

# Participant's Guide to the UUFC

(this guide was written before our 2019 website crash and resurrection – some of the links don't work)

## Facilities

There are two teams in charge of the Fellowship facilities: The Building Maintenance Team (Contact: Nick Houtman), and the Grounds Team (Contact: Andrea Dailey).

### *Building Maintenance Team*

The Building Maintenance Team is responsible for a broad range of building concerns, maintenance, and upkeep, as well as coordinating the contracting out of work if needed. The Building Maintenance team keeps UUFC facilities in good working order to meet the needs of members, renters and staff; to comply with safety regulations; and to improve environmental performance. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. If you notice a building concern, please note it on the "Building Log" found on the table in the lobby outside of the office so that a building maintenance team committee member can take care of it as soon as possible.

The Fellowship is cleaned twice a week by a contracted cleaning company.

### *Grounds Team*

This team maintains UUFC grounds, including hardscapes, to ensure safety and serviceability and to enhance aesthetic values. Members regularly mow, weed, rake, prune, irrigate and sweep the grounds. They also host/coordinate the Autumn and Spring work parties. Everyone is welcome to participate.

### *Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness*

Roz Keeney is the coordinator for Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness at the Fellowship. She completed a 9-week program presented by Benton County Sheriff's office called "Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)." The CERT program trained her in basic disaster response skills including fire safety, building search and rescue, team organization, disaster medical operations and more. Roz was involved in organizing our previous Disaster Preparedness workshop and is willing to share her information and resources with people to get prepared, both at the Fellowship and at home in our neighborhoods.

There is a First Aid kit located in the closet of the main kitchen.

## FAQs

1. How do I get something on a bulletin board? Please bring material to the office to get approval from the Church Operations Manager or Office Assistant.
2. Who does what? The following people are in charge of specific building tasks for the UUFC, although we rely on many volunteers!

Maintain thermostats: Russ Karow  
Lights and all things electrical: Kathy Johnson  
Heating and ventilation: Pete Sanford  
Entrance doors: Tim Emery  
Fire alarm system: Jamie Petts

Toilets, faucets, shelves, etc.: Nick Houtman  
Bi-annual clean up days: Nick and Alan Kirk w/volunteers  
Painting: Louise Ferrell and others  
Irrigation system control: Andrea Dailey

If you notice a building concern, please note it on the “Building Log” found on the table in the lobby outside of the office so that a building maintenance team committee member can take care of it as soon as possible.

3. How can I rent a Kill-a-watt device? A “Kill-a-watt” is device for measuring home electrical use. It belongs to Charlie Miller, but Elizabeth Waldorf typically has it and loans it out (3840 NW Lincoln Ave).
4. I heard that there is a Building Enhancement Project underway. Where can I find more information? There is! To view the Building Enhancement Project newsletters, visit this webpage where you can download them: [http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=4054](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=4054).
5. What’s going on with the Building Enhancement Project? A Building Project BLOG is available (<https://oursharedfutureuufc.wordpress.com/>) so that you can follow along for the most recent happenings in the building project.

## **FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Finance Council is chaired by Russ Karow and staffed by Business Manager, Jean Gilbert.

The Finance Council is comprised of Stewardship and Finance, Investment and Planned Giving Committees, Business Manager, UUFC Treasurer, and the Council coordinator. The minister and others with interest in UUFC finances sometimes meet with the Council. The Council’s main responsibility is coordination. The Investment and Stewardship Committees have their own activities but these sometimes intersect. The Business Manager manages day-to-day financial operations but these often involve investment decisions. The Treasurer works with the Board on financial policies which in turn intersect with the activities of others dealing with finances. The Finance Council meets to 1) inform each other of current and pending activities, 2) to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on finance related policies, and 3) where there are possibilities for synergistic action, to coordinate such actions. Meetings are held as needed in the assessment of Council members.

## **FAQs**

1. Who do I talk to if I need to make a pledge or change my pledge? Jean Gilbert, Business Manager ([businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)).

