

## Membership Team Report 2015

This year the Membership Team had a relatively quiet year. We began with Emma Sousa chairing our team but leaving us mid-way through the church year. While Emma was with us we finished writing our vision and mission statement, conducted a telephone campaign to contact all members and friends, and participated in a parade. Thank you Emma for your time and dedication with our Team! Dave Unger was also part of our team but left us in November. Thank you Dave for your work with us!

***Vision:*** *The Membership Team seeks to create and foster lasting, caring relationships with the church, within and outside its walls.*

***Mission:*** *The Membership Team strives to:*

- *Greet and embrace visitors, existing members, and friends during worship services, church activities, and outreach efforts.*
- *Provide and promote a wide variety of service-oriented and social opportunities and to encourage and engage returning visitors and members in participating in those opportunities, uniting them in community and fellowship.*
- *Maintain connections with returning visitors and members through all mission functions as well as through church-wide communications via weekly newsletters, supplemental email communications, and individual contact.*
- *Act as a resource for the congregation, providing general information and support and connecting persons to appropriate church resources and departments, including steps to membership.*

We launched our Hello Campaign and endeavored to reach out to all members in the directory by phone to just simply say 'Hello'. For the most part it was received very well. It was a great opportunity to share what was up and coming, remind all of Rev. Dr. Janet Newman and Meredith Olson joining us for the September time frame.

Members of our team co-facilitated with the Spiritual Development Team the Introduction to Unitarian Universalism class held the first Sunday of each month. We find this is a great way to introduce visitors to our faith and answer any questions they may have. Typically we have 1-4 visitors join us for the class each month. Thank you to Jerry Ross, June Haskell and Bill Kennedy and Nancy Klarman from Spiritual Development who co-facilitated with Lorraine Arlan, Lori Lerude, Sherri Woolsey and Emma Sousa throughout the year.

Each week we make the Gifts and Talents Survey available to anyone who receives the weekly newsletter. This survey allows us to put information into the database to assist the Membership/Volunteer Coordinator in finding volunteers for activities. So far we have had 39 people fill out the survey. We encourage everyone to please fill it out at their convenience. Thank you Lorraine Arlan and Monica Staples for working on the updates and sending information out to the appropriate committee chairs.

Last Fall approximately 15 members and friends of the Congregation marched in the first Annual Gate City Parade. Lorraine Arlan coordinated behind the scenes to get a new banner made for our church with the assistance of the Public Relations Team. Thank you to Bill Kennedy, Tina Marshman, John Burkitt, Kate Messner, Nancy Klarman and Emma Sousa for assisting with the new banner. Lorraine also worked with an independent company to have t-shirts available to anyone who wished to purchase one that had the Unitarian Universalist chalice on them. Several in our congregation purchased these t-shirts and wore them for the parade.

Membership tried to offer a fun activity once a month throughout the church year. In October we had a potluck dinner open to everyone. In November we offered bowling at Leda Lanes. We will be trying to offer fun, social events once a month this next church year. Additionally, Nancy Cegalis has offered to resurrect our Circle Suppers this next church year so be looking for information on that.

Stan St. Onge approached Membership about offering a Souper Bowl in January. We loved the idea and had it scheduled for a date in January that unfortunately got cancelled due to weather. Thank you Stan for suggesting it and we will try to make it happen again this next church year. We also sponsored a potluck and games night during Candidating Week for people to come and meet Rev. Allison Palm. Thank you to everyone who came to this and made the evening very fun! A BIG THANK YOU to Victoria Agnew, Jenn Morton and Lance Pratt who arrived early to set up and stayed to assist with the clean up of the evening.

An ongoing area we are seeking to improve is our weekly volunteers for Sunday Greeters. We have a sign-up sheet available through the weekly newsletter and the website but find not as many people as we had hoped are signing up. We feel this is an area of church life everyone should be willing to assist with at least once a year. Thank you to everyone who did greet on Sundays: Victoria Agnew, Lorraine Arlan, Ellen Barr, Nancy Cegalis, Lynn Coakley, Joan Connacher, Moe Daniels, Gail McMorro Donahue, Jameson Gagne, Kathi Geisler, Laurie Goodman, Roy Goodman, Frank Grossman, Kathy Grossman, Eileen Herring, Carol Houde, Pat Ladew, Donna Larue, Lisa Laughton, Stacie Laughton, Andrea Lerude, Gary Lerude, Lori Lerude, Elizabeth Lewis, Jim McCormick, Jenn Morton, Michelle Morrison, Kate O'Shea, Lance Pratt, Chuck Rehberg, Jerry Ross, Gail Reilly, Fred Shirley, Kim Sousa, Barbara Spitz, Rick Spitz, Stan St. Onge, Monica Staples, Andy Straussberg, Madeline Straussberg, Kim Steele, Bob Stewart, Joyce Stewart, Lois Taylor, Elaine Thomas, Jim Woolsey, Maggie Woolsey and Henry Zalman. We hope we didn't miss anyone who volunteered this year. If we did miss you, please let us know so we can thank you personally.

We have noticed many more people in the congregation actively engaging visitors during coffee hour and thank everyone who makes it a point to look for unfamiliar faces to meet and talk with. This little bit of extra effort makes a BIG difference to visitors. If you are comfortable doing so we encourage you to get a "GREETER" button from the back of the Sanctuary or the Dining Room to wear when you are here on Sundays. This will make you more approachable to visitors or at the very least, make them aware of you.

One of the other projects that was handled this year was the updating of the bulletin boards in the Dining Room. Lorraine Arlan worked on this with assistance from Monica Staples. Please take a moment to look at the boards. Thank you Lorraine for taking this task on. If you have any ideas for a feature section or photos for the Events and Groups sections please feel free to contact Lorraine.

The Involvement List is a list of all committees or teams of the church and everyone who participates. Thank you to Monica Staples for updating this list. It is a terrific resource for everyone, especially new ministers and members to our church. It can be found on the website in the Members Only Section. While you are in this section, be sure to download your electronic copy of the Church Directory. This is updated quarterly and available in electronic or hard copy (you can print it out but if you prefer not to, please contact Sherri in the office to print you a copy.) Thank you to Fred Shirley for incorporating photos into the database that are used for the Directory. If you ever want to update your photo, please let someone on the Membership Team know or our new Membership Coordinator, Lori Lerude. Thank you also to Donna Larue, Jenn Morton, Harry Purkhiser, Kate O'Shea, Fred Shirley and Monica Staples for taking photos to add to the database and directory throughout the year.

Lastly, thank you to Sherri Woolsey for her dedication as our Membership Volunteer Coordinator these past 11 years. We will miss your smiles, hugs and cheerful hellos on Sundays. We are glad you aren't leaving us.

The Membership Team,

Victoria Agnew, Lorraine Arlan, Nancy Cegalis, Monica Staples, Sherri Woolsey