



MARCH 2013

# Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

## Why Are You Here?

Why did you become a member of the UUCE?

Perhaps you were searching for a deeper spiritual connection and found a forum to explore different ideas. Maybe you were looking for a community to help you through a tough time in your life. It could be that you wanted your children to develop their unique spirituality in a safe place. Perhaps it was the way the members of the church work together to impact bigger social issues. You might have been looking for a sense of connection with other people. Or it could have been something completely different. The answer to this question will be different for each of us, but we are all here for a reason.

We receive so much from our church. We are graced with a beloved community, as much

(or as little) spiritual direction as we desire, a sense of belonging, religious education, support during difficult times, opportunities to positively affect our local community as well as the wider world, and so much more. Now is the time

to reflect on our commitment to UUCE. It is time for each of us to decide what we can give back to this amazing community that provides us with so much.

How much can you give in order to strengthen our community and continue the important work that we have begun? The Unitarian Universalist Association defines a generous level of support as a donation of 3% of your annual gross income. We encourage you to consider making a pledge at this level (or more) if you are able.

On March 3, the Canvass Committee will kick off the UUCE Annual Canvass by passing out pledge materials. Time and time again, we have shown ourselves to be a generous community. To celebrate that generosity, members who return their pledge forms by Sunday, March 10 will be entered into a drawing during the service for the opportunity to win wonderful prizes. In addition, the Canvass Committee will be hosting lunch in fellowship hall after the service on that day. All are welcome to attend.



# From the Minister

The following comes from the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association Code of Conduct:

## Departing Ministers

1. In general, the future well-being of a congregation, agency or enterprise is best assured by the fully effective departure from leadership of any minister whose service to that institution has ended.

2. Congregations are especially vulnerable in periods of ministerial transition. Therefore, departing ministers should exercise particular care to minimize their influence and presence within the congregation, agency or enterprise and their interactions with members, staff and clients during times of transition.

3. There should be no intentional or ministerial contact between a departing minister and members, staff or clients of congregations, agencies or enterprises they have served until there can be a covenant expressed in a Letter of Understanding between predecessor and subsequent ministers. In those uncommon cases where personal or familial relationships persist, care should be taken to assure that those relationships do not have a negative impact on the institution or on subsequent ministries.

4. Experience has shown that over the long term a congregation and a previous minister may benefit from that minister's continuing participation as a member of the congregation after their professional leadership to that community has ended. Predecessor and subsequent colleagues should adopt covenants expressed in a Letter of Understanding defining the nature and limits of this participation.

5. Unless the departed minister chooses to suspend all contact and participation in the congregation during the period of an interim ministry, the Letter of Agreement with the

Interim Minister must be understood to be limited only to the period of the interim ministry. It is the responsibility of both parties to make it known to the congregation that the agreement is limited and that the provisions of the agreement with subsequent colleagues may be significantly different.

6. The provisions of this covenant should be arrived at through conversation and negotiation with an understanding that the well-being of the congregation and the new ministry is of primary importance. When disagreements persist, Good Offices may be employed, but ultimately the judgment of the new minister shall prevail. It is the responsibility of the involved ministers to inform the congregation of this covenant.

7. If either a predecessor or successor minister believes that this covenant is not being effectively maintained, then they should engage their colleague and seek reaffirmation or renegotiation of that covenant with consideration for the delicacy of the current minister's role. Should this effort not resolve the concern, Good Offices should be consulted, and with the recommendation of the Good Officer the matter may be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Collegiality.

8. A departing minister may be expected to discontinue all contact with the congregation, agency or enterprise, its members and staff if:

- a. the former ministry involved established misconduct;
- b. the departed minister violates the UUMA Code of Conduct; or
- c. the departed minister intentionally violates the terms of the covenant with the new minister.

—Dan

# Interim Minister Task Force Update

As you may well know, the church has been very busy this month preparing for Dan Brosier's retirement, and getting acquainted with the process for finding a new minister.

Members of the congregation met after church on February 3 to discuss the process. In the first phase, a Task Force interviews interim minister candidates and recommends the most likely candidate to the Board. The interim minister begins his or her duties in August. This individual will help the congregation address its thoughts and feelings related to the changes we are facing. He or she will also lead us through an assessment process to identify future goals for the church. This second phase will occur in conjunction with a Transition Team comprised of church members. In the third phase, a Search Committee will interview and recommend to the congregation a settled (permanent) minister.

