



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
IN CHERRY HILL**

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MISSION AND VISION

Mission:

Learning and teaching, to know others and ourselves;

Valuing and embracing the richness of all our diversities;

Serving Others and confronting injustice, achieving more together than each can do alone.

Vision Statement:

We will become a beacon of liberal-religion in Southern New Jersey.

We welcome questioning minds and growing spirits. We nurture civic, social, and environmental justice.





REPORTS FROM THE STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
IN CHERRY HILL**

Report from the Minister

Rev. Eric Posa, reveric@uucch.org

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

This year certainly began with a bang - or rather, the (VERY LOUD) Fire Alarm on the early evening of June 29, 2025, alerting us that a sprinkler head in the sanctuary was discharging. In other words, the sanctuary was flooding, as was the Fellowship Hall below it. This damage forced us out of our sanctuary for months, and out of the entire wing of the building (including Commons, classrooms, and Fellowship Hall) for weeks. In late August we were able to re-enter our Fellowship Hall, and other parts of the building besides the sanctuary. Still, this was a disheartening time in the life of the church, as attendance lagged, giving decreased, and rentals slowed dramatically. And our return to the sanctuary was further delayed by the need to upgrade our sprinkler system to ensure it doesn't happen again - which, unlike the repairs, was not covered by insurance.

Still, there were bright spots in this time. The first was the *mitzvah* (good deed) of Rabbi Jen Frenkel and Congregation Kol Ami in east Cherry Hill, opening their sanctuary to us for 6 Sundays in July and August at no rental costs, giving us time to repair the Fellowship Hall and return there as our temporary worship space. Another for me was seeing the resiliency of so many of our lay leaders - this is familiar to long-term UUCCH members, but a new experience for me, as I watched people pivot quickly and adapt to changing circumstances.

As most of you know, it took over 8 months to return to use of our sanctuary, which we re-entered on March 15, 2026. Since then, the vitality has visibly returned to the congregation. Our increased attendance, numerous additional programs, and notably heightened pledging levels for next year all give evidence to this renewal of congregational spirit and energy.

Like they did last year, the board in August 2025 developed a set of goals for the ministry of UUCCH over the following 12 months. These goals serve as what for me, and for the entire ministry side of the church (that is to say, everything the church does other than governance), functions as our "marching orders" for the year. They are known as the Annual Vision of Ministry (AVOM). Here are this year's AVOM goals, with a brief assessment of the outcomes related to each:

- *Get name known in the community by hosting/attending at least 5-6 community events* - We exceeded this numerical threshold of events significantly. Highlights include: the Ukrainian-American Bandura concert (May 17); an Immigration panel on Mixed Status Families, co-sponsored by the UUCCH Immigration Task Force, the Multifaith Immigration Reform Committee (co-founded by UUCCH members and others), and the Office of Life and Justice for the Camden Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church (really) (Feb. 15); multiple sign-making and puppet-making events to prepare for protests, co-sponsored by our Social Justice Steering Team & the Creative team of Cooper River Indivisible (first was Feb. 27); the Depolarizing from Within Workshop co-sponsored by Caring Team and Braver Angels (April 12); Table at South New Jersey Gay Pride (Sept. 7); UUkulele Band at Collingswood Porchfest (Sept. 27); Gender Affirming Clothing Swap (Sept. 27) NJ Immigrants: Blessings and Benefits rally (Sept. 28); Fall Open Mic Night (Nov. 14th); and the Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony (Nov. 20). A big one was our first ever Annual Pluralism Lecture, on May 14, featuring Dr. Monica Coleman, made possible by a generous anonymous donation to the Innovation Fund of our church to support new programmatic initiatives. While it needs better publicity in the community, there is hope for continuing this annual lecture for many years to come.
- *Increase Adult Lifespan Faith Engagement offerings that nurture spiritual growth and transformation* - While the sanctuary flooding delayed the full implementation of this goal, we did have an Intro to Yoga class offered in October. Late winter and spring saw more activity,

including Melanie's reprise of the Owning Your Religious Past course in February, the Intro to Religion course in March, and an Astrology workshop in April.

- *Expanding and deepening our congregation's social justice outreach* - This AVOM goal was a struggle to evaluate. That's not because I can't point to any UUCCH social justice activities; a short list follows. Rather, the trouble was that determining any expansion or deepening of these activities from previous years became elusive and difficult. Is what we did this year more than last year? Is it deeper? Based on what criteria? Answers to these questions just weren't clear. Nonetheless, much activity did occur. In addition to the community events listed at the first bullet point above, we had citizen lobbying for the Immigrant Trust Act & other People's Agenda bills in the NJ Assembly; UU the Vote postcard drives; an amplified food drive for the Cherry Hill Food Pantry in the wake of cuts to SNAP benefits; a petition drive supporting federal tribal recognition for the Nanticoke-Lenni Lenape nation; a table at the No Kings Rally in Camden; and more social justice teams lead lay-led worship services in 2026: Immigration Justice Team on Feb. 8, Environmental Justice Team on April 26, and Pride Support Alliance on June 28.

In last year's report, I noted: "One other positive this year has been integrating the new UU Shared Values into congregational life...". This continued in 2026 with the addition of banners to the sanctuary, designed by church member Kaz Dietz (at my request), featuring and symbolizing these values in colorful and visually striking ways. Of course, no such visual element will be universally liked, but I have been heartened by the significant majority of people who've voiced opinions to me that have praised them.

I do want to acknowledge that some have expressed disappointment with the process around the decision to install these banners, including differences of opinion around which groups in the congregation should or should not have been consulted in advance. I've been in communication with several people around this, since the banners were installed. I look forward to finding new ways for us to continue working together constructively in the context of our new governance system that the church established a few years ago, while I continue to stand by the decision to have them made and installed.

Plans for Next Year. *Describe what significant things your group hopes to work on or accomplish for the next church year.*

A significant Focus this coming year, will be the process of discernment around whether the church extends a call to Ministry. As many of you know, I currently serve this church under a 3-year contract, under which I was hired by the board. We are currently finishing the second year of that contract. In the final year of it, we will be deciding whether or not to extend an ongoing offer for me to serve as your minister, which in our tradition is known as a call, rather than a time-limited contract. Let me say clearly that I hope to continue serving here for many years to come. and, I want the congregation to be as clear as it can be about whether or not extending that offer to me is the right decision for you. So I'm glad that our board is asking the congregation to vote in an "Inside Candidate Search Team" that will guide a formal process over the next several months through the congregation. Should they recommend to the board that such an offer should be extended, that will have to be decided finally by the congregation as a whole, at a special congregational meeting. While the timeline is not fully established yet, then such a congregational meeting is likely to happen in later November or earlier December. more details to come as the process unfolds. But I do look forward to us being in discernment together about the ministry needs of UUCCH, and whether and how I might be the person to help the congregation meet those needs in years to come.

Report from the Director of Lifespan Faith Engagement

Melanie Jones, dlfe@uucch.org

Another program year is in the books, and what a great year it was! Lifespan Faith Engagement continues to grow in number of participants, as well as a variety of offerings. There were numerous classes and

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workshop offerings for adults and new opportunities for the children and youth to experience the ministries of our church and serve our greater community.

Children & Youth Faith Engagement

- In Spirit Play, The children heard stories on a variety of topics, from UU theology to celebrations and traditions from other faith traditions (Islam, Native American lore, Hinduism)
- Our Spirit Play class had some new experiences throughout the year including a music day with Natasha, a visit from the Labyrinth team, and teamed up with COW to make empowerment bags.
- Our youth class, Coming of Age, saw growth in numbers as well as new opportunities to serve in the community by volunteering at Book Smiles.
- With the direction of our youth leaders, the youth class created an art exhibit featuring Yokai, which is part of Japanese culture.
- The Youth D&D group (Tables, Ladders, & Chimeras) has established a consistent meeting time once a month. The students have really enjoyed playing together and it has bonded the group together.
- This year we bridged our graduating senior, Julian Druckenbrod Asman, in our LFE Sunday service.
- Regular attendance was consistent throughout the program year in both Spirit Play and Coming of Age, with the inclusion of five new children.

Several multigenerational events were held for all ages throughout the year, including the annual holiday party, game night (February), craft night (March), Passover Movie Night, and Easter Egg Hunt.

Adult Faith Engagement

This past year has seen growth in adult faith formation. The LFE team had a goal of providing a variety of faith engagement offerings for adults and

- July: The first Adult FE Summer Book Study had a tremendous response, and the group had a great experience discussing Thich Nhat Hanh's *No Mud, No Lotus*.
- October: A four week Yoga workshop provided space to practice different styles of yoga.
- February: Owning Your Religious Past included some new church members/friends of the congregation.
- March: New member Allec McGuire taught Understanding Religion, a class that explored the tenants of religion and theology.
- April: Depolarizing from Within, led by Braver Angels, provided tools and support for engaging with people of different beliefs and political views. Bob Hartman led a workshop Basics of Astrology, which will have a three part follow up in the fall.

Goals For the Coming Year

- Expand our Spirit Play classroom into two age groups: K-3 and 4-6
- Continue to expand the youth program to include more activities and service opportunities within and outside the church.
- Continue to hold multigenerational gatherings monthly/bimonthly.
- Continue to offer new classes and programming for adult faith engagement.

- Focused training for program volunteers (nursery, children, and youth).
- Participate in UU & LREDA training and events.

LFE has had a wonderful year thanks to the creativity and dedication of the LFE team and volunteers. LFE has had a year of growth and new experiences that will be built upon over the next year.

Report from the Director of Music Ministry

Natasha Steinmacher, music@uucch.org

The Music Ministry program is an integral part of the Ministry of the Arts at UUCCH. Our vibrant Music Ministry continues to inspire enthusiasm and commitment from participants, and deep appreciation from the congregation.

