

ANNUAL REPORT

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica



2006 - 2007

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LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
President	Charles Haskell	Ron Crane
Vice President	Ron Crane	Bronwen Jones
Vice President	Peter Van Den Beemt	Peter Van Den Beemt
Secretary	Dayla McDonald	Dayla McDonald
Treasurer	Warren Mathews	Rebecca Crawford
Past President	Carol Kerr	Charles Haskell
Member at Large	Rebecca Crawford	Kathy Cook
Member at Large	Bronwen Jones	Sanjeev Jain
Member at Large	Phyllis Kory	Phyllis Kory
Member at Large	Pat Parkerton	Beth Rendeiro
Member at Large	Marv Pulliam	Ren Renshaw
Member at Large	Patricia Wright	Melanie Sharp

Staff

Minister	Rev. Judith Meyer
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Ernie Pipes
Affiliate Minister	Rev. Silvio Nardoni
Director of Religious Exploration	Catherine Farmer
Administrator	Melinda Ewen
Finance Assistant	Holly Nguyen (start Oct 07)
Office-RE Assistant	Carmen Haley (start Jan 07)
Office assistant	Chuck Craig (July to Oct 07)
Director of Music	Steve Wight
Organist – Pianist	Louis Durra
Weekday Sexton	Kevin Roller
Sunday Sexton	Attila Molnar (start November 07)
Weekend Sexton	Mark Dwyer (July to November 07)

Nominating Committee

<u>2006 - 07</u>	<u>2007 - 08</u>
Carol Agate	Carol Agate
Liza Cranis	Rob Briner
John Fels	Liza Cranis
S. J. Guidotti , Chair	S. J. Guidotti , Chair
Victor Paddock	Victor Paddock
Linda Van Ligten	Karen Patch

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of the Church a person shall:

- Sign a statement of intent to participate as a member in the community life of the Church.
- Reside within the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Be at least 16 years of age or have successfully completed the Church's Coming of Age Program.
- Make a financial contribution of record, or a pledge to do so, to the Church.