On February 10 and 17, Focus Groups met before and after church to respond to questions related to the current status of the church, and suggest characteristics the congregation desires in an interim minister. **All church members are urged to give their feedback by no later than March 15.** The compiled information will be shared with the congregation, and be used on the church's application for an interim minister as well as in future planning. The application for the interim minister is to be completed by

April 11, after which the Task Force will assess and interview candidates before making a recommendation to the board.

Plans are being formed for the services which will end our church year. Dan will lead the May 19 worship service and the June service for the church's graduating seniors. The Interim Minister Task Force (IMTF) is developing plans to use the June 9 service to dissolve the covenant Dan has with us as a congregation. This service will replace the annual All Church Picnic. Watch for more details about this.

At its February meeting, the Board began to address the frequently asked question about how church members can maintain their relationships with Dan after he is no longer the church's minister. Many congregants have formed strong friendships with him and will want to find ways to maintain these on a personal level. Although he will no longer be available to help run the church business or lead Sunday services, the Board will find a way to honor our friendships while allowing an interim minister to enter our lives together.

Please bring your questions and concerns to any Board of Trustees member, Board President **Debbie Caruso**, or President Elect **Elizabeth Closson**.

—*Elizabeth Closson*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### Time Marches On. We're Glad You Do, Too!

3	Jackie Van De Warker	10	Mila Brinker	24	Diana March
3	Ethan Engel	13	Sara Haase	28	Cassandra Howells
5	Trisha Dean	15	Joe Cusimano	30	Suzanne Hanifl
6	Sharon Fincher	16	Pat Pecho	30	Dan Kalkbrenner
7	Sandy Webster	19	Carol Ovelmen	31	Olivia Abdur-Raffia
8	Robin Peterson	21	Sherman Ovelmen		
8	Amy Hill	22	Carey Schug		
9	Olivia Grace Husseini	23	Jim Howells		

# March Calendar

## SUNDAYS

### Worship Services

10:45

### Adult Religious Exploration and Education

9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

### Handbell Practice

12:30 in the bell room

### Improv Group

7:00 in the Sanctuary

### Canvass Luncheon

3/10 at 12:30

in the fellowship hall

### Farmers' Market

3/17 at 12:30

in the fellowship hall

### Unichord deadline

3/24

## WEDNESDAYS

### Board of Trustees Meeting

3/20 at 7:00

### Executive Team

3/20 at 10:30

### Choir Practice

3/7 and 3/21 at 4:00

in the Sanctuary

## THURSDAYS

### Buddhist Group

7:00 (offsite)

## FRIDAY

### Book Group—Evening

3/15 at 7:00 (offsite)

## SATURDAY

### qUUILting

March 2 at 9:00 in room 302

## Tour the Crisis Center

On March 17 at 12:45, UUCE's own Lisa Winchel will host a tour of the Elgin Community Crisis Center. Lisa is the Resource Development and Facility Manager of the Center. Please RSVP to [Bob Jackson](#) (847-791-8505).

## A Month of Sundays

### 3/3: CANVASS SUNDAY

The focus might seem like it is about money as we begin the 2013 canvass campaign but it is really about love, generosity, and wisdom. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

### 3/10: COMMITMENT SUNDAY

A spirit-, music-, and fun-filled service celebrates this community of faith. Members and friends are asked to bring in their pledge forms. All the pledge forms received by

this service will be part of the drawing for some "marvelous—simply marvelous" prizes. Service led by the Tim Closson and Tim Davis.

### 3/17: ALL-MUSIC SUNDAY

Twice a year we devote a service to celebrating the music of this church. As usual we have a full line-up of members willing to share their musical gifts with us. Service led by Tim Closson.

### 3/24: THE VIRTUE OF SELFISHNESS

Recently, I have been struggling

to reconcile my interest in Ayn Rand's Objectivist philosophy and our Seven Principles. Can we live "selfishly" yet compassionately? Can I be a "good" UU while living my life for me? Service led by Stephen Day.