Throughout this year, I have continued to nurture the music program to serve both the congregation and its individual members by:

- Inviting musicians from the wider UU world and build connections with the broader community through music, offering enrichment opportunities for the congregation, like our concert with the North American Bandura Ensemble
- Facilitating and programming music for weekly worship services
- Directing weekly rehearsals for the Choir
- Upholding our choir covenant, honoring shared commitments recognizing the community for change we create together
- Supporting Bill Charlier in his leadership of the UUkulele Band, collaborating to produce successful programming. Outside of playing in worship once a month, the UUkulele Band participated in the Collingswood Porchfest, UUCCH Holiday Party, Love Song Sing-Along and is preparing for our Annual UUkulele Concert on June 13, 2026
- Collaborating with lay leader and Music Director Emeritus Ken Ewan to sustain another successful year for the Handbell Choir. This year we did a major refurbishment for the Hand Bells.
- Continued supervision and collaboration with Collaborative Pianist, Mark Yurkanin.
- Encouraging members to share their musical gifts in ways that nurture their spiritual growth and contribute meaningfully to worship
- Incorporating soloists and instrumentalists from the congregation into our Sunday services
- Continued collaboration with our Tech Cruu to support the program's technical requirements
- Creating and leading two All Music Sundays: One, a hymn-sing highlighting the new hymns from our new UU hymnal with some old favorites. And an AMS on the healing power of Music.
- Planning and providing music for congregational fellowship -Holiday Party, Love Song Sing-Along, Broadway Cabaret.
- Hosting an Open Mic Night for congregants and the wider community
- Introducing new music from the wider UU community and global choral repertoire through ongoing research and connection
- Continuing our partnership with Beyond the Bars for the "Spirituals Program," building bridges between historical spiritual music and organizations shaping our shared future

- Helping ensure that our music library remains legal, current, and expansive enough to support choir growth
- Continuing work with the team leadership model for the Music Ministry Team
- Participation in professional development opportunities through the UUA and the Association for UU Music Ministries (AUUMM),
- Serving the wider UUA through the Association for UU Music Ministries as the Worship Coordinator for the Conference Planning Committee, and as newly elected member of the AUUMM Board of Directors

The UUCCH Music Ministry is dedicated to supporting connection within our congregation and transformation through music. Music serves as a vessel for our spiritual expression and communal growth.

Looking ahead, I hope to deepen and broaden this ministry through the following goals:

- Invite musicians from the wider UU world and build connections with the broader community through music, offering enrichment opportunities for the congregation. A multi-faith peace concert is scheduled for the fall.
- Maintain active engagement with the UUA and AUUMM, as well as other relevant professional development gatherings, bringing what is learned to our congregation.
- Pursue additional professional development, particularly in conducting and choir leadership, to further support the growth and excellence of our choir.

I am tasked with providing a professional-quality, inspiring, imaginative, and enthusiastic year-round music program that nourishes hearts, expands minds, and enriches the spiritual lives of our congregation. I am deeply grateful for the support of my UUCCH colleagues and staff, as well as for the dedication of our musicians—many of whom go above and beyond in service to this ministry.

Thank you for the continued honor and privilege of serving the Music Ministry at UUCCH.

Report from the Church Administrator

Julie Rigano, info@uucch.org

I've had a successful year here at UUCCH. It's hard to believe I've been here for four years this coming October and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve such a vivacious congregation.

Some specific accomplishments include

- Working with member Kaz Dietz, we created and ordered the new banners for the Sanctuary representing our Unitarian Universalist values
- With the new attachment for the printer, I switched over our Order of Service format to a booklet with the inclusion of our congregation's covenant
- Curated regular content for our social media pages
- Supported congregational leadership with clear communication and assistance for mass communication projects such as Stewardship and Split Plate applications
- Edited multiple videos from Rev. Eric Posa for the Newsgram and our YouTube channel

My main goal for continuing to serve this community is to increase our web presence, as always. A church's web presence is like a virtual front porch for new visitors. Many people check out our website

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and social media before ever stepping foot into our building. I'd like to create more dynamic pages on our website with images and videos while also creating more content for our social media.

My administrative and communication work support the mission, whether it is something external like creating registration forms for opportunities to gather with the greater Cherry Hill community, or internal like organizing the email lists to create efficient communication for the teams.

My work's biggest connection to the vision is updating the website and utilizing our social media pages. Our internet presence is our beacon to southern New Jersey and the world. This work supports our vision as we strive to be the beacon of liberal faith in New Jersey.

Report from the Board of Trustees

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Karen Nowicki

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: president@uucch.org

Other Committee Participants: Wendy Lucas, Jimmy Franklin, Kate Sloan, Stacy Love, Kourtney LaGessee

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

This year, the Board of Trustees made significant progress in strengthening its relationships with the advisory committees, staff, and governance structures as part of our ongoing transition into a policy-based governance model. The Board worked collaboratively with the Human Resources, Infrastructure, Finance, and Governance Advisory Committees by improving communication, clarifying responsibilities, expressing appreciation for their expertise, and assigning strategic tasks aligned with each committee's role. This strengthened partnership has helped create more impactful and sustainable solutions to congregational challenges.

The Board also prioritized improving relationships with staff through intentional appreciation, communication, and advocacy for fair compensation. Efforts included direct expressions of gratitude, public recognition, holiday gifts, birthday acknowledgements, and ongoing work toward UUA fair compensation guidelines. The Board worked closely with the HR Advisory Committee and staff leadership to better understand staff needs and strengthen the partnership between governance and ministry.

Additionally, the Board supported the Governance Advisory Committee in continuing the development of procedural manuals and institutional documentation. While this work is ongoing and still incomplete, important conversations and initial structures have been established to preserve institutional knowledge and improve continuity during leadership transitions.

The Board also continued developing its understanding of the Hotchkiss governance and ministry framework, helping to clarify the distinction between governance responsibilities ("what" and "why") and ministry responsibilities ("how"). This work included policy forums, strategic discussions, and efforts to strengthen relationships between governance, advisory committees, staff, and ministry teams.

Plans for Next Year.

In the coming church year, the Board hopes to continue deepening its work as a strategic, policy-focused governing body while supporting a healthy and vibrant ministry. Key priorities include:

- Continuing efforts to improve staff compensation and support in alignment with UUA fair compensation guidelines.
- Supporting the congregation through the process of discerning and preparing for the next settled minister.
- Continuing development of Board procedural manuals and encouraging other teams and groups to create their own procedural manuals to preserve institutional knowledge and strengthen sustainability.
- Expanding collaboration with advisory committees to support long-term financial planning, infrastructure sustainability, and strategic growth.
- Working with Finance and Infrastructure leadership on long-term capital improvement planning.
- Exploring future-oriented strategic planning, including potential review and refinement of the congregation's Mission and Vision statements.
- Supporting continued community visibility, congregational growth, and outreach efforts in alignment with the Annual Vision of Ministry goals.

Committee Strengths.

The Board identified several key strengths within its work this year. Members consistently highlighted the group's collaborative spirit, respect for one another, and dedication to the congregation's wellbeing and future. Board members value the wide variety of perspectives brought into discussions and noted the Board's willingness to pause, listen carefully, and thoughtfully consider multiple viewpoints before making decisions.

Another significant strength has been the Board's commitment to covenantal relationships and shared values. Members noted respectful communication, minimal interruption during discussions, and an emphasis on consensus-building and careful discernment. The Board also demonstrated increasing awareness of congregational needs, financial realities, and long-term sustainability concerns.

The Board recognizes opportunities for continued growth in leadership development, succession planning, and broader congregational participation. Future efforts will include encouraging more volunteers to participate in governance, committee work, and institutional knowledge-sharing processes to help strengthen continuity and resilience across the congregation.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission.

The Board's work this year remained deeply connected to UUCCH's Mission and Vision. Through strategic planning, staff support, financial stewardship, and collaboration with ministry teams and advisory committees, the Board sought to strengthen the congregation's ability to live out its values in sustainable and meaningful ways.

The Board's efforts to improve relationships, preserve institutional knowledge, and support fair compensation reflect our mission of "achieving more together than each can do alone." Work toward policy-based governance and stronger communication structures supports a healthier congregation where learning, collaboration, and shared ministry can flourish.

Our outreach efforts, partnership with Kol Ami during the sanctuary closure, and continued emphasis on visibility and justice work demonstrate our vision of becoming "a beacon of liberal religion in Southern New Jersey." The congregation's commitment to welcoming questioning minds, supporting growing spirits, and nurturing civic and social engagement continues to guide both governance and ministry.

The Board also recognizes that much of the congregation's direct social justice work happens through ministry teams and congregational volunteers. In many ways, the role of governance is to create the structure, sustainability, and support necessary for those ministries to thrive.



REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, AND TEAMS

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
IN CHERRY HILL**

Report from Arts & Aesthetics

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Nancy Sue Hillman / Donna Mitchelson

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: nancyhillman@yahoo.com / whistlestop302@icloud.com

Other Committee Participants: Linda Williams, Nancy Sue Hillman, Cathy Marsh, Heidi Bernard, Beth Arnold Messick, Barb Flewelling, Alexia Quinn Storm Beebe, Rosemary Dunaif, Sylvia Barclay, Bob Messick, Lynn Richter, Janet Horton, Morgan Hurford, Julia Bernd, Denise Fox, Christine Hillman, Jackson Shellenberger, Pam Anderson, Marissa Salamoni, Mia Forbes, Matthew Sorrento

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

- Craft show was held from November 25, 2025 to January 6, 2026. total sales were \$4,077 resulting in \$1,019.25 for the A&A Team to use to further beautify our church.
- A clock for the window room was installed.
- Chancel chairs were purchased along with additional fabric for matching pillows.
- Met with Reverend Eric Posa to review concerns about the banners placed in the back of the chancel.
- A&A welcomes Donna Mitchelson as the new team leader.
- The following gallery displays were provided:
 - Shinto Believes and Japanese Mythological Creatures curated by the teens and children of UUCCH.
 - Donna Mitchelson provided a display of her art work
 - Wendy Lucas provided a display of her mother-in-law, Narcissa Weatherby, art work.
 - The children's library has been tidied.
- The A&A account has a total of \$3,172 as of March, 2026.

Plans for Next Year.

- Continue to provide gallery displays.
- Meet with Reverend Eric to review space policies/procedures
- Explore welcoming entrance window design
- Explore design for stairwell.

Committee Strengths.

- A&A invites members of the congregation as well as outside community, to develop and participate in gallery installations.
- A&A invites crafters, both members and non-members, to participate in the holiday craft fair.
- A&A strives to uphold the architectural and aesthetic values of the buildings and it's furnishings.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

Mission Statement

To foster creative expression and thoughtful design that deepen spiritual reflection, celebrate diverse identities and traditions, and support inclusive, participatory community life. (Draft)

Vision Statement

To cultivate a vibrant, welcoming environment where art and aesthetics reflect the full diversity of human experience, inspire curiosity and compassion, and invite people into a sense of belonging and shared meaning.

