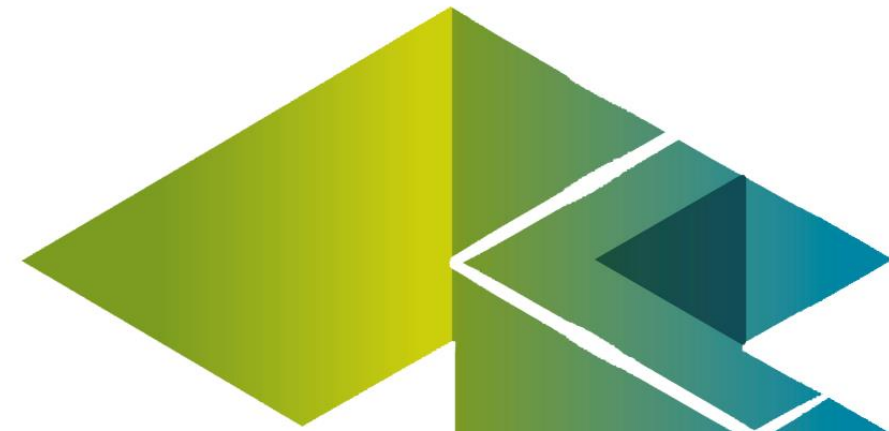


2019 FALL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



RED RIVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ~ DENVER, TEXAS



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NOTICE OF THE RED RIVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Date: Sunday, October 20, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm

Where: In the Chapel

Agenda: Chalice lighting & reading
Roll Call

Approval of the minutes from the May 21, 2019 Spring Congregational Meeting

Discussion and Approval of the Congregational Behavior Covenant

Discussion and Approval of the Annual Reports

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Adult Forum | LGBTQ+ Welcoming Committee |
| Art Fest | Literary Domination Society |
| Aesthetics | Little Free Library |
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| Endowment Committee | Sunday morning greeters and "Ask Me" Host |
| Facilities | Trash Troop |
| Friday Night Flicks | Website |
| Good Times Team | Web of Life Monarch Waystation |
| Grounds | Worship Team |

Review current congregational annual goals

Discussion and vote on Pathway to Membership process

Discussion and vote on Statement of Conscience process

Discussion and vote on Bylaw Change

Discussion on grant ideas

Discussion on changing Share the Bowl from one Sunday monthly to *every* Sunday of the year

Open Discussion

Closing Reading & Extinguishing the Chalice

Adjournment

Documents: The *Complete Meeting Packet* containing:

- Minutes of the May 21, 2019 Spring congregational meeting
- Current Congregational Behavior Covenant
- Annual Reports
- Proposed Pathway to Membership process
- Proposed Statement of Conscience process
- Proposed bylaw changes
- Proxy Ballot

are available on the church app and web site.

Lunch: Potluck, bring a dish to share.

References: Specifics about congregational meetings and voting requirements can be found in our [church bylaws](#).

MINUTES FROM THE 2019 SPRING MEETING

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
Spring Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 19, 2019
1:00 PM

| | |
|--|---|
| Lunch | The Board of Trustees catered a lunch. |
| Call to order | President Jim Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. He asked secretary Kelly Cofield-Dyer to take the roll in order to determine a quorum. |
| Roll call | Ms. Dyer reported 34 members were present, either in person or by proxy. A quorum was in place. |
| Fall 2018 Meeting Minutes | The fall congregational minutes were presented. A correction was noted: No vote was taken on the issue of expanding our Share the Bowl donations from one Sunday a month to every Sunday a month. Minutes were approved by consensus. |
| Annual reports | Annual reports from the President/Board of Trustees; Committee on Ministry and Membership committee were sent to the membership prior to the meeting. Mr. Holmes gave an overview of staffing and RE needs and said Doug need a communications assistant. Marla needs assistance maintaining the church database and social media. Amy needs assistance with the Earth Day Festival. Dick needs bookkeeping assistance. We also need the classrooms remodeled. |
| Adoption of congregation's goals for 2019-2020 | <p>General discussion regarding goals for the next church year concluded with a recommendation that we accept the goals as outlined in the Long Range Planning report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Facilities list for 2019• Add live stream to services and staff• Make live stream available to RE room, Emerson room, and our Facebook page• Apply for NTUUC Grant (subject TBD)• Fill position for Outreach Coordinator• Fill position for RE Team Leader• Create a Building Expansion Fund and Emergency Facilities Fund• Add 1 Outreach program <p>A motion to accept the above 3 goals were made and seconded, passed unanimously.</p> |
| Report on the LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Process | Jack presented the work of the Welcoming Congregation program. The committee has met monthly and offered various ways the congregation can learn more about LGBTQ issues, including inviting the worship team to have LGBTQ themes during the worship year. The team hopes to have their work completed and submitted to the UUA in time to announce at the October 20, 2019 Fall Congregational Meeting whether we will become a welcoming congregation or not. |
| Long Range Planning Report | Jim, Dick, Robert, Ronda and Marilyn presented the extensive work being done by the Long Range Planning Committee. Each member spoke about various sections of their 50+ page report. Robert presented the Membership area. recommended a more prompt follow-up to visitors. Ronda presented the need for an Outreach Coordinator and Marketing Team. |

Marilyn presented the Facilities section, including need for parking and explained our parking issue will not be fixed by buying adjoining or adjacent lots. Marilyn suggested moving the playground to the south side lawn and use that space for parking.

Share the Bowl Mr. Strong raised a hope that we might vote at some point to expand our Share the Bowl Sundays beyond just the second Sunday to include every Sunday. He mentioned that congregations who donate all unidentified cash contributions to groups beyond the church end up having significant increases in unidentified cash contributions. Congregation agreed to do this.

