressed.

Committee members: Coordinators for this assistance are: Mary-Walton Cameron, Carol Horner, Beth Quigley, Luci Phillips, Jennifer Sowers, Sandra Tunison, and Sandra Worthington. There is also a list of about 44 volunteers for specific tasks.

Activities: Luci Phillips is notified of an emergency or other concern. If a coordinator is needed, the family chooses a coordinator who will assess the type of help needed and solicit volunteers to provide this. Only after obtaining permission from the family will Luci notify the entire church body by e-mail of the problem, the contact person (coordinator), and other details.

Accomplishments: In 2002, forty-two e-mails were sent out to church members and friends informing them of crises in the lives of twenty-three households or updating the status of those crises. In keeping with our congregation's mission of loving through service and action, members responded with visitation, phone calls/cards, food, transportation, chores, and other kindness where need was apparent.

A unique situation arose in early January when a member recuperating from a stroke needed round-the-clock supervision after returning home. Three shifts were set up: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 2 p.m.-8 p.m., and 8 p.m.-8 a.m., and the call went out for volunteers. The congregation responded splendidly, usually with food in their hands! She was never alone during the first week at home. During the second week, friends stayed with her overnight and intermittently during the day. In subsequent weeks, friends kept tabs on her condition with random visits and phone calls.

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry is beginning the process of assessing our congregation's shared ministry. OUUC's Board and the CoM had a lengthy meeting in the fall to discuss a how we as a congregation could go about Assessing our Leadership. Assessing our Leadership is a process that would allow all segments of the congregation to share what their plans are for the year, and assess whether all of their yearly goals have been met. In this process we will learn more about all the ministry that is happening in our congregation – the work of the various committees and groups as well as the work of our congregation's ministerial staff.

Small Group Ministry began at OUUC this year. As the CoM learned more about Small Group Ministry we decided we should give it a try at OUUC. The CoM formed a group to get Small Group Ministry going in our congregation.

A Covenant of Right Relations will be created by our congregation, staff and minister in 2003. In the Covenant of Right Relations we will promise each other and ourselves how we will walk together in community. The CoM began planning how and when this Covenant of Right Relations would be

formed. A series of events were planned and a number of Sunday services were devoted to learning more about being in Right Relations. The grand event will be an all congregation Covenant of Right Relations workshop.

The CoM monitors congregational life. It began occasionally making itself available for people who want to make comments on the ministry of our congregation. The CoM encourages anyone with comments to make about the ministry in our congregation to contact the minister or any member of the CoM. Bonnie Guyer Graham, Mike Harbour, Ron Hinson, Sharon Love, Carol McKinley and Sandra Worthington are members of the CoM.

Community Advocacy

Chair: Bill Arensmeyer

Accomplishments: We were able to provide \$4500 worth of food certificates to 225 families in need. We have been placing some restrictions on who gets the certificates. 1- The clients cannot get a certificate if they receive their full allotment of food stamps. They are still eligible to use our food closet. 2- We ask our clients to use the Thurston County Food Bank before coming to us. 3- Clients may receive a certificate once every 90 days. We encourage people to become self-sufficient. 4- Clients must have (with a few exceptions) a referral from some community agency to receive a certificate. Food to stock the closet has been donated by church members and members of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Community. Information and Referral is operated on a daily basis. Most of the inquiries had to do with help with rent, utilities and medical care.

Council of Committees

Mission: Coordinates and facilitates the work of committees so as to assure the smooth operation of OUUC programs and services for the greater good of the whole congregation. Acts as a vehicle of communication and consultation between and among all OUUC committees and affiliate groups and advises the Board of Trustees on appropriate matters.

Committee Members: Representatives from all committees, standing and ad hoc as well as representatives from affiliate groups and OUUC staff.

Activities: Consultation and communication is the primary activity of the Council.

Information is a key component to the smooth functioning of an organization and its transmission is a function of many parts of an organization i.e. Unitarianism, announcements, programs, etc. However, communicating among the various parts of the body in an interactive way is the sole function of the Council. The Council was a major forum for consultation in the planning and communication concerning the 50th Anniversary Celebration and it consulted to advise the Board concerning the Disruptive Persons Policy. Discussion about the Green Sanctuary program and the parking and recycling issues was productive.