Report From the Caring Committee

Committee Co-Chairs: Lisa Winkler and Paula Horton

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Contact Information for Co-Chairs and Rev Eric: caring@uucch.org

Other Committee Members: Andrea Clarke, Lynda Dillon, Barbara Flewelling, Dawn Gardner, Deb Giffen, Pam Johnstone Pat Naylor, Nancy Newcomer

Team Accomplishments this Year:

We care for our congregation in the following ways:

- **Staying connected** to our congregation is one of the most important roles we perform. We used multiple methods to maintain contact. Caring Team members sent cards, emails, texts, and phone calls to members of the community who reported their Joys & Sorrows and we continued to check in with them. We made in-person visits and calls to residents of Medford Leas and others who are house-bound due to mobility issues etc. Each member of the congregation was contacted by a member of the Caring Team in the fall. Contact was made by phone, if possible, with a follow-up email if the member was not reached by phone.
- We welcomed two new team members, **Marion Bergman** and **Pam Johnstone**.
- Thanks to Deb Giffen and Barb Flewelling, we continued the **Caring Connections** component of our efforts during Social Hour. We switched from having a table to making connections by providing small things to help our members feel connected, such as a pussy willow. This effort continues once a month.
- We provided **transportation** to Sunday Services, other church events, medical appointments, etc. for those who do not drive or whose ability to drive is limited due to illness or surgery.
- We provided **meals** to congregants in need, usually due to illness or surgery.
- We hosted **Holiday Dinners** for Congregants: Thanksgiving Dinner (Hosted by Marla Russell), Christmas Dinner (hosted by Kourtney and Ryan LaGesse).
- We hosted a **Tea & Odyssey** presentation in November, presented by Madhi Ibn-Ziyad.
- We assisted with planning and hosting three **Memorial Service Receptions**.
- During the December holidays we sent gift cards to members of our congregation who were in need. We also made visits and delivered plants to our most senior members.
- We hosted a **Braver Angels program** entitled “Depolarizing Within” in April after the Sunday Service that was so impactful that participants want to continue the conversations started at the workshop.
- We updated and maintained a list of **Resources** that provides names of agencies and services available to congregants within Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties.

1. **Thank you to those who give to our congregation:** We want to give a special thanks to our team members who handle vital functions of the Caring Team: **Lynda Dillon** for coordinating Joys & Sorrows and Leadership Counsel Liaison, **Pat Naylor** for extensive help with Pastoral Care and maintaining contact with many of our congregants, **Marla Russell and the LaGesses** for coordinating holiday dinners, **Nancy Newcomer** for coordinating cards for Joys & Sorrows and rides, **Barb Flewelling** and **Paula Horton** for coordinating the Tea & Odyssey, **Barb Flewelling** and **Deb Giffen** for planning the Caring Connection once a month during Social Hour, **Marion Bergman** for taking over the Bulletin Board, **Andrea Clarke** for coordinating meals, and **Deb Giffen** for keeping the Dropbox up-to-date. Plus, a big thank you to **all the members of our congregation** who help support our Team by providing meals, holiday dinners, rides, and sending cards.

Plans for Next Year: As announced a year ago, Paula and Lisa are stepping down as Chairs in June. Team members will continue in their roles. Nancy Newcomer and Pam Johnstone will coordinate support for members in need. Andrea Clarke and Barb Flewelling will coordinate Memorial Service planning and hosting. Meanwhile, we continue to look for replacements for Paula and Lisa, with the help of Rev. Eric and the LDNC.

Team Strengths:

We have a committed group of team members who readily help when one of our congregants is in need. But more importantly, our team members care about our congregants, stay connected with them, and hold

information in confidence. Beyond providing rides, meals, making calls, visiting, sending cards to congregants, memorial services, holiday dinners, frequently checking in, our team supported members in ways that meet their particular needs. Furthermore, we are also able to garner help from many others in the congregation – this is invaluable.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

UUCCH is a caring, inclusive community and the Caring Team embraces the richness of our diversity by ensuring that all members of our community are supported, making service its law and helping one another. We start with a foundation of care and trust for one another and assume good intentions. We engage other congregants who aren't members of the Caring Team to assist us in our efforts to serve others, but also to integrate them into the fabric of our community, achieving more together than each can do alone.

Report from Congregational Relationships Team

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Libby Pontillo

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: pianissimo@comcast.net

Other Committee Participants: Pam Anderson, Maily Masur, Lynn Richter

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

We completed our UUA training course, *Tending Covenant*. Among the topics we explored were covenanting as a spiritual practice; setting and holding healthy boundaries; communication styles and culture; developing new responses to conflict; our team's role relating to unhealed trauma; the origins and culture of restorative practices; and congregations as restorative communities. We presented a Sunday service on March 12, 2026, in which we shared takeaways from our training course.

Plans for Next Year.

We plan to focus on creating a restorative culture in our congregation, based on the material and practices provided through our UUA course. One of our projects will be participation in a "team read" of a book about this topic, which we may then offer in congregational reading groups. We may also offer workshops and presentations featuring guest speakers. We continue to offer guidance to members who request support in situations of conflict and to model communication processes that support the management and transformation of conflict.

Group Strengths.

Among the strengths of our team is our members' deep commitment to the covenantal basis of our faith. We view living peacefully in community as a spiritual practice which has the potential to extend into the larger world. We are experienced in and committed to the process of deep listening; most current team members have served many years as either facilitators or participants in Fellowship Groups. As individuals, we are engaged in a variety of other activities within the church, giving us a broad familiarity with many members. We strive to hold multiple perspectives around issues; see "the bigger picture" in situations of conflict; and facilitate restorative processes, rather than try to "fix" conflicts. We are committed to upholding the congregational covenant and the church mission and to nurturing the well-being of the community.

Members of this team work well collaboratively and share a commitment to maintaining confidentiality and respecting the dignity of others.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith. Our UUA training course emphasized the role of Relationships Teams in "tending covenant": modeling and encouraging behavior based on our covenantal agreements and helping to deepen the congregation's understanding of their

importance. We encourage respectful, direct, and open communication among members of the congregation, seeking ways to engage the transformative potential of conflict. We are increasingly embracing our role in shared learning, serving our community by offering additional resources for education and understanding.

Report from the Congregational Outreach Workshop (COW)

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Val Sadwin and Susan Van Alstyne
(Co-chairs)

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: cow@uucch.org

Other Committee Participants: Sue Camlin, Sharmila Singh, Kathy Huffman, Georgiette Wordie, Patricia Murray, Bob Hartman, Marlene Bareiss, Bridget Lange, Debbie Morgan, Pamela Johnstone, Lexi Beebe, Diana Fiumara, Jennifer Tsui, Karen McGowan, Morgan Hurford

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

During the 2025-26 Church year, the Community Outreach Work (COW) team has promoted UUCCH values by providing members and friends with opportunities to reach out and support communities in our area with various collections and service projects.

Collections drives:

- School supplies for children in need (in partnership with Unforgotten Haven)
- Winter clothing for Camden homeless (in support of Joseph's House)
- Holiday toys for children in need (through Sacred Heart Church in Camden)
- Grocery gift cards to help families of immigrants detained in Delaney Hall in collaboration with the Immigration Task Force
- Toiletry and other products for women in domestic abuse shelters (in partnership with Unforgotten Haven)
- Weekend food bags for food insecure kids (in support of the Neighborhood Center in Camden)
- Feminine products in collaboration with the Immigration Task Force and Womyn and Religion (in support Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Center in Camden)
- Food for Cherry Hill Food Pantry (ongoing)
- New and gently used books for Book Smiles (ongoing)

Service Projects involving UUCCH volunteers:

- Assembled Empowerment Bags containing items and notes of encouragement for women in domestic abuse shelters in collaboration with Children's Faith Engagement
- Sorted books with members of Congregation with Kol Ami (in support of Book Smiles)
- Working at the Cherry Hill Food Pantry

In April of 2026, COW again hosted a social hour as a **Thank You** to the congregation for supporting our efforts.

Plans for Next Year.

For 2026-2027, COW plans to continue welcoming new members and seeking new and innovative ways to reach out to support communities in our region. COW will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with other UUCCH teams and community organizations in the area.

Committee Strengths.

COW's greatest strength is the dedication, energy, and compassion of its members. COW's work is aided by the wonderful generosity of the UUCCH congregation.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

COW members are deeply committed to realizing social justice in tangible ways that address the effects of food insecurity, homelessness, poverty, women's health and safety, and other areas of concern.

Report from the Gift and Endowment Fund

Point of Contact: Keith Spirgel

Email for POC: keith.spirgel@gmail.com

Other Committee Members: Helen Ewan, Connie Roggio, Valerie Sadwin, Paul Asman, Bob Stewart

The Gift and Endowment was established through the generosity of many church members and friends over time. The Gift and Endowment Fund consists of:

- (1) assets received by way of a will, a bequest, a gift, or in any other legal manner and
- (2) earnings, income, dividends, interest, and distributions from those assets.

The Trustees oversee the endowment, setting risk tolerance, and making socially responsible investments.

Except for a small checking account for immediate needs, all funds are invested in the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). The UUCEF makes investments that are aligned with UU values and seeks to achieve consistent returns within a moderate risk tolerance over the long term, sufficient to allow Congregations to take regular distributions of 4% to 5% of their investment balances each year, while preserving principal after adjustment for inflation and expenses.

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

Three noteworthy events occurred this year:

- A gift of \$1,559,637 was made to the Unrestricted Endowment Fund from the estate of Ivan Sublette; **this gift nearly doubled the size of the Endowment Fund**
- A gift of \$10,000 was made to the Unrestricted Endowment Fund from the estate of Eugene Oberfrank
- A withdrawal of \$250,000 was made from the Unrestricted Endowment Fund and transferred to the UUCCH operating fund. This was a special distribution, approved by the congregation approved at last year's annual meeting, for various capital improvements, including elevator repairs.

Year-to-date through March, the Unrestricted Endowment Fund has grown by \$1,312,2234. YTD, the interest and appreciation of the fund is \$29,198, or 1.05%.

- 2. Beginning of year balance = \$1,789,586
- 3. Plus: Ivan Sublette gift = \$1,559,637
- 4. Plus: Eugene Oberfrank gift = \$10,000
- 5. Plus: Interest and appreciation = \$29,198
- 6. Less: Withdrawals to support the church operating fund = (\$32,544)
- 7. Less: Special Distribution to the church operating fund = (\$250,000)
- 8. Balance as of March EOM = \$3,101,809

Plans for Next Year.

The UUCCH Endowment Trustees will continue its association with the UU Common Endowment Fund.

We will work to assure the long-range financial future of the church, and to "fund capital needs and special projects that further the mission of the church."

We will continue to be a source of support to the Board of Trustees. We will continue to encourage members to consider UUCCH in their estate planning.

Committee Strengths.

The strength of this Committee is in the varied experience of the members in the financial field and in their broad and deep experience in the life and history of our Church.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

Everything the Gift and Endowment does makes our mission and vision possible. The stewardship of this group makes sure that the care and nourishment needed for growth and stature in our area continues into the future.

The table below shows the balances in the Endowment Funds since 2020.

	4/30/21	4/30/22	3/31/23	3/31/24	3/31/25	3/31/26
Restricted Endowment Accounts						
Betsy Nemser	\$10,270	\$10,287	\$10,301	\$10,301	\$10,301	\$9,367
Piano Fund	\$864	\$866	\$762	\$552	\$447	\$342
Gene Draper	\$10,073	\$8,589	\$8,600	\$8,600	\$8,600	\$4,245
Grounds Fund					\$7,691	\$7,691
Total Restricted Endowments	\$21,208	\$19,741	\$19,663	\$19,453	\$27,039	\$21,645
Unrestricted Endowment	\$1,402,327	\$1,199,084	\$1,059,823	\$1,104,599	\$1,229,174	\$3,101,809
Total Endowment Balance	\$1,423,535	\$1,218,826	\$1,079,486	\$1,124,052	\$1,256,214	\$3,123,454

The table below shows the interest and appreciation of the Unrestricted Endowment for the years since 2020.