### 3/30: AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Service led by the Worship Committee.

*All services begin at 10:45*

# From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AND EDUCATION

This month in Adult Spirituality, a new program *Owning Your Religious Past* will begin. This program explores the feelings and experiences we had while on our spiritual journey to this congregation. It is for those new to Unitarian Universalism as well as those who are “lifers”. Join us in room 301 at 9:00!

For our younger members, they continue exploring our Judeo-Christian Heritage for the rest of the church year. They are learning some of the stories from the Old and New Testaments and how they are connected to our Unitarian Universalist faith.

The K-2 class has finished collecting socks for a social action project called Socks For Tired Feet

through the Minneapolis-based organization *Sharing and Caring Hands*. We will be sending them our socks box soon.

Last month, 11 of our friends and members went to Rockford to help out an organization called *Urban Ministries*, which is an umbrella organization to coordinate efforts amongst secular and non-secular outreach groups, focusing on the revitalization of downtown Rockford. Our task was to clean out vacant store fronts so that they can be decorated to attract businesses willing to rehab them. Our group consisted of 5 youth and 6 adults – a nice multi-age effort!

In Faith,  
—*Kathy*

	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School
Mar. 3	A Visit From Baby	Noah	Abram’s Call	Cain & Abel	Islam
Mar. 10	Passover	Jesus	Who Was Jesus?	Jesus	Islam
Mar. 17	Music Sunday – no classes				
Mar. 24	Easter	Mary, Mother of Jesus	The Boy in the Temple	Jesus’ New Ideas	Islam
Mar. 30	Easter Egg Hunt	The Easter Story	Healing Power/Easter	Easter	Easter
	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School

## Grow Local, Buy Local

UUCE is hosting its 13th Winter Farmers’ Market on March 17 from noon-3:00. LOCAL farmers will be selling products they grew, raised and/or made themselves: breads, cheeses, fresh greens, mushrooms, honey, beeswax candles, soaps, organic flours, fruit tarts, croissants, fair trade coffees/teas/

chocolate, and natural, humanely-raised meats. Sales are usually on a cash basis only. Please help us spread the word via email, word of mouth and by posting our flyer in your favorite haunts. For more information, contact [Mary Alice Masonick](#).

# President's Reflections

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to all those who participated in the Interim Minister Focus Groups!!! I think when all was said and done we had close to 50 members who showed up and gave their thoughts, feelings and opinions. **It is still not too late to contribute; please see the link in Liz's article** on behalf of the Board as to how the Focus Groups went. Some serious concerns came up during the **focus groups** and the Board will be discussing those at the February Board meeting. (I write this before the February Board meeting.) Speaking of the Board I am so grateful to every single one of them, and to Andrea Schmidlin, for leading a focus group, sometimes twice! I checked in with various members to see how it went in their group and everyone I talked to seemed glad they participated. In fact the best feedback I got

from a member was that they thought it was going to be a complete waste of time but by the end they were so glad they participated. Now if that doesn't say it all I don't know what does! We will also be planning some great celebrations for Dan that I hope all can attend, stay tuned for more details on those. If you have an idea on celebrating Dan please let any Board member know. Remember this process/journey is new to all of us and we are ALL learning as we go. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we all figure this out together. Happy Spring, Happy Vernal Equinox, Happy Ostara, Happy Easter and Happy St. Patty's Day!!!!!! Whatever you celebrate I hope it is Happy!

—Debbie

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 16th, 2013

### Members Present:

B. Cooper-Zobott, B. Thrasher, D. Clough, D. Yaeger, D. Caruso, E. Closson, K. Underwood, K. Flanagan, M. Brinker, T. Davis.

### Prior meeting minutes: Approved

### New Business

#### A. Interim Minister Process:

1. Liz updated the board on the process as defined from the UUA
  2. Focus is on interim minister that will be with us for a year or two
  3. Congregational Evaluation
  4. Review of Personnel
  5. Dealing with the effort of creating our vision(?)
- Liz motioned that we begin the process of seeking an interim minister and appoint a task force.

Dave Y. seconded.

- o The board selected people it believes will be appropriate for the task force.
- o Motion approved unanimously. Liz will be filling out the application for the interim minister with the UUA.

#### B. Short Term Disability Paper Work

Dan and Tim have filled out the paperwork and submitted it to UUA.