This year the Share the Bowl will remain with the Texoma Earth Day Festival and the Grayson County Shelter. Those wishing to support the Boys and Girls Club are invited to the Taste of Texoma on Memorial Day at the First Baptist Church (B&G Club was suggested as a recipient this year along with the Denison Pet Rescue group.)

2019-2020 Operating Budget Mr. Powell presented the financial reports and the proposed 2019-2020 operating budget. The proposed budget was unanimously approved without any changes.

Need for more room in the chapel As the congregation grows, there will be a need for more room in the chapel. Discussion of how to create more space (smaller chairs, pushing out the north wall, etc). Included in the discussion was the idea of live streaming the morning assembly to other parts of the building. This would necessitate expanding the AV desk, obtaining a second computer and installing appropriate video camera in the chapel. Also would need a second AV person each week.

R.E. rooms The R.E. rooms are under renovation. Discussion on remodel of the kitchen and a note that the floor needs to be replaced.

Monarch Waystation Mrs. Cates gave a report on the status of our Monarch Waystation. Plants are thriving. She presented the top three submissions for a name of our garden and asked the membership to select one. The winning name: Web of Life Monarch Garden.

Election of church leadership The Nominating Committee presented the slate of individuals standing for various leadership positions.

- Lisa Cates – Vice President
- David Dyer - Secretary
- Sabra Jones - Trustee at large
- Kelly Cofield-Dyer - Nominating Committee
- L.D. Clark - Committee on Ministry






A motion was made and seconded to ask the secretary to cast a single ballot electing all leadership positions by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously and with applause in gratitude for those volunteering to serve.

Adjournment It was moved and seconded that the 2018 Spring Congregational Meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously at 3:20 PM.





Respectfully Submitted Kelly Cofield-Dyer, *secretary*

**We, the Members of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church,
affirm that in our interactions with each other:**





We will communicate with respect and genuine positive regard. . .

-  By recognizing positive characteristics in others
-  By giving and receiving both information and opinion with respect
-  By separating our feelings about people from our opinions of their behavior
 -  By considering others' perspectives
 -  By respecting each other's privacy and need for confidentiality

We will communicate with care to preserve our sense of community and belonging

-  By supporting the congregation, its mission, and vision
 -  By looking for common ground
 -  By participating actively while reserving the right to pass
 -  By expecting and accepting unfinished business

We will communicate with autonomy to preserve our personal and collective integrity

-  By speaking from our own experiences
-  By practicing forgiveness and finding our own absolution
 -  By recognizing when to let go
-  By maintaining clear boundaries and monitoring our own status
within this covenant

Further, we resolve that in our interactions with one another there is no room for
assumptions, judgments, accusations, side conversations,
or triangulated communication.

Adopted by the Congregation on November 8, 2009

Reaffirmed October 20, 2013

Reaffirmed October 30, 2016

Adult Forum – Sabra Jones

After finishing the Great Courses (GC) series on the Transcendentalists, the group moved directly on to a 12-lecture series, also from GC. All participants seemed to enjoy the series and many said so. Upon finishing that series, Jerry brought to everyone's attention a sale from GC and all ultimately agreed to purchase four series. Topics included a history of early Christianity, the Darwinian revolution, and two others. By vote of those attending on the first day of the new series, we began with the history of early Christianity. Having heard seven or eight of those lectures, the consensus seemed to be that they were too numerous (24) and moving too slowly. The group decided to change to the series on the history of the theory of evolution. Pursuant to some suggestions from Doug, including an assertion that one regular member had changed meeting times for other church activities in order to attend the early Christianity series, the group revisited the decision on the following Sunday. In the end, the group confirmed the decision to make the change. The member who had changed their schedule in order to attend AF has not attended since. Current attendees seem to be enjoying the series on evolution. This leader wishes she had time to research and bring more enrichment materials/activities for discussion time.

Aesthetics Team – Joyce Peak

The committee had been dormant for a few years and became active last spring when the foyer ceiling needed repair as part of a larger repair project. The committee worked with Facilities, drew plans for replacing the foyer ceiling. An adaptation of the design was done.

The church nursery was relocated from the basement to the Anthony Room and new-to-us furnishings were found and purchased, including a second crib, a folding table, low highchair and two small chairs. The back stairs from the second floor to the outside landings must be repaired. The committee worked with Facilities by selecting beadboard and wall panels, lighting, paint and carpeting.

A donation of a large lot of plaid drapes was offered only if used in the Barton Parlor and Emerson Room. A sample was sent to the church and after seeing it in the space the committee felt it would work better on the second floor and the donor agreed not to offer it.

Several people commented that the chapel wall behind the pulpit is too stark. The Welcoming Congregation banner, never intended to be permanent, was moved to the stairway to the second floor and the committee discussed proposed artwork. The first option was prepared and ultimately rejected. A second option was researched and an unanimous decision made.

Fabric and stretcher bars were ordered, with volunteers doing the stretching, saving approximately \$1,000.00.

Donation of two highchairs from unknown donor was withdrawn.

Art Fest - Adrian Hinman

We had a booth at Arts Fest, on Sept 21, next to Amy's Earth Day booth. A craft, where kids could draw or glue clothes onto a sort of stick person was available, and we advertised the clothing swap that was held the next weekend. We had about 150 kids do the craft, and even more folks stopped by to look at our pamphlets and ask questions. Jack and her mother were there for a while, as were Lisa and her daughter. The booth felt like a big success and many people were educated about our church.

Building and Grounds - Marilyn Alexander,

Building and Grounds: January – April - Marilyn Alexander
Reconstructed under porch access.

Removed ceiling in front hall and installed new ceiling.

Removed half wall at top of stairs in front hall.

Purchased remodeling materials and paint for back hall.

Added electrical boxes.

Painted handrail and wall.

Replaced wall paneling and linoleum in small bathroom next to kitchen.

Hired exterminator for Asian beetles and mice/rats.