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024 thru March	FY2025 thru March	FY2026 thru March
Unrestricted Endowment						
Avg. Balance	\$1,641,925	\$1,303,876	\$1,051,493	\$1,085,362	\$1,229,174	\$2,785,421
Interest and Appreciation	\$296,630	-\$166,711	\$79,233	\$88,481	\$31,193	\$29,198
% Avg. Balance	18.51%	-12.79%	7.54%	8.15%	2.49%	1.05%
Distributed to UUCCH	\$65,051	\$64,392	\$54,504	\$31,122	\$32,400	\$286,612

Report from Everyday Spiritual Practice Discussion Group

Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Robert Schindler

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: robert.schindler@rutgers.edu

Other Committee/Team/Task Force/Program Participants: Armandine Kelly, Wendy Lucas, Nancy Sue Hillman, Peter Knerr, Phyllis Knerr, Judy Isaacs, Steve Bier, Deborah Morgan, Susan Carroll, Al Sloan, Kali Alla, Ken Alla, Kathy Huffman, and others

Group Accomplishments this Year. Each month we have discussed one of the 60 essays in the books *Everyday Spiritual Practice* (edited by Rev. Scott Alexander) and *Faithful Practices* (edited by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom). Over the course of this year, we have discussed the essays, “The Middle Way,” “Adversity,” “Silent Retreats,” “Recycling,” “Cooking,” “Giving,” “Living by Heart,” “Movement,” “Sitting Zen,” “Fasting,” and “Parenting.” And we have continued our openness to discussing essays from other sources.

During this year, we have met on the third Thursday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm, in-person in the Horsch Room. We have also met over Zoom on the third Saturday of every month, from 10:00-11:30am. Attendance at these meetings has ranged from 2 to 7 people.

We hold a monthly book table at Sunday services. At this table in the Commons, we talk about the group to those who are interested, but not familiar with the group, and sell (at cost) copies of the books we are discussing during the year.

Plans for Next Year. During the next church year, we plan to continue to meet each month on the third Thursdays (in-person in the Horsch Room) and on the third Saturdays (via Zoom) to discuss one of the essays in *Everyday Spiritual Practice* and *Faithful Practices*. We plan to continue to be open to members’ suggestions for discussion essays from other sources.

Group Strengths. One strength of the Everyday Spiritual Practice Discussion Group stems from the nature of essays we discuss. Each essay is of a length that enables it to be read aloud in 15-20 minutes. Similar to the length of many sermons, this seems an amount of material that can provide depth, richness, and interest without being overwhelming. The essays from *Everyday Spiritual Practice* and *Faithful Practices* are written mostly by UU clergy, with an occasional essay by an active and experienced UU layperson. This separate authorship of the essays gives each essay a freshness of perspective that cannot be duplicated by reading multiple chapters of book written by a single author.

Further, each of the essays in *Everyday Spiritual Practice* and *Faithful Practices* is written by a religious person about his or her own personal spiritual practice. The editors of these books have skillfully commissioned the essays so that they range across many typical areas of life such as exercising, romantic relationships, parenting, grieving, preparing and eating food, buying clothes, and expressing oneself through the arts. The result of this is that each essay stands as a real-life illustration of effective spiritual practice. Each is an invitation to observe and reflect, with a gentleness and humility that is rarely present among books that claim to teach spirituality.

A second strength of the group comes from the structure of our meetings. As in the UU fellowship groups, our group uses the technique of deep listening. For each “round,” a person speaks and then gives the floor to the next person. When everyone has spoken, then the next round is begun. There is no explicit responding to any one person’s comments. Typically, each meeting consists of six rounds. The first round is check-in. The second round is reading aloud the month’s essay; usually, each person reads two paragraphs. The third through fifth rounds involve speaking in response to stimulating questions about the essay, and the sixth round is each person’s reflections, reactions, and/or anything else he/she wants to say.

We typically find that the hour-and-a-half-long meetings go by very fast. The activity of listening to other people speak from the heart is engaging, often moving. We are repeatedly struck by the depth possible in the topic and by the many dimensions and personally relevant aspects of the topic that become apparent.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission: From this group we come to more deeply know others and ourselves. The deep-listening format leads us to relax our opinions and self-concerned thoughts and draws us in an accepting way into the minds of others. This not only increases our respect for others, but it also opens our own minds. It has been, and continues to be, deeply satisfying to see the personal spiritual growth that is encouraged and facilitated by this group.

Report from the Fellowship Groups

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: John Nielsen, Libby Pontillo, Larry Solow

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: jnielsen401@gmail.com,
pianissimo@comcast.net, lsolow@comcast.net

Other Committee Participants: Diane Baker-Hallowell, Stacy Love, Peggy Morgan, Lynn Richter, Jenn Snively

Accomplishments this Year.

Focusing on topics aligned with the church's monthly worship themes, we coordinated five Fellowship Groups (FGs) with approximately 50 people participating. We continued to incorporate the opportunity for participants to share "What's on your heart?"—a safe space to voice feelings about themselves, the church, the country, and the world within the safe, "deep listening" environment of the FG.

We experimented with beginning the "FG year" in October to allow more time for marketing, answering questions, and providing lead time for registrants. This worked well. After polling the participants, we agreed to extend the FG year to June.

We successfully managed in-person, dual-platform, and Zoom-only groups during this year. Each of these different ways to be in community was effective and created flexibility for those who wished to participate.

Plans for Next Year

We will continue to link FG topics to church worship service themes or other relevant topics. We also hope to grow our facilitator ranks so we are prepared to conduct as many groups as are needed to satisfy the needs of those who wish to participate. We are discussing the possibility of a FG-themed service and look forward to contributing our facilitation skills to any interactive processes (like Listening Circles) that will be conducted.

Group Strengths

The group of facilitators works splendidly as a self-organizing team. With no defined "chair," members willingly contribute their skills and experience to get the work done without putting an undue burden on any one person.

We very much appreciate Rev. Eric's active participation in our planning meetings and overall support.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

Fellowship Groups are a fertile seedbed of right relations within our community. They are centered around the spiritual practice of being fully present to one another. As such, they are also one of the best places to

gain a sense of trust and connection and to make lasting friendships within the congregation. By listening deeply, without debate, to the feelings and experiences of others, we learn from their wisdom, come to value them in the fullness of their humanity, and serve our community by building deeper connections as we recognize ourselves in one another.

The Fellowship Group's covenantal agreements, structure, and process are designed to be inclusive and welcoming. Participants need not be members, or even "friends" of the church to attend our groups – they are open to the community at large.

Report from the Finance Advisory Committee

Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Committee Members Share Leadership Duties

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: FinanceAdvisoryCommittee@uucch.org

Other Committee/Team/TaskForce/Program Participants: Linda Coolsen, John Nielsen, Dave Gift

Staff Support: Reverend Posa, Julie Rigano

Group Accomplishments this Year: *Illustrative/important items, need not be an exhaustive list.*

The Finance Advisory Committee's (FAC) role is to assist the Board in its oversight of the congregation's finances. In addition, the FAC works closely with the Finance Team to address any UUCCH financial issues that are of interest to the Board, the FAC, or members of the congregation.

Two issues discussed this past year were:

- Confirming UUCCH Policy Concerning the Disposition of Large Monetary Donations
- The UUA's Guidance Concerning the Use of Endowment Funds for Church Operating Expenses

The Committee has been fairly dormant lately, but will re-engage when called upon by the Board or members of the congregation.

Plans for Next Year: *Describe what significant things your group hopes to work on or accomplish for the next church year.*

The Committee plans to continue reviewing established financial policies and to provide appropriate feedback to the Board and others.

Group Strengths: *Share group's strengths and key opportunities; include specific tasks or topics you are inviting others to become involved in or plans to advance the group's leadership and succession planning.*

Finance Advisory Committee members possess a diversity of talent, including analytical ability, curiosity, creativity, and an ability to work together in service to the Board and the UUCCH community.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The Finance Advisory Committee works to strengthen the financial structure of the Church by reviewing and suggesting possible improvements of UUCCH financial policy and procedures. This process of nurturing a sound financial foundation for the Church will ensure that UUCCH has the necessary resources to become a beacon of liberal-religion in Southern New Jersey.

Report from Finance Team

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Committee/Team/TaskForce/Program Name: Finance Team

Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Team Members Share Leadership Duties (Cooperative Facilitation)

Email/Contact Information for POC/Chair/Leader: FinanceTeam@uucch.org

Other Committee/Team/TaskForce/Program Participants: Lee Phillips, John Nielsen, Ken Slight, Nancy Newcomer, Dave Gift

Staff Support: Reverend Eric Posa, Julie Rigano

Group Accomplishments this Year.

The Finance Team continues to focus on maintaining UUCCH financial systems – ensuring the accuracy of financial reporting, safeguarding UUCCH financial assets, conducting monthly reviews of Church income and expenditures, and maintaining confidentiality of donor records.

Each month, the Finance team posts detailed financial reports to a shared google drive folder. The reports are designed to answer typical questions from members, committee chairs and staff. The reports provide full transparency on expenditures – details are available for all expenditures made by UUCCH.

Note that the reports do not contain any donor information – donor information is confidential, and is hidden by our ICON CMO accounting software. Confidential donor reports are available separately, on a need-to-know basis.

Each year in the spring, the Finance Team forecasts income and expenditures to develop a proposed future budget for Board consideration. The Team is currently working on next year's budget proposal. In addition, the Team conducted a Financial Forum to discuss general church finances, the budget, and to obtain feedback from the congregation.

A major challenge for the past year was the financial management required for the repair of Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary in the wake of the sprinkler flood. The Team was also involved in the financial management of capital improvement projects approved by the Congregation and Board of Trustees, including elevator maintenance and boiler replacement. Coordinating with our insurance company, the Property Committee, and the Gift and Endowment Committee (among others), the Finance Team ensured that UUCCH financial resources were available to support the repair and renovation of our physical space.

The Team also developed and fine-tuned a money management procedure for our checking account in order to increase the amount of interest income earned on money used to pay our ongoing operating expenses. Basically, we strive to keep the bulk of our operating funds in a high interest-bearing account and transfer them to our checking account "just-in-time" to cover our check payments!

Plans for Next Year.

The Finance Team will continue to work on clarifying and documenting financial policies and procedures with the goal of creating a robust, flexible, and transparent financial system capable of evolving as our congregation grows.

Group Strengths.

Every member of the Team is kind, caring, and really nice!

The main strength of the Team is in the dedication of its members to work together in covenant for the good of the Congregation. Individual members contribute their unique skills and experience toward the Team's overall goal of maintaining and improving our financial policy and procedures.