## **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) [EXPLORE]**

Religious Exploration is staffed by Michael Molk, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration and Rachel Kohler, RE Associate.

*What is “LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION”?*

A primary purpose of religion is to nurture all that is right and good in us, to help us to grow into our best selves. From infancy through all stages of life, Unitarian Universalist religious exploration grounds us in our faith, binds us together in community, teaches tolerance and respect, and inspires us to bring more peace, justice, and love into the world.

Based in both the Unitarian story of freedom, reason, and tolerance, and the Universalist story of faith, hope, and love, we teach the inherent worth and dignity of all beings, so we work for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. We are all moral agents, capable of making a difference in the world, so we teach about challenging structures of oppression and promoting the health and wellbeing of the earth. We take seriously the Golden Rule and the call to let our lives speak louder than our words. We believe faith is a journey. Beliefs can change, values can deepen, and understanding can broaden.

As children and adults develop their own beliefs and learn to meet their own spiritual needs, the UUFC's Lifespan Religious Exploration programs provide opportunities to explore and reflect within a nurturing community. Learn more about our offerings for children, youth, and adults below. For all ages, we emphasize:

- Ethical growth—internalizing enduring values like justice, equity, and compassion, and gaining tools to act on them in everyday life.
- Social growth—connecting with peers and people of all ages on a deeper level. Finding acceptance among people who see beyond the superficial.
- Spiritual growth—feeling a connection with the sacred within, among, and beyond us.

#### *Religious Exploration for Children and Youth*

The primary role of our Children's RE program is to enhance children's faith development in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for children to learn, ask questions and have fun. The Fellowship's RE program for children is among the largest in the Northwest. Each fall, a theme for Religious Exploration is chosen. Religious Exploration classes for children and youth meet on Sundays during the 11:00 AM service. Children join the beginning of the service, participate in the story for children, and then are escorted to their classrooms (although they are welcome to participate in the service as well).

All children and youth must be pre-registered before attending a RE class. To register, contact [assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org) and ask for a form or pick one up on the desk outside the RE Wing Hallway and return it to the desk or drop it off with RE staff. RE is a great place to volunteer! Every year the program requires the help of 35 volunteer teachers and numerous other volunteers. Whatever your role might be in helping them learn and grow, you will find yourself learning right along with them.

#### *Religious Exploration for Adults*

At the heart of the Unitarian Universalism movement is the individual search for truth and meaning, but you're never too young or too old to explore and learn with others. The UUFC has a variety of adult programs that promote life-long intellectual and spiritual growth -- classes, reading groups, workshops, retreats, lectures, and more. Join with others in an intellectually stimulating and spiritually safe environment. Given the COVID-19 situation, joining others in person is not possible but other means of engagement are being used – see <https://uucorvallis.org/getinvolved/>

If you have an idea for an Adult RE Class, you can fill out the Adult RE Class Proposal form. These are available through the assistant minister - [assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org)

UUs in their 20's and 30's are invited to join our Young Adult group, which meets for regular discussions on a variety of topics and occasionally for other activities. Contact the office if you'd like to be added to their email list.

### *Library*

The Library Team maintains the UUFC library, reviews donations, orders new books, and adds new additions to the library database to keep track of the collection. The Library Team contact is Christine Robins.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS COUNCIL [LOVE]**

The Connections Council is chaired by Wendy Sutton and the Staff Liaison is Operations Manager, Jamie Petts.

### *Membership Team*

The Membership Team greets everyone, newcomers and longtime members alike. They bring newcomers into the welcoming arms of the Fellowship where they can be nurtured and contribute. The team is organized into three units: Greeters coordinated by Chris Bentley and Bobbi Johnston, Outreach coordinated by Elona Meyer and Kim Henry, Membership Classes coordinated by John Bailey and Elona Meyer. Persons interested in this work, including training and/or membership classes please contact Chris.