Purchased changing table, crib and playpen.

Purchased new coffeemaker.

Reattached rain gutter.

Replaced air filters as needed.

Caring Team - Kelly Cofield-Dyer

Made visitations and phone calls to several of our members when they were ill.

The Caring Team, with a lot of help from Dick, helped one of our members organize a Financial portfolio to great benefit, as well as, help with some medical issues.

Communications - Doug Strong

In no specific order, here's a rambling rundown of my work the last year:

I edited 12 issues of *Red River Ramblings*; 52 issues of the wednesdayUPDATE (to a distribution list of 217 individuals) and produced 51 Morning Programs. I continue to maintain three separate data bases: dBase of members, friends, visitors, Time & Talent entries in Microsoft Access; email database used by iContact, our email marketing company; and the members and leaders dBase with the Data Services at the UUA. I turn to Marla when I have problems with Microsoft Access, as she created the dBase we use. She can fix anything I mess up!

I prepare the UUA Annual Congregational Inventory and issue the delegate cards for the General Assembly. All visitor cards

are processed weekly, names added to the indicated databases and the information sent to various church committees and teams.

I keep our Facebook page, our church app and our church website current with updates.. I create FB covers, and images for the app carousel. I maintain the church calendar and Events page on our website. I print membership certificates for those who, keep a supply of New Member Packets available. I create and print the cash donation envelopes, visitor cards, and posters for upcoming events, I also created the annual stewardship campaign graphics, slogan and printed materials. I collected all the contents and produced the Packet of Meeting Documents for both the spring and fall congregational meeting. I designed the on-line voting and the on-line stewardship campaign pledging ability.

I look after the church bulletin boards, and the 'announcement wall' outside the chapel. I drafted and after approved, submitted the annual NTUUC grant application for their consideration. I also submit the interim financial report for our current NTUUC grants. I created a new church directory after asking everyone (some twice) for updates and making all edits in the dBase. During the last year, we sent over 14,425 emails using iContact, saving us significant amounts in paper, printing and postage. There currently are only two individuals for whom I print the newsletter and directory. (Marla prints the wednesdayUPDATE and put a copy in the Current Year Binder.)

This year the church subscribed to Microsoft Office 365 and purchased a HP Office Jet Pro 8720 (print, scan, copy, fax, web) unit and have a subscription in their Instant Ink program that affords us the opportunity to print up to 500 color (or black/white) pages monthly for a flat fee of \$14.95. The resulting change greatly reduced our printing costs, while affording us to produce eye-catching full color printed materials.

Community Involvement - Jim Holmes

A new category this year, coming from the Strategic Plan that urges us to explore ways of community involvement. While not an extensive list during the last 12 months our church was "out there" at the Sherman Police Department's annual Fright Fest; started a separate LGBTQ+ FaceBook page and twitter account; promoted the Dallas Homeless Choir, co-sponsored with other congregations a school supply project; supported Grayson College by holding Moveable Feasts in the culinary department's restaurant, supported the UU Prison Ministry Network, and thanks to Tommi Homuth our congregation co-sponsored an Ag-Life event called *Dinner Tonight - Healthy Cooking School*. Members also were responsible for the Grayson County ClimateStrike events.

Children's Clothing Swap - Adrian Hinman

On Sept 28, we held our free children's clothing swap. We had about 5 or 6 groups come by and swap, with about 2-4 people per group. I had dropped off fliers about the swap at daycares

and the shelter a few days prior to the event, as well as advertised it on Facebook. A few people on Facebook expressed interest, but stated they were unavailable this weekend. This was our second Swap of the year, the first one was on December 8, 2019

Earth Day Planning - Amy Hoffman-Shehan

The 2019 Texoma Earth Day Festival did happen, in spite of reports from others that we had cancelled or been rained out. We moved as much as we could indoors, including the entertainment and children's art show sponsored by the Sherman ISD arts initiative. We had moderate success with our first attempt at a free swap meet. Many people didn't understand the concept, and we had many last-minute requests for donations from or on behalf of people who were in need but had nothing to bring to swap. We decided that we will re-frame it as a give and take event so people in need are included.

Our comprehensive recycling guide for north Texas and southern Oklahoma was a hit! In addition to giving out around 250 at the festival, we distributed an additional 500 through area libraries, TCOG, Chambers of Commerce and Sherman's utility department. We just printed a second edition and will continue to distribute them until they run out.

The 2020 Texoma Earth Day Festival will be April 18, 2020. We would love to have more volunteers from the congregation on our planning committee, as many of our committee members are facing health challenges this year.

Dungeons & Dragons/Tabletop Tuesdays - Adrian Hinman

Since the last week of July, D&D Nights /Tabletop Tuesdays have been held (almost) every Tuesday from 5pm-9pm at the church. We usually have about 4-7 players, and gather around a table to play Dungeons and Dragons or other board games..

Endowment - Carolyn Cameron, Dick Powell, Doug Strong

The committee did not meet during the last year. During the year the church received a gift of \$10,000 from a former member which brings the total of the endowment to \$12,035.00 The endowment bylaws were created and approved by the Board of Trustees in 2004, and outlines the management, restrictions and usage of the portfolio. No funds may be expended until the Corpus reaches \$50,000. The document is on the website under Our Governance tab.

Facilities: April-October – Jim Holmes

Continued work on brick foundation repairs in the basement Found contractor to continue repairs and updates to the water damage from roof leak and 2nd floor RE repairs and updates Installed plywood foundation for laminate flooring in the Arts and Crafts room.

Repaired toilet flushing issue in Chapel bathroom

Repaired plumbing leak in basement discovered after Labor of Love basement cleanup

Friday Night Flicks – Doug Strong

During the current year attendance at the Friday Night Flicks (and during daylight saving time months, the Saturday Afternoon Flicks) dwindled from a high of 9 to one person - the AV tech, who after three months of enjoying a movie on the large screen alone, decided it is time to retire the idea.