Our members have extensive experience in the financial life of this Church, including fundraising, stewardship, financial reporting, financial management, check writing, auditing, payroll, and contract review. The Team is able to apply a wealth of knowledge and experience toward evaluating Church financial systems.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The Finance Team provides financial management and review services to our Church community, allowing community members to focus on direct activities in furtherance of our Church's vision and mission. Overall, Finance Team stewardship nurtures financial stability and confidence that Church financial resources will be available to accomplish UUCCH goals.

The Team strives to incorporate the spirit of our Church mission and vision statements in performing its work. Team members value each other's diversities, sharing knowledge and experience to serve the UUCCH community. By working together, the Team achieves more than any single team member can achieve alone!

Report from Flower Ministry Committee

Committee/Program Name: Flower Ministry Team

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Heidi Bernard

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: heidi.bernard@verizon.net

Other Committee Participants: Pamela Anderson, Sylvia Barclay, Barbara Flewelling, Denise Fox, Gina Hertzog, Lynn Richter and Sharon Hardy

Committee Accomplishments this Year. .

We had another hic up to deal with this past year. The flood in the Sanctuary left us with moving our materials to the Fellowship Hall kitchen. It felt we had to rethink all of our holiday decorations and adapt them for services in FH. It's good to be able to be back in our Sanctuary and hopefully for good this time.

We were able to provide personal items to display for services. We had a display of hearts, a personal collection of Shirlene Abrams. Snowflakes, a personal collection of Heidi Bernard. These snowflakes are hand crochet and are from Germany. A display of hand knitted birds by Sylvia Barclay. Some of her birds wear glasses, fun hats and are so happy to be flying.

We assisted the minister by arranging a display for the Flower Communion service by providing many vases for flowers to be placed into. We continue and will continue to arrange flowers for those wishing to honor or remember someone special in their lives.

We. work with the Minister and the Worship Committee in providing meaningful flower arrangements that honor the sermon topic.

A call for help with the deficit was taken seriously by our team and we donated half of our budget back to the church. It felt good to be able to help out. This was accomplished by the generous donations of members of our team.

Plans for Next Year

We will continue to provide beautiful and meaningful flower arrangements. We will continue to work with the Minister and the Worship Committee on the themes of the services.

Plans are in the making for a flower workshop for all who wish to participate whether they are members of our team or not. We will continue to attract new members to our committee. We will continue to raise our own funds by offering flower arrangements in honor of the memory of a loved one at a Sunday service.

Strengths

We are very fortunate to have a talented and artistic group of flower arrangers who are not afraid to express themselves. We work well together as a group as well as individuals. The ideas keep flowing with encouragement from each other and of the congregation. Your kind words mean so much to us so keep them coming. It is fun to work with the different themes of all the Sunday services. This encourages us to use our ideas as a group as well as individuals to provide not only beautiful flower arrangements but to also use artifacts along with or without flowers. We love using whimsy like hearts on twigs and handknitted birds in a cage. This makes us smile!

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

We believe that flowers are an integral part of ministry. We encourage all of you to join us on this spiritual journey of flower ministry.

Report from Governance Advisory Committee (formerly the Policy Work Group)

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Barbara Barnett-Stewart

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: governanceadvisory@uucch.org

Other Committee Participants: Christine Denario, Bill Hallowell

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

GAC's purpose is to collaborate with and support the Board in the strategic, generative, and fiduciary work of governance. This year GAC:

- Met once a month, as well as quarterly with the Board and the minister, to review and update the UUCCH Board Policy Book, to draft new sections for Board input and approval, and to make sure relevant stakeholders were included in discussions as policies were drafted and revised;
- Completed a major overhaul of the UUCCH Board Policy Book;
- Worked with the Board, the minister, and LDNC on proposed revisions to the UUCCH Bylaws, to be voted on by the congregation at this year's Annual Meeting; and
- Began organizational work toward collecting the procedures of Church staff, teams, committees, and groups into a centralized location.

Plans for Next Year.

GAC will continue to review and propose revisions to existing policies and UUCCH Bylaws as needed; maintain the Board Policy Book; work with Church staff, teams, committees, and groups on the development and/or revision of procedures in alignment with Board policy; and collect those procedures in a centralized location that will eventually be made accessible to the entire Church community via the Church website.

Committee Strengths.

We are a small group, composed of members with different backgrounds and different experiences at UUCCH. We bring a variety of viewpoints to the task and are committed to the health and vibrancy of the congregation.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

GAC is committed to ensuring the future of the church through structures and systems of authority, responsibility, and accountability that will sustain it financially, nourish connections in our community,

and make it possible for our congregation to pursue its mission in the larger world. Clarity is essential in establishing governance structures: Who is responsible? What authority do they have? How are they held accountable for their work? Clear policies and procedures will sustain our church over time, giving us greater freedom to do the important work that our mission calls us to do in the larger world.

Report from Human Resources Advisory Committee

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Bill Warner

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: Gina Hertzig

Other Committee Participants: Pat Infante, Bill Warner

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

The team was able to meet with the staff and have in depth conversations about their views of working at the Church, their compensation etc. With the consent of the minister and staff, we were able to recommend to the Board that we move toward fair compensation under the UUA guidelines to the staff beginning with the longest tenured staff position. The team endorsed the Governance Advisory Committee's policy for hiring members. We examined and recommended the Board explore a sabbatical policy for certain staff positions.

Plans for Next Year.

We hope to be able to continue in our advisory role and to make recommendations so that UUCCH continues to be a desirable place to work.

Committee Strengths.

We work well together and understand our limited role in the governance of the Church.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

We sincerely believe we operate in accordance with the mission and vision of our Church.

Report from Humanist UUs: *Embracing Science, Reason, and Humanist Values*

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Helen Ewan

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: humanist@uucch.org

Other Committee Participants: Alexia Beebe, Charles Bittner, Linda Coolsen, John DeMasi, Joseph DeMasi, Ed Erde, Ken Ewan, Bob Hartman, Nancy Helen Hillman, Lud Pisapia, Connie Roggio, Val Schmid-Sadwin

Committee Accomplishments this Year. .

This year we continued to meet virtually on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss topics of interest, such as:

- Ethical issues in the emergent use of artificial intelligence in the healthcare industry
- Consequences of the worldwide lowering of the birth rate to below replacement level
- Braver Angels and its programs
- Has the US Constitution failed?
- How might the US Constitution be different if women had been involved in its creation?
- The relationship between American transcendentalism and Unitarian Universalism, as shown in the lives and works of Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau

We continue to enjoy meeting virtually with Humanist UUs from this region and from other states. We have continued to meet virtually so that all participants can take part in our discussions on an equal basis.

Plans for Next Year.

We will explore ways in which we can reach out to new members and friends of UUCCH who might be interested in our discussions.

Committee Strengths.

We offer congregants, friends, and visitors an opportunity to explore the thread of non-theist Humanism that contributes significantly to the richness of Unitarian Universalism. We provide a safe environment where non-creedal beliefs can be examined and discussed.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

We welcome questioning minds.

We value the richness of Unitarian Universalism.

We uphold a beacon of liberal, non-creedal religion.

Report from Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Report not available at time of publication.

Report from Labyrinth Team

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Jenn Snively

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: labyrinth@uucch.org or Jenn1004@gmail.com

Other Committee Participants: Marilyn Masur, Paula Horton, Bridget Lange

Group Accomplishments this Year.

Offered a Labyrinth Spiritual Practice Worship Service in May. Presented a Labyrinth Journaling LFE Class over the winter. Encouraged individual and small group independent use of our UUCCH labyrinth. Maintained UUCCH Labyrinth Facebook page and MeetUp Group to spread the word about activities and events, as well as enrich understanding of the variety of labyrinth activities, meditative styles, and beautiful works of art all over the world. Hosted World Labyrinth Day Walk as One event, which was well received by both UUCCH and the greater community. Put plans in place to host our 2026 series of Tuesday morning and Friday evening guided walks. Guides have also led walks in conjunction with UUCCH events and space rental events.

Plans for Next Year

Continue our work educating the UUCCH and greater community about use of the labyrinth as a spiritual and meditative tool. Continue to teach creative and informative labyrinth classes through LFE. Work with other UUCCH Teams to incorporate use of the labyrinth more fully into the spiritual life, education, and rituals of our church. Our long-term goal is that whenever there is a milestone to celebrate, a transition to mark, or a loss to grieve, it will be our instinct as a community to turn to the labyrinth as a tool which can help us move mindfully through that time. We welcome ideas to continue creatively incorporating music, dance, or any other medium to our events which provide further encouragement to spiritual awareness and growth.

Group Strengths.

Labyrinth Team members are dedicated, creative, and passionate about sharing the secrets of the labyrinth with others. This Team has shown an aptitude for working with other UUCCH groups and incorporating their concerns into our plans and programs, and at adapting our guided walks to fit the theme and needs of many groups and circumstances. This Team affords a wonderful opportunity to

creatively introduce a type of spiritual practice which, while ancient, is personally new to many at UUCCH and in our greater community. We have new non-members attending nearly every event we host, having found our event (and by extension UUCCH), through our online presence.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The labyrinth itself is uniquely suited to further both the Mission and Vision Statement of UUCCH. Each time we walk a labyrinth, we gain deep insights into our own minds and hearts. In sharing those experiences, we learn about the others with whom we share our life's path. Through this spiritual tool we learn that although we seem at times to be going in different directions or at a wildly disparate pace, we are in fact all on the same path together as one. The labyrinth has the power to foster a feeling of community and of peace like few tools available to us in our hectic, modern times. These aspects increase the likelihood that those drawn to Labyrinth Team events will become members, and that new members will stay on. We are passionate about teaching others how to use this spiritual tool, inviting the greater community into our sacred space to join us in fostering understanding of ourselves and one another, and encouraging interfaith dialogue. This raises the profile of UUCCH as a beacon of liberal religion by putting us in a position to be a regional labyrinth pilgrimage site, raising awareness of UUism and our facility's rental potential for programs and events. We are actively seeking new Team Members who would like to learn more about labyrinth history, art, and meditation. Labyrinth Team membership is not required to become a walk event guide. Join us on the path!

Report from the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LDNC)

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Donna Mitchelson

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: whistlestop302@icloud.com

Other Committee Participants: Diane Baker Hallowell, Lexi Beebe, Brittany Lare, Annemarie Cooke, Jenn Snively, Carol Suboleski, Jessica Finnegan, Janet Horton

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

- Printed and installed the new LDNC nominees in the corridor Updated all LDNC contact information
- Updated LDNC Goals
- Worked with the Governance Committee to reduce the number of future LDNC members to six
- Coordinated the LDNC Special Service for March 8th with Rev. Eric
- Completed the nominating process for both the Board and LDNC

Plans for Next Year.

- Equip LDNC members with more educational opportunities for leadership roles
- Assist the new LDNC Leader during the transition period
- Establish a stronger relationship with the congregation

Committee Strengths.

