

CHURCH AND HOME

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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A Cross for the 21st Century

Last August the Worship and Music Board invited our congregation into a conversation about the cross, “A Cross for the 21st Century.” With our sanctuary renovations complete, we had a unique opportunity as a congregation to consider the cross we wanted to pass on to future generations—a central commitment of the Imagine Capital Campaign.

The Board held conversations after worship to hear stories and ideas about the cross. We reached out to our youth, parents with young children, elders and others to include their ideas. We collected letters and pictures from many. We talked about the values we bring to our worship life together that would ground our decision.

The Board listened with care and sought to discern the Spirit’s call. Together we agreed to a way forward we have outlined below. Our statement highlights:

- ✠ The cross is a central symbol of our faith.
- ✠ Flexibility with the size, location of the cross is appropriate. A cross will not be affixed to the front wall but will be able to be moved as it is now to different locations on the north chancel wall and elsewhere.
- ✠ We support the opportunity for continued engagement with the cross by using different crosses during particular liturgical seasons.

The Worship and Music Board thanks you for being part of this important process as a congregation and wants to hear from you. Join us for an opportunity to discuss our discernment on **Sunday, April 10 at 11:30 in the Chapel.**

Policy Statement—The Sanctuary Cross *Worship and Music Board, Feb. 18, 2016*

The cross is central to our faith, worship, and developing relationship with God and the divine. Thus, a cross should remain on the north wall of the chancel for all sacred uses of the sanctuary, including Sunday and other services.

However, we also believe that flexibility is appropriate concerning the size, specific location on the north wall, and any adornments, such as the recent sail to support the water theme chosen for the liturgical season, or the dove at Pentecost. To that end, the worship planners and pastors should be able to move the cross to different locations on the north wall, replace it for periods of time with a different cross, or supplement it with an additional cross or crosses based on the liturgical season, the sermon, divine inspiration, or other artistic and creative criteria, including banners and projection of images and/or video.

Requests to temporarily remove or cover the cross for purposes of non-sacred events such as lectures, use by outside groups, and even memorial services have been rare over the years. Should such a request arise, it should be considered and permission granted (or not) on a case by case basis by the clergy and leadership of the church.

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News and Events in Church

Imagine Ending Homelessness: Share Your Ideas for Spiritual Action on Sunday, April 3, 11:30-1 pm, The Chapel

You're invited to a lively brainstorming and discussion session about the future. We'll be looking for your fresh ideas on how the UCUCS community can act courageously to bring an end to homelessness. Starting with words of encouragement from our incoming Church Moderator Jan von Lehe, we'll then work in structured small groups so each participant can offer ideas for acting together to eliminate homelessness. We'll consider the greatest needs and our capacity and "fire" to address those needs anew. Put April 3, 11:30 to 1:00 pm on your calendar right now. Start thinking big—thinking creatively—about what we, as a spirit-filled congregation, could do together. What better way to mark our 125th anniversary than exploring initiatives to challenge us to be fearless activists for those without shelter, those without homes? (The 125th Spiritual Activism planning team: Marty Curry, Nathalie Gehrke, and Claudia Patton, Jan von Lehe) Questions? Contact Nathalie Gehrke at encanta5@comcast.net or 206-720-6933.

Senior Lunch—date change for April

This month we have moved Senior lunch to **Monday, April 4 at noon**—to include the volunteers working on Superfluity set up. Please join us for a lively lunch with friends!

Lamb Day April 23rd

Come to Lamb Day Saturday, April 23 from **10am to 2pm** at Pastor Catherine's Farm on Whidbey Island. This is a fun annual event for all ages! Bring a picnic lunch. Please RSVP to Catherine Foote at cfoote@uccucc.org, 206-524-2322, and let her know if you need directions to the farm.

Come and See: a Holy Land Presentation

On **April 24**, Carol Ingram will present her February pilgrimage to the Holy Land. **11:30-1pm** in Ostrander Hall. Light snacks will be served.

The Kairos Palestine document, in section 6.2, says: "In order to understand our reality, we say to the Churches: Come and see. We will fulfill our role to make known to you the truth of our reality, receiving you as pilgrims coming to us to pray, carrying a message of peace, love and reconciliation. You will know the facts and the people of this land, Palestinians and Israelis alike."

We Remember



Barbara Rogers

Born: 1936

Died: February 8, 2016

Barbara passed away at home after a long illness with cancer. She was surrounded in love. She and her husband joined UCUCS in the late '90s and were married for 58 years. In 2007, they moved to Pilgrim Place in Claremont California.

Barbara was a master teacher of US History for Middle School students. Her proudest accomplishment was raising their three sons with John. In their early retirement she and John lived in Port Townsend where they enjoyed sailing, hiking and camping before moving to California.

We hold John, their three sons, and their families in our prayers. A memorial service will be held April 24 at Pilgrim Place in California.

A Note from Peter Igenfritz

I am delighted to share that Tsuneko Nakatani and I will be married on Sunday, April 24 at her home church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Seattle. We will have a reception here during coffee hour on **Sunday, May 22** and hope you can join us then to mark this new beginning!

Welcome to Joe Hendrickson, Evening Custodian

We recently said good-bye and thank you to evening custodian Roger Conn, as he and his wife Stacy moved to Florida. I'm delighted to let you know that Joe Hendrickson has begun as Evening Custodian. Joe has some great background and relevant experience. And Joe's wife Holly has been our Sunday Early Childhood Caregiver for almost 10 years. Joe's regular schedule will be 2:30–11pm Monday–Friday. He will be the warm greeting at the 16th Ave doors from 6:45-7:15, cleaning the childcare and Trettin areas, and doing other cleaning, setup/takedown and maintenance work. It is good to have him here!