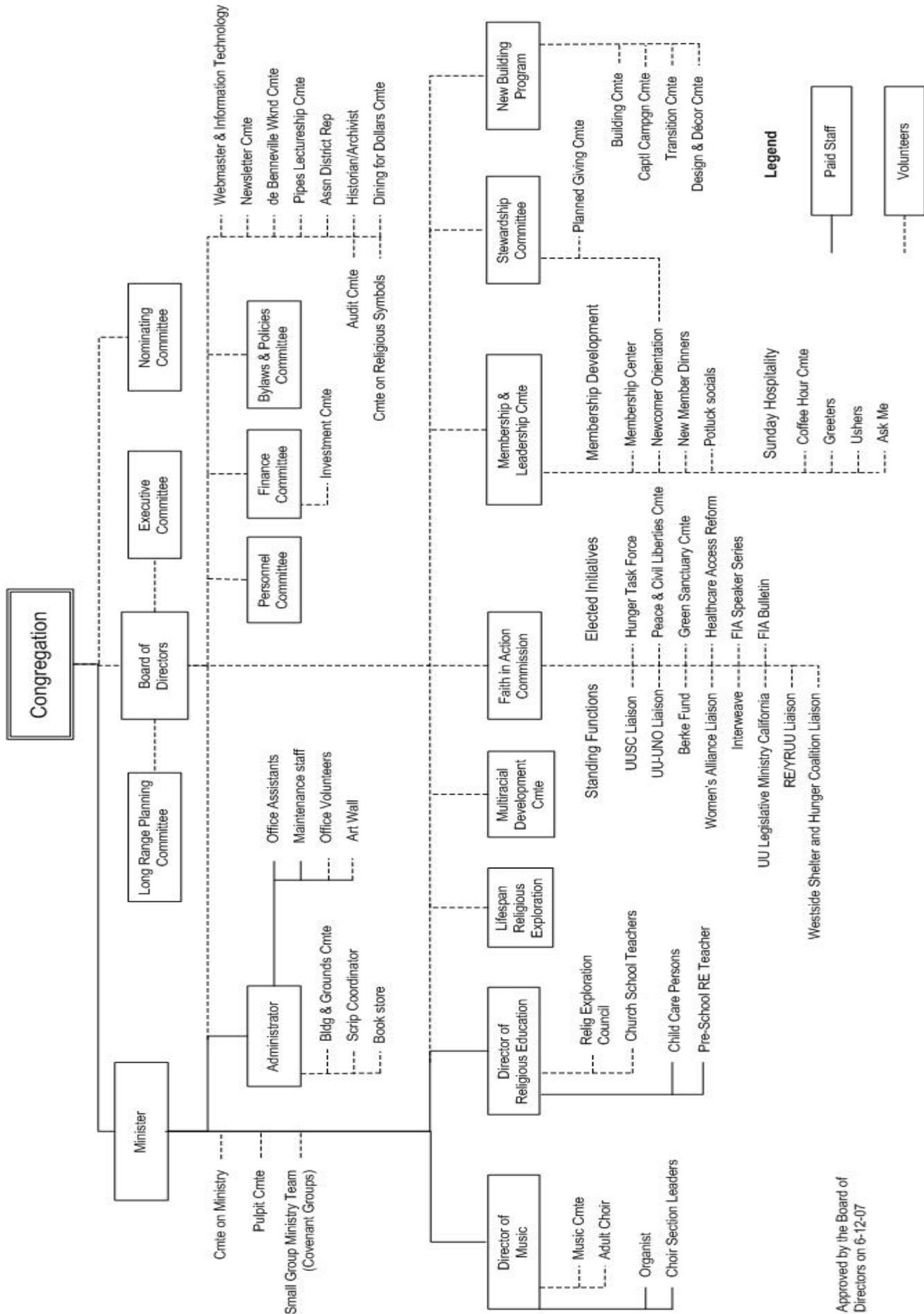
Anyone who has been a member of the Church for 40 days is eligible to vote at church business meetings.

Written resignation, failure to make a financial contribution, or moving away from the PSWD area, causes membership to be discontinued.

A "Friend" is a person who is not a member, but has made a pledge of financial support, or has made a contribution of at least \$100, during the preceding 12 months.

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

This church is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a voluntary association of autonomous, self governing local churches and fellowships, and of the PSWD of that association. Information and contact with UUA offices and resources can be obtained at www.uua.org.



Approved by the Board of Directors on 6-12-07

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

Report from the Minister: The Rev. Judith Meyer

As delivered at the Annual Meeting: May 20, 2007

The agenda for today's meeting demonstrates just how lively and forward-looking a year we've had. We are ready to approve the second phase of our building program, hear a report from our Long Range Planning Committee, honor Warren Mathews for four decades of service, vote on budgets, banners, bylaws, and a new Board, and note the transition from Charles Haskell to Ron Crane as our president. I'd better make my remarks short.

I have had a wonderful year as your minister. I have been inspired by the energy of new starts such as the Green Sanctuary program, Adult Religious Exploration, and the Committee on Multiracial Development. Small group ministry continues to build a caring community. Our music program offers not only our outstanding choir, but also concerts with Louis Durra and guests, and music appreciation as only Steve Wight can teach it.

All the staff are at the top of their game. Catherine Farmer is working with the Religious Exploration Council to introduce a compelling new curriculum, "Spirit Play," into our program for next year. We've hired Carmen Haley and Holly Nguyen, capable, dedicated, and delightful people, to complete our office staffing. The next step, to promote Melinda Ewen to Business Administrator, will happen today. These are all welcome changes.

I'm pleased to announce that Marsha Smith, co-chair of Membership and Leadership Committee, has offered to serve as volunteer Coordinator of Congregational Life – a new position – for the coming year. She will work with the committee, as well as other church leaders and staff, to nurture membership development and participation. Excitement is building about what we can do together.