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: The part of the Congregation's mission most addressed by the Council is community. As a congregation grows, its sense of community can suffer and it can drift into being a confederation of groups with important, but differing purposes. The Council's mission is 'for the greater good of the whole congregation' and its function teaches each of these important component groups that it is not alone in its job or in its importance to the Congregation. The realization on the part of each group and program that each part affects and needs the others is the product of the good communication the Council promotes. When the Choir and Worship Arts and the RE program consult on the Yule play they are working together for the Congregation. When Membership consults each committee and produces the document "How to get involved in Programs and Activities at OUUC", they are helping fellow Council participants and working together to promote community for the good of the whole congregation. The Council has been and continues to be a vital role in that process.

Finance

Mission: to provide financial oversight for the Congregation, ensuring that the Board of Trustees is informed of financial issues facing the Congregation, and that debts are paid on time. The committee prepares the annual budget, based upon requests from other committees. Once the budget is implemented, the committee closely monitors expenses, and keeps committee chairs informed of their spending compared to the budget. Members of the Finance Committee also play a major role in organizing the annual auction.

Committee Members: Peter Teets, (treasurer), Mary Welsh, Pam Davidson, Luci Phillips, Leslie Romer, and Karol Erickson

Accomplishments:

- Held the *Auction 2002, Here's Looking at UU* in March 2002 (with many volunteers from the Congregation), raising \$14,125 - a new record well beyond any previous auction! The Middle School RE group was once again involved in the Auction decor, to the delight of those who attended.
- Assisted OUUC committees and the Board in creating the 2003 OUUC Budget.
- Reviewed and updated financial policies and made recommendations to the Board regarding a variety of issues.

- Reconciled and balanced all funds.
- Donated to the 2002 Auction the 2nd Annual Finance Femmes event, where committee members provided financial information and decadent desserts and wine to four lucky bidders.

Fund-Raising

Mission: to help support the church with fund-raising and support the canvass, auction and endowment committees

Committee Members: Beth Quigley, George Lanning, Melanie Ransom, Joe Shorin, Karol Erickson, Candy Mattson

Activities:

- record auction \$14,000
- record canvass \$200,000
- reviewed numerous fund-raising requests and referred to board as appropriate (approved, denied and modified)
- secured Chalice Lighters grant
- created endowment brochure
- Bush tax rebate fund-raiser for new floor

Long-Range Planning

Note: Some 2003 Activities have been included since this is the Final Report for the Long Range Planning Committee.

Mission: The committee's purpose is to study and analyze the current church community as to service needs, program needs and religious needs, using the input from the respective areas and the whole congregation, their anticipated future requirements, dreams and hopes.

Goals: Prepare a Long Range Plan for OUUC to be presented to the Board and to the Congregation for approval. After approval support implementation of the LRP through committee awareness and encouragement of annual reporting in relation to planned direction.

Committee Members at end of 2002: Bill Arensmeyer, Glenis Bard, Milton Bard, Marcia Killam-Nunn, Darlene Sarkela, Leslie Romer, Alex Sodhi, Wim Verhoef

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed planning resources, prepared planning template, and organized congregation wide planning event
- Met with PNWD congregational consultant for guidance.
- All-congregation planning event conducted in October 2002

- Results of Long Range Planning event compiled into single document - January 2003
- Completed Long Range Plan Reference Binder - March 2003
- Long Range Planning document approved by Board - March 2003
- Work of Committee completed and committee discharged by Board - as of April 2003
- Long Range Planning document approved by Congregation - April 2003 (anticipated)

Committee Support and Thank You's:

Editors and Writers - Final Document: Mary Walton Cameron, Sierra Marie Gerfao, Luci Phillips, Elaine Taylor

Initial Committee Members: Bill Foster, Miriam Foster, Mary Welsh

PNWD Consultant: Linda Hart

All Participants in Congregational Planning Event

Membership

Mission: to support the health and welfare of OUUC by continually seeking out new members through the activities of welcoming visitors into this congregational community, orienting potential members to OUUC functions and activities, informing potential members of path to membership, and celebrating the enrollment of new members in meaningful and memorable ways.

Goals:

- Welcome visitors and members at every Sunday service,
- Provide information visitors seek to make connections at OUUC,
- Conduct orientation and discussion gatherings on a regular basis, and
- Celebrate new members.

Committee Members: Diana Finch, Co-Leader, and Cherryl Scott, Co-Leader. Shelley Ferer, member-at-large. Volunteers for greeting and ushering functions.

