



JULY 2015

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Green Corner

Science As Our Compass

The Green Corner this month is excerpted from an article by Justin Gillis “For Faithful, Social Justice Goals Demand Action on Environment”. The article exemplifies what many of the UUCE congregation believe. It appeared in *The New York Times* on June 21, 2015.

- The sweeping pastoral letter issued by Pope Francis may prove to be a watershed, highlighting the issues of social justice at the heart of the environmental crisis. But the pope’s encyclical is, in a sense, simply an exclamation mark on a broad shift in thinking that has been underway for decades and extends far beyond the Roman Catholic Church. Many faith traditions are awakening to the burden that climate change is placing on poor people, and finding justification for caring for the environment in their scripture. The pope’s urgent call is likely to intensify this discussion, provoking what could be one of the most important dialogues between science and religion since the days of Charles Darwin.

- Environmental scientists who are themselves people of faith are translators between two camps that have often seen the world in radically different ways. These scientists have known for a long time that the facts and data produced by their research colleagues would not be sufficient to rouse the public to act. For that to happen, the science had to be reframed in moral terms. Science is like a compass. It can tell us where north is,

but it can’t tell us if we want to go north. That’s where our morality comes in.

- Hundreds of churches, mosques and synagogues across the country have put up solar panels in recent years or retrofitted their buildings to cut energy use, or both. With the cost of renewable energy falling, that number could soon be in the thousands. For a long time, people of faith who felt a sense of urgency about the environment were outnumbered in their congregations by those who disagreed with them on the issue or simply saw more immediate concerns. That is still true in many churches, perhaps in most of them, but the evidence suggests that the priorities are starting to change.

- Polls show that a majority of Christians view climate change as real, but fewer than a third of them understand the point, thoroughly documented in scientific studies, that poor people are already being harmed by it. The hope is that over and over in our history, when our country faced the need for profound change, it has been our communities of moral commitment, religious covenant and spiritual search that have arisen to meet the need. So it was 50 years ago during the civil rights movement, and so it must be today in the effort to slow down and reverse climate change.

Submitted by,
—Jun Yoshitani

Lise's Letter



Well, friends, this is it—my last *Unichord* letter as your interim minister. It's hard to believe—in some ways it feels like I've just arrived! While we had some difficult growing pains with each other, I think we also had some good times, too. I loved hearing about UUCE's history and seeing the looks of discovery on your faces as you learned more about each other and those who came before you. Music Sundays were wonderful and having so many of you excitedly tell me that my cousin (the mushroom man) was here for the Harvest Market was great! We inducted a regular Time for All Ages and candles on Christmas Eve together (the candles and candle holders are in the minister's closet). I think UUCE has one of the best service auction traditions around—I'm hoping to convince the next congregation I serve to steal some of your ideas on that one! Oh, and thank you for my wonderful goodbye cake—it tasted as good as it looked. However, as I think back on our time together, I know the thing I enjoyed the most was getting to know you in meetings or conversations in the halls—thank you for sharing your lives with me, both the laughter and the confidences. I have felt honored by

your trust and inclusion.

Although I will always treasure my time at UUCE, when I leave I will do so intentionally without plans for further contact. Just like Dan did before me, I want to leave space for you and your new minister, Leslie, to grow together in relationship. My covenant will change from one of relationship with the congregation, to one that is about maintaining right relationship with my colleague in ministry, Leslie Mills. This doesn't mean that I will abruptly turn and walk the other way if we should happen to meet at some UU gathering. We can, of course, greet each other and maybe even have a coffee or a meal together, but our time for regular contact and ministry together will be finished, and it needs to stay that way for best practices and the continuation of healthy congregations. But until that time, we still have a few precious weeks together, and I will enjoy them to the utmost. Thank you for being a part of my life the last two years and please know that you are loved.

Love,
—Lise

Reverend Lise Adams Sherry
Interim Minister

Wheel of Life



Our beloved member, Tim Davis, died June 20, 2015, at the age of 59. A member for over 25 years, Tim was an active and gracious participant in our church life.

Among the many ways that Tim gave to our community, just a few included teaching RE classes, serving on the

Board of Trustees several times in a variety of positions, helping with Stewardship Campaigns, mowing the lawn, serving as UUCE's unofficial photographer, and putting in countless hours of sweat equity to build our beautiful Prairie Cathedral.

Tim is immediately survived by his wife, Chris, their grown daughters Melanie and Sarah and their respective husband and boyfriend, Christopher and Jason. Tim, we love and will miss you!

A Month of Sundays: July

July 5: Born in the UUSA!

Having just marched in our first 4th of July parade, just what is this thing called “patriotism” as it relates to Unitarian Universalism? Service led by Paul Anderson.

July 12: Building a Compassionate Economy

Why is it that so many people are finding it difficult to make ends meet when we are one of the richest nations in the world? What can we do about this? The subject of this sermon is the result of a service auction item. Service

led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

July 19: Lessons learned at UUCE

This will be my last service as your interim minister. How have we grown and learned together over the last two years? Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

July 26: Folk Music—The Conscience of America

We will be taking a look at different folk artists and their impact on the events and people of their times. Service led by Tim Closson.