-David Anderson, Church Administrator

News and Events in the Church

All-Church Potluck on May 14

We will conclude our 125th Anniversary Celebration with an All-Church Potluck in Ostrander Hall. Plan now to enjoy this opportunity for fun and fellowship. Plus, you can reprise a favorite old-time casserole — green beans with mushroom soup topped with canned onion rings, anyone? Please put this on your calendar now so you won't let it slip by.

UCUCC Annual Meeting

The 125th annual meeting of University Congregational United Church of Christ will take place on **Sunday, May 15, 2016 following worship**. We will receive reports from some ministry areas, hear from the *Imagine* Campaign Implementation Committee with updates and information about the final projects on our ambitious to-do list. We will learn about and vote on restructuring our board and committee structure. We will also vote on nominations for officers and boards for the coming year. And, we will celebrate our legacy of 125 years and look to our future. All are welcome, and all UCUCC members will have a vote. Please plan to be present!

UCUCC at the Mariners

Save the Date - June 10, 7pm

It's Baseball season again! We have had great fun at UCUCC at the Mariners each year. This year we are scheduled to go on June 10th for another fireworks night at the Mariners. Tickets will be on sale May 1, 6, 15, and 22 in the Narthex after worship. Each ticket will cost \$12. Questions? Contact Nancy Hannah, nlhannah@earthlink.net or 206 525-0494.

Annual Report Process Underway

The process for compiling the annual report is now under way in anticipation of the annual meeting. If you are a church member active in leadership positions in the Pacific Northwest conference, national United Church of Christ, or ecumenical settings, we want to include you in our annual report. This allows us to affirm ministry in the wider church and support those involved on our behalf. If you are serving in such a position, please write a brief account of your activities and e-mail it to annual report editor, Carol Coleman at annualreport@universityucc.org by April 15 or call her at 206-524-2322. If you know of anyone from our church who is involved in this larger ministry who might not see this notice, please let us know who they are. UCUCC board and committee leaders: thank you for your timely response to our submission request! Thanks to all for your help on this! -David Anderson

For Those Who Cannot Attend Church And Those Who Can

—Carol Scott-Kassner

Practicing Gratitude

A spiritual practice we can do every day that will result in greater health and a sense of well being is to practice gratitude. Use the following questions to help you on the path.

Notice what is influencing you externally and answer the following questions:

- Who or what has inspired you?
- Who or what is challenging you?
- Who or what is touching your spirit?

Silently express gratitude for these people and forces in your life.

Now reflect on what is happening internally for you and answer the following questions:

- What is strengthening within me?
- What is softening within me?
- What is opening within me?
- What is deepening within me?

Silently express gratitude for the opportunity to continue to grow as you age.

Position Available:

Interim Choir Director, University Congregational United Church of Christ: Spring and fall 2016

Est. time: 10-15hrs/week. Compensation: \$1200/month

Direct rehearsals and presentations of chancel choir, work with clergy and worship team to choose hymns and plan for worship, submit required information to publications, coordinate with the professional activities of the organist to assure appropriate coverage, support musicians in their skill building and development and support the overall ministry of music and worship. To apply, send letter of interest and resume to pilgenfritz@universityucc.org

Children's Ministry News

Lamb Day April 23

Visit Pastor Catherine's farm on Whidbey Island from **10am-2pm on Saturday, April 23**. The lambs will be frolicking, the flowers will be blooming and (we hope) the sun will be shining! Bring a picnic lunch and dress to mess. All ages are welcome; **a special invitation is extended to children and their parents and grandparents**. RSVP to Catherine Foote, cfoote@ucucc.org or Rebecca Schmidt, rschmidt@ucucc.org, 206 524-2322. When you RSVP, let us know if you need directions to the farm.



Fondue Party for Mothers April 30

All mothers who have children and youth at home are invited to a special fondue party just for moms on Saturday, April 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at my home in north Seattle. I will provide chocolate fondue. Please bring dippers (such as bread, fruit, etc.) or a beverage to share. Please RSVP to me at 206-679-5619, rschmidt@ucucc.org. Please be sure to let me know if you plan to come! This is a fun annual party. I look forward to it every year—wonderful conversations, delicious chocolate, truly a night off! This is a relaxing event just for moms (not kids). Yes, we actually eat chocolate instead of dinner (shhhhh!). Babies under age one are always welcome to join us.

Food Packing

After worship on April 17 come pack grocery bags for the Emergency Feeding Program in the 1st floor hallway at church. This is an easy way to help others; people of all ages and abilities are encouraged to come! The activity lasts about 30 minutes and is coordinated by Diane and Steve Adam, at sfdadam@comcast.net or 206-522-0925.

Please contact Rebecca Schmidt for more information on any children's ministry activity — rschmidt@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322.

You Are Invited to Teach Sunday School

Live into our covenant "to encourage each other in the growth of our minds and spirits" and become a Sunday school teacher or assistant. **We have a particular need for preschool teachers this summer and teachers this fall in all grade levels.**

Children's Ministry Board

We are recruiting new participants for our Children's Ministry board that oversees our Sunday school program for children (birth through 5th grade), as well as faith formation and community building activities for children and families. Please consider coming to our next meeting on April 4 or May 2 from 7-9pm at church to see what we are all about.

Seabeck All-Church Summer Camp

Please plan your vacation to attend our UCUC Seabeck All-Church Summer Camp, July 10-15, 2016. Seabeck is an all-inclusive vacation where friendships are made that last a lifetime. Rebecca Schmidt is coordinating the morning program for preschool and elementary children; kids will enjoy making friends while engaging in fun lessons with hands-on indoor and outdoor activities with a "Creation in Color" theme, including special music with acclaimed musician Rawn Harbor! We hope to see you and your children there. Subsidies for children's camp fees and need-based scholarships for all ages are available!