- LDNC collaborated with the Rev. Eric, Music Ministry, and the Tech Crew for the March 8th service "Weaving Our Future."
- LDNC collaborated as a committee to complete a slate of nominees for both the Board and LDNC.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

LDNC takes direction from the BOT to establish its goals.

Mission Statement

The Board of Trustees adopts the following goals for the 2025–2026 church year:

1. Build better working relationships with advisory committees through regular communication, collaborative planning, and mutual support.
2. Build stronger relationships with staff members through appreciation, open communication, and ensuring appropriate compensation.
3. Support the Governance Advisory Committee in coordinating procedural manuals for church processes.

Vision Statement

LDNC goals are as follows:

- Inspire and empower leaders to showcase, foster, and strengthen the community/congregation we envision.
- Equip congregants with the necessary tools and resources to foster a healthy congregation and facilitate
 - change where needed, as requested by members, groups, staff, and teams.
- Encourage and support the congregation as they host or participate in community events.
- Do the work of the nominating process, and support voting for congregational meetings.

Report from the Lifespan Faith Engagement Team

Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Shelley Rossell, Larry Solow

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: shelleyann72@gmail.com,
duet1356@gmail.com

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

Lifespan Faith Engagement has had an incredible year of growth:

- Successful summer 2025 program, featuring an art exhibit curated by the youth.
- 20 volunteers spanning across our nursery, Spirit Play and Youth classes.
- Each of our children and youth groups has grown in numbers:
 - Spirit Play class remains steady at an average of 8-10 children per week, with a peak number of 16 in the class.
 - The nursery has 15 registered children, with half attending regularly.
- The youth program has grown and is expanding their experiences:
 - Community service with Book Smiles
 - Established youth role-playing game, Tables, Ladders & Chimeras
 - Two new students this program year
 - Celebrating the graduation & bridging of one of our high school students.
- An increase in multigenerational events, such as game nights, craft nights, and movie nights.
- Expansion of Adult faith engagement: more participation in affinity groups, LFE participating in Navigating Difficult Discussions sessions in the fall; a successful session of owning your religious past
 - Four part yoga workshop
 - Owning your Religious Past class
 - Understanding Religion class
 - Basics of Astrology workshop
 - Depolarizing from Within workshop
 - BAPS Hindu temple visit

Plans for Next Year.

Next year we are looking to evolve our children and youth programs to accommodate the tremendous growth. Grand Reopening of our additional classroom for spirit play, creating two spirit play classrooms: K-3 and 4-6 . The LFE team and volunteers continue to explore opportunities to partner with other

committees in activities. The LFE Team will continue to expand on the offerings for Adult faith engagement as well as more multigenerational activities.

Committee Strengths.

The LFE ministry team has received two new members this year, which has brought in new ideas for activities and offerings. All ideas are welcomed and considered, and we look forward to more growth over the next year. The volunteers do a fantastic job of bringing their creativity to life and creating wonderful opportunities for all ages. We are always open to more heads, hands, and hearts!

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

Lifespan Faith Engagement's activities are all designed to align with UUCCH's mission, specifically Learning and Teaching to know others and ourselves.

Report from the Music Ministry Team

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Rotating Leadership

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: Bill Charlier wcharlier@hotmail.com
hlabelle@aol.com

Other Committee Participants: Bill Charlier, Ken Ewan, Stacy LaBelle, Harry LaBelle, Jennie Stone, and John Nielsen

Music Team Accomplishments this Year:

- **New Keyboard Purchase-** Involved in the purchase of the new keyboard for the sanctuary. Sponsored a memorial plaque for Gene Draper that is on the piano.

Events:

- **Open Mic Night** - November 14
- **Annual Love Song Sing-along** - February 13
- **Broadway Cabaret** - May 2
- **Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America-** May 17

Plans for Next Year.

- Support the Director of Music Ministry (DMM) in implementing projects.

Support the greater UUCCH community with both meaningful and "fun" musical activities.

Committee Strengths.

- Team members' willingness to support projects presented by the DMM.
- Team members' willingness to lead music-oriented programs-
 - Bill Charlier heads the ukulele group
 - Ken Ewan directs the hand bell choir
- Team members' willingness to participate in music-oriented programs.
 - Stacy LaBelle and Jennie Stone take lead roles at events in doing hands-on tasks.
 - Bill Charlier runs the karaoke system for Love Song Sing-Along and often runs sound at the Open Mic events.
- Stacy LaBelle is the designated music administrator and music librarian. Those duties include tracking the choir's music distribution and keeping a spreadsheet of the sheet music inventory. She also takes the lead, as requested, in handling music event tasks, along with other music team members. She is responsible for tracking the Restricted Music Funds.
- Handbell Music is handled by Jennie Stone.
- Bill Charlier is the check request signer.
- An instrument inventory is done bi-annually by Harry LaBelle and Ken Ewan.

Music Team activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The team members fulfill the mission and vision of UUCCH by:

- Leading groups and participating in the life of the church within the guidelines of the church covenant.
- By living within the covenants created in the groups we participate in.
- Sponsoring opportunities for folks to come together in a shared event whether as a performer or audience member.
- Approving financial expenses for opportunities that widen others' exposure to our church.

Report from the Pride Support Alliance

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Morgan Hurford

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: mlrhurford@gmail.com

Other Committee Participants: Matt Sievers, Brie Gold, Kaz Dietz, Jennie Stone, Juniper Culp, and others

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

We requested and witnessed the installation of gender inclusive bathroom signage. We partnered with Womyn and Religion to introduce the offering of period products in all bathrooms. We received proclamations for Transgender Day of Visibility from at least 8 different municipalities. We increased our offering of third-space community events for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Plans for Next Year.

We wish to continue working on LGBTQ+ accessibility in the church, and continue pushing for LGBTQ+-supportive legislation. We are working towards holding a pronoun workshop in addition to our other educational offerings. We hope to set up renewal of the church's Welcoming Congregation status.

Committee Strengths.

The group's biggest strengths center around willingness to collaborate with other teams in the interest of intersectionality, frequent participation in outreach activities, and dedication to the wellbeing of our community. We continue to work to foster a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the church by increasing our visibility and promoting supportive activities.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The group embraces diversity by increasing accessibility options for our events. We confront injustice by working together with other LGBTQ+ groups to achieve local governmental support for the LGBTQ+ community. We welcome all who have questions and support them in their journey, either as members of the LGBTQIA+ community or as allies who wish to learn new avenues of support and tolerance.

Report from the Property Committee

Team/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Dan Nichols

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: dnichols@raqandesign.com,
property@uucch.org

Other Regular Team Participants: Lee Phillips, Pam Anderson, Amélie Harris McGeehan, Rich McGeehan, Chris Sandy

Committee Activity this Year.

Expect the unexpected. Just after UUCCH's last annual meeting, a sprinkler head discharged in the recently renovated Sanctuary causing significant damage requiring months to sort out physically and financially. The UUCCH's Facility Manager, UUCCH's Staff, UUCCH's Finance Team, and the Property Team

worked together to get the room reassembled. The church's boiler was replaced; the HVAC system serving the lower level classrooms was replaced following a system failure; and the HVAC system serving the Commons and upper level classrooms is being replaced as of this year's meeting to address a system failure in February. The church grounds have received ongoing maintenance including dead/diseased tree pruning and/or removal near buildings and actively used outdoor spaces. Efforts continue to make improvements to the site including a handrail system along the north wall of Hillside (Thanks Lee!); and replacement signage at the Labyrinth (Thanks Pam!).

Plans for Next Year.

The roof of the Commons and the upper level classrooms is scheduled for replacement in Fall 2026, and there is consideration being given to replacing the large HVAC units serving the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall this year to address their age related cantankerousness.

Property and Grounds continues to rely solely upon volunteers to mow the lawns on the UUCCH campus. We express our thanks to Lee, Chris Sandy and others who have braved heat, bugs, and rash inducing vines to keep our lawns in check. Speaking of weeds and vines, the Arb Work Group has done a stellar job over the last year(s) in facilitating the reemergence of the woody and flowering beauty of the Arb, which had gradually become obscured by vines and other invasive plants...many thanks all around.

Committee Strengths.

The Property Committee is bolstered by a group of committed members, each with their own areas of knowledge and talent who work well together at finding solutions to issues that arise, who come together once a month for a lively, enlightening, productive, and very often, entertaining Zoomed roundtable meeting. As is our custom we will continue our program of fix it when it breaks; mow it when it grows; pull it if it offends; shovel, blow, or plow it if it accumulates; and diagnose what confounds.

Report from Subcommittee Arboretum Work Group (ArbWG)

Subcommittee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader:

Points of Contact: Rotating, arbcomm@uucch.org

Chair/Leader: Different members facilitate the Arboretum Work Group meetings each quarter of the year.

Subcommittee participants: Pam Anderson, Susan Carroll, Ed Fox, Amélie and Rich McGeehan, Lynn Richter, Chris Sandy, Susan Van Alstyne, Kali and Ken Ala

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

- Volunteers continued to tend specific gardens and outdoor spaces.
- Volunteers continued to work in areas throughout the Arboretum to remove brush, invasive vines, and unwanted volunteer vegetation.
- The amended Forest Stewardship Plan for UUCCH was completed and filed with the NJ Forest service
- Held Spring and Fall Cleanup days for grounds
- Developed a ground/Arb rental policy, both for indoors rentals and for outdoor rentals.
- Added signs regarding poison ivy, ticks, location of the wetlands, leave nothing but footprints.
- Updated Arb brochure and map

Plans for Next Year.

- Establish a regular meeting schedule with possible themes/educational opportunities for meetings.
- Recruit additional volunteers to "adopt" gardens and other outdoor areas around the UUCCH grounds for regular maintenance.

- Complete annual review of relevant policy, procedure, and covenant documents.
- Have contractor implement work from the Arb maintenance priority list

Committee Strengths. The strength of the group is the dedication of its membership in giving their time and energy to the maintenance and improvement of our shared outdoor surroundings.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The AWG actively supports environmental stewardship of UUCCH's outdoor areas. The group welcomes others interested in joining the team, either officially or sporadically, on the grounds, as time permits. All contributions of time, energy, and encouragement are appreciated as we continue this important work that benefits both members and guests.

Report from the Safety and Security Team

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Larry Solow and Cheryl Dunican-Hein

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: duet1356@gmail.com, cdunhein@gmail.com

Other Committee Participants: Active: First Aid kit checkers, Mike Williams

Accomplishments This Year

We "maintained the gain" for several initiatives started last year. They included holding first aid/CPR/AED overview classes, updating and distributing first aid kits, and introducing safety announcements at the beginning of each Sunday service.

At the end of the last church year (after the Annual Report was submitted), we conducted our first Evacuation Drill. Utilizing trained "Evacuation Guides," we were able to clear the building in an orderly and timely manner. We learned a lot! While we won't have a drill in the current church year, we plan to refresh everyone's knowledge about what to do if an evacuation is needed.