### *Chalice Groups and Connection Circles*

Chalice groups give people the opportunity to connect in a small circle where they share honestly and respectfully, experience deep listening and explore the truths of life. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Connection Circles are similar to Chalice Groups but are shorter-term commitments and typically have a particular topic or theme focus. Contact: Elona Meyer

### *Pastoral Care: The Fellowship Care & Support Team*

This Team offers trained volunteer listening companions, ongoing training each month. Pastoral Care Coordinator David Maxfield is responsible for training and coordinating listeners, crisis response, integration of pastoral care into many areas of church life, and support of the work of others – for example justice and outreach. The Fellowship Care & Support Team is expanding our services to include short-term help with transportation, yard work, dog walking, etc., for people who are temporarily incapacitated.

### *Connect-up (mostly suspended during the COVID crisis)*

Connect Up facilitates the creation of deeper relationships within the Fellowship. It offers opportunities for us to gather in small group settings to better get to know each other. These events range from potlucks to game nights to walks in nature to arts & crafts. They can be in a home, the UUFC, a park, a path or anywhere else you'd like to gather. Everyone is welcome to participate and everyone is encouraged to host an event – in their home, the UUFC, a park, a path or anywhere else you'd want to gather. To see current involvement options go to <https://uucorvallis.org/getinvolved/> Contact: Wendy Sutton

### *Committee on Ministry*

The Committee on Ministry works to nurture, maintain and strengthen the quality and effectiveness of all ministries of the congregation. It helps educate the congregation about shared ministry, in which the minister and all the members are partners. It supports the minister(s). Members of the committee are appointed by the Board of Trustees. Contact: Mark Aron

### *Corvallis Transgender Support Group*

This support group meets the second Thursday of each month in Room 10 of the UUFC, 7-10 PM. Transgender people and those close to them meet to discuss whatever issues are current for the participants. Open to the larger community; sponsored by the Living the Welcoming Congregation Team. Contact: Kedo Baye

### *Shawl Ministry Group*

Healing shawls are made for members who are in physical or emotional need of comfort or have experienced a major joy. The group gathers twice a month to knit and crochet together. All skill levels welcome. Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7-8:30pm. Contact: Nancy Lindsey

### *Sunday Coffee Teams*

The UUFC has a dedicated group of people who provide coffee every Sunday morning after both services. These volunteers keep the coffee flowing, refill the sugar bowl and tidy up the kitchen after the last cup of coffee is served. Contact: Ginny Gibson

### *Memorial Service Receptions Team*

Memorial Services honor our loved ones and friends who have died. They are an important part of our grieving process. As members of the Fellowship, one of the ways in which we support family members during what can be a difficult time, is to relieve them of any concerns regarding the memorial service reception. Rev. Jill McAllister works with the family in planning the service and we take care of the reception from beginning to end without relying on the family. In doing so, we recognize our fundamental connection to each other. This behind-the-scenes group of volunteers handles set up, refreshments, working in the kitchen, and cleanup for the reception portion of the service. Other volunteers provide two dozen cookies to drop off at the fellowship either ahead of time or at the time of the service. Everyone is welcome to participate. We need a list of people in the Fellowship who we can call on. If you're willing to be added to the list, please contact: Sandy Piper

### *Holiday Fair*

The Holiday Fair is an opportunity to gather in the spirit of the holidays and to raise funds for UUFC programs. The money raised is part of our annual budget. It takes ~75 people to make this fun event successful. Everyone is welcome to participate. 2019 Contact: Jerrie Jones

### *Rummage Sale*

The Rummage Sale turns our donations into funds for our annual budget. It builds community between the 50 volunteers that staff the event and allows us to be a little gentler on the Earth by reusing/recycling our unwanted items. Everyone is welcome to participate. 2019 Contact: Judy Westlake

### *Services Auction*

The Services Auction is the social gathering of the year! There are both live and silent auction items that have been donated by UUFC members and friends. The auctioneer keeps the bidding lively and provides an entertaining evening. The event takes many volunteer hours to set up, staff, and clean up after the auction. Everyone is welcome to participate by volunteering and attending. 2019 Contact: Judy Westlake