Summer Family Camping Trip

We have reserved campsites at Camp Casey Campground on beautiful Whidbey Island for our annual family tent camping trip on Friday, August 12 through Sunday, August 14. All families with children and youth are invited to attend! Our campsites fill fast so please contact Rebecca soon if your family wants to come. The cost is expected to be about \$50.00 for a campsite for two nights and financial assistance is available. Camping as a group is great because we have fun, deepen friendships and help each other out. Please contact Rebecca Schmidt to RSVP and for more information, rschmidt@ucucc.org.

Ministry Update

-Amy Roon

Many have already heard that the Youth Board, and indeed the whole church, is celebrating a resounding success in the now annual Moving Mountains dinner. What you may not know is the years of hard work that have evolved with this event. The Youth Board as well as our youth have really grown and developed in response to doing this annual effort. This is intentional as we decided several years ago that the goal of this event is only secondarily to raise money. We do this event as a ***part*** of our Youth Program and mission trips, not merely to support it. We also hold this event to help our youth connect their mission trip experiences with the congregation that supports and commissions them. And the parents have learned a lot about how to put this together and support one another in doing an event like this as well. I cannot express enough how proud I am of Margaret Swanson, the Youth and the Youth Board for making this event what it has become today.

Our Children's program continues strong participation and the Board is growing into its work as well. We spent a good portion of our meeting a few weeks ago talking about how our Safer Church policy needs to be understood more broadly and its vision shared by the greater congregation. Further, we discussed how we need to support Rebecca, our teachers, and Sunday morning volunteers to ensure that our building and safer church practices are implemented by a greater number of people (with a broader understanding of what the safety and welcoming needs are). Hopefully you will hear more about this as the year progresses so stay tuned!

Seabeck registrations are happening now! Our speaker this year has preached here as the PNCUCC Annual Meeting speaker and will be leading the adult program

in the first part of an engaging curriculum developed by the CT Conference. If you've been struggling with finding your way in conversations about race this is will be a great, healthy, safe space for you to find your voice. The curriculum is based on the premises that God's Creation reflects the beauty of diversity and how we might more fully honor and reflect the diversity already among us. Rev. Day is a very skilled speaker and facilitator, this will be an exciting week! We are also thrilled to have Rawn Harbor back again this year, this time as our Camp Musician. Good music, good company, good discussion, good times. This is my last update for a while! I look forward to my upcoming Sabbath time, which I have titled "Shapes of Life". I will spend it mostly here in town. Resting, regrouping, relearning how to shape my life organizationally, spiritually, playfully, and physically. I'll be doing a mix of restorative stuff, like renewing my horsemanship lessons and taking small retreats with Benjamin. I'll be stretching myself (literally and metaphorically!) finding a habit of physical fitness I might actually enjoy and maintain. And I'll be trying out new patterns and styles of keeping myself organized. I used to actually find staying organized *fun*...it'd be great to rediscover some joy in that part of my life. And, yes, I wouldn't be surprised if we'll be heading to Seabeck as a family of three.

You'll likely see Benjamin here at church (he LOVES church) even when I am not. You may see me around town... feel free to say "hi" if you do, as long as you don't invite me to talk about church! My sabbatical time runs from March 28-June 30, returning in time to participate in Seabeck 2016 and then regular vacation from July 18-August 5, returning to work with the Family Camping Trip weekend.

Position Available: Lay Ministries & Communications Coordinator at University Congregational United Church of Christ, Seattle

Key functions: supports the lay ministry of the congregation by tracking and providing information to enable connections and communication. Supports the parish life ministry by providing information and logistics support. Oversees the work of the office to assure a warm, helpful, collaborative interaction with callers, visitors, and members. Required qualifications: excellent skills in communication, organization, and human interaction abilities. Website management experience and skills. Organizational skills for coordination of office work. Excellent people and people management skills and experience for work with staff, members, volunteers, friends and visitors. General office experience and customer service background and strengths. Position description at <http://bit.ly/2558w2i> Hours: full time Monday-Friday (40 hours/week). Compensation: \$37,000/yr. + health insurance, vacation, sick leave, and after one year: annuity and disability insurance. To apply, send letter and resume to lmsearch@universityucc.org.

Youth News

On-going Gatherings and Classes:

Sundays April 10, 17 & 24 Youth Group & Worship (*no youth group April 3—Girls & Boys Retreats*)

9am Youth Group

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join us Sunday mornings for our weekly gathering. Youth group is a place where we talk about things that matter, we do things that matter and we know that we belong. We will have times of discussions, activities, games and more. All youth are welcome!

10am Worship & Youth Pew

Youth are invited to worship together in the youth pew or with their families.

April 1-3: Boys Retreat & Girls Retreat

Boys Retreat Tall Timbers Camp in Leavenworth, WA

Leaders: Bruce Wilson, Johnathon Fitzpatrick & Mike Miller

Open to boys in grades 6 – 12 (*youth who identify as transgender are invited to attend the retreat that feels right for their sense of gender identity*)

Girls Retreat Lazy F Camp - in Ellensburg, WA

Leaders: Margaret Swanson, Kathie Forman, Leslie Riley & Sara Kerr

Open to girls in grades 6 – 12 (*youth who identify as transgender are invited to attend the retreat that feels right for their sense of gender identity*)

April 1 - Parents Social Evening

Parents, after dropping off the youth for the retreat that Friday, you are invited by the Youth Ministry Board to get together for a social time that evening. The Youth Board will be putting together more details and will be in touch. Please save the Friday, April 1st late afternoon and evening for some social time with other UCUCS parents!

Wednesday, April 20: Junior & Senior Small Group 7-8:30pm in Pilgrim Room at UCUCS

Youth in grades 11 and 12 in High School are invited to participate in our once a month gatherings. This is an opportunity for youth of this age group to share where they're at, support each other and explore questions of faith and life to help navigate these two years. Please contact Margaret Irribarra Swanson if you're interested in attending or would like more info.