Unless there is an overwhelming swell of enthusiasm I'm shutting down the flicks.

Good Times Team

Established in the May 2017 congregational meeting to divide into four teams and provide weekly refreshments for Conversations & Calories after Sunday assemblies. (On fifth Sundays, there is an "In 4 Lunch All-Church Pot Luck.") Team members Bickham, Holmes, Powell, Strong, Bolerjack, Linn Cates, Hill, Hoffman-Shehan, Alexander, DeCaire, Droegemeier, Shelton, Dyer, Homuth Jones, Schulze.

Grounds – April-October Marilyn Alexander

Maintained lawn and landscaping throughout the season.
Cleaned up broken and dangling limbs and pecan litter.
Purchased dwarf roses for sign flowerbed.
Purchased porch plants, mulch, fertilizer, and new water hose timer.
Repaired soaker hoses.
Purchased and installed rock border in Memorial garden.
Cleaned out rock and underlayment from north flower bed so that butterfly garden plants could be planted. Added watering system to that area.

LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Committee - Jack Bolerjack

The WCC decided unanimously, after the summer break, that a more traditional hierarchy would be more efficient & effective; the positions of Chair & Secretary were filled with Jack & Amy, respectively.

We revived the MeetUp Group and currently have more than 100 members. It has been effective as an outreach tool for a social meeting - a Movie Night - in August. We are utilizing our FB group to a significant degree for events & affirmation posts.

There has been a noteworthy amount of partnership with other LGBTQ + affirming churches. Red River UU WCC has actively participated in a school supply drive. We were represented at The First Annual Grayson Pride Festival, the AC Non-profit Fair and at Sherman Arts Fest with positive feedback.

We received official word in September that Red River UU has been certified as an LGBTQ + Welcoming Congregation. Our use of the MeetUp app, originally Rebecca Crystal's idea, was commended by the UUA representative because to date no other UU congregation has utilized this social media platform before. Also applauded was the morning assembly regarding pronouns and the classes on LGBTQ + history & culture offered to the congregation & public.

The Board honored Jack by naming her the Inaugural LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Representative for our congregation.

Literary Domination Society – Carolyn Cameron

The Literary Domination Society (aka Book Club) met monthly until recessed for the summer. The group did not resume meeting in September because the facilitator is too lazy and she was not able to motivate anyone else to take the job.

Little Free Library

Now in its fifth year, the library actively serves the community. Two or three people regularly stock the library from books members of the congregation donate to the church. The efforts currently are very spotty, with times when the library is sparsely stocked.

Long Range Planning Committee – Marilyn Alexander

We were established in October of 2018 with the following members: Robert Shelton, Jim Holmes, Ronda Decaire, and Marilyn Alexander. Marilyn was elected committee leader by the members.

We created the 5 Year Strategic Plan (2019-2024) and presented it at the May Congregational Meeting where it was approved.

Since its approval, this committee has been monitoring the activities of the Church to see if there is any impact on The Plan.

Meditation Interest Group - Marla Loturco

There wasn't much interest in the 9:00 am Sunday Morning Meditation group. Most Sundays there were only two participants. There were a few visitors, however, none seemed to be repeats. The group went on hiatus in February, 2019 when I had my knee replacement and due to lack of interest has not restarted.

Moveable Feast - Marion and Elbert Hill

Movable Feast continues to be a popular interest group and currently has 37 people on its email list. Most MF participants are members of RRUU, although that's not a requirement. The group participates about once a month in a meal or other food-related event. This past year, MF has met in private homes, in restaurants, and at the church, as well as participating in the Taste of Texoma event in Denison on Memorial Day and the Dinner Tonight event on September 24 sponsored by Tracy Realty and RRUU. For the past few months, the group has been trying (on alternate months) having dinners with small groups (usually 8-10 people), since these often work better for conversation than the large group (20 or so attend many MF events). The reaction so far on the small dinners has been positive. Facilitators Elbert and Marion Hill encourage group members to suggest "foodie" ideas to the group and to invite others to its events.

North Texas UU Congregations - Red River's Representative - Marla Loturco

Mission: *Supports the growth of Unitarian Universalism through learning, sharing, and promoting justice.*

Vision: *A more just, loving, and sustainable world.*

During this last year, NTUUC has been exploring how it may best serve the 13 North Texas UU Congregations. In November 2019 a Summit was held with all 13 congregations invited. Five potential paths were explored during the summit and at President/Vice-president meetings. The local ministers have also been consulted. This is an ongoing discussion. Anyone with suggestions may contact me.

NTUUC organized UU's for two pride parades, Dallas and Fort Worth with some of our congregants attending the Dallas parade. They also provided a bus for UU Justice Day at the state capitol. Sadly, since I was still recovering from surgery, no one represented Red River UU at this event.

Red River received a grant from NTUUC for \$4320.00 to be used on Building Repair.

Religious Education – Jim Holmes (with Linn Cates)

Currently the position for Director of Religious Education is open. The RE support team currently includes primarily our two very capable and wonderful teen church members Ellie Dyer and Angie Cates, who each Sunday faithfully host whatever children visit Red River UU during the Morning Assembly. They provide age appropriate activities including a UU curriculum with a chalice lighting and lesson. They also provide a snack. Assisting in a variety of ways several adult members have supported them by purchasing snacks, joining in on workdays to keep the room beautiful and organized, monitoring by remote camera, and assisting the adults who want to keep a remote eye on their young children via an app on their phone, and even being on call should both girls not be available on a given Sunday. Attendance has been varied, often just one child, but occasionally more, and once 5. Twenty-six children participates this year.