Plans for Next Year

There is much more to do. We need to revitalize our team of first-aid kit checkers and "Sunday Sextons," the people that make sure the building is secure after Sunday services. We continue to research ways to create safe spaces in all rooms using blackout curtains, modifying door handles, and considering additional lock technologies. We also hope to evaluate the potential of strategically placed cameras to document vandalism or other issues where a video record would be helpful.

Group Strengths

Various individuals have contributed their subject-matter expertise throughout the year. Special thanks to Mike Williams for the customized hands-only CPR/AED training and to the Property Team for implementing any requested changes.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

"Love" is at the center of our new UUA values graphic. Providing for each other's physical safety is a foundational way we can put that love into action. Members, friends, and visitors deserve a secure, physical space in which to worship.

Annual Report from the Sanctuary Team

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Terry Berge

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: revterranceberge@juno.com

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Other Committee Participants: John Nielsen, Jennie Stone, Libby Pontillo, Nancy Newcomer, Greg Newcomer, Mary Cregan, Pam Anderson, Lynn Richter, Wendy Lucas, Barbara Flewelling, Sandy Koch, Bob Hartman, Nancy Caldwell, Deb Giffen, Nancy Hillman, Rosemary Dunaif, Steve Patten, David Hunter

Committee Accomplishments this Year. We spent the 2025-2026 program year reading and discussing *Trusting Change: Finding Our Way Through Personal and Global Transformation* by the Rev. Karen Hering. The book is a source for deeply personal reflections and sharing. Because of the potential for a large amount of personal sharing encountered with the text, we began our reading by allowing two months per chapter. We followed that for some time, and then we found we were able to discuss each chapter within one session and proceeded accordingly. It was noted in last year's report that the personal sharing "has, indeed, been plentiful." That sharing has brought the group even closer together. Our numbers grew as we officially welcomed an incredible five new members to the group: Deb Giffen, Nancy Hillman, Rosemary Dunaif, Steve Patten, and David Hunter. Additionally, Sanctuary had its largest attendance ever in its entire history, with sixteen attendees in March of 2026!

Plans for Next Year. At the time of this report being published, we will have finished our reading of *Trusting Change*. Following our summer months of programming, including perusing copies of The Unitarian and Universalist Ledger magazines from the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries, we will be voting in September on what will be our next book for discussion, at the beginning of our 2026-2027 program year.

Committee Strengths. One of the constant strengths of Sanctuary remains its members and their diversity. The lenses through which we each read our focus text, as well as our beliefs and backgrounds, result in rich, fulfilling discussions. We have always found we have something to learn from our focus texts and from each other. The written word and in-person shared communication are a powerful combination. With such a large infusion of new members over that last year, we feel that the strength that makes Sanctuary the unique group that it is will only multiply.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission: For thirty-five years, Sanctuary has been a place of learning, sharing, and growing, where everyone is offered the opportunity to share. It is a place where we value the wisdom of the written word from various authors whose texts we read and the spoken words from our members in discussion. They inspire us, educate us, and give us much to think about. It is that amalgamation of author and reader shared in community that provides us with a rich and fulfilling experience month after month.

The books we choose to explore are typically under the Spiritual or Religious categories, but not limited to them. Our discussions encompass other faiths and beliefs as we understand them as well stemming from our liberal Unitarian Universalist tradition and sensibilities. We open ourselves to various authors' points of view and we open ourselves to each other's point of view. Agreement with the text or each other is neither the focus nor requirement, but merely part of the process. Rather, our focus is learning and growing both individually and communally.

Social Justice Council

Committee/Program Name: Social Justice Council

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Rohn Hein

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: rohnahein@gmail.com

Other Committee Participants: Cheryl Dunican Hein, Bob Hartman, David Hunter, Rosemary White, Sue Druckenbrod, Sue Camlin, Ruth Biemer, Amalie Harris-McGeehan, Rosemary White, Sharon Hardy, Bill Warner, Steve and Bonnie Painter, Marlene Bareiss, Morgan Hurford, Karen McGowan, Nancy Caldwell, and Val Sadwin,

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

We worked with other organizations in conjunction with UU Faith Action of NJ, on the People's Agenda in January by forming teams and meeting with legislators in their district offices. We sent representatives to District 4,5,7, and 8.

Over the past year, the Immigration & Refugee Support Task Force (IRS) was very busy. We worked for passage of the People's Agenda. We partnered with other UUCCH teams, faith communities, and service and advocacy organizations including UU Faith Action, Cooper River Indivisible, Kol Ami Synagogue, St Michael's Lutheran Church, Pax Christi, and the Sisters of St Joseph Neighborhood Center. Through our activities, we mindfully expanded our scope by engaging family, friends, and neighbors in our work. That work included donation drives, calls and visits to legislators, and dine/donate events. Through our many activities, we raised up the many heightened injustices affecting our foreign born neighbors currently.

We marched in the Juneteenth Day parade in Cherry Hill in support of CHAACA (the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association)

Environmental Justice Team

We continue to have a google group email list where info and action opportunities are shared. In the fall, members of the team made multiple trips to Trenton to lobby for the Climate Superfund bill, which was on the final Peoples Agenda but did not get passed. We also made visits to local legislators throughout south Jersey, in conjunction with other UUCCH SJ teams and other churches as well collaboratively. NJ Faith Action continues to have Friday calls. Members attended Indivisible rallies and brought Environmental issue signs.

Flexible plastics continue to be collected in collaboration with the church across the street for building furniture, thanks to Lisa Winkler and Carol Subolewski, and the UUCCH bins will accept #5,6 which Cherry Hill public collection does not (they only take 1 & 2s).

Our team led two services last fall and one for Earth Day in April of 2026. We are seeking new leadership for this team.

Healing Circle Team

We held Healing Circles in October 2025 and March 2026, with the next one planned for 6/28/26. We have 3 active leaders of the circles, Barb Flewelling, Sue Camlin and Sharon Hardy. Attendance ranges between 25-35 people and has been increasing. Sessions have received very positive reviews and requests for more frequent circles. We are planning speakers for the fall and into 2027 as well. This group has a google group as well used primarily for notifications of circles dates and for sharing resources of interest.

Plans for Next Year.

Continue to work on immigration through lobbying and providing direct assistance to immigrant families. Work in consultation with other organizations on voter's rights legislation.

Committee Strengths.

We continue to attract a wide percentage of the church membership in all of our events, whether it be postcard writing, attendance at rallies, trips to Trenton, letter writing, petitions, and more

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

The goals of the Social Justice Council are the vision and mission of this church.

Report from Environmental Team (under Social Justice Council)

Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Sharon Hardy & Walt Nadolny

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: Sharon.hardy@gmail.com or greenship@gmail.com

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

Our google group has 41 members as of 5/8/25. Members of the group send out information, action items and alerts on local and state environmental issues. We post the link to the NJ Faith Action (NJFA) Environmental Justice Team (EJT) newsletter monthly, and promote Scott Billie's podcasts and monthly movie nights as well as **NJFA's now twice-monthly Action Opportunities** to take action together.

- Members have attended several educational forums and council/commissioner meetings to raise concerns and make comments, and Walt Nadolny contributed editorials to support Wind Power in NJ and dispel unfounded concerns that opponents were raising to stop it.
- We promote and participate in lobbying days at the State House with other UUs and environmental partners across the state. Several UUs from NJ were in Trenton September 20th, lobbying for a Squeaky Clean Energy Future. SueDru participated with the South Jersey contingent.
- The EJT team created and led a service in September as part of a nationwide **UUA Climate Justice Revival**. We collaboratively created a sermon titled: An Environmental Justice and Climate Change Vision for 2050 that was very well received. We also collaborated with the Earth Practices for a service in April celebrating pagan spring practices and Earth Day.
- Lisa Winkler, Carol Subolewski and a small team continue two initiatives they piloted last year to help members recycle plastics that the town does not collect. One is that members/friends can bring #5 polypropylene plastics and put them in the blue bin at church. Second is the TREX recycle program, run in partnership with Christ Our Light. They published these weekly in the newsgam and are very much appreciated!
- UUCCH co-sponsored **Hands Off Our Planet Town Halls** recently with our partner **Empower NJ**. SuDru attended the Town hall in Camden on 5/5/25. These events bring together community members, local climate leaders, and elected officials, including co-sponsors of the NJ Climate Superfund Act, to address the growing threats of the climate crisis and the rising cost of living in our communities.

Plans for Next Year.

We plan to continue in the same format at this point - no regular meetings, but using our email list to keep members informed of issues and actions they can take to protect the environment and promote environmental justice.

Committee Strengths.

Walt has a strong background in environmental policy issues and we work closely with the NJ Faith Action EJT leadership. Sharon is maintaining admin/communications for the google group; members are invited to take action and share concerns and initiatives. The group has many long term committed activists who post opportunities and take actions on what is shared.

We have passion, commitment and a variety of skillsets on our team, and many contribute to the conversations and take actions every week.

We offer many different kinds of opportunities to take action, from sharing information on planting native plants in gardens to participating in state rallies and lobbying for progressive legislation. Scott Billes' "Sustainability Now" movie nights are highly educational.

Sharon & Walt dropped off the NJFA EJT team in January due to competing priorities; we continue to seek a member from UUCCH to join this group.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

We serve the mission through "Serving Others and confronting injustice, achieving more together than each can do alone". We serve the vision by "nurturing civic, social, and environmental justice." We seek to make it easy to keep congregants and friends informed of issues and make taking action easy.

Report from Racial Justice Team (under Social Justice Council)

Report not available at time of publication.

Report from the Stewardship Team

Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Ken Slight

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: stewardship@uucch.org

Stewardship Team: Wendy Lucas, Pam Anderson, Lynn Richer, John Nielsen, Jennifer Tsui, David Hunter, Ken Slight and Rev Eric Posa

This was an extraordinarily successful year for Stewardship. To kick off the campaign, Wendy Lucas delivered a heart-felt testimonial about how stewardship pledges transformed her life. In addition, Wendy offered a \$15,000 matching grant for new pledges and pledge increases of 4 percent or more. An unprecedented 66 pledge units stepped up and made increases qualifying for this matching grant. The matching grant was fully used.

26-27 Stewardship Results

Group	26-27 pledge	Increase	Count	25-26 pledge	Comment
1 increase	\$235k	\$26k	72	\$208k	Average increase 13%; 23 pledge units increased their pledge by 25% or more.
2 same	\$97k	\$0	46	\$97k	
3 decrease	\$8k	-\$9k	12	\$17k	1 unhappy; other decreases reflect changes in economic circumstances including retirement
4 new	\$12k	\$12k	13	\$0k	
Grand Total	\$352k	\$29k	143		Goal is 150 pledges. This is still achievable given pledges not yet in.
Zero	\$0k	-\$1k	2		1 moving; 1 personal situation
Not Yet	\$4k				These folks gave \$4k last year, but have not pledged yet.
Shrinkage 2%	-\$7k				
Budget	\$349k				

A continuing challenge for us is that we are heavily dependent on a few large givers, most of whom are seniors. 40% of our pledge income comes for the top 10 pledge units.