Saturday, April 23: Building & Bonding 10am – 3pm Ostrander Hall

Youth attending the HS Mission Trip & National Youth Event will be building the chairs we pre-sold at Moving Mountains. More details to come in your email.

Mark your calendars for May:

May 15: Last day of youth group

May 22: Youth Worship

Thank You to the Congregation:

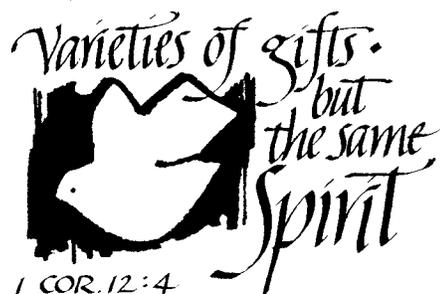
The youth would like to thank the congregation for the amazing turn-out of 200 people at Moving Mountains on Saturday, March 12th! Together you helped raise \$13,370 to help support the middle school & high school mission trips and the National Youth Event. These trips offer meaningful, transforming experiences for all of the youth and these funds make these accessible to *all* families. We are looking forward to all of our trips and look forward to sharing our experiences with you next year! Thank you for your generous and caring support!

-UCUCS Youth

Contact Margaret Irribarra Swanson for more information on any youth ministry activity — mirribarra@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322.

Interested in a Church Council Position?

We invite you to let us know if you have interest in council positions that are opening this May: assistant moderator, council secretary, and at-large council member. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage in the work of our church at the council level. Want more information? Please contact Jan von Lehe, current assistant moderator, (206-546-4123 or jonlehe@comcast.net) or David Anderson, church administrator (206-524-2322 or danderson@universityucc.org.)



Senior Pastor or Team Ministry ?

Celebrating
125 Years
of love & justice

Many of you now attending UCUC may not have been here when we had a *Senior Pastor* but there is quite a story about how we moved from

there to our current leadership model. staff.

Dale Turner, our beloved senior pastor of 24 years, retired in 1982 and Paul Flucke was named to succeed him. In September 1992, Rev. Flucke resigned due to an ethical conduct violation. Shortly thereafter, our associate pastor, Dave Jones, also resigned for another position. This upheaval in leadership left UCUC with one full-time pastor, Gail Crouch. Even then, Gail was forward-thinking in her approach to ministry and in considering the needs of the congregation.

"From the beginning of my ministry, I have been clear I prefer doing ministry in a collegial setting because I think what comes out of that setting is more faithful, diverse, and joyful," Gail says.

A search committee was formed. The search for a new senior pastor and an associated pastor, presented UCUC with an opportunity to question and explore various types of leadership that might be beneficial to the congregation.

The Church Council formed a Models of Ministry Committee, which studied different models and came up with several options. Of these options, the collegial team, and senior pastor models were the favorites. There was a major effort to involve the congregation in dialogue and decision-making and in July 1993, the process culminated in a congregational meeting in which more than 40 people shared their opinions. After two hours of discussion, the congregation voted by secret ballot. To all our surprise the vote was a tie, 119 to 119. Bob Fitzgerald, the church moderator, declared UCUC would maintain the Senior Pastor model but recommended to the Search Committee that they look for ministers with collegial, rather than autocratic, leanings.

A year later, in June 1994, Peter Ilgenfritz and Dave Shull were called to share the associate pastor position. By December 1994, Don Mackenzie was called to fill the senior pastor position. The Search Committee had done its job.

As the new ministers and Gail settled into life at UCUC, it soon became clear that they wanted to work less hierarchically and more as a team.

"In 1995, it was my privilege to drop the title Senior. Minister and suggest that I be the Minister and Head of Staff and that my colleagues be ministers instead of associate ministers," Don recalls. *"This was a very dramatic move then... We did this on the principle that hierarchy is not in keeping with the substance of Jesus' message. In addition, today's problems are so complex that it takes more than one person working cooperatively, rather than one 'boss,' to meet the challenges in ministry both in leadership and management."*

Peter relates that team ministry *"calls us to put our own ego needs and agendas aside again and again as we discern what is best for the whole. At its best, it calls us forth to use our particular gifts fully."*

Although their leadership model was unprecedented at the time, Dave says UCUC demonstrated its openness to being led by the Holy Spirit.

"The willingness of the members of UCUC to move to a ministry team model proved to me something I'd felt and heard during the search process: This is a community that stays open to the movement of Christ's Holy Spirit. The church was still feeling deeply proud of Dale Turner's ministry. The other large UCC church in town, Plymouth UCC, also had a very strong, recognized senior pastor. Large churches were known by who the senior pastor was. For UCUC to step out so far ahead of large churches of any denomination to try this wild experiment testified to the congregation's trust that Spirit was leading us all. I was honored by your trust."

Today, our leadership team functions as was envisioned back in the mid-1990s. As pastors have retired, or left UCUC, they have been replaced by pastors who bring strength to the team and a desire to work in a collegial manner.

UCUC's current leadership team includes Catherine Foote, Peter Ilgenfritz, Amy Roon and David Anderson.

-Nancy Hannah,
Chair of Models of Ministry Committee, 1993

Fellowship Breakfasts Every Sunday

Join us for Sunday fellowship breakfasts in the church lounge from 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. every Sunday through May 15. Drop in for nourishing food, creative activities, supervision for children, and the opportunity to connect with your church family.

Along the Way—Walking in the Way of Jesus

-David Anderson

Spring is a busy time of the year at UCUC. The church season includes Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil Saturday and Easter. Fifty days later is Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church. And for us at UCUC, this season also contains Superfluity, the Moving Mountains youth mission trip fundraiser, our annual meeting and celebration of our 125th anniversary, hosting Tent City 3 in Lot C, the housing Association fundraiser, and other fundraisers and events. Those are in addition to our regular Sunday programming of worship and music, Christian education, and our ongoing parish life events and care, and outreach programs that keep the building active all week and others that happen beyond our walls. We are a busy place, and a busy people! And that's a good thing... a quiet building and schedule might be a sign of a squandered legacy.