This year I've worked closely with our Pulpit Committee: Vilma Ortiz, outgoing chair; Sue Bickford, incoming chair; Kathy Cook, Tom Hamilton, and Judith Martin-Straw, on our Sunday morning services. The Committee on Ministry introduced a new dimension to the annual evaluation of the minister, with a congregational survey that many of you took the time to complete. Thank you to the committee (Victor Paddock, Karen Payne, and Ren Renshaw) and to you for the guidance you give me.

Pastoral care is an important part of my ministry. I have been able to set aside more time this year for one-on-one pastoral meetings, and home, hospital, and nursing home visits. Many longtime members of our church are aging and no longer able to be involved in activities. I am trying to stay in touch with them.

I have officiated at four memorial services for church members and four others – two of whom were OPCC clients. Over the years OPCC has called on me to lead services when a member of their community has died. We have

gathered in the rose garden at Palisades Park, on the deck at Daybreak Drop-in Center, and in various shelters, to honor a life and to say goodbye. I am always moved by how people need to come together in grief, and by how strong are the bonds of human affection despite the chaos and danger of life on the streets.

I serve our larger Unitarian Universalist community as a member of the Fund for Unitarian Universalism grants panel. We give away about \$250,000 a year to UU congregations and institutions. It's a happy task. Next year I will be co-chair.

Finally, I want to thank our outgoing president, Charles Haskell, for his service to our church. Anyone who has seen Charles in action knows that he has brought great thoughtfulness and vision to his role. Charles and his wife Christine have also given many hours of volunteer time to our office these past couple of years. I'm glad that Charles will continue as our photographer, a hobby that has brought out his artistic talent and made us all look good! *Charles, I give you this gift in gratitude for all that you have given us.* In the coming year, we will be "embracing the construction dust," as Carol Kerr, Building Program chair, likes to say. This is an exciting and challenging time for us.

We need to grow into our vision and fulfill our potential to be the church we want to be. With Ron Crane to lead us, a dynamic Board to guide us, our resident professionals, Alison Kendall and Jacki Weber, to keep us on track, and all our volunteers, John Fels, Anne MacQueen and the Friday crew, to name just a few, how can we have anything but a great year together?

I read now the names of members and former members of our church who have died in the past year. With each name is a lifetime of remembrances and gratitude for the time they were among us. Will you please now rise (as you are able) in their honor.

Members:
George Armondo
Anne Lowhar
Jacki Schwartz

Former members:
Ginna Baker MacDonald
David Heer
Gloria Maccabee

May the spirit of these companions live on in us, as we carry forward our common commitment to a Unitarian Universalist way of life, faithful to the words of our covenant:

"Love is the Doctrine of this Church." So be it.



Report of the President, Charles Haskell

As delivered at the Annual Meeting: May 20, 2007

A year ago, Carol Kerr gave me two books about nonprofit Boards of Directors. One of these, "Welcome to the Board" by Fisher Howe, described four qualities commonly accepted as important in members of nonprofit boards. They are known as the four Ws: wealth, work, wisdom and wit.

Now, as I reflect on my year as president, I find myself thinking of these books and the four Ws. I can say that the outgoing Board has demonstrated the four Ws in abundance and we've forged an excellent partnership with paid staff in managing the affairs of the church. I can also say that two Board members stand out as being essential to my personal well being as president. Warren Mathews, treasurer, and Carol Kerr, past president and chair of the new Building Committee, were absolutely pivotal in giving me a year of blissful slumber. With Warren in charge of our wealth and as #1 work horse, and Carol as the master of Wisdom and Wit, I slept like a baby.

Brevity is the essence of wit, so I'll end my verbal report at this juncture. I invite you to listen carefully during today's meeting as Warren and Carol demonstrate their respective talents as masters of wealth and work and of wisdom and wit. And I invite Ron Crane to come forward so I can pass on a small portion of Carol Kerr's wisdom, as reflected in the two books about high impact Board governance.



