

Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship 2020-21 Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

This year the Nominating committee (Beth White, Silvija Paza and Ann Lewis) was challenged by the overall reluctance of members to be considered for our new president. It is a volunteer job larger than anyone wanted. This led to discussions between Robbie, Beth and Sheila, ultimately leading to the new idea of having two people share the position of president. As additional support, Robbie, Sheila and Beth, the council of elders, agreed to provide back up and support throughout the year for the new presidents.

Finally, it was decided that the board members would all be more active in their sharing of the board tasks, further lightening the load of the presidents. Our hope would be that future presidential candidates would not be as intimidated in considering the post, with overall board participation more evenly shared.

Next year's Nominating Committee will include Judy Whitney, Geoff Cole, and Tami Brockway-Joyce.

Facility Committee, Helene Miller

Tanya proposed a banner, "Stop Systemic Racism" which we coordinated with Burton Church on, and it was placed near the road in 2020. It sustained wind damage over the winter and so Tanya removed it.

She plans to order another one and pay for it, then put it on Lewis Hall. Tanya states that Lisa has a photo of it somewhere.

Finance Committee

The VIUF Finance Committee is charged with helping our Fellowship maintain a solid financial foundation. Guided by Board-approved policies and procedures, and VIUF's Bylaws, the committee strives to promote financial soundness by looking at:

- Budget and Financial Records
- Management Accounting and Fiscal Controls
- Management of Funds
- Financial Aspects of Staff and Professional Services

- Pledging and Stewardship

The committee meets on a regular basis, works closely with the VIUF Treasurer, welcomes feedback and input, and continually examines ways to improve transparency and accessibility of VIUF's financial management tools while protecting confidentiality.

Accomplishments for 2020-21 include:

- Welcoming a new Treasurer (HUGE thanks to Kirk and Gary).
- Improved familiarity with and reliance on OneDrive for record keeping (thanks, Greg).
- Development of an annual Finance Committee task calendar (great work, committee).
- Re-evaluation of Accountant support needs (with helpful input from Robbie – many thanks) and generous professional support from Kimberly and Raven (thank you thank you!), resulting in the development of a user-friendly in-house Financial Tracking Spreadsheet (thanks, Sheila).
- Increased support from the VIUF Administrator with financial record management and communication to members and friends (big thanks, Runa / Lisa).
- Remaining positive, productive, and focused during a very turbulent and challenging year. 2 For

2021-22 the Finance Committee looks forward to:

- Welcoming some new members to the committee.
- Rededicating ourselves to the timely completion of the Annual Financial Review.
- Collaborating with everyone in our efforts to build back better while returning to Lewis Hall.
- Continuing to review previously drafted policies and procedures in order to better manage financial records, and refine workflows and responsibilities of the Treasurer, Administrator, and bookkeeper/accountant.
- Adding to the conversation about how we would like to see VIUF build for the future by having the Board revisit the draft Capital Fund proposal (found on OneDrive), or begin working on an Endowment Fund proposal.

Pastoral Care

This past year, our committee has felt the loss of one of our long-time members, Kirk Barker, as he assumed the responsibility of Treasurer. Jane Gill has now joined us, and brings her compassion and professional Occupational Therapist and care giving skills to our team.

We have missed our meeting together in the same room, something valuable for our sense of connectedness and cohesion. But we have worked to be some of the "glue" to hold our fellowship together in this Covid year.

Our activities for this year include:

- In the fall, calling all members to find out how they were doing and to help them feel connected to the fellowship,

- Calling and visiting members throughout the year to see if they need support and to help them feel connected to the fellowship,
- Supporting and offering help to members who have undergone surgery this year,
- Being part of a larger group of members who have written cards to individuals in our Fellowship a couple of times this year,
- Being active in Leah's acts of kindness activities this spring.

Our team wants to be a resource to the fellowship, and you can always call on us: Jane Gill, Ann Lewis, Rik Muroya, Beth White, and Donna Klemka.

RE Youth and Family Group

The RE youth and family group had a eventful year! Meeting virtually was a challenge, so our group opted for the great PIVOT and focused our energy on family-oriented projects with community outreach and engagement.

Our highlights include:

- Letter writing campaign
- Craft projects for Holiday gifting
- Talent show
- Celebration of love cupcake decorating challenge
- Fill the Van - with supplies and money for the Vashon Interfaith Council for the homelessness
- Radical Acts of kindness - 4 weeks of focused service acts to show our gratitude for the island essential workers

These great ideas and energy were implemented by our RE leader extraordinaire Leah Mann. We are so grateful for her tireless dedication and ideas to engage and interact not only our youth and family's but the fellowship as a whole and our island community.

We are hopeful that next year we will be back in person and can build off of the great momentum of energy around our youth and family group!

Members:

Andrea Braganza
Adrienne Edmonson
Catherine Sullivan

Staff: Leah Mann

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee

The purpose of the Membership Committee is to recruit and retain new members and to help new and existing members connect with the life of the Fellowship and become contributing and engaged members. The committee creates a pathway from visitor to friend to member. The committee works with the administrator to maintain accurate lists of people joining and leaving the Fellowship. The committee works with the administrator to maintain an up to date member directory to facilitate connectedness within the Fellowship.

Committee members:

Kate O'Hare, Craig Hull (board representative)

Activities in 2020-2021

The Membership Committee worked with the administrator to update the directory with name changes, and changes in address, phone or email. The new directory identifies VIUF staff. The directory was distributed by email in the fall, the winter, and in the spring in time for the annual meeting.

The Committee reviewed the membership book and the membership declarations and identified a list of members who need to sign a membership declaration.

Two friends of VIUF became a formal member (Julie Shannon and Kiya).