Activities:

- Ensure that greeters and ushers are versed in the principles of Unitarian Universalism, the nature of our own congregation, its programs and emphasis, and how to formulate reasons for people to join;
- Conduct greeting and ushering at all Sunday services;
- Welcome newcomers at all Sunday services and help them get acquainted;
- Create publications and advertising directed at visitors and potential new members;
- Conduct follow up with visitors and potential new members;
- Plan and conduct orientation meetings for potential new members;
- Plan and conduct with the minister, congregation president and Worship Committee suitable recognition of new members; and
- Examine the membership rolls annually with office administrator, assist in keeping it current and maintain contact with those whose participation may be waning.

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission:

- The Membership Committee reporting to the Board of Trustees was established in 2002.
- Membership Committee budget for the FY2002-03 was developed and submitted including equipment to support a new member photo gallery, library cart to store and distribute hymnals, a new name tag.kiosk, and newcomers table.
- Greeters and ushers were recruited during the summer months.
- Training for greeting, ushering and staffing the Newcomers Welcome Table was developed and conducted in August.
- The Newcomers Welcome Table was established and put into service in September.
- Visitors are welcomed at each Sunday service.
- New member orientation meetings, discussions and celebrations are conducted quarterly.
- Membership roster is culled annually.
- Progress is made toward development of publications and advertising directed at visitors and potential new members, including:
 - Bulletin board with newcomer information and photo gallery of new members
 - Internet OUUC Home Page information
 - Unitariana articles
 - OUUC History, Chronology and Current Events publication for Newcomer Table use
 - Information documents:
 - How to Get Involved
 - Path to Membership
 - How to Join
 - How to Pledge
 - Information on Individual
 - New Member Enrollment Packet
 - Survey on Visitor and Potential Member Interests
- Progress is made toward development of new processes for personal follow through with visitors and potential new members.

Music

Mission: to provide an experience of excellence in music at the personal, congregational and community level.

Committee Members: Glenis Bard (chair), Sandra Worthington, Denise Livingston, Frances Tanaka, Riley Mclaughlin (liaison to board), Troy Fisher (ex officio), Arthur Vaeni (ex officio)

Activities and accomplishments:

- maintained choir membership at around 25 regular attendees
- expanded repertoire in complexity and style
- sang two Sundays per month at both services
- presented two choral concerts: June 14, 2002: Spring 2002 Choir Concert
- December 15, 2002: Christmas through the Eyes of a Child
- made CDs of these two concerts for sale, proceeds of June sales to be deposited in Choir reserves, of the December sales in trip scholarship reserves for proposed trip to Romania
- began planning for a proposed trip to sing in Partner Church and other Unitarian churches in Romania
- with input from Music Director, set and published the annual singing schedule for the choir
- attended semi-annual calendaring meetings to reserve practice dates and dates for Holiday Concert and Spring Concert
- negotiated with the Personnel Committee the salary and benefits of the Music Director
- prepared annual budget for supplemental staffing, music, and other committee needs
- with Music Director, planned for needed piano maintenance
- monitored music budget to ensure debits and credits are properly recorded
- prepared and distributed publicity pieces for the two chior concerts
- maintained a current roster of choir members, with e-mail addresses, to facilitate reminding choir members of special practice times

Nominating

Mission: to nominate members to replace Board of Directors vacancies and vacancies on the Nominating Committee

Committee Members: Ruth Abad, Tim Ransom, Curt Eschels, Nancy Mears, Bernie Brady

Activities:

- recruited and recommended Mary Ann Thompson as a replacement for board member, Diana Larsen-Mills
- recruited and recommended three replacements for board members whose terms expire in April 2003
- recruited new members of Nominating Committee to fill vacant positions

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: developed a procedure notebook (one copy to be kept in the office and one copy for Nominating Committee chair)

Partner Church

Mission: To develop friendships, offer support, and maintain a connection with historical roots of Unitarianism.

Scope of Responsibility:

- Maintain regular communication with the Kissolymos Unitarian Church.
- Educate OUUC members and friends about the programs and needs of the Kissolymos Church through the "Unitariana" and special events.
- Schedule and oversee periodic fund-raising efforts to assist the Kissolymos Church.

Committee Members: Frances Tanaka, Candy Mattson, Penny Sodhi

Activities:

- Frances Tanaka delivered the sermon "A Minority of a Minority" on Partner Church Sunday January 27, 2002. An offering of \$900 was received for providing a hot water system and central heating to the parsonage in Kissolymos, Romania.
- Regular e-mail correspondence was maintained between our congregation and Istvan Berei, the minister of the Kissolymos Unitarian Church.
- Individual donors provided \$600 in scholarship money for the children of Kissolymos.
- Two Hungarian dinners and Kissolymos slide shows were offered as items for the spring church auction. Sixteen church members attended the dinners in the fall.
- The church choir investigated the possibility of touring Transylvania in April 2004.
- Frances Tanaka and Sandra Worthington attended a dinner at the University Unitarian Church in Seattle honoring the Rev. Sandor Mathe in November. Rev. Mathe is the minister of the First Unitarian Church of Brasov, Romania.