Comments of the Incoming President, Ron Crane

As delivered at the Annual Meeting: May 20, 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Congregation. For the next few years we're in for a unique experience.

We're going to be displaced and find things misplaced – Forbes hall complex as we know it is coming down.

- We'll be crowded, inconvenienced, challenged to practice patience and we'll have a particularly profound opportunity to get to know our community in a close and meaningful way.
- We are going to see the rise of a new education building and social hall that will provide an environment for our youth that is equal to the quality of educational experience and educators that we currently provide our youth.
- We are going to experience growth. There has been discussion about the need to be cautious during our building program because of potential loss of income and membership. WRONG! During the next two years I expect us to grow new and additional members each year. It is not time to "hunker down" for an impending

recession of attendance; It is a time to bring more members into our growing and viable community in order that they may participate in "Building our Community."

- About this "community thing": We readily acknowledge that it takes "a whole village to raise a child." We don't as readily acknowledge that it takes a community to give purpose, support and comfort to an adult. We are about being that type of community which supports and comforts and gives purpose.

We are a Healthy Community. When Peter Hendricksen consulted with us he told that we are a healthy community. He asked two questions for consideration: "Why has our membership growth paused?" and "Why have you let finance lead and determine the mission when we have such a large reserve?"

Our programs are substantial and growing:

1. RE continually renews itself to meet changing youth needs. We have one of the few O.W.L. programs that offers a continuum of education from childhood to adulthood concerning sexuality and relationships (thank you Beth Reindero).
2. Covenant groups continue to sprout from the original plantings. They also provide an entry for new members to become a part of the community. And, TAG is living up to their middle name: The Adventure Group.
3. Marv Pulliam, in work for the New Building Transition Committee, has compiled a spreadsheet of 41 in-house meeting and groups utilizing space. This doesn't include the outside groups we support such as many 12-step groups.
4. Have you listened to the Choir lately? Has Lewis touched your toes and made them dance on the floor? Has Steve Wight touched our souls with sound? Enough said.
5. Faith in Action: simply put, there is too much to mention by name. We have a history of service to community. We have a desire to both continue and expand that service. When I'm asked why I put time, energy and money into that "Little Unitarian Place on Arizona" I have a short elevator speech: "That Little Unitarian Place on Arizona lets me HELP CHANGE THE WORLD."

We have raised \$2,400,000 for our capital campaign. We will raise another \$500,000 to complete phase two. We have savings and reserves in the areas of a half-million dollars. We have a stewardship program that is viable and professional to provide for our financial growth. We have Long Range Planning to provide for congregational growth and nurturance. We aren't a rich church with millions in endowment, but we are a financially healthy church. When you think healthy financials, think forty years of Warren Mathews. When you think the continuation of healthy financials, think of yourself. Think of what we can do as a community that we could never do as individuals!

Our Staff:

1. With the passage of the '07-'08 budget we set the foundation for a staff that can support our efforts. We used to rely on the good services of volunteers to do almost everything about the administration of the community. We live in changed times. Most families have both parents working or are single parent. There is no longer the volunteer time available that has been the salvation of a small community. So, we're lucky to attract and hire exceptional professional people to staff out community needs. Changes in our administrative structure will let us train and keep people rather than training them and burning them out. Don't think volunteerism has ended. A quick look at the volunteer time given by professionals to the building program shows nearly a half-million dollars in volunteer time – so far. If all 450 members volunteered two hours per week, the 900 hours would be the equivalent of 22 full time staff persons. Imagine what we could accomplish with 22 additional staff members.

2. About Judith...aka the Reverend Judith Meyer: She is our shepard! She is compassion, intellect and grace. One of the few times that I use the term "we are blessed" is when I consider how blessed we are to have Judith as our Minister.

