



Mid-Columbia Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship

MCUUF NEWSLETTER—JANUARY 2015

MINISTERIAL AND LEADERSHIP LETTER

On Saturday, December 13, 25 members and friends gathered on a glorious and clear winter day to lay the groundwork for a successful shared ministry with our first settled minister, the Rev. Judy Zimmerman. The Rev. Duane Fickeisen of the Pacific Northwest District Ministerial Transitions Team facilitated.

We came to consensus that our day's work should focus on building a stronger community and developing priorities for our shared ministry. We worked in small groups to develop a list of tasks that enable congregations to thrive. Then we sorted our lists into three groups: tasks that are the *primary* responsibility of the lay leaders, those that are *primarily* the minister's, and those that are *shared*. Duane led us through a process to establish priorities in each of the three areas:

Minister

- 1) big-picture perspective of congregational life and communication
- 2) spiritual leadership
- 3) public witness, i.e. represent congregation in wider community

Lay Leaders

- 1) Sunday setup, greeters, and hospitality
- 2) communications/publicity - and - budget, finance and fundraising (tie)
- 3) coordination of community action and service,

Shared

- 1) membership engagement
- 2) community involvement and visibility
- 3) pastoral care – and - small group ministry/adult religious education (tie).

These priorities are landmarks on the road to a bright future for our fellowship. In the weeks ahead your Committee on Ministries, Board of Trustees, and minister will be in conversation with teams and committees to understand their vision of success. Our common vision is a guiding light that will steer us towards the places we'll go. And, oh, what places we'll go! The journey of a lifetime begins at church!

Please contact either of us, any member of the Board of Trustees, or our congregation's Committee on Ministry (Elaine C, Don H and Kimberly H) for more information or to share questions and concerns. You'll find contact information at the bottom of the newsletter. A full listing of tasks identified as promoting congregational vitality is posted on the MCUUF bulletin board in the Grange, near the nametag table.

Yours in faith and fellowship,

Kristen D
Board President

Judy Zimmerman
Minister

SUNDAY SERVICES

January 4, 2015: “The Cosmic Credit Card,” the Rev. Judy Zimmerman. Credit cards allow us to buy something today and pay for it later. Some credit cards are better than others, offering lower interest rates and a higher credit limit. This morning we’ll ponder what a “credit card” view of justice might do—or not do—for us as we ring in the New Year.

January 11: “Music and Meditation,” with Rod and Theresa.

January 18: Martin Luther King Celebration: “Still I Rise,” Rev. Judy Zimmerman. This morning we visit the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. What was his vision of the “Beloved Community”? By what means might it be created? What more needs to be done? Like the Maya Angelou poem, the words and deeds of Rev. Dr. King live on, offering strength, hope, and courage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Want to share our beautiful Gorge with Portland General Assembly attendees?

From June 24 to 28, almost 7,000 UU’s from around the country will be gathering in Portland for our annual General Assembly. What a wonderful opportunity for us to share the beauty of our home with a bunch of interesting and compatible folks. Here are two ways that you can join in:

1. Offer a home stay for a few days either before or after GA. All you need is a spare bedroom, a simple breakfast, and a willingness to steer visitors in the right direction. The fee that your guests pay (probably \$65 per night) will go straight to our fellowship.
2. Join in organizing a recreational activity in the Gorge, probably for the day that most people arrive (June 24). For the 2007 GA, our congregation conducted a highly successful waterfall hike. Again, the fee we charge will go directly to our fellowship. Are there a few people out there who are willing to take the lead in organizing an activity like this?

June may seem like a long time off, but the GA organizers are already putting this information together so it will be in place when the registration website goes live on March 1. So the time to start acting is now. Elaine C is our congregational liaison to the organizing committee, but she would appreciate some help in putting together our fellowship’s response. Please let her know if you are willing to be involved in any of these activities. IT WILL BE FUN!

Installation Ceremony, March 7, 2015

An installation is a congregation's formal recognition that it has called a minister to serve. This worship service and reception invites the larger community in the gorge and in our Unitarian Universalist world to come and celebrate. Please mark your calendars for this historic event when MCUUF installs its first settled minister. More details to follow.

--The Installation Task Force: Aera A, Jay L, Cindy A, Mary P, and Rev. Judy.

MCUUF Youth Winter Retreat

The MCUUF yUUF Winter Retreat will be held February 6-8 at Trout Lake Abbey. We'll be leaving Friday evening and returning Sunday mid-day. We are planning lots of games, great food, and fellowship. Registration deadline: Jan. 16. For more information (or if you want to assist), contact Peggy N.

Care Team

MCUUF strives to be a community that supports each other. If you or someone you know in the fellowship has a need because of a loss, illness, or other difficulty, please notify Rev. Judy or any member of our Care Team: Jane F, Anita J, Ray K, Shelley B, Tom P, or Tom K. The team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for the situation.

Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Editorial Guidelines

Announcements will be included as space allows according to the following priorities:

- 1) Focus on MCUUF sponsored events
- 2) Focus on the denominational affairs of the Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations
- 3) Publicize events of community organizations of which MCUUF is a member or sponsor. Examples include but are not limited to Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, the Community of Welcoming Congregations, and the Hood River Warming Shelter.
- 4) Describe events in which MCUUF members have a substantial role and are also in alignment with UU principles and values. Examples include but are not limited to the Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network and Gorge Grown activities.
- 5) Publicize events of substantial importance in the wider community and that are in alignment with UU principles and values. Examples include, but are not limited to community forums on ballot initiatives or candidates for office.

E-News: Submissions should pertain to events that occur within the next two weeks and are especially high priority. Examples may include a newly organized community action event that takes place before the publication of the next newsletter or a request for cards and meals for a recently ill member.

MCUUF COMMUNITY ACTION

Jan. 19, 21, 23: Volunteers needed to work at FISH food bank. M&F 3:15-5:00 p.m. Wed. 3:15-5:30 p.m. Contact Jane F. for more information.

Join: Want to help on the Community Action committee? Have a CA project you want to lead? Contact Bonnie N.

MCUUF

Curious about what's happening, when, and where? Go to www.mcuuf.org

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The deadline for inclusion in the weekly eNews is midnight Monday. The deadline for inclusion in the monthly newsletter is midnight the 28th of the previous month. Please send your announcements to Brad A. at mcuuf1@gmail.com