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: Our close relationship with a little village in Romania helps promote a more loving world.

Personnel

Responsibilities: developing and reviewing personnel policies for staff and contracted personnel; reviewing staff salary and benefit recommendations with the staff support teams, the Budget Committee and the Board; ensuring that job descriptions and annual performance evaluations are current; and working to ensure that compensation is in compliance with UUA guidelines as far as possible.

Committee Members: Linda Hart, Joe Dear

Activities: met with representatives of the staff and Ministerial support teams, assisting with the hiring of the Director of Religious Education, reviewing compensation recommendations as part of the budget process, assessing compliance of current compensation policies with UUA guidelines and developing a policy permitting use of federal tax benefits which modestly reduce the cost of health benefits of staff without increasing costs to the Congregation's budget. This year's budget made progress by extending health care to one of the staff positions for the first time and by moving one staff from contractor to employee status thus adding Social Security, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance benefits to that position.

The primary accomplishment toward helping further the mission of the Congregation is the Committee's work to move the Congregation into compliance with UUA Guidelines for fair compensation of the staff and Minister. The Board adopted a resolution to declare a commitment to becoming a Fair Compensation Congregation. The challenge is to find the resources over the next several years to move from commitment to practice.

Religious Education

Committee Mission and Goals: To create, implement, and support opportunities for the community of OUUC to explore religious ideas and develop spirituality guided by Unitarian Universalist principles and history.

Committee Members: Leslie Owen , Chair, Ann Colowick, Michele Wilcox, Barb Walker-Tindall, Bonnie Guyer-Graham, Tim Ransom, Susan Southwick.

Activities:

- Developed a long range plan with annual goals and 3-5 year goals
- Hired new Director of Religious Education
- Provided oversight for RE program
- Organized Coming of Age program that involved 7 youth
- Sponsored Secret Buddies program that involved more than 80 children and adults
- Helped plan for addition of new cabinets and furniture in RE space
- Sponsored Yule play that involved more than 30 children and youth
- Hired new child care worker
- Participated in OUUC Long Range Planning Session
- Sponsored training of middle school teachers for Our Whole Lives
- (OWL) Sexuality program
- Sponsored OWL program for middle school youth that started fall 2002

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission:

Community: The religious education program provides the youth and children of the church with a community through special activities including the once a month children's chapel , the Yule play (involving all of the youth), and the Secret Buddies program (youth and adults), middle school trip and the YRUU retreat.

Growth in mind and spirit: Through discussions of UU curriculum, the youth of the congregation have the opportunity to grow in mind and spirit.

Loving: Special events such as Secret Buddies and the Yule Play create loving relationships among the children and youth and adults of OUUC.

Just: The children talk about the UU principles and what is just in the world as a part of their curriculum.

Sustainable: Participation in Procession of the Species (middle school), Council of all Beings, values discussed in the curriculums.

Action: Every RE class is trying to do a service project on an annual basis.

Social Justice

Mission: The creative center of our total endeavor, the imperative of loving mercy and doing justice, is an integral part of our ministry, worship, and education.

Goal: To promote the Unitarian Universalist values that recognize, respect and support individual freedom, justice and choice. These values include the dignity and worth of each individual; respect for the interdependent web of life; the use of our democratic process; and the ongoing work toward a welcoming environment.

Committee Members: Don Lane (Chair), Kay Engel, Ruth Abad, Leslie Romer, Wim Verhoef

Activities:

Conducted congregational vote to identify two issues which the congregation would focus on over the next year. The two identified issues were globalization and poverty issues.

Green Sanctuary - A church that undertakes to become a Green Sanctuary examines every area of church life--outreach, social concerns, religious education, buildings and grounds, social events, church communication, and church administration--to see that its activities reflect respect for the interdependent web. It's walking the talk in a big way, and it gives the church a real sense of following through on its commitments in tangible, outwardly visible ways.

Iraq - Contributed \$300.00 towards the cost of ads in The Olympian which urged community members to contact their elected representatives to express their concerns about a possible war.

Distributed 100 bumper stickers which asked the question, Attack Iraq? NO!