Safe Congregation Panel - Dan Althoff

The Safe Congregation Panel consists of the President of the Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry. Its main function is to safeguard the well-being of all members, but especially the well-being of children and youth among us. The Safe Congregation Panel is convened only when there has been an allegation of inappropriate activity against a member. We are pleased to report that there have been no incidents reported in the period October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. No funds were expended in the past year.

Shelter Meals

The Shelter Crew, which periodically prepares and delivers a meal to the residents of RRUU's near neighbor, the Grayson

County Shelter, has been less active this past year than previously. Usually the Crew (consisting of about a dozen volunteers from among the Red River UU congregation) does a meal for the shelter about four times a year. Business and inattention on the part of Marion Hill, who had organized the meals for several years previously, reduced the frequency to twice during this past year. Joyce Peak has now taken over the organizing of the meals and apparently is quite efficient at the task. The Crew took a meal to the shelter on October 3, with 11-12 home-prepared dishes that amounted to a delicious, nutritious and satisfying meal. Joyce Peak and Marion and Elbert Hill ate with the residents and had nice conversations with them. The residents expressed great thanks and appreciation for the contribution Red River UU makes to their daily lives. A couple of them asked about the church's services and indicated an interest in attending, which of course the **church members** encouraged!

Social Justice

Our previous Social Justice coordinator, Rebecca Crystal, was not able to continue in the position. Until someone is recruited, or volunteers, here is a quick run down of the activities which would logically fall under social justice that happened during the year:

Following the attack on various Muslim institutions and mosques, we participated in *Postcards for Peace*, which were written by members of the congregation and sent to our local mosque.

We participated in the local *Candles for Liberty* vigil with other local churches; the two *Climate Strike protests* in Sherman and the worship team invited various speakers to discuss climate change; asylum issues, immigration issues, and combatting white supremacy.

Spirit of Life Monarch Waystation - Linn Cates

At the Spring Meeting 2018, the congregation voted to install a Monarch WayStation (an initiative of the Monarch Watch Organization). It is now gloriously thriving. In the past year, members and friends have maintained it responding to workday calls for volunteers and received crucial nurturing by Kerry, our grounds-service professional. Members and friends have donated native plants, mastered the group naming game, and not least, sanctified the united effort through the inspiring dedication service. Uniting in this effort have been Marilyn, Don, Dick, Jolene, Jeanie, Amy, Adrian, Helen Schulze, Helen South, Carole, Jack, Dan, Marion, Doug, and Linn. I recognize and applaud our entire congregation for its commitment to this important environmental action. Our efforts are being replicated by thousands of other entities and individuals across the country. This united effort will provide what the monarch needs to complete its life cycle. By providing for the species' needed host and nectar plants, we support other species in our biome, and we signal our commitment to the interconnected web of

life--our denomination's 7th Principle. At our Spring Congregational Meeting on May 19th, 2019, we voted unanimously to name our garden, "Web of Life Monarch Garden" and on Sunday, August 25th, 2019, following the Water-Communion Service, we formally dedicated our WayStation, now fully integrated into our landscape.

Sunday Morning Greeters & "Ask Me" Host

A team of volunteers who assure that all who come on Sunday are warmly welcomed. For first-time visitors, special "ask me" volunteers answer questions and introduce visitors to members who may sit with them and/or give them a tour of the church campus, with the aim of making them feel welcomed.

Trash Troop

Trash Troop began when I accidentally discovered that we could have a recycle bin at church. Turns out this was a blessed fluke because churches are not permitted to have recycling bins, according to the city of Denison (shh! Don't tell.) We have recycling because when I requested it, the nice lady asked what the address is - and Googled it. Seeing a lovely old estate house, she authorized the collection. (Full disclosure: I didn't not learn all of this for many months.) This year 11 people volunteered to come to church on a Wednesday afternoon/evening and take out the trash and recycle bins; then return on Thursday and roll them back to their spot behind the house. The Troopers: Cameron, Cates, Dyer, Harner, Hinman, Holmes, McMurry, Peak, Powell, Shelton, Strong

TX UU Justice Ministry

The congregation voted to become a member of TXUUM when it first was created, and annually contributes \$2/member each October. One or two members of the congregation have served on their advisory board. Currently no one does.

Website Team - Marla Loturco, web administrator

The web team of Doug Strong, Jim Holmes and Marla Loturco announced at the last Fall Congregational Meeting the new layout of the website. The website is based on a template from the UUA. It seems to be well received and solves

the issue of being able to be viewed on multiple devices. Changes are occasionally taking place in the format and if you haven't visited it recently, you may want to do so.

Worship Team - Doug Strong

This year the worship team continued to assure we have a viable and interesting worship experience 51 Sundays, (except the Labors of Love work Sunday on September 1st.) We work well together and led several morning assemblies, which saves our budget! Our work was reduced this year when the Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies agreed to speak one Sunday a month. We decided that when ordained clergy visit, we ask that they conduct the entire morning. This reduced the frequency for needing a worship associate.

We continued to use, albeit fewer, video messages this year which, we regret, cause a slight overrun on our budget. Video messages have become well received. They give us opportunities to hear a wider range of UU minister's preaching. We reached out to musical groups who were on tour in the area, notable Villemo, a singing duo from Finland (even had the Finnish Counsel General in the congregation!). Dan Althoff shared his musical compositions and singing by presenting a full hour of his works. L.D. Clark sang and played guitar several Sundays and a we began a fledgling choir.

We introduced showing announcements on the screens prior and following the assembly as another avenue to keep people informed. Our hope of reconfiguring the AV desk did not get done and is on hold pending some decisions regarding live streaming our assemblies.

Members of the Team this year included Rebecca Crystal, Marla Loturco, Robert Shelton, Tommi Homuth, Dan Althoff (who rejoined the team after completing his tenure as President of the Southeastern's Faculty Senate), and Doug Strong. We enjoyed several visitors who dropped in during our meetings - L.D. Clark, Adrian Hinman, Jolene Whitten and Meg McMurry.