US (you is us, and us is you), or some of the components of UU-ness that makes us tick:

1. Creativity: When I see the ideas and action that result from democratic consideration of our issues I have hope for the rest of the world. Creativity flourishes in a free atmosphere and dies in oligarchy.
2. Spirituality: Building your own theology is a course in developing your personal theology. Our community is the place where we put that personal theology into practice, discover flaws in its design and have the opportunity to try again. We don't demand agreement of others, but we do ask that others share that which touches their mind and soul so that we might all grow.
3. The democratic process is a crucial element of our community. Democracy only works when people participate in its process. Bad programs and policies are adopted by good people who don't discuss and don't vote. Transparency is also an essential element of democracy. If I get expedient rather than inclusive please let me know. Talk to me and other members of the Board of Directors. We are the elected representatives of you.
4. Children and youth keep us from getting too arrogant. Interaction between age groups is needed to keep that wisdom flowing both ways. The recent YRUU Sunday was not well attended. Why? The program that day was an insight into NOW -communication and issues. Our youth are leading us. They are ahead of us. Eleanor

Egan's sponsorship of the UN delegate experience has our youth telling us what needs to be done about cooperation in the world. Some of us are listening, but are we taking action?

5. Celebrating diversity: We are a Welcoming Congregation. We need to move to being a celebrating congregation...to all forms of diversity. There 's a good chance that if you're sitting in this sanctuary today that in your life you have been identified as "different". You know, that talk among others that "he" or "she" is different from the rest of us. In whatever form you experienced being "different" you now know the importance of finding others who will celebrate that difference. Try "that little Unitarian place on Arizone Avenue."
6. Promoting sustainability: (remember litter) Teach the kids and they will teach of adults. Practice sustainability in front of the kids and they will learn to teach us.
7. Peace: We're in a War. War doesn't work. I've been to one. I know. We have so much to do. How do we find a visible voice to share the knowledge we have about the efficacy of Peace? I don't know the answer to this question. Perhaps together we will find a stronger voice.

What now and tomorrow?

1. We're going to build environmentally sustainable, aesthetically pleasing people and edifices.
2. We are going to work together, share together, play together and of course eat together. We have the opportunity to belong in a world that makes connecting more and more difficult.
3. I hope you go home today thinking: "How can we do all of the things Ron was talking about" and "What am I going to do to make them happen?"
4. Above all else, my greatest desire is that each of us care for others, support others, create with others, share with others and love others. In doing those five things "We can Change a World".
5. Christopher Columbus is not one of my all time favorite heroes. He did do one thing I admire. He made one very big mistake. His entire premise about finding India by sailing west was never achieved. He only discovered a New World. Perhaps our mistakes have equal potential.

To quote the Rev. Judith Meyer: "Grow, and learn, and make the world a better place."



MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2007 ANNUAL MEETING
(To be approved at 2008 Annual Meeting)

Note: **Meeting packet** with attachments were made available to all in attendance. Items included:

1. Rules of the meeting
2. Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting
3. Ballot for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
4. Proposed Bylaws Amendments
5. Report of Long Range Planning Committee
6. Proposed Budget for 2007-2008
7. Religious Symbol Banner Designs

Call to order and determination of quorum by President Charles Haskell at 12:30 p.m.

Appointments: Melinda Ewen: Inspector of Elections.
Carol Kerr: Parliamentarian.
Bronwen Jones: Timekeeper.
Marv Pulliam and Rebecca Crawford: Ballot/Hand Counters.

MOTION: To adopt the rules of the meeting. (Attachment 1) Passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 21, 2006 (Attachment 2) Passed unanimously.

Presentation of candidates for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee by S.J. Guidotti, Nominating Committee Chair:

MOTION: To elect the nominees for the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee by acclamation. (Attachment 3) (Passed by acclamation.)

Approval of Revised Bylaws as presented by Charles Haskell.

MOTION: To approve the revised bylaws. (Attachment 4) Passed unanimously.