Congregation members attending weekly vigil at Percival Landing urging No War On Iraq

Numerous members marching in International Day of Resistance to War on Iraq on 2/15/03.

Distribution of information sheets concerning war on Iraq

Globalization: Sweatshop Watch - This is an organization which the Social Justice Committee has supported for several years. This year Sweatshop Watch and other groups settled a law suit surrounding sweatshops in Saipan. As a result workers, mostly women, received a settlement from retailers including The Gap, J.C. Penny, The Limited and others agreeing to pay over \$20 million to 30,000 former and current garment workers. In addition the settlement includes a strict code of conduct and workers who want to return to home will be provided with \$3,000.00 for this purpose.

Distributed information sheets on this issue.

Cosponsored Critical Issues Forums on various aspects of globalization.

Updated Social Justice Web Page

Worship Arts

Mission: to deepen the spiritual growth of the members of OUUC and to enhance meaning in our personal and community life by offering a variety of worship experiences. In cooperation with our minister, the Worship Arts Committee creates, shapes, and organizes worship programs which reflect our living UU tradition. The worship program encompasses the Sunday services, celebrations, and festivals.

Committee Members: Marigem Emde, Fred Kellogg, Lynn Lumpkin, Carol McKinley, Marianne McNabb, Eric Ness, Christine Parke (chair), Frances Tanaka, Ginny Taylor; Evelyn Greenberg, Board Representative

Accomplishments:

- Planned a full year of services
- Provided celebrants for services
- Included a variety of subjects and formats in services presented by our minister, guest ministers, OUUC members, and outside speakers.
- Coordinated with our music director to present music celebrations and to schedule choir participation in services
- Held annual retreat for planning
- Continued to fine-tune the worship service at each meeting.
- Continued to hone skills through training with Art.

Youth Adult Committee

The YAC meets on a more than regular basis at this time in order to facilitate the quick progress toward goals. Active participants include: Alex Sodhi & Steven Hendricks (co-chairs), Maureen Goltz,

Nathaniel Jones, Penny Sodhi, Josh & Angie Nilsson, Ann Colowick, and Sierra-Marie Gerfao. Throughout 2002, the YAC assisted the Youth Group in planning and coordinating activities, including Con attendance, fundraisers, and trips.

In the Fall of 2002, the YAC met to establish goals for the rest of the year and the coming year.

Goals include:

- The consolidation of youth groups for 03-04
- The recruitment of up to three new youth group advisors for 03-04
- The improvement of communications/relationships between the youth and the congregation
- An increase in YAC membership
- An increased role for the YAC in curricular/activity planning
- The improvement of communication/relationships between the YAC and the RE committee
- The development of a consistent year to year calendar for the YAC and the youth group.

Affiliated Groups

MUG (Mighty Unitarian Guys)

Contacts: Milton Bard and Jim Lengenfelder

Mighty Unitarian Guys meets every Thursday for conversation and comradery. Other Mighty Unitarian Guys are invited to participate - 10:00 a.m. at the Whale's Tail on Percival Landing in downtown Olympia.

OlyCUUPS

Mission and Goals: OLYCUUPS (Olympia Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) meet for the expression and study of Earth-based spirituality. We are an open group, and our path is loosely based on the Celtic European calendar and traditions. We meet to observe the Solar Sabbats of the Solstices and Equinoxes, as well as the Earth Sabbats of Imbolc (Candlemas), Beltane, Lamas, and Samhain (Hallow's Eve). Our monthly meetings serve the purpose of planning our celebrations, building community between members and fostering good relationships with the larger OUUC community.

Members: Les and Julia Kreger, Neil and Mary Marsh, Douglas McCorison, Pat O'Neil, Catherine Amos, Karen Jackson, Mik Scully, Carlene Cloud, Tina Miller, Russell Felch

Liaison is Karen Jackson, Purse Warden is Les Kreger, and Secretary is Mary Marsh

Activities:

- OlyCUUPS held monthly meeting to take care of organizational business, plan upcoming rituals and celebrations as well as observe Earth based spirituality traditions of making corn dollies, and decorating eggs.

- We observed Imbolc by a public blessing of the artesian well in the Diamond Parking lot on 4th in downtown Olympia, celebrated the holidays of Ostara, Summer Solstice, Lamas, and Mabon in the OUUC sanctuary. A remembrance ritual for our dead was held to observe Samhain as well. And for the 9th year in a row held a Winter Solstice Ritual co-hosted by OlyCUUPs and the Rev. Art Vaeni that was well attended. Former OUUC minister Rev. Shirley Ranck at her new church in West Redding Connecticut used our Winter Solstice ritual with great success. (We've gone national!)
- OlyCUUPs (with assistance from Emily Ray, Jim Lengenfelder, Gary and Sandra Worthington) also decorated the sanctuary and led "The Greening Service" in December.