Our work is enriched by the talents of a wonderful cadre of Worship Associates: Tommy Homuth, Ronda DeCaire, Carol Powell, Carole Harner, Robert Shelton and Jolene Whitten.

SUMMARY OF SUNDAY MORNING ASSEMBLIES

Each week the board rep records the number of adults, children and first time visitors who were in attendance. The tally runs from October 2018 through September 2019. The summary is on this page,, the individual data appears on the next page.

| 2018 | Church Totals | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Date | Total | Adults | Child | Visit |
| Avg | 34 | 33 | 1 | 2 |
| Max | 50 | 49 | 4 | 7 |
| Min | 20 | 20 | | |
| Totals | 1727 | 1699 | 28 | 79 |
| Previous years comparisons | | | | |
| 2017-18 | 1748 | avg 34 | guests | 77 |
| 2016-17 | 1478 | avg 30 | guests | 65 |
| 2015-16 | 1481 | avg 28 | guests | 90 |

| 2018 | Church Totals | | | Worship | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------|-------|---------|--|---|
| Date | Total | Adults | Child | Visit | Leader | Topic |
| 10/07 | 35 | 33 | 2 | 1 | Whitney Redding | Transforming the Revolving Door |
| 10/14 | 36 | 35 | 1 | 1 | Rebekah LaGrone | Holding it Together While You Ride Out the Storm |
| 10/21 | 40 | 36 | 4 | 2 | Credo Sunday | This I Believe |
| 10/28 | 39 | 38 | 1 | 2 | The Rev. Doug Strong | Study. Learn. Question. Die |
| 11/04 | 34 | 33 | 1 | | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Becoming Great |
| 11/11 | 30 | 30 | | | Jerry Harris, Jim Holmes, L.D. Clark & Bruce Cameron | And Crown Thy Good |
| 11/18 | 33 | 32 | 1 | | Joyce White | Ag Life and You |
| 11/25 | 29 | 28 | 1 | | Christopher Grimes | Know Your Status |
| 12/02 | 35 | 34 | 1 | | Worship Team | We Are All Santas |
| 12/09 | 32 | 31 | 1 | 2 | Worship Team | Celebrations with Light |
| 12/16 | 29 | 28 | 1 | 2 | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Light In The Darkness |
| 12/23 | | | | | Worship Team | Winter Solstice & Christmas ~ Let's Call It Sharing |
| 12/30 | 28 | 27 | 1 | 4 | Worship Team | What The Seven Principles Mean to You |
| 2019 | | | | | | |
| 01/06 | 29 | 29 | | | Marla Loturco | Awakening the Senses |
| 01/13 | 50 | 49 | 1 | 6 | Don Mathis | Walt Whitman: Alive and in Person |
| 01/20 | 27 | 27 | | 2 | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Wade in the Water |
| 01/27 | 39 | 39 | | 1 | The Rev. Kalen Fristad | Universalism: Past, Present, and Powerful |
| 02/03 | 39 | 39 | | 3 | D. Scott Cooper | Good Rtit, Affluenza and the Good Samaritan |
| 02/10 | 48 | 48 | | 7 | Leinonen & Joni Tiala | Vellamo ~ in Concert |
| 02/17 | 40 | 40 | | 3 | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Hanging on to Hope |
| 02/24 | 39 | 39 | | 1 | Worship Team | Bayard Rustin ~ The Gay Socialist Pacifist |
| 03/03 | 34 | 34 | | 7 | Video - The Rev. John Gibbons | Teams |
| 03/10 | 41 | 40 | 1 | | Fenton Rood & Mark Christian | The Sprit of Woody Guthrie |
| 03/17 | 36 | 35 | 1 | | Lanan & Robert Shelton | Why We Love Elephants |
| 03/24 | 46 | 46 | | 3 | Dr. Rachel Tudor | An Instinct for Kindness: Being an Ally in Times of Crisis |
| 03/31 | 29 | 29 | | | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | The World is my Parish |
| 04/07 | 43 | 43 | | | Dr. William Lloyd Fridley | Close to You? Distance & Communication |
| 04/14 | 33 | 33 | | | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Embracing Religious Pluralism & Celebrating Interdependent Community |
| 04/21 | 29 | 29 | | | Cornell Kinderknecht | All Music Easter Morning |
| 04/28 | 36 | 36 | | | The Rev. Chuch Freeman | Breathing UU Faith Into the Body Politic |
| 05/05 | 39 | 37 | 2 | 4 | Dorayne Breedlove | Living the Life of Aloha |
| 05/12 | 26 | 26 | | | Worship Team | Mothers & Flowers |
| 05/19 | 38 | 38 | | 5 | The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata | What's the Big Idea? |
| 05/26 | 29 | 29 | | | Worship Team | In Memoriam |
| 06/02 | 36 | 36 | | 7 | Dr. F. Daniel Althoff | On This Beautiful Morning: A (Very) Sung UU Assembly |
| 06/09 | 36 | 36 | | 1 | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Education for Human & Ecological Good: Why Our World Needs the Liberal Arts |
| 06/16 | 20 | 20 | | 2 | Worship Team & Congregation | From Ignorance to Astonishment: Schoolings from Our Fathers |
| 06/23 | 21 | 21 | | 1 | Streaming - Rev. Marta I. Valentin | In This Delicate Turning (from GA) |
| 06/30 | 33 | 33 | | | Emily Tetsch | Saalam Supper: The Refugee Journey |
| 07/07 | 35 | 35 | | 3 | D. Scott Cooper | Children & Art |
| 07/14 | 33 | 32 | 1 | | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Prophets & Priests |
| 07/21 | 30 | 30 | | | Crystal Hutchison | You Took Away My Childhood: Child Abuse, a Grayson Co Epidemic |
| 07/28 | 30 | 29 | 1 | 2 | Worship Team | Promises to Keep & Miles to Go |
| 08/04 | 27 | 27 | | | D. Scott Cooper | That Other Four-Letter Word |
| 08/11 | 40 | 38 | 2 | 1 | Dr. William Lloyd Fridley | J.S. Mill's Satisfied Pig: Thought Experiments in Values |
| 08/18 | 34 | 33 | 1 | | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | The Earth Community |
| 08/25 | 32 | 32 | | 2 | Worship Team | Future of Water & Dedication of the Spirit of Life Monarch Waysation |
| 09/01 | 25 | 24 | 1 | | entire congregation | Labors of Love - All-Church Work Sunday |
| 09/08 | 32 | 32 | | 1 | The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies | Meliorism: Living Between Optimism & Pessimism |
| 09/15 | 35 | 34 | 1 | | Elena Westbbrook | World on Fire |
| 09/22 | 35 | 34 | 1 | 1 | William O. Holston Jr | Undermining Hope, Asylum in 2019 |
| 09/29 | 23 | 23 | | 2 | Dr. James Krieger | Bible: Truth or Fable? |

PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

I. PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Current Pathway to Membership Section

There is no policy on the requirements to become a member in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Proposed Pathway to Membership Section

This will be inserted in the membership section.

The membership committee has been exploring a new approach to membership, as outlined at last June's General Assembly in Spokane, WA. Marion Hill, membership committee chair, attended the workshop and brought the idea back home.

What follows is the concept endorsed by the membership committee and which will be discussed at the upcoming Fall Congregational Meeting on October 20th.

Joining Red River Unitarian Universalist Church does not require adherence to specific theological beliefs, but the congregation does expect members to be active in four areas of church and community involvement. The areas are listed below, along with examples (not an exhaustive list) of actions that would "qualify" under each category.

If you are considering joining but have questions about any of the four areas or your individual contribution in any, please contact any person on the Membership Team (membership@redriveruu.org). One of us will gladly guide you along the Pathway to Membership.

Have you done any of these actions?

1. Participate in life of church
 - a. act as greeter
 - b. perform music, sing in choir, or act as AV tech, to assist with a worship service
 - c. pledge and donate money
 - d. serve on a committee/team/interest group, such as Good Times team (non-church members may serve on a team but not be team leader.)
 - e. join in an 'all-church event (potluck meal, work day, Appreciation Dinner)
2. Be theologically aware and accepting of diversity
 - a. Read about what UUs believe
 - b. Learn the history of the congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Association, UU Service Committee and other UU organizations
 - c. Take a "New to UU" class or "Building Your Own Theology" class
 - d. Study any religion other than one you grew up in or practice currently

3. Advocate for justice
 - a. Partner with group working for justice, within church or outside (such as the church's Welcoming Congregation Committee)
 - b. Advocate on an issue with an elected official (by phone, email, or in person)
 - c. Attend a protest march, rally, or other community action event
4. Preserve the environment
 - a. Volunteer with Texoma Earth Day Festival (planning committee or at festival)
 - b. Assist with the Monarch Waystation
 - c. Recycle and promote sustainability in your home and workplace, and at church
 - d. Educate others about environmental issues

*You join the church by signing the membership book in the presence of a member of the Board of Trustees and someone on the Membership Team (with whom you discuss your involvement in the four activity areas). Prior to your signing, complete the congregational information form and a Time & Talents Card, indicating your specific interests and abilities and how you will participate in church life.

To vote at a congregational meeting, you must have: (1) signed the membership book at least 30 days before the meeting; and (2) participated in church life (see activity #1 above) during the year prior to that meeting, in a way that can be documented. For example, if you donate money in a Sunday collection, the donation should be by check or in an envelope with your name on it.

Resources available

Many books related to Activity #2 are available in the lending library at Red River UU Church (in the glass-door cabinets in the Emerson Room, near the kitchen). When borrowing volumes from the lending library, please note your name and the date of borrowing on the card for that book in the box of cards on the bottom shelf of the cabinet. When you return a volume, please enter the date of return on the card for that book.

Some books and videos especially recommended by the Membership Team:

- *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism*, by Forrest Church and John A. Buehrens
- *The Wisdom of Faith*, Bill Moyers and Huston Smith, either in book or video form (see www.spiritualityandpractice.com)

Another excellent source of books relating to the religions of the world is *InSpirit*, the UUA Bookstore www.uua-bookstore.org.

2. STATEMENTS OF CONSCIENCE

The Statement of Conscience is in the Policies and Procedures Manual (Adopted 6/30/2012) and is available in the Governance sub section of our web site in the About section.

Current Statement of Conscience

Public Statements on Behalf of the Church

Policy 1. All proposed public statements on behalf of the church (including statements of conscience) are submitted to the Communications Committee for consideration.

Any member of RRUU may submit a proposed public statement to the chair of the Communications Committee for initial consideration during its next meeting. The Committee votes on a proposed public statement and, if approved by at least 75% of the members of the Communications Committee, the committee drafts a formal statement and sends it to the Board for consideration at its next meeting.

Policy 2. All proposed public statements on behalf of the church (including statements of conscience) are approved by the congregation.

The Board considers for endorsement all draft public statements submitted by the Communications Committee. If endorsed, the Board includes the public statements on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled or specially called congregational meeting. Prior to the next regularly scheduled or specially called congregational meeting, the Communications Committee sponsors events to educate the congregation about the statement.

The congregation votes to approve or reject all public statements at the next regularly scheduled or specially called congregational meeting. Ninety per cent (90%) of the members of the congregation present and voting, or voting by proxy, must approve a proposed public statement.