The **Minister's Report** was presented by The Reverend Judith Meyer. (see page 5 of this report)

The **President's Report** was presented by Charles Haskell. (see page 6 of this report)

The **Long Range Planning Report** was presented by Patricia Wright and Phil Bonacich. (see page 25 of this report)

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Warren Mathews. (see page 9-13 of this report)

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget by Warren Mathews, Finance Committee: (see pages 12 –13 of this report)

MOTION: That the proposed budget be adopted. (Passed by majority vote.)

The New **Building Committee Report** was presented by Carol Kerr, Chair. (see page 27 of this report)

RESOLUTION: The congregation hereby approves the design of the new classroom and social hall building and authorizes the Board of Directors to proceed with the construction of said building. (Attachment 7, Passed unanimously.)

RESOLUTION: In connection with the construction of the new classroom and social hall building, the President, the Secretary, and the Past President are each authorized and directed, on behalf and in the name of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica, to execute such construction agreements and construction loan agreements as may be authorized in the reasonable discretion of the Board of Directors. (Resolution passed.)

A **Special Resolution** was proposed by Charles Haskell.

RESOLUTION: To name the conference room in the blue cottage the "Warren Mathews Conference Room" in honor of Warren's four decades of invaluable management guidance. (Resolution passed.)

A **Special Resolutions** on sanctuary banners was presented by Charles Haskell. After congregational discussion, it was amended and divided into three parts.

RESOLUTION I: The congregation hereby approves hanging banners in the sanctuary. (Passed by majority vote.)

RESOLUTION II: The congregation hereby approves the banner designs and colors as presented at the April 15 Town Hall Meeting. (Passed by majority vote.)

RESOLUTION III: The congregation hereby authorizes the Committee on Religious Symbols to create additional banners and hang them in the sanctuary with the approval of the Board of Directors. (Passed by majority vote.)

The elected officers, board members, and members of the nominating committee were installed by The Reverend Judith Meyer.

Incoming President's remarks were made by Ron Crane.

Member's comments: Carol Agate requested that the congregation think about dropping the word "Church" from "The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica."

Adjournment: As there was no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by Dayla McDonald, Secretary

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT
Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Warren Mathews, Treasurer

Financial Results for 2006-07 Fiscal Year:

The church remains in a very strong financial position, although it realized a deficit of around \$14,000 relative to its operating budget for the fiscal year 2006-07. As has been the case almost every year for a long time, the total expenditures for the year were slightly under budget, indicating sound fiscal management by the staff and key committee chairs. In addition, pledge receipts were slightly over budget, indicating continuing solid financial support by the church's members and contributing friends. The deficit is more than accounted for by four largely uncontrollable factors:

1. Contributions other than pledges were \$4,000 under what we had expected.
2. Earnings on our investments were \$3,000 below what we had expected.
3. Dining for Dollars realized \$4,000 less than we had budgeted.
4. \$5,000 of other fundraising income, which was included in the budget without specific definition or plan, did not materialize.

Two tables displaying the church's financial performance during, and condition at the end of, fiscal year 2006-07 are presented below. The first table compares the actuals for the year with the congregation-approved budget, as summarized in the paragraph above. The second table is

a balance sheet, displaying all of the church's assets, liabilities, and equity (the variety of funds and reserves that make up the net of our assets minus our liabilities). In this table, our endowments and the new building fund are treated as liabilities rather than part of the church's equity because they are not available for anything other than their specifically stated uses.

At the bottom of the balance sheet (the proverbial bottom line) the net of the unrestricted savings minus the 2006-07 deficit, amounts to \$104,393. This represents our disposable savings going into the new fiscal year.

Strengthening the Financial Management Structure:

Last year's report described the actions then underway to (1) transfer the finance administration functions and responsibilities from Warren Mathews (as a volunteer) to the church Administrator and her office staff, and (2) clarify the roles of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. That transfer is now complete, and in addition a policy has been implemented of having the elected Treasurer serve also as chair of the Finance Committee. The net result should be an assuredly reliable and staffable structure for continuing sound management of, along with effective policy oversight of, the church's financial affairs.