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission:

We are making better use of our website and our schedule of activities more easily accessed in the foyer. We continue to welcome new people, and old friends and have increased our core group relative to what it was a year ago. We are making our meeting a time of singing, and prayer as well as a business meeting, and integrating more hands on activities as well.

Out of the Woods Shelter

Mission: to shelter the most needy families and single women in Thurston County, helping them find their way "out of the woods" toward self-sufficiency in dignity and support.

Committee Members: Bill Arensmeyer, Eileen Blake, Ann Yeo, Llyn De Danaan, Carol McKinley, Shelley Ferer

Activities:

- Provided about 3000 bed nights, many in the spring when we provided overflow for both the Emergency Shelter Network and Bread and Roses
- provided about 1500 meals
- offered some emergency medical care (Dr. Ritchie)
- provided transportation as needed

The shelter hosts are becoming widely known, receiving awards for their work

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: providing service to our community

Triangles

Mission: A Unitarian Universalist club providing emotional and spiritual support and a safe social environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the greater Thurston County community

Committee Members: Eileen Blake, Llyn De Danaan, Kay Engel

Activities:

- published a calendar of events of interest emailed or US mailed to about 200 persons
- hosted monthly potluck at the church
- supported the Out of the Woods food closet
- Supported winter homeless shelter

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: Potlucks, game nights and social activities provide support for the Triangles community. By providing a safe environment people are free to be themselves in a loving space. Action alerts affecting the greater GLBT community are published in the newsletter. Triangles are action oriented. The support the food closet and homeless shelter.

Unitarian Universalist Federal Credit Union

OUUC is an affiliated member and supports the credit union by providing office space and in turn UUFUCU provides OUUC a fax machine, secure filing space and a small fee.

Mission: To support the financial needs of UU members and friends.

The Unitarian Universalist Federal Credit Union (UUFUCU) is a cooperatively owned, non profit, federally chartered institution. All accounts are insured by NCUA up to \$100,000 each. UUFUCU has successfully operated for six years, grown every year and has assets in excess of \$300,000. Its main service has been to provide loans to members at competitive rates as well as dividends for their investments.

All UUFUCU members are owners of this organization. All officers and volunteers are non paid.

Eligibility: Members, staff and family members or friends of a UU church or society of the UUA Pacific Northwest District. All members of the UUFUCU Board of Directors have been authorized to serve by the National Credit Union Administration. All board members have been bonded.

Board of Directors:

Diana Larsen-Mills, President; Vice President/ Treasurer; Jim Lengenfelder; Shelly Ferer Secretary; George Lanning, Chair of Credit Committee; Candace Mattson, Chair of Supervisory Committee; Barbara Elliot, Member-at-Large; Don Bell, Legal Advisor; Darlene Sarkela, Chief Teller

Women in Motion

Contact: Leslie Romer

OUUC's Women in Motion is a loosely organized group of women in the congregation that like to hike, ski, bicycle, and do other outdoor recreational activities together. There are a number of other groups that plan outdoor activities in the Puget Sound area. This is the group that shares Unitarian-Universalist values. We try to have two outings each month, one full day on a Saturday or holiday, and one Sunday after church.

In 2002 we had sixteen outings, including our third annual weekend trip to Stehekin for a long day hike in the North Cascades National Park. Seventeen OUUC women and seven guests participated in these outdoor activities. They included nine hikes in national and state parks and forests, one snowshoe trip at Mt. Rainier, one cross-country ski trip to White Pass, one bicycle trip to Skagit Valley and four urban walks.

All trips are led by participants. The group usually has a general planning meeting at the South Sound UU Women's Retreat, but adds events to its calendar throughout the year, in order to be responsive to current weather patterns and individual schedules.

Updates to the schedule are distributed by e-mail and are available in the church foyer.

To become an active member, all you need to do is pick an activity from the schedule, call the leader for that event, and join in the fun. We'd love to have you join us!

Events

Anniversary Celebration

Goal: To celebrate 50 years of community in Olympia.