Proposed Revised Statement of Conscience

Public Statements on Behalf of the Church

It is important for us to remember that we govern neither by consensus nor by hierarchical decrees. We are a free faith with a democratic process. Red River UU's taking an official position on an issue means that the Congregation *as a whole* take that position. This includes things like:

- A written expression intended to be released publicly
- The Board President signing a petition on behalf of the congregation, or signing a joint statement sponsored by an organization we support

- Allowing members or church committees of our congregation to carry a banner or poster at a demonstration, vigil or parade that states Red River UU's supports the social justice action.
- Expressions, intended for public view on church property.

Not every member is required to agree with the expression, nor that a statement can only be made once we all agree. We fully expect disagreement. We also believe that respectful disagreement is a part of a healthy and vital congregation.

Taking action for social justice in our community will strengthen our Unitarian Universalist values and enable us to more effectively seek justice within the wider world.

Policy 1. All proposed public statements on behalf of the church (including statements of conscience) are submitted for consideration.

- Any member of RRUU may submit a proposed public statement to the Communications Committee, Social Action Committee, or The Board for initial consideration.
- The Social Action Team, working with the Communication Team, prepares a public expression on external issues or debates that are in alignment with the Unitarian Universalist Principles.
- The Communications team will also recommend where and how the public statement will be made public (Facebook, Website, App, public news organizations, etc.)

Policy 2. Proposed public statements on behalf of the church (including statements of conscience) may be approved by the Board.

- Using the Statements of Conscience accepted by the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly as a guide, the Social Action Team may query the congregation via email, if the expression needs to be made instantly, and submit the statement to the Board of Trustees for an email vote for approval.
- If the board fails to approve, but does not reject the expression, a congregational vote would be required to adopt it.
- Under this policy and where time is of the essence, and where the board believes the sense of the congregation is already well known, the board has the authority to waive the process and vote immediately on the request.
- A unanimous vote of the Board is required for approval.

The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly accepted statements may be found at: <https://www.uua.org/action/statements/years>

Policy 3. Proposed public statements on behalf of the church (including statements of conscience) approved by the Congregation.

- When the statement does not fall within the accepted statements of the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly or when the Board does not unanimously approve, a congregational vote is required.
- The congregation votes to approve or reject these public statements may occur at the next regularly scheduled or specially called congregational meeting. The proposed statement is rejected if more than ten per cent (10%) of the members of the congregation present and voting, or voting by proxy, vote against the proposed public statement.
- If timing of approval is important the vote of the congregation may take place via email and the voting period may be no shorter than a two day limit.
- The proposed statement is rejected if more than ten per cent (10%) of the members of the congregation vote against the proposed public statement.

Policy 4. Proposed public statements on behalf of the church (including statements of conscience) approved by the Congregation.

- Expressions intended for public view on church property will require approval by vote during a congregational or special meeting.
- Ninety per cent (90%) of the members of the congregation present and voting, or voting by proxy, must approve a proposed public statement.
- If timing of approval is important the vote of the congregation may take place via email and may be no shorter than a two day limit. Ninety per cent (90%) of the members of the congregation will be required to pass the statement.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Current Bylaw Section on Membership

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Method of Joining

Membership in this Church is open to any person 13 years old or older who accepts the general purpose and programs of this Church. There shall be no

creedal requirements for membership. No requirement as to belief, either political or theological, shall ever be made. One becomes a member by signing the membership book and making a contribution of record, financial or otherwise. The date of membership is the date in the membership book.

Proposed Bylaw Section on Membership

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Method of Joining

Membership in this Church is open to any person 13 years old or older who accepts the general purpose and programs of this Church. There shall be no creedal requirements for membership. No requirement as to belief, either political or theological, shall ever be made. One becomes a member **by completing the path to membership as outlined in the Pathway to Membership Section of the Policies and Procedures Manual and** by signing the membership book, and making a contribution of record, financial or otherwise. The date of membership is the date in the membership book.

CURRENT ANNUAL GOALS

How are we doing?

During the Spring 2019 Congregational Meeting we voted the following one-year goals. We're at the 50% point:

- Complete Facilities list for 2019
- Add live stream to services and staff
- Make live stream available to RE room, Emerson room, and our Facebook page
- Apply for NTUUC Grant (subject TBD)
- Fill position for Outreach Coordinator
- Fill position for RE Team Leader
- Create a Building Expansion Fund and Emergency Facilities Fund
- Add 1 Outreach program

PROXY BALLOT - FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCT 20, 2019

You can use either an Open Proxy or a Directed Proxy **BUT NOT BOTH!**

Open Proxy for: Red River UU Congregational Meeting Oct 20, 2019

I, _____, do hereby assign my open proxy for the Red River UU Church Congregational Meeting of Oct 20, 2019, to _____ (assigned person must be a member in good standing and hold no more than one other proxy. They must attend the meeting. The Secretary may not accept an Open Proxy).

Signature: **You must sign and date in order for your proxy to be valid** Date _____

OR

You must return your Directed Proxy by October 18 to David Dyer, Secretary, Red River UU Church, PO Box 1806, Denison, TX 75020

Directed Proxy for: Red River UU Congregational Meeting Oct 20, 2019

Proposed Bylaw Changes

- For as presented in the packet of doc's **OR** as amended in meeting For For as amended in meeting
 Against Abstain

Approval of the Statement of Conscious changes

- For as presented in the packet of doc's **OR** as amended in meeting For For as amended in meeting
 Against Abstain

Approval of the Behavioral Covenant

- For as presented in the packet of doc's **OR** as amended in meeting For For as amended in meeting
 Against Abstain

Approval of the Pathway to Membership

- For as presented in the packet of doc's **OR** as amended in meeting For For as amended in meeting
 Against Abstain

You must **sign and date** in order for your proxy to be valid:

Signature _____

Date Signed _____

Remember to complete either an OPEN or a DIRECTED proxy ballot, not both