And yet... I am appreciating the reminders that "busy" is not the end or only goal of our work and ministry. I'm intrigued with the ways we've heard this recently. Alastair McIntosh, Kathleen Hosfeld, John Dorhauer, Bruce Epperly, and Mary Luti have all spoken of this reality:

- ⇒ Alastair McIntosh: *"From the depth of sharing, talking about uncomfortable issues, I can see there is a lot of love in this community. Don't wear yourselves out by busyness. Let there be space for your inner life to emerge. Watch our children, learn from their presence. Pray, "God come to my heart." (1)*
- ⇒ Kathleen Hosfeld: *"Experiences on Council, Boards, Ministries and action groups become sources of spiritual nurture when they emphasize connection, mutual care and relationship. "Fellowship" should not be a separate siloed activity – rather it should be "baked in" to every gathering— social, ministry, administry – in the form of emphasis on relationship and mutual care. Likewise should opportunities for spiritual reflection be "baked in" in order to foster the understanding that all "work" is sacred work/ ministry." (2)*
- ⇒ John Dorhauer: *"Find a mission that drives your collective passions, and that every member is fully vested in." "Let the subtle, the ineffable, and the mysterious remind us again of all that awe and wonder we are able to do." (3)*
- ⇒ Bruce Epperly: *"attend to the dynamic balance of ministry, study, family, and spirituality. A healthy life involves taking time to be present in all the important areas of life." (4)*
- ⇒ Mary Luti: *"It's not about the soul's silence versus the noise of the street, the sanctuary versus the subcommittee. It's not even about finding a balance or making equal time. It's about yielding our whole selves—every gift and skill, picketing or praying—to the Living One, in the sure and certain hope that, with us and without us, the kingdom comes, pure gift beyond our dreams." (5)*

As we seek to walk the Way of Jesus, his modeling has much to teach. I can easily become a "structural agnostic," thinking that I myself need to be the one to save the day, undergird the church, solve the problems and make everything work well and efficiently. An impossible charge, though I do take my work seriously. But as these voices remind me, we all are called to be more than worker bees or doers. We are called, and renewed, in our grounding and grace. The tasks can give a sense of progress and action, but the meaning behind them and the sustainable way of being and living take something other. Soul time is not extraneous to our work but central to it. Resting into God's love and listening for comfort is also a part of being fully human, as Jesus modeled. I'll keep at the tasks and to-do lists, and I also am intrigued and reminded that the well of renewal includes care of body and soul: that's also being faithful to a God who calls our whole beings into life. For these reminders and God's infinite grace, thanks be to God!

(1)From Peter Ilgenfritz's reflections of a gathering with Alastair McIntosh, UCUC Lecture Series speaker and Scottish writer, broadcaster and activist on social, environmental and spiritual issues.

(2)Kathleen Hosfeld, Hosfeld & Associates, UCUC Consultant on Communications and Restructure: "UCUC Boards and Ministries Toolkit and Scenarios"

(3)John Dorhauer, UCUC General Minister & President: "Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World"

(4)Bruce Epperly: theologian, minister, and author and consultant with Alban: "Taking Time for Ministry"

(5)Mary Luti, long time seminary educator and pastor: UCUC Daily Devotional, March 22,2016: "And"

UCUCC Celebrates Earth Day 2016! Our Tenth Anniversary of Becoming a “Greening Congregation,”

In April of 2006, University Congregational UCC was recognized by Earth Ministry for its efforts to “foster an awareness of caring for creation.”

For many years, the Sacred Earth Matters group at UCUC has actively worked in the congregation to raise consciousness of our interconnectedness with the earth, to see creation as “God’s word writ large”. Ten years ago, this work was celebrated by Earth Ministry with the designation of “Greening Congregation” and with a banner to be displayed in our church.

Since its founding in 1992, Earth Ministry has supported a growing network of congregations locally and nationally in caring for the environment from a faith perspective. Through education, outreach, organizing and training, Earth Ministry has built a “powerful moral constituency of people of faith taking action for the health of our communities and the environment.”

The Greening Congregation program of Earth Ministry helps churches “articulate their greening mission and implement sustainable practices” with the help of adult education and consultation by Earth Ministry staff as well as through gatherings for networking with other faith communities.

At UCUC, the Sacred Earth Matters group has committed to yearly goals and plans for care of creation activities that relate to many different dimensions of congregational life such as worship, outreach, education, restoration activities, and political activism on behalf of the earth.

Members of Sacred Earth Matters deeply value our church’s relationship with Earth Ministry and appreciate the support and recognition provided by Earth Ministry’s Greening Congregation program these past ten years. Together we have been able to further our mission to celebrate the sacredness of creation and inspire our community and mobilize our congregation to be leaders in building a just and sustainable world.

Mary’s Place Hosting Ministry

We will soon begin our Spring Mary’s Place hosting, and are deeply grateful to University Christian Church for allowing us to use space in the lower level of their building. Our hosting partnership with University Presbyterian Church continues, and our upcoming hosting will again demonstrate the strength of our ecumenical efforts.

We will set up the hosting area on Monday, May 23rd and our guest families will be with us **May 24–June 7, 2016**. As always, our hosting ministry is dependent on volunteer energy. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals, spend time with the families in evening hours, sleep over and prepare grab-and-go breakfasts—and many other tasks. Sign-ups in our narthex will begin **April 3**, or contact Liz Gilbert at Lisbeth.gilbert@gmail.com or 206-361-7125. We will hold two trainings, and encourage both new and experienced volunteers to attend. Trainings will be on **May 17 and 18, 6-7:30pm** in the lower level of University Christian Church.