#### C. Issues Reported by Mila

Krista motioned that the BOT should support the hiring of a Facility Supervisor which will be funded by a church member. Dave Y. seconded the motion. The church member has already offered to provide the funding. Motion approved unanimously. Krista motioned that the church hire a book keeper to get the W2

forms out by Jan 29th. Tim D. seconded the motion. Amended that we hire a book keeper to take care of the quarterly W2 with the intent that if the keeper is agreeable, that they be used on a permanent basis. Unanimously approved.

### Reports:

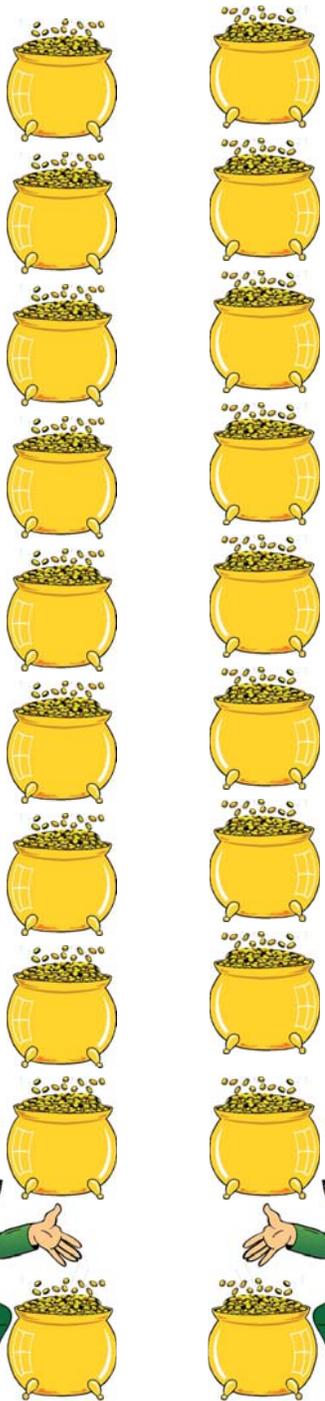
- A. Financial Report – approved
- B. Earmarked Funds Report – Approved
- C. Executive Team Report – no report

### Unfinished Business:

- A. Compensation Review Committee Scheduling
- B. Deficit Reduction Update – Tim presented the report from the Deficit Reduction Meeting that was held on 1/13/13.

Next meeting: February 20.

Actual pledge income...\$90,463



Budgeted pledge income...\$91,350



“ MARCH 15 is the last possible date for church members to say what they want — and don't want — as the church transitions away from Reverend Dan Brosier and toward an interim minister.

The interim minister is likely to be here for two years, so every voice is critically important. Click anywhere in this article to PLEASE

**SPEAK UP** ”

## Coming Alive

On Saturday, March 23, from noon to 4:30, Countryside Church will host "Coming Alive," an interactive workshop on Member and Leadership Engagement. The workshop is sponsored by the Chicago Area UU Council. Countryside will share its second generation curriculum in an active and involved session to share and learn together. More information will be forthcoming.

—Dave Segel

## Christmas Slumps Over

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry really needs your donations since they are experiencing their after Christmas slump. They indicated a need for boxed dinners with meat, powdered milk and the old standbys of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper and face soap.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, March 3, but, as always, your contributions are welcome any time during the month.



## Billy Lynn Walks

The March meeting of the Afternoon Book Group will be held at 1:00 on **Monday, April 1** (no foolin'), at the home of Dotty Carrangi. The group will discuss "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" by Ben Fountain. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

## Ways to Get in Touch

### WEBSITE

[www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org)

### E-MAIL

[minister@uuce.org](mailto:minister@uuce.org)  
[administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org)  
[newsletter@uuce.org](mailto:newsletter@uuce.org)

### PHONE

847-888-0668

### PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue  
*three miles west of Randall Rd.*

### POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032  
Elgin, IL 60121

## Kudos

Thanks to Norm Wilkinson for hanging dry erase boards in classrooms; Stan & Karen Forrester for all of their work over the years in religious exploration and education; Heike Spayne for filling in for the open preschool teaching spot.



Thanks to the church leadership for doing their level best, and then some, as we make the very difficult transition from our beloved Reverend Dan Brosier to an interim minister.



## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