### *Labor Day Tuna Roast*

The Labor Day Tuna Roast began in 1997 and has become the celebration that reunites for another church year. This annual event usually has over 200 members and friends in attendance. Everyone is welcome to participate by volunteering and attending. 2019 Contact: Rich Brainerd

### *Thanksgiving Day Fest-Event*

Turkey roasting is organized, but all the other additions to this shared meal are brought in the same spirit as we imagine the first Thanksgiving meal. Everyone is welcome. 2019 Contact: Rich Brainerd

### *Men's Monthly Gathering*

We meet to build social connections, trusting friendships, and a sense of community. UU men gather on the second Saturday of the month at 9:30am in room 7. All men are invited to participate. Contact: Alan Kirk

### *Women's Retreat*

The Women's retreat is in the autumn. An informative, uplifting and nurturing yearly retreat weekend for the women of the Fellowship. All women are invited to both attend the retreat and participate on the planning committee. Contact the office for more information.

### *Men's Retreat*

The Men's Retreat is in the fall. The retreat is a time for UU men to get to know one another better, get away from daily routines, and reflect on deeper questions in life. All men are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the office.

## **JUSTICE COUNCIL [ACT]**

The Fellowship has a vibrant Justice Council, with numerous Teams doing great work! We invite you to join in. The Council Co-Chairs are Larry Roper & Ann Pemberton. For the most up-to-date list of Teams, contact the office.

### *Social Concerns Team*

The team involves the congregation in social action causes by raising awareness and funds (approximately \$29,000 in 2017) for different local and international charities each month. Activities include action lunches and bake sales. Action lunches are the first Sunday of the month during the school year after second service. A small donation of \$5/person gets you a delicious soup lunch, and all of the proceeds are donated to that month's non-profit. The weekly bakes sales that are held each Sunday before and after services also benefit that month's non-profit. Contact: Sylvia Yamada

### *Climate Justice Task Force*

The Climate Justice Task Force (formerly Climate Justice Committee) addresses the climate crisis as an urgent and immediate threat to our community and our world. Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contact: Karen Josephson and Susan Christie

### *Environmental Action Task Force*

Ongoing goals of this team are to work to reduce our individual carbon footprints with kill-a-watt meters; second, educate UUFC on the benefits of carbon taxes; third, do a waste audit and improve UUFC's waste sorting and handling; and fourth, reduce our ruminant consumption. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contacts: Jack Elder & Elizabeth Waldorf

### *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDI)*

EDI focuses on racism and facilitating the Fellowship work in helping to dismantle white supremacy by: 1. Developing UUFC programs to build awareness of institutional racism, shared language and communication skills in the context of this work and our faith 2. Building community-wide coalitions 3. Mapping the issues, responses and resources around racism and multiculturalism in our communities. Contact: Wendy Sutton

### *Homelessness and Access to Housing Task Force*

This team encourages and facilitates congregational involvement in local issues around homelessness and access to housing, plus awareness of the impact of these issues within the congregation. A large part of our work is helping to manage the Corvallis Men's Winter Shelter. Contact: Roz Keeney

### *Immigration and Refugee Team*

This team encourages and facilitates congregational involvement in local/regional issues around immigration, plus awareness of the impact of these issues within the congregation. This team monitors UUFC support of and relations with Unitarian and other refugees. Contact: Melinda Sayavedra

### *Partner Church Team*

This team maintains connections with our Partner Church, the Unitarian Church in Körispatak, Transylvania, Romania. They coordinate financial support for scholarships and church maintenance, and educate our congregation on our partner church's culture, history, community, and our common religious roots. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Contact: Patricia Parcels

### *Micro-Credit Team*

The committee is dedicated to making loans to women in developing countries. The loans help women establish small businesses or improve existing businesses. We have made over 222 loans in the past six years. Fund raising for this work is done by holding bake sales, plant/pot sales and hosting a music event. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contact: Sandy Houtman