UCUCC Pacific NW Conference Annual Meeting 2016 in Wenatchee

Plans are underway for the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Annual Meeting 2016 **April 29 to May 1, at the Wenatchee Convention Center** with the theme, “*Out on a Limb*.” Delegates and visitors will share what they and their churches are doing that is risky and out on a limb. “We covenant to support one another, share with one another the joys and sorrows of ministry, and regularly gather for prayer and celebration together,” said conference moderator, Andy CastroLang, pastor of Westminster Congregational UCC, describing the purpose of annual meetings. The inspiration for the theme is Proverbs 25:11: “The right words at the right time are like golden apples in a silver setting.” “When we gather for Annual Meeting we enjoy meeting new and old companions from around the Conference, we offer clever workshops, smart speakers, wonderful music and art, Saturday night socializing, and worship throughout our time together,” she said.

Rob Leveridge, a UCC pastor and singer/songwriter, will be the guest musician, leading song and story. There will be business to conduct and new congregations to welcome into the Pacific Northwest Conference.

UCUC sends delegates to the meeting. If you would like to be considered by the church council to be appointed to be a delegate, please contact moderator Susan Heck (susan@hecknet.com or 206-706-0974) or UCUC church administrator David Anderson (danderson@universityucc.org or 206-524-2322).

Church Structure Task Force Update

Council identified a need for a governing structure that supports the congregation in living into the church for the next generation and creating an anchoring structure for the passion and energy of its members. The two objectives articulated are to:

- Encourage enthusiastic participation in church ministries by updating the structure to better align with how God is at work in the lives of church members and friends;
- Create a mechanism to assist people in identifying their calling(s) and how they might live out that calling both inside and outside the church.

Some of the concerns this revised structure may fix are: too many bylaw mandated board positions; meetings that seem without real purpose or trivial; concerns about silos of information; lack of connection felt between committee work and the larger vision/mission of the Congregation; people wanting to do hands on work, not attend meetings; lack of recruitment; a rigid structure; too few people doing too much work. The current bylaws call for 13 separate boards, with a minimum of 9 people participating on each board, plus several Committees of the Council. Of the 22 mandated Council positions, 6 are not filled (27%). Few Boards have 9 or more members. Some of the most vibrant programs have formed outside this structure.

Consultant Kathleen Hosfeld interviewed 24 people about their experiences within the structure, their views on what is working well and suggestions they would have for change. Some were conducted with individuals, some with groups. Recommendations were proposed to address the issues identified.

Core components of the changes proposed are: Create a structure that supports joyful service; provide lay leadership tools for running meetings; cultivate the experience of community in engagement and ministry activities as a key source of spiritual nurture; reduce “silos” and increase communication; help people see the connections between their work and the Gospel as well as the priorities of the congregation; an annual assessment of boards and committees by the boards and committee members; a process/system for bringing new members in to the life of the congregation; utilize staff in ways that leverage their expertise and make engagement easier and more sustainable for lay volunteers. Look to Love and Justice Action Teams as a model for Boards.

These proposed changes will be submitted to the Congregation for a vote on May 15, 2016, to take effect September 1, 2016 on a trial basis, for 1–2 years. At the end of that period, there will be another vote to decide whether the changes are permanent or not. The necessary bylaws changes will be outlined (in a broad sense, not word-for-word) at the May 2016 Congregational meeting. If the changes are made permanent, the bylaws will be changed.

These changes will not affect the budgeting process. The budget committee representatives will remain the same.

Boards are grouped together in Ministries to share information, coordinate and collaborate. One representative from each Ministry goes to Council, greatly reducing the number of Council representatives. The Boards are no longer required to meet monthly. Their main focus is on action and they only meet/communicate as needed.

The bylaws currently provide that the role of Council is to make policy between meetings of the Congregation (or stated in a more modern way, perhaps, articulate the mission of the Congregation). The role of Ministries/Boards is to develop that policy/mission. With this structural change, the missional development responsibility would be more in the hands of the Boards than it has been, in practice, in the past. This is a less hierarchical structure. Council continues to be the Voice of the Congregation between Congregational meetings.

Surrounding the structural change are other important supports that will be developed:

- Lay leadership tools for running meetings
- Focus on and tools for cultivating a sense of community and engagement at meetings
- Year-round nominating committee to support the Ministry structure
- Annual assessment of boards and committees by the board and committee members
- Staff support, as needed and available, for the Ministry
- Robust communication through Ministry meetings, updated website and online tools
- Leadership staff attendance at Ministry meetings (but not at Board meetings except as requested)
- A process/system for bringing new members into the life of the congregation

(Continued, page 13)

Church Council News

Council Meeting – February 15, 2016

Reflection on the conversation with Alastair McIntosh

Peter Ilgenfritz noted that there are connections between what Alastair McIntosh talked about while he was here and what John Doerhauer covers in his book, “Beyond Resistance”. It also echoes some of what consultant Kathleen Hosfeld has discussed around how we engage in action and how the church structure can help or hinder action. The congregation will be invited to read and discuss, “Beyond Resistance” as part of the 125th anniversary celebration.

Financial Report – Don Guthrie

The financial report is just for one month, January 2016, so there’s not much activity.

Pledges received are ahead of budget, but there were five Sundays in January.

Expenses are favorable to budget.

February 28th Congregational Meeting – Tim Croll

The Council voted by email to hold a special congregational meeting on February 28 so the congregation can vote on the motion, “The congregation invites Tent City 3 to use Lot C for an encampment from March 4-June 18 2016.”

Tim Croll presented information about the plans that are being put in place to host Tent City 3, if the

motion passes. Tim noted that the main issues are around parking and money.

A reminder was provided that as a community of faith we need to be especially careful, when talking about difficult, contentious issues, to honor those who disagree and always be clear that the other is not less of Christian for their views. Naming those realities and being open to views that are not our own is important. The Council will not make a recommendation either way to the congregation.

Tim was asked to prepare a FAQ sheet for the Congregational meeting.