Goals for 2021-2022

The Membership Committee will keep the directory up to date and have the administrator distribute it about twice a year. We will continue to press for a password protected link to the directory on our website.

Membership will obtain membership declarations from members who do not have one on file after we start meeting in person.

Membership committee will work with the Board to formalize a process for determining when someone is no longer an active member.

New name tags with name printed on both sides will be prepared for our return to Lewis Hall.

New member ceremonies will be scheduled in winter and before the annual meeting depending on interest in joining.

Stewardship Committee

From: VIUF Stewardship Committee:

Pamela Godt, Chair
Robbie Rhor,

Kate O'Hare,
Kirk Barker, (Treasurer)

The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to define the process by which to maintain the financial relationship between the Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship and its members and supporters. Each year, the committee conducts a Stewardship campaign to receive pledges of financial support from the congregation for the Fellowship to carry out its duties during the pending fiscal year.

Highlights:

The Stewardship Committee prepared documents, including new pledge forms and letters which were all disseminated online this year, except for a few exceptions for people not using e-mail.) We used the newly prepared membership lists of friends and members who were likely to support our Fellowship. We began our actual pledge drive in February with Pamela Godt sharing information about the pledge drive and procedures for pledging using the online forms that had been developed by our Administrative Assistant Lisa Work, with feedback from Pamela Godt and Robbie Rohr. Pledge letters were distributed that last weekend of February, sharing information about the purpose and procedures to be used for supporting our Beloved Community. The letters included information and suggested giving amounts from the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) and were distributed online to all members and friends on our lists, We were very gratified to have several people volunteer to give testimonials about the importance of making a pledge to support the VIUF, during the regular zoom meetings of the congregation, including Pamela Godt, Robbie Rohr, Catherine Sullivan, and Nathan Wren. We noticed that new pledges came in on Sundays, after hearing the pledge drive mentioned during the service.

In addition, our newest member, Kate O'Hare, composed a wonderful, witty letter about pledging which was then disseminated to all of our mailing list. This also got many responses of pledges. A big "Thank you" to everyone who participated in this effort!

After the COVID-19 Virus shut down Lewis Hall Sunday meetings last year, we were delighted that our wonderfully talented VIUF lay community formed 6 groups to compose and plan services all through our regular church year while we met via zoom. An online pledge form was included in the weekly VIUF newsletter, making it easier to send in a pledge.

We encouraged members and friends to still send in money for this year's pledge, even though we are not meeting in person, as we still must pay the rent and utilities, the wages of the accountant, bookkeeper, Administrative Assistant, RE teachers, pay taxes on their salaries, pay for insurance, dues to UUA and the Tahoma church while we have no minister, plus pay for postage, online fees, bank fees, supplies, etc.

In April, Stewardship Committee members began calling those who had not already pledged. We noticed that, due to the Pandemic, several members and friends had lost jobs and so were unable to pledge at as high levels as they had in past years.

So far, we have received 48 pledges for next year (Fiscal year runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) for a total of \$56, 649 (compared to \$63,470 that was pledged last year). We are still awaiting some additional pledges, so if you have not already turned in your pledge, please contact either Pamela Godt, Robbie Rohr, or Kate O'Hare with any questions or concerns We are so grateful to all of you for your support of this Fellowship, both in your time, your talents, and

your money. The committee members are in the process of sending out personalized letters to all those who have already pledged and will be happy to add any new names to the list.

(Respectfully submitted by Pamela Godt)

Program Committee

Committee Members: Kate O'Hare (chair), Ted Clabaugh, Sheila Eikman, Lauren Forest, Tanya Roberts, Robbie Rohr, Beth White, Steven Wren

Activities in 2020-2021

The Program Committee was responsible for planning Sunday services weekly from September 13 through June 13, a total of 40 services. The Committee used the Service Map structure developed by prior committees to organize and plan these services.

The Program Committee defined six Sunday Program Teams (SPTs) to develop and present Sunday services. Each team had a consultant from the Program Committee who had experience on prior Program Committees and could guide newer members. The Sunday Program Teams were:

- Traditional VUIF services (Lauren Forest)
- UU Voices (Ted Clabaugh)
- Multifaith traditions (Robbie Rohr)
- Social and Environmental Justice (Tanya Roberts)
- Transcending Mystery and Wonder (Beth White)
- The Arts/ This I Believe (Steven Wren and Beth White)

The committee produced a Service Manual to help SPTs design services. (Special thanks to Beth White.)

The Committee produced a video to recruit members to these team. (Special thanks to Steven Wren and Kiya Boding.)

Due to COVID restrictions, all services were on Zoom. Tech hosting/support was initially provided by Nathan and Steven Wren, but the tech team was expanded to include Lauren Forest, Mary DeMange, Catherine Sullivan, and Spencer Proffit.

Services presenters included UU ministers (11 services), non-UU ministers (3 services) and non-minister outside speakers (5 services). The remaining 22 services used in house presenters including RE. Live music was used in twelve services with recorded or videotaped music in other services.

In addition to providing programming every Sunday, the Program Committee deliberately sought to engage as many members of the VIUF congregation as possible to embody our vision of ourselves as a lay led community.

We were delighted that 35 members and friends (42% of our congregation) took part in presenting services, serving on the Program committee and/or on a Sunday Program Team, on the Tech team, as a musician, service leader, reader, or speaker.

Goals for 2021-2022

Program Committee hopes to be able to return to Lewis Hall in the fall of 2021 and to present hybrid services (in person with broadcast to those unable to attend in person due to health or distance). This will also allow us to bring in speakers from a distance. Hybrid services will depend on some additional equipment as well as continued tech support.