Endowment By Law Changes

At the Annual Meeting, the following by law changes proposed by the Endowment Committee were approved.

Current By Law Text:

Section 13. Income from the FUND shall be distributed annually or at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible to supplement only line items in the operating budget.

Altered Text as of 2013 Annual meeting:

Section 13. Income from the FUND shall be distributed annually or at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible to supplement only line items in the operating budget. Distributions can be taken up to and including the full amount of the current fiscal year’s FUND income. In lieu of distribution, the FUND income may also be reinvested to support the long term growth of the FUND principal. The amount of distribution taken in a fiscal year shall be determined jointly by the Endowment and Finance Committees in the fourth quarter of the prior fiscal year. In cases where the committees are unable to reach agreement on the distribution plan, the matter shall be decided by the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Text:

Section 13. Income from the FUND shall be distributed as the FUND allows or at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible to supplement line items in the operating budget. The amount of distribution shall be limited to no more than 3 percent of the total value of the FUND split into four quarterly distributions, dependent on the distribution process of the current FUND guidelines.

Rationale:

We are proposing this change for a couple of reasons. First, we don’t have nearly the flexibility on distributions from the fund as we used to for the savings account. We need the bylaws to reflect that we have limited options on what we can take and when. Secondly, we want to put in a limit for how much of the fund can be taken. We no longer have the option (because of the way the fund distributes the dividends) to just take a percentage of the earnings. We have to name a percentage of the total value of the fund for disbursements. The endowment committee agrees that 3 percent of the total fund could mean that some years the total value of the fund goes down. But it’s also a reasonable amount to ensure that it continues to grow over time.

Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



It is difficult to concentrate on work. Memories of Tim Davis and hurting for his family intrude my thoughts, as I'm sure it is for many of you since learning of his death. It is good to have this community to share our feelings and memories.

Despite this sad time, summer is officially here. Our adult Spirituality program is taking a break until after Labor Day. However, there will be labyrinth walks at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings before the worship service, weather permitting. If weather is an issue, an email will be sent out by Saturday evening, so check your email if you have any questions about whether or not the walk is happening.

For our young people, we have an all-ages program during the summer months that is coordinated by myself and members of the Religious Exploration and Education Team.

Our high school youth are also planning some events this summer. They went to Great America last month, and are planning a movie marathon, laser tag, and a camping trip. I'll keep parents informed as plans get finalized.

I hope to see many of you during the summer. If not, enjoy the warmer weather, family and friends!

In Faith,
—Kathy Underwood
Director of Religious
Exploration and Education

Afternoon Book Group

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27, at the home of Bonnie Schwank. Book selection is *The Art Forger*.

This Month In Religious Education

July 5 Independence and UU
Celebrate our UU connection to our Founding Fathers with old-fashioned games. Facilitated by Vickie Kilgore.

July 12 Butterflies
Hear a story and look for evidence of butterflies around our grounds. Facilitated by Brandi Talaga and Kathy Underwood, with guest Mary Alice Masonick.

Families who signed up can participate in a butterfly adoption event from 2–4 p.m. in Geneva.

July 19 Yarn Crafting
Make simple bracelets and God's Eyes. Facilitated by Vickie Kilgore.

July 26 Water Games
Wear your swimsuit and plan to get wet!

President's Reflections



July is the start of our new fiscal year at UUCE, but also our traditional time to “slow down” and take a breather, enjoy the summer with friends and family, and just veg-out. This past year has been a heck of a ride for us all. While it has been exciting, I am sure none of us are eager to repeat a year like we just experienced. Although we are a community of like-minded people guided by UU’s seven principles, we can have strong differences of opinions and still remain a strong, loving source of support and renewal.

Before we say goodbye to 2014–2015, I would like to say thank you to everyone in the congregation who gave their resources, time and talent in large and small ways to help make UUCE the loving community it is. My special thanks to the retiring Board members Elizabeth Closson, Jamie Yucuis, and David Yaeger. They and other members, Stephen Day, Mary Knapp, Steve Stultz, and Dan Kalkbrenner, were invaluable and dedicated in providing leadership to the church in what I would call “interesting and dynamic times.” I think a special acknowledgment and thanks should also go to Dan Hislip and his

posse, the Settled Minister Search Committee, Susan Anderson, Lydia Larrabee, Diana March, Valerie Howells, Doug Pratt, and Joe Masonick. Boy, did they ever pull one out of a hat. And thanks to everybody who made contributions, but whose names I failed to mention here.