Committee Members: Melanie Ransom (chair), Riley McLaughlin, Sharon Love, Martha Guilfoyle, Candy Mattson, Ron Ruhl, Susan Bakke, Andy Bartels, Jane Brody, Jeff Goltz, Joe Shorin, Darin Harris, Ron Hinson, Emily Ray, Tim Ransom, Jeanette Witcher, and Juno Whittaker.

Accomplishments:

Products

- Anniversary Coffee Cup produced and sold. Revenue approximately \$500.00
- Two Teak Benches purchased as Birthday Gifts to OUUC

Sunday Services

- 1 Sermon from Art highlighting the history of the Unitarian movement to this territory.
- 2 Full Sunday services held to highlight the way we were in the 1960s and the way we are in 2002.
- 4 Sunday service segments to illustrate the way we were in the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s,

and 1990s.

- A series of words and music Board Announcements to advertise the Anniversary Dinner—raising the bar on board announcements from this point forward.

Technical Accomplishments

- Sharon Love set up a system for spamming the congregation with emails for the Dinner—with maintenance can be a viable channel for advertising events in the future.

Dinner

- New Space
- New System for Tables and Dishes
- New System for acquiring food wholesale
- A very cute M.C.

Unitariana

- Emily Ray submitted monthly history moments, detailing various aspects of our Fellowship's history.

Still Pending:

Time Capsule

- Middle School group has not scheduled yet

Endowment Garden Project

- 2 Anonymous donors have come forward to pay for the garden centerpiece stone
- Engraver is identified
- Searching for a Landscape Designer/Architect
- Support from the Fundraising Committee to market the project to the congregation in Spring 2003

Aural History Project

Submitted by Tim Ransom

The Aural History Project has completed the first phase of its activities, which was to conduct sufficient interviews to provide material for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Jeanette Whitcher, Emily Ray and I conducted interviews with the following:

Arlene Anderson, Lois Bergerson, Jocelyn Dohm, Buck and Betty Harmon, Pete and Pat Holm, Les Kreger, Herb Legg, Lynn Harmon Lumpkin, Emily Ray, Phil Vandeman, Linda Whitcher, Jeanette Whitcher, Celia Whitcher-Tobin

All interviews have been ably transcribed by Lu Brighton and Jane Brody, and most have been edited by Tim Ransom.

Next steps:

Further Interviews: We anticipate conducting additional interviews in the coming months with other members of the Fellowship/Church past and present, as the opportunity arises.

Finalizing Transcriptions: Final editing of some transcripts remains. As a final step in editing, each transcript will be approved by the narrator, when feasible.

Publications:

Current: The OUUC Aural History Project: 50 Years in Olympia, a digital presentation produced by Tim Ransom and Riley McLaughlin 30 minutes

Planned: At some point the interviews and accompanying photographs will be compiled into a book and in total or in part made available in a variety of formats, such as on the website. This phase of the project has not been scheduled.

Equipment: The AHP acquired two small tape recorders for use in transcription.

Auction

Auction 2002: Here's Looking @ UU!

Our 2002 auction was held the evening of the last Saturday of March, as usual. Auction preparations were led by Ruth Abad (tickets), Pam Davidson (catalog), Sharon Love (database) and Leslie Romer (coordination). Bob and Anne Kirchoff and Candy Mattson became actively involved in early March, with Bob and Anne taking responsibility for Silent Auction set-up and oversight.

Chef Ron Ruhl and his stalwart kitchen crew (most had trained at cooking classes offered by Ron at previous auctions) provided an interesting and delicious salmon dinner with a Mediterranean flavor. Another feature of *Auction 2002: Here's Looking @ UU* was the participation of the Middle School Group, coordinated by Joe Joy. The middle-schoolers and their parents provided wonderful decorations appropriate to the theme: eyes, mirrors and glasses for both toasting and viewing adorned the dining and live auction hall.

Our auctioneer teams for the evening were Jeff Goltz and Mike Harbour and the regally attired Margaret Post and Elena Guilfoil. Both teams kept the action flowing and the audience in good humor. Sandra Worthington was very effective in managing (and displaying) the objects being offered.

New features to our annual auction in 2002 were the catalog and updates on the OUUC website, pre-sale of all auction dinner tickets, a drawing for dinner at a popular restaurant for the purchasers of pre-sold tickets, a new method of auctioneering large parties that encouraged more winners, and networked computers that enabled us to speed up our data management by entering data and printing invoices

simultaneously. These innovations, along with the work of many dedicated volunteers led to a very successful auction. The dinner, silent auction and live auction together netted over \$13,000 for the OUUC operating budget.