Financial Year 2007-08 Budget:

The 2007-08 budget is presented on pages 12—13 and discussed on page 22.

Operating Statement for Fiscal Year 2006 - 07

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
OPERATING INCOME			
Pledge Receipts	394,615	393,000	1,615
Non-Pledge Contributions	28,997	33,190	-4,193
Fundraising	23,196	31,400	-8,204
Facility Use Fees	28,129	29,000	-871
Investment Earnings	25,420	28,600	-3,180
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	500,357	515,190	-14,833
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Minister	121,336	121,407	-71
Director of Religious Education	56,973	56,939	34
Music Director	20,568	20,568	0
Organist	16,610	16,560	50
Administrator	56,255	53,910	2,345

Operating Statement for Fiscal Year 2006-07 continued on next page

CONTINUATION of Operating Statement for Fiscal Year 2006 - 07

Finance Assistant	31,913	34,594	-2,681
Office & RE Assistant	6,996	2,000	4,996
Weekday Sexton	14,834	15,485	-651
RE Department Employees	5,232	4,800	432
Music Department Employees	7,650	7,550	100
Admin Department Employees	7,261	8,400	-1,139
Payroll Expenses	17,360	20,187	-2,827
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	362,988	362,400	588
Ministry	15,158	14,450	708
Children & Youth Relig Education	7,093	7,100	-7
Adult Religious Exploration	366	1,700	-1,334
Music	7,360	7,200	160
Faith in Action	915	920	-5
Membership & Leadership	3,627	2,700	927
Stewardship	956	1,000	-44
Denominational Affairs	31,836	31,840	-4
Board of Directors	81	1,000	-919
PROGRAM SUPPORT	67,392	67,910	-518
Church Office	22,532	24,720	-2,188
Finance Administration	665	610	55
Personnel Administration	261	600	-339
OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION	23,458	25,930	-2,472
Facility Operation	41,985	40,950	1,035
Equipment & Maintenance	18,460	18,000	460
PHYSICAL PLANT	60,445	58,950	1,495
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	514,283	515,190	-907
DIFFERENCE	-13,926	0	-13,926

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2007

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents	Checking Accounts	210,258	
	Certificates of Deposit	1,749,000	
	Petty Cash	150	1,959,408
Accounts Receivable			<u>42,220</u>

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS **2,001,628**

FIXED ASSETS

1260 18th Street Facility	2,005,459	
1253 17th Street Facility	6,470	
1248 18th Street Facility	1,258,500	<u>3,270,429</u>

TOTAL FIXED ASSETS **3,270,429**

TOTAL ASSETS **5,272,057**

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payroll Taxes Payable	3,240	
Deferred Credit - Office Computer	950	<u>4,190</u>

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES **4,190**

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Agency Funds	Women's Alliance Fund	2,445	2,445
Specified Endowments	Pipes Lecture Endowment	36,699	
	Will Wright Pupilit Endowment	15,752	52,451
New Building Project Fund			<u>1,382,154</u>

TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES **1,437,050**

TOTAL LIABILITIES **1,441,240**

EQUITY IN CURRENT ASSETS

Ministry Funds	Minister Discretionary Fund	(43)	
	Generous Congregation Fund	0	
	Sabbatical Expense Fund	6,650	6,607
Religious Education Funds	Relig Educ Department Fund	1	
	Relig Educ Equipment Fund	72	
	Relig Educ Youth Activities Fund	115	
	UUUNO Scholarship Fund	85	273
Music Funds	Music Department Fund	262	262
Faith In Action Funds	Faith In Action Comission Fund	584	
	FIA Lecture Series Fund	76	
	Green Products Fund	275	
	10,000 Villages Products Fund	(160)	