Also, I want to extend a very special thanks to Reverend Lise. Most of the congregation has not been on the receiving end of her assistance, nor witnessed the devotion and dedication she has for UUCE. I dare say Lise would agree with the statement that UUCE hasn’t been an easy interim ministry, but for the most part she’s maintained her grace, remained strong, and ministered to the best of her ability. Yes, Rev. Lise and the congregation have had our share of ups and downs, but I venture to say we’re all better for the shared experience. Personally, I will miss Lise’s engaging smile and warm personality. I wish her and Nelson the very best at UU Norwell.

And finally, no words can begin to adequately express our deep loss. We will miss you, Tim.

—Jun Yoshitani
President,
UUCE Board of Trustees



Make a Contribution

The All People’s Inter-Faith Pantry is feeding over 2,000 people every month. They need your donations of canned fruit, Kraft Macaroni and Cheese dinners, toilet paper, along with the old standbys of cereal, peanut butter, and small jars of jelly.

Try to bring your contributions on our Pantry Sunday, July 5, but, as always, your donations are welcome anytime during the month.

UUCE Board of Trustees' Minutes

May 13, 2015

Members Present: Jun Yoshitani, Dan Kalkbrenner, Dave Yaeger, Reverend Lise Adams Sherry, Steve Stultz, Stephen Day, Mary Knapp, and Jamie Yucuis

I. The April 15, 2015 meeting minutes will be approved electronically on 5/14/15

II. REPORTS

a. Discussed the role of the Trustee of the Day—including locking up the church after the service

b.

c. With Candidating Weekend occurring at the end of the month, the Interim Minister Task Force has been disbanded. If the candidate does not work out, we will not be able to have an Interim Minister for 2015–2016 and we will need to look into other options (the UUA may even allow us to start our own separate search for an Interim Minister).

d. The credit card money from the auction finally dropped into the bank account. YTD we have spent just over \$4800 more than we have brought in which is actually a bit better than what we budgeted (we were budgeted to be about -\$13,400 through April).

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Proposed 2015–2016 Budget

i. Rev. Lise reported that the staff members generally felt good about the budgeting process with the Board.

ii. Discussed and approved the budget (via electronic voting) to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The 2015–

2016 budget will include slight reductions in expenses—including staff salaries, contracted services, and business expenses—in order to end the year with a positive income of about \$3,200. This positive income only represents about one-third of our 2014–2015 deficit. The Board has set a goal of having a three-year net income (2015–2018) equal to or greater than our 2014–2015 deficit.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Set the Agenda for May 31 Annual Meeting

b. Responding to member's questions about 2015–2016 Budget—We have received questions regarding the initial budget proposal (sent out in April). Some of the questions were related to the 2014–2015 budget and have already been addressed in the previous year. Other questions were related to individual line-items that were still in flux and have since been updated as a part of the budgeting process. Steve Stultz has volunteered to discuss the questions with the questioners.

c. Candidating Week (presented by the Search Committee)—The Search Committee will distribute the schedule to the church and request that members RSVP for the various small-group meetings. This will help with planning the logistics for each meeting and to keep the meeting sizes manageable. Everyone that wants to participate will have the chance. There will also be opportunities for church-wide potlucks.

d. Trustee of the Day schedule was set through June 21st

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Submitted by,
—[Stephen Day](#)



Tired of Weeding Your Garden?



Then come and weed at UUCE! We call that a 'busman's holiday' in England—when you do the same thing for yourself as for work elsewhere. Please let [Mary Alice Masonick](#) or [Mary Gaston](#) know if you can spare some time to help.

Happy Birthday!

- 12 Kevin Webster
- 12 Bruce Janu
- 13 Elizabeth Howells
- 16 Kathy Hislip
- 18 Steve Talaga
- 20 Johnathan Stultz
- 21 Austin Kremer
- 22 Dan Riordan
- 24 Katherine Brosier
- 27 Delaney Underwood
- 27 Susan Stillinger
- 29 Elizabeth King

If we missed your birthday this month, we apologize. *Please let us know* and we will add it to the list.

Care Team



The Care Team coordinates the church's efforts in caring for members and friends at significant and/or vulnerable times in their lives. Contact [Leslie Yoshitani](#) or [Rev. Lise Adams Sherry](#) with such concerns.

Calendar Highlights

Worship Services

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Labyrinth Walks

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Moonlight Labryrith Drum Circles

July 2 and August 1 from 7:30–10 p.m.

UUCE Marches in Elgin Independence Day Parade

July 4 at 9 a.m. — offsite

Butterfly Adoption Event

July 12 from 2–4 p.m. — offsite

Afternoon Book Group

July 27 at 12:30 p.m. — offsite

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

www.uuce.org

E-MAIL

minister@uuce.org

administrator@uuce.org

newsletter@uuce.org

PHONE

847-888-0668

POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue

*three miles west of
Randall Rd.*

Marching with Pride!

UUCE is marching in the Elgin Independence Day Parade on July 4! Come out and enjoy the holiday weekend with family and friends! Volunteers are needed to help with parade set up and to walk in the parade. Contact [Valerie Howells](#) for more information.



The Unitarian Universalist

Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