### *Fair trade Coffee Sales*

We support small farmers and their communities in the Mexican state of Chiapas by selling their coffee. The growers own a roasting facility on the US border and, by participating in this value added step, they are able to have health care and a retirement program, enabling them to remain in their communities. Contact: Nancy Kyle

### *Adopt-A-Highway Team*

Four times a year this group gathers for the highway cleanup of ~2.5 miles along Philomath Boulevard (highway 34/20) between 53rd in Corvallis and the outskirts of Philomath. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contact: Scott Bruslind

### *UU Voices for Justice: A Statewide Advocacy Network*

UUFC Contacts:

-Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, Roberta Hall

Mid-Valley Health Care advocates is a non-profit non-partisan group of community members who advocate for universal health care. Volunteers give talks to interested groups, plan educational events, communicate with legislators, and more. General meeting is every 4th Monday at 7pm in the Social Hall. Fresh ideas and new volunteers are always welcome.

## **COORDINATING COUNCIL**

The Coordinating Council oversees the coordination of all the work done by the Fellowship's Councils, and provides support for all the leaders of Councils. Meetings are held a few times a year. Contacts: Rev. Jill McAllister ([minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)) or Jamie Petts ([office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)).

## CONTACTS

### Staff

Minister, Rev. Jill McAllister [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

Church Operations Manager, Jamie Petts [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

Business Manager, Jean Gilbert [businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, Michael Molk [assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org)

Associate Director of Religious Exploration, Rachel Kohler [reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org)

Music Director, Dr. David Servias [music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)

Accompanist, Lauren Servias

Childcare Coordinator, Barb Holmes

### Board of Directors (2019-2020)

Scott Bruslind

Steve Strauss

Brooke Landberg

Jen Akeroyd

Uta Hussong-Christian

Craig Olbrich

### Councils

**Worship Council**, Rev. Jill McAllister [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

Kirtan: Kitzie Stern

Committee on Ministry: Mark Aron

Music: David and Lauren Servias [music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)

Art Exhibition: Niya Standish

**Admin Council**, Jamie Petts [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

Building Maintenance: Nick Houtman

Grounds: Andrea Dailey

Finance Council, Russ Karow

Staff Liaison: Jean Gilbert [businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)

**Religious Exploration Council**, Israel Buffardi [assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org) and Rachel Kohler [reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org)

Library Team Coordinator: Christine Robins

**Connections Council**, Wendy Sutton

Staff Liaison: Jamie Petts [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org).

Membership Team and Greeters: Chris Bentley

Outreach (First Steps) coordinated by Elona Meyer

Membership Classes coordinated by John Bailey and Elona Meyer

Chalice Groups and Connection Circles: Elona Meyer

Pastoral Care: The Fellowship Care & Support Team: David Maxfield

Connect-up: Wendy Sutton [connect@uucorvallis.org](mailto:connect@uucorvallis.org)

Corvallis Transgender Support Group: Kedo Baye

Shawl Ministry Group: Nancy Lindsey

Sunday Coffee Teams: Ginny Gibson

Memorial Service Receptions Team: Sandy Piper

Holiday Bazaar 2019 Contact: Jerrie Jones

Rummage Sale 2019 Contact: Judy Westlake

Services Auction 2019 Contact: Judy Westlake

Labor Day Tuna Roast 2019 Contact: Rich Brainerd

Thanksgiving Day Fest-Event 2019 Contact: Rich Brainerd

Men's Monthly Gathering: Alan Kirk

Women's Retreat 2019 Contact: Eileen Maxfield

Men's Retreat 2017 Contact: Lloyd Wagenschutz

**Justice Council**, Ann Pemberton and Larry Roper

Social Concerns Team: Sylvia Yamada

Climate Justice Task Force: Susan Christie

Environmental Action Task Force: Jack Elder & Elizabeth Waldorf

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDI): Wendy Sutton

Homelessness and Access to Housing Task Force: Roz Keeney

Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates: Roberta Hall

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