Balance Sheet June 30, 2007 continued on next page

CONTINUATION of Balance Sheet June 30, 2007

	Peace Committee Fund	32	
	Interweave Fund	165	
	Robert Berke Fund	91	
	Step Up on Second Fund	786	
	Turning Point Fund	2	
	OPCC Building Fund	0	1,851
Administration Funds	de Benneville Pines Weekend Fund	915	
	Book Store Fund	1,762	
	Investment Earnings Clearing Fund	0	
	Unemployment Compensation Fund	797	3,474
Reserves	Emergency Reserve	204,000	
	Minister Equity-Sharing Reserve	199,528	
	Operating Cushion	40,000	443,528
Savings	Unrestricted Savings	118,319	
	2006-07 Deficit	(13,926)	<u>104,393</u>
TOTAL EQUITY IN CURRENT ASSETS			560,388
EQUITY IN FIXED ASSETS			3,270,429
TOTAL EQUITY			<u>3,830,817</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity			5,272,057

2007 - 2008 Budget

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Sub-totals</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Pledge Receipts			442,000	
Non-Pledge Contributions	Identified Contributions	8,000		
	Unidentified Contributions	15,000		
	Generous Congregation Specific Contributions	3,000		
	Special Gifts, Non-Xmas	2,500		
	Special Gifts, Xmas	2,600		
	Wright Pulpit Fund Earnings	650	31,750	
Program Income	Dining for Dollars	27,000		
	Supermarket Scrip Rebates	1,100		
	Art Wall Sales	2,500		
	Newsletter Subscriptions	200	30,800	
Facility Use Fees			28,000	
Allocations to Income	Investment Earnings Allocated to Income	24,303		
	Savings Allocated to Income	32,000	56,303	
TOTAL INCOME				<u>588,853</u>

2007-08 Budget continued on next page

CONTINUATION of 2007-08 Budget

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Ministry	Minister	126,007	
	Guest Speakers, Sunday Service	4,250	
	Generous Congregation Allocations	7,400	
	Allocation to Minister's Discretionary Fund	500	
	Allocation to Sabbatical Expense Fund	3,750	141,907
Religious Education/Exploration	Director of Religious Education	58,794	
	Preschool Teacher	4,000	
	Child Care	5,300	
	Children & Youth RE Program Expenses	8,750	
	Adult RE Program Expenses	1,050	77,894
Music	Music Director	21,185	
	Organist	17,057	
	Choir Section Leaders	14,550	
	Guest Musicians	5,100	
	Substitute Organists	900	
	Piano & Organ Maintenance	1,200	59,992
Faith in Action	Faith in Action Lecture Series	600	
	Multiracial Development Program	300	
	Community Organizations Support	955	1,855
Membership & Leadership			3,000
Organizational Development			500
Denominational Affairs	UU Annual Program Fund	23,496	
	Pacific Southwest District Dues	9,136	32,632
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES			317,780
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE			
Administration	Administrator	71,712	
	Financial Assistant	36,747	
	Office & RE Assistant	16,060	
	Half-Time Sexton	15,950	
	Other Maintenance Employees	7,700	
	Office Expenses	26,520	174,689
Finance	Payroll Expenses	22,215	
	Pledge Solicitation	800	
	Development Consulting Fee	12,000	35,015
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE		209,704
PHYSICAL PLANT			
	Facility Operation		45,269
	Equipment & Maintenance		16,100
	TOTAL PHYSICAL PLANT		61,369
TOTAL EXPENSES			588,853

MINISTRY

Committee on Ministry Submitted by Karen Payne

The Committee on Ministry consisted of three UUCSM members: Victor Paddock, Karen Payne, and Ren Renshaw. The Committee met four times with the minister, Judith Meyer, to discuss purpose, direction, and planning. The Committee was asked to survey the congregation to better understand how members felt about the overall work of Judith and the degree to which members' needs were being met by Judith and the Church.