



MCUUF NEWSLETTER—July 2017

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I've been an off-site attender at General Assembly (GA), which happened last week in New Orleans. GA is an annual meeting where congregants and religious leaders meet to conduct the business of the wider Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), to which our congregation belongs. Over 4,000 UUs gathered over a four-day period. One of my friends attending GA in person told me that during the first couple of days the public-address system regularly interrupted the proceedings with updates about the weather and a tropical storm coming to the area. The frequent disruption was a jarring experience, she said.

I'm grateful that New Orleans didn't end up suffering a major weather event. That's not the case within Unitarian Universalism. Stormy weather continues in the UUA, and brisk winds of change blew through General Assembly. In April, I wrote to you to tell you about UUA President Rev. Peter Morales' resignation three months before the end of his term in response to escalating concerns about a culture of white favoritism and racial discrimination with the association. A team of interim co-presidents concluded their brief term, and a new UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, was installed at GA. Rev. Frederick-Gray is our first elected female president.

As part of the UUA's efforts to examine this culture and its effects on people of color—in fact all of us—for we are profoundly linked, several study groups were commissioned at General Assembly. Among them is group charged with considering the addition of an 8th principle that calls us towards “covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” This group will prepare a report to aid discernment as we vote to adopt these changes at General Assembly in 2018. A resolution to change the wording of our second source to from “men and women” to “people” passed, which will bring this before the 2018 GA for a final vote.

These are but a few of the recent changes that are asking all Unitarian Universalists to consider what our movement is called to be in this world. Will we make choices that enable our movement to thrive? And how will we lead other faith communities? As former interim co-president Leon Spencer has said, “They are watching because they are looking for hope. They want us to succeed because they know that our struggles will soon be their struggles.”

In the program year ahead at MCUUF, we'll be moving into a headwind as we grapple with what these changes mean in the life of our fellowship. A newly elected Board of Trustees will be considering a strategic planning and visioning process to help us decide what the next chapter in our story will be. What special gift do we have to offer our community? We are a small and *mighty* congregation, one that is capable of great things. We've come far in our short history. The best is yet to come!

In love, faith, and fellowship,

Rev. Judy

The Hood River Latino Network is sponsoring a Rapid Response training this Saturday, July 1, from 1 to 5 p.m. to prepare volunteers to observe and document ICE activities on-site as they occur during ICE raids in our area. If you're interested in attending, please contact me a.s.a.p.



MCUUF marchers at the Pride Parade

***SUNDAY SERVICES
10 a.m. at the Rockford Grange***

July 2: “Politics and the Fifth Principle,” Rev. Judy Zimmerman. It is said that politics and religion make strange and bedfellows. If that’s so, what does the Declaration of Independence and its religious language mean for Unitarian Universalists? And the place of politics in congregational life?

July 9: Paul B. and Bob S. will present “Great piano music juxtaposed with readings of poetry.”

July 16: Janet Hamada will speak to us about Japanese Internment Camps.

July 23: “It Takes a Village” – Elaine C. We know that the many at-risk youth in our community face significant challenges. In this age of Trump, we can’t depend on our federal officials to help them. But a number of local organizations are working hard to provide services to these young people. Come and hear from representatives of several of these agencies to learn how **we**—as individuals and as a religious community—can make a difference in the lives of these vulnerable youth.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

News from the MCUUF worship team: Your Worship Team has been hard at work planning a series of stimulating services for the summer. We have also made some organizational changes that we want to tell you about. In an attempt to distribute our work load more evenly, we have eliminated the position of chair. (And a heartfelt thanks to Paul B. for his many years of valiant service in this role). Instead, we are now sharing the service planning, each of us taking responsibility for a specific week. However, to avoid confusion, Elaine C. has agreed to take on the role of worship coordinator. If you have feedback, suggestions for services, or logistical questions, please get in touch with Elaine and she will pass your on information to the appropriate person. We hope that this new structure will help us to continue offering the high-quality services that you have come to expect.

Your Worship Team: Dan B, Paul B, Elaine C, Todd D, Kristen D, Steve H, Kimberly H, Sullivan M, and Tom P, and Rev. Judy.

MCUUF Care Team: Our MCUUF Care Team responds to members and friends in case of a significant loss, illness or other personal difficulty. None in our community should feel isolated or abandoned. The team offers opportunities for our fellowship members and friends to help each other in time of need. For example, the team coordinates rides to fellowship and doctor appointments, hospital and home visits, calls and cards. If necessary the team helps to coordinate care with friends from the fellowship.

The Care Team relies on members to let us know if someone may need assistance. The team then ascertains if the person in need would like help, and if so what kind. Confidentiality is paramount. If you or someone you know needs help, contact any of the team's members:

Shelley B, Aera A, Tom P and Rev. Judy Zimmerman.

UU Host Housing: We live in a beautiful place, and many people want to visit here. Some UU congregations offer a host housing program for visiting UUs. Guests pay by making a donation to our fellowship. Would you be willing to be a host? See Paul B. for more details.

March with Somos Uno in the July 4 Parade: MCUUF is invited to be part of the Somos Uno ("We Are One") delegation in Hood River's 4th of July Parade. Somos Uno, a project of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (of which MCUUF is a part), joins people to celebrate differences of faith, language, race, ethnicity, political affiliation and nationality. To join the Somos Uno marchers, come to the corner of Woods Court & 12th streets (in front of the Pacific Northwest Federal Credit Union, just east of the Shell Station) at 9 a.m. July 4. If you'd like to help make signs to be carried by the

Somos Uno group, come to a sign-making party at Riverside Community Church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 3. Sign materials will be provided.

In-gathering Picnic: September 9th

SAVE-THE-DATE

**Our fabulous, fun, family picnic! Games for all ages!
Don't miss it– put the date on your calendar right now!
Sept. 9th, 4 to 7 p.m. in Parkdale.**



Yard Signs: We have an additional 20 yard signs available. The cost is \$21 per sign and stand. They will be available at Sunday services. To reserve a sign, please email Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com

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 (which comes out on the first Wednesday of the month) is midnight on the last Monday of the month. Please send your announcements to Brad Amer at mcuuf1@gmail.com