Structure Task Force – Roberta Hollowell:

Roberta reported that the Task Force has been presenting the proposed structure to Boards during the month of February and gathering questions, concerns and comments. Forums will be held after church on March 6 and 13.

125th Anniversary Celebration

Celebration activities continue along. There will be a group congregation photo after church on Palm Sunday.

All will be invited to read the same book, “Beyond Resistance” by John Doerhauer, UCC General Minister and President.

An all church potluck will be held May 14!

Special Congregational Meeting – February 28, 2016

A special meeting was held on February 28, 2016 to discuss and vote on the proposal to invite Tent City 3 to use Lot C as an encampment from March 4, 2016 through June 18, 2016.

Tim Croll made a presentation in favor of the motion. He noted that the motion is not about whether we support homelessness, it’s about if this is the right time, with the work of other ministries of the church, to host Tent City 3. He noted that the major issue is parking. Superfluity will be held during the proposed hosting time. Tim discussed the various plans that are being worked on to replace the 33 spots that will be lost if Tent City encamps in Lot C (there are 44 spots in Lot C and 11 will remain open). Tim concluded, “I think we can make this work”.

Mary Ellen Smith made presentation against the motion. She said that her opposition has to do with the timing of the proposed encampment; it’s not easy to present a statement against a homeless encampment. The first 5–6 weeks of the encampment come at the busiest time for the Congregation: busy Sunday mornings, Holy Week, Easter, Moving Mountains dinner, Mwanzo fund-raiser, 125th Anniversary all-church potluck, UCHA dinner and Superfluity. Parking is needed for all these activities. If we are serious about using our facility well, we need to be proactive, not reactive. We need to decide on the dates that work for us not the dates that work for others.

There were many questions and statements made in favor and against the motion. An amendment to change the motion to invite Tent City 3 to use Lot C for an encampment from April 10, 2016 (the day after Superfluity) through June 18, 2016 was voted down.

A ballot vote was taken and the final tally was 78 in favor; 58 against; 4 abstained. The motion passed.

Superfluity 2016

Collectibles, books, antiques, plants



April 7, 7-9 pm Grand Opening
\$5 donation, first night only

April 8, 9:30 am - 6 pm
Baked goods, lunch served

April 9, 9:30 am - 1 pm

University Congregational UCC
4515 16th Ave. NE, Seattle
Parking available in church lots

Plants ■ Books ■ CDs, DVDs, records
Jewelry ■ Games ■ Food ■ Linens
Kitchen items, glassware & cookware
Antiques ■ Art ■ Children's clothing
Sports items ■ Toys ■ Tools ■ Home
decor ■ Electronics ■ Small appliances

Proceeds benefit local nonprofits

Huge Rummage Sale

superfluityseattle.com



Parking Alert

The church continues to host Tent City 3 in Lot C (our parking lot at 15th Ave NE and NE 45th St). The camp is taking up almost all of that parking lot, giving us a real parking challenge for Sunday worship. This is how, together, we can all make our parking work so that visitors will have a welcome reception and everyone can get to worship:

- First, plan to arrive maybe 15 minutes earlier than you usually do to make it easier to park somewhat further from the church.
- We want to continue to make Sunday mornings accessible for all. Those of us that have a little more trouble in walking a distance, including families with small children, are welcome to park in:
 - Lot A (the one right across 16th Ave NE from the church),
 - the underground parking garage of the Sortun Court apartments, across and up 16th from the church, or
 - the few remaining slots in Lot C across the alley from the church
- If your physical limitations require that you park immediately adjacent to the church you can, as always, phone into the church office before noon Friday to get a spot reserved for you on a space-available basis.
- **The rest of us are strongly encouraged to park at the UW**—either at the entrance off NE 45th at 17th NE, or in the parking garage under Red Square (entrance off 15th Ave NE at NE 41st St,) down 15th Ave NE from the church. If you are arriving after 9:40 am, it will probably be better to park under Red Square.
- **The church will also provide a shuttle from the Red Square garage, right at the entrance hut, starting at 8:45 am.** The shuttle will also run from the church back to the Red Square garage after worship service until noon.

Thank you for your flexibility and cooperation. Together we can help the homeless and also enjoy our worship time together!

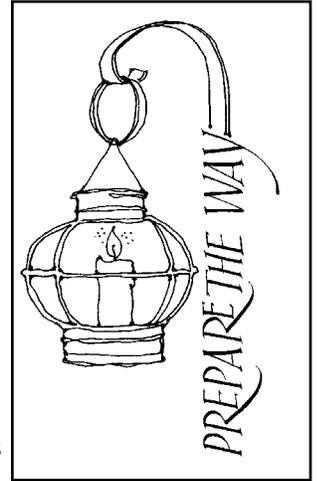
For questions or to help, contact Tim Croll at timcroll@hotmail.com.

Imagine Implementation Update

Wayfinding Project Starts Monday, April 25

Part of the *Imagine* Wayfinding project is to reconstruct the 16th St entry (north end) with new sliding doors and portico to create a covered, level and more accessible entry to the building for all. Work is scheduled to begin on **Monday, April 25** and continue for six weeks. As part of this project, the cedar tree growing north of the childcare playground (and the “hill” it stands on) will be removed, the staff parking area partially regraded and will be reconfigured to create new accessible parking spaces with a safer path to the doors. Plans are being made for alternate entry to the building during this time. We know this will be a disruption for everyone and greatly appreciate your patience.

In order to move this project forward, the Council approved the use of funds from the *Imagine* contingency fund. Look for more information on this work in upcoming bulletins and on the display wall in the narthex.