All-Church Retreat

Committee Members: Susan Southwick, Kathy Jones

Activities: planned and organized an all-church retreat for the fall.

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: The All-Church Retreat fosters community by bringing together people of all ages for fun and relaxation.

Installation

INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND ARTHUR VAENI

Mission: to organize and carryout the formal installation and celebration of Rev. Art Vaeni as settled minister of OUUC.

Co-Chairs: Carol McKinley and Connie Ruhl

Members: Glenis Bard, Music Committee liaison; Margaret Knudson, guest list and invitations; Tyra Lindquist, coordination; George Lanning, publicity; David Mears, Service Marshall and site set up; Carol Murphy, aesthetics; Christine Parke, food and refreshments; Susan Southwick, childcare

Accomplishments:

- Utilizing the Manual for Installation Services in Unitarian Universalists Churches by Rev. Peter Raible, all needed elements were planned and organized by the committee named above.
- Date of April, 28, 2003 was determined largely in relationship the gathering of Pacific Northwest District Ministers to be held on the days directly following the Installation Service
- Budget of \$1500.00 was established in the OUUC 2002 Budget. With donations from members the budget was met and covered at the total of \$1758.00 pre-ceremony buffet dinner attended by visiting clergy and Board of Directors was held at the Santosh Restaurant with food presented by the Sodhis'
- OUUC church building was neatened, cleaned, decorated with window hangings, coordinated table linens and accessories. New landscaping was dazzling with spring growth flowers for the sanctuary and the reception areas were a generous gift of our sister congregation, All Souls UU Fellowship
- Invitations were sent to clergy of the PNWD, the faith communities of Associated Ministeries of Thurston County, local community representatives and special family and friends of Art Vaeni. The entire congregation of member and friends were invited to be present at the ceremony.

- Publicity for the event with description regarding its significance was supplied to The Olympian.
- Members and friends of OUUC provided labor for site set up, clean up, provided cookies, greeting and transporting of guests, parking of cars
- Highlight of the entire event was the Service of Installation. The sanctuary and foyer were filled to with guests. Our choir, under the direction of Troy Arnold Fisher, sang the prelude, "Look to This Day" by Cliff Harden. Following the Welcome the Clergy processed into the Sanctuary as all sang "Rank by Rank Again We Stand". Rev. Tim Haley presented the Invocation, and members of the Youth Group lighted the chalice. A member of the Ministerial Search Committee lead the responsive reading. Greetings to OUUC were brought by Kathy Erlandson, Executive Director , Associated Ministeries of Thurston County; Rev. Anne Heller, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest District, UUA; Rev. Elizabeth L. Green, President, Pacific Northwest District UU Ministers Association; Penny Sodhi, Member, OUUC Partner Church Committee. The choral anthem sung by the choir was composed by Troy Fisher with words selected by Rev. Vaeni from e.e. cummings. Rev. Dr. Leon Hopper presented the Sermon; "The Meaning of Ministry". The Act of Installation was carried out by Emily Ray, OUUC President, followed by the Prayer of Installation given by Art's colleague from Plymouth, New Hampshire, The Rev. Dr. Judith Gooch. Charge to the Congregation was given by Rev. Linda Hart and the Charge to the Minister was given by Art's colleague Rev. Richard Forcier, of Barre, Vermont. The service closed with Recessional Hymn, Benediction and musical Postlude. A festive, celebratory reception following the service filled the foyer, the Anthony Room and spilled out onto the canopy-covered patio in the spring evening air.
- Once thank you notes were sent to those who assisted in producing the entire set of successful events, the work of the Installation Planning Committee was complete.

Women's Retreat

Committee Mission and Goals: Building community among liberal spiritual women in our area.

Committee Members: Marie Schneider (OUUC), Candy Mattson (OUUC), Ann Colowick (OUUC), Kay Engel (OUUC), Arlene Colerick (OUUC)), Arlene Anderson (ASUUC), Billie Clark (ASUUC), Barb Sporcic (ASUUC) and Eileen Blake (ASUUC).

Activities: Movement, dancing, talking, worship and crafts

Accomplishments toward Congregational Mission: Building community through mind and spirit; personal spiritual growth which recharges us to go out to do service in the larger community

Pledge - Thank You

OUUC is grateful for the pledge support of its members and friends. It is pledges that sustain the many

programs offered by OUUC. Pledges provide the base on which the yearly budget is built. We honor the following members and friends who paid 100% of their 2002 pledge. Thanks to all for your generosity and financial commitment to OUUC.