Thank you to everyone who pledged! Every pledge of every size is valued and important!!

Report from the Tech CRUU

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Larry Solow, Tom Snively

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: duet1356@gmail.com, voxbop@gmail.com

Other Committee Participants: Active: Shirley Chirico, Dave Gift, Ron Enfield, Nick Ivanov, Stacy Love, Ken Slight

Honorable mentions: Jenn Snively

Group Accomplishments this Year

We began the church year by providing sound and video support for Sunday worship services in Fellowship Hall using one set of technology. We finished the year back in the Sanctuary, using a completely different set of technology. We have supported other church events, including meetings, concerts, weddings, memorial services, and rentals, in both spaces, responding to a variety of A/V needs in each context.

We welcomed a new member into the Tech CrUU. Nick Ivanov is making valuable contributions and learning quickly. Jenn Snively has stepped in from time to time, adding needed support.

We successfully handled adversity along the way. At times, technology did not work at all, or as expected. Settings that worked one week did not the next. Our small but mighty group dealt with it all, often at the very last minute.

Plans for Next Year

We hope to continue expanding our knowledge of the technology we already have. In particular, we hope to better utilize the performance lighting features available to us.

We continue to seek new members for the Tech CrUU. It takes three people each week to support a Sunday service (two in the Sanctuary and one who can be remote). We have many roles available – several can be performed from the comfort of your own home within a reasonable time frame. **Please contact Larry Solow or any member of the Tech CrUU to learn more. We need you!**

Group Strengths

Our biggest strengths are teamwork, adaptability, and resilience. Everyone pitches in. Besides getting the actual work done, we look out for each other as people. We have become adept at “just-in-time” problem-solving, addressing technical and service changes with little or no notice.

Describe how the group’s activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

Clear audio and visual information enable UUCCH to more effectively accomplish all aspects of its mission and vision. Tech CrUU members are like plumbers. When we do our job well, no one knows we’re there. So whenever there is a group of people – for a Sunday service, Social Justice event, or social gathering – we work hard to make sure the audience can take hearing and seeing clearly for granted.

Report from Welcoming and Membership (W&M)

Point of Contact: Lynda Dillon

Email: welcoming@uucch.org

Other Committee Participants: Ken Slight, Lynda Dillon, Peggy Morgan, Wendy Lucas and Janet Horton

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

Our goal is to make everyone entering our doors feel welcome. This includes visitors, friends and members. Toward that end, we do the following:

- * Offer a Visitor Card to record info for our Church Administer (name, address, etc)
- * Internet info for the visitor to become more familiar with our church
- * Prepare name tags
- * Offer Rev Eric’s business card
- * Info for the 3rd Sunday Conversations with Rev Eric for visitors
- * Point out numerous church pamphlets
- * CFE and nursery information for people with children
- * Facility locations (restrooms)
- * Invitation to attend Coffee Hour
- * We offer to arrange a tour of our grounds if requested
- * Send personal cards as members reach their 1, 5, 10, 25, 30, 40 and 50th anniversary
- * When a member “signs the book” we present them with a gift at our Welcoming Ceremony
- * Arrange contact from groups and teams the new member has indicated an interest in
- * Prepare Newsgram Profile for new members who choose to participate.
- * Provide info on becoming a member

Plans for Next Year:

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We are hoping to get more tips from DLFE Melanie Jones to guide new members with children. We are trying to move groups of people greeting each other from our table to make room for visitors to fill out a name tag, etc.

Team Strengths:

Our group supports one another, and we all agree with our goal is to make all people feel welcome.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

UUCCH is a welcoming community and we pride ourselves on welcoming all who enter. We work with other groups in the Commons i.e. COW; helping to answer questions and direct people in the right direction. We make introductions whenever possible and follow through our connections during coffee hour. We welcome anyone who would like to join us at the table.

Report from Womyn & Religion

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Nancy Sue Hillman

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: nancyhillman@yahoo.com

Other Committee Participants: Alexia Beebe, Alyssa Terruso, Amanda Snyder, Andrea Bille, Barb Barnett Stewart, Bridget Lange, Cathy Albair, Debra Morgan, Georgiette Wordie, Gina Masem-Lammers, Jacqueline Levitt, Jane Mahorter, Janet Horton, Jenn Snively, Jes Finnegan, Judith Isaacs, Linda Williams (Matznick), Liz Carroll, Lucile Lenore, Lynda Dillon, Lynda Ode, Mariluz Torres, Mary Cregan, Nancy Hillman, Pam Johnstone, Pat Fazio, Pat Naylor, Rosemary Dunaif, Shirley Chirico, Sol Drekasot, Sue Camlin, Vickie Thompson, Wendy Lucas.

Committee Accomplishments this Year. Illustrative/important items, need not be an exhaustive list.

- Held yearly retreat at Pendle Hill in Wallingford PA on October 24, 25, 26, 2025.
- Provided two scholarships for the Womyn & Religion Retreat 2025.
- Co-sponsored feminine product donations to "I Dare to Care".
- Summer Solstice celebration on June 20, 2025, Autumnal Equinox on September 20, 2025, Winter Solstice celebration on December 21, 2025, Spring Equinox celebration on March 22, 2026.
- Provided monthly presentations on important women including:
 - Women in the American Revolution, Tasks of women during the American Revolution
 - Frago, Margaux, Author of her memoir, *Tiger Tiger*
 - da Costa Greene, Belle, Personal Librarian to J.P. Morgan
 - UU Women's Organizations, The Continental Women & Religion, UU Women's Federation, International Convocation of UU Women
 - Mankiller, Wilma, First female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, whose leadership and advocacy inspired progress, empowerment, and the preservation of indigenous culture.
 - Roosevelt, Eleanor, Although never elected to political office, she was considered one of the world's most widely admired and powerful women; a woman the New York Times referred to as "the object of universal respect," and listed in "The Top Ten Most Widely Admired People of the 20th Century.
 - Parker, Dorothy, American poet, literary critic and writer of fiction. Based in New York, she was known for her caustic wisecracks, and eye for 20th-century urban foibles.
 - Sargent Murray, Judith, Judith Sargent Murray was a poet, playwright -- the first female playwright to have her plays produced in the USA -- columnist for a Boston daily, critic, feminist, daughter and devoted wife in the 18th Century! Her husband was the English minister who brought Universalism to the United States.
 - Land, Stephanie, Author of "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother's Will to Survive".

- Fuller, Margaret, American journalist, editor, critic, translator, and women's rights advocate associated with the American transcendentalism movement. She was the first American female war correspondent and full-time book reviewer in journalism. Her book *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* is considered the first major feminist work in the United States
 - Hosted two guest speakers:
 - Amoi Goldman: Women in the Automotive Industry. Women's contributions in the early dates of the automobile.
 - Dr. Caitlyn Jones: Suffragist Jailhouse Pin. The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pin. The journey of a 1917-1918 Suffragist jailhouse pin awarded to women imprisoned for picketing the White House. The pin connected generations of feminist friends and inspired new ideas and strategies in the ongoing fight for gender justice.
 - Raised donations of \$66 for the Alice Paul Center in Mount Laurel, NJ in honor of Dr. Caitlyn Jones along with selling approximately twenty jail-house pins at \$20 each.
 - W&R was honored by the Board of Trustees to be recognized as one of the longest-existing groups at UUCCH. W&R created the labyrinth and has joined with the UUCCH Pride Alliance and Social Justice Teams. W&R thanks BOT for the recognition.
9. "Womyn in Need" donations are collected during monthly meetings. Total to date is \$375

Plans for Next Year.

- Review covenant on a monthly basis.
- Yearly retreat will be at Pendle Hill in Wallingford PA on October 16, 17, 18, 2026.
- Continue providing monthly presentations of womyn of importance.
- Continue collecting for womyn in need.
- Collaborate with COW and Immigration/Refugee Team in providing feminine hygiene products and other needed items to Sisters of Saint Joseph's (SSJ) Neighborhood Center in East Camden, NJ.
- Fund-raising drive for the Women's Suffrage National Monument.

Committee Strengths.

- We are sisters on a journey singing out as one, remembering the ancient ones, the womyn and their wisdom.
- W&R invites members of the congregation, as well as the outside community, to join in the monthly meetings
- W&R invites members of the congregation to provide presentations on important womyn, both current and historical.
- W&R strives to provide donations to womyn in need.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

- Womyn and Religion Committee, welcome all womyn; regardless of age, gender expression, sexual orientation, color or belief system, to join us every first Sunday of the month after the service. In a sanctuary of good feeling, acceptance and caring, we explore ways to improve, expand and create a better world for all people.
- The monthly presentations of womyn of importance promotes conversations and dialogue among UUCCH congregants helping us to learn about the significance of womyn within our history and current culture.



REPORTS FROM TASK FORCES

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
IN CHERRY HILL**

Report from the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVP)

Committee/Program Point of Contact/Chair/Leader: Lisa Winkler

Email/contact information for POC/Chair/Leader: gvp@uucch.org

Other Committee Participants: Amelie Harris-McGeehan, Rich McGeehan, Lynda Odessey, Carol Suboleski, Diane Baker-Hallowell, Julie Vick, Sue Van Alstyne, Helen Ewan

Committee Accomplishments this Year.

In 2025-2026, the GVP Task Force:

- Attended meetings with Cease Fire NJ, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and other GVP partners.
- A member of our task force gave testimony in Trenton to ban digital instructions for 3-D printing gun parts.
- Supported the NJ Attorney General at the Third Circuit Court of Appeals on two occasions; one to protect our ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines in October 2025 and in February 2026 to protect New Jersey's law on Sensitive Places.

Plans for Next Year.

The Task Force intends:

- To remain a vital part of the UUCCH Social Justice Program.
- To support legislation to keep New Jerseyans safe from gun violence, particularly the New Jersey Home Safety Act.
- To focus our efforts on suicide, the leading cause of gun death in the U.S.
- To continue to network with like-minded organizations.

Committee Strengths. The Mission of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force is to Educate, Advocate and Legislate.

As we are a small task force, we have aligned ourselves with other like-minded groups to end gun violence. We have partnerships with CeaseFire NJ, Brady, The Coalition for Peace Action, Giffords, Moms Demand Action for Gun Violence in America, and March for Our Lives.

GVP Task Force members are committed and action-oriented. Members readily help with projects aimed at raising awareness of gun safety issues and supporting gun safety legislation.

Describe how the group's activities connect to our church's vision and mission:

GVP Task Force members learn about the causes of gun violence and possible solutions to this social justice issue. We nurture social justice by bearing witness to the great harm resulting from gun violence and working to support gun safety legislation as well as other solutions to this problem.