(Church Structure, continued from Page 10)

- Clear articulation from Council and leadership on the goals and direction of the congregation.
- Short term engagement opportunities

A new Ministry Team will be developed, “Calling & Engagement.” Its purpose will be to help people identify their calling. In this Ministry:

- The New Member Board
- Nominating Committee
- Vocational and Discernment programs (new)

This is a work in process and will continue to change. We are working on what to name the groups—we’ll keep you posted. Some pieces won’t be ready by this September, such as vocational and discernment programs, website & online tools, perhaps other areas).

Mwanzo Proud Farmers' Inspiring Story

April Special Offering



Members of the University Congregational United Church of Christ have taken a deep interest in and provided support for Mwanzo Proud Farmers (MPF) since its creation in January 2011.

MPF operates in Nyanza Province in rural western Kenya led by Executive Director Loyce Ong'udi who, along with her daughter Audrey, has long been a member of UCUC.

Mwanzo Proud Farmers was established with the goal of providing training and support to the local population of Rabuor and surrounding communities in their

effort to launch farming enterprises. Loyce has worked in cooperation with the Kenyan Department of Agriculture to provide seeds, teach farming methods and help market resulting crops.

However, communities also need other means of earning income and education to become self-sustaining and through MPF, with our financial support, Loyce has worked hard to develop these things, too.

Our giving also goes to support childcare and education. The Mwanzo Educational Center has served as day care and a place for learning, providing two warm meals a day to over 130 children between 2 and 6 years of age. Many of these children, now and since the inception of Mwanzo are AIDS orphans. It is currently being expanded to include classrooms and support for grades one and two.

Through a micro-lending program, last year a part of our special offering helped to provide three chicken coops (each shared by two families,) to safely raise 300 hens through a micro-lending operation. The 2016 plan envisions building 3 more coops plus a starter kit at the cost of \$750 each. The eggs resulting from these projects can be sold for local needs as well as in villages beyond Rabuor. Everything we are able to give will help little children in Rabuor to have a much healthier, more promising future. It will help their parents to have a more stable and hopeful present.

If you would like to know more about this project, Loyce will bring the latest news at a presentation after church on April 10, 2016 in Ostrander Hall 1 from 11:45 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. A light lunch will be provided. You are very welcome to join us!

Please use special offering envelopes in the back of the pews, on Sundays, to make a contribution to the month's recipient. Make checks out to UCUC and mention "special offering" on the memo line. Thank you, as always, for your support.



Amy Roon—Sabbatical Coverage

Amy will be on sabbatical from March 28–June 30. Most of her responsibilities will be allocated to the other members of the leadership team: David Anderson, Catherine Foote and Peter Ilgenfritz. Some responsibilities will be allocated to others. In turn, some of David's, Catherine's and Peter's work will be shifted to a lower priority or helped with some additional administrative or program support.

Christian Education

- Catherine: Leadership Time for Children's and Youth Boards (first Mondays 7pm); Supervision and support for Rebecca and Child Care Workers (Theresa and Holly); Supervision and support for Margaret and Youth Leaders
- Peter: Youth Worship; Guidance and Supervision of Funds and Resources for Adult Ed; Anti-Racism Work—developing Leadership Group with Catherine; Sunday morning security questions/safer church policy

Fellowship/Parish Life

- Judy Strausz-Clement: Pastoral care calling support
- Catherine: Superfluity; support Pentecost Breakfasts
- David: Homecoming Calling Strategy Review and Plan for Fall

Pledge Campaign/Stewardship

- David/ Catherine: Stewardship conference learnings, planning and implementing fall campaign, other long-term stewardship planning

Worship

- Peter/ Catherine / Guests: Preaching
- Peter: Supporting music programming
- Peter/ Margaret Stine: Supporting multimedia use

Task Force Work

- David: Boards and Ministries Task Force; Personnel Staffing Task Force

Other

- Catherine: 125th Anniversary
- David: Planned Giving Follow-up; Leadership Staff Meeting Agendas; Improving Communication and Accountability for Leadership Meetings; Annual Congregational Meeting; Swanson Endowment Committee Liaison
- Margaret Swanson/Catherine: Facebook Parish Care
- Peter: Nominating
- Rebecca Schmidt: Administering Background Checks

Eastertide Worship Where God is Found: Fire

“God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:29)

“I raise my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.”

(Malala Yousafzai)

Fire is both a destructive and a creative force. Fire rages and swells, destroys and overcomes. Fire clears space, prepares the ground, for a new forest to be born.

Fiery energy and power reside in those we call, “prophets”, those who have “witnessed the misery of God’s people” and given life and voice to God’s hope and way. During this Eastertide series we will consider prophets in scripture—the disciples, Moses, Daniel, Malachi, Ezekiel, Jesus—and see how their witness echoes in the lives of present day prophets. Each week we will hear testimonies—Resurrection Stories—from those who have created life out of ashes and found a resurrection from oppression in their own lives and those with whom they serve. Who knows? They might just inspire you to do your own rising up!

Please see the back cover for more information.

-Peter Ilgenfritz

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Seattle, WA 98105-4201



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Worship and Preaching Calendar—Sunday worship service—10 am

Eastertide Worship Where God is Found: Fire

April 3—The Fire Within

Luke 24:13-35

"Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened the scriptures to us?"

Prophetic Voices - Introduction to the Series

Communion Sunday

April 10—The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-12

"I have observed the misery of my people."

Where have we witnessed the misery of God's people today? How has God called us to respond?

April 17—The Refiners Fire

Malachi 3:1-5

"God is like a refiners fire...I will be a swift witness against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner."

April 24—The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30

"I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire..."

Who has God delivered from the fire?

May 1—The Fire of Anger

Ezekiel 22:18-22

"I will gather you and blow on you the fire of my wrath, and you shall be melted within it."

May 8—The Fire of Love

Matthew 3:10-11

"(Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire."

May 15—Pentecost The Fire of Passion

Acts 2:1-21

"Divided tongues as of fire, appeared among them."

(Continued, page 13)

Remember that parking is tight this spring—see page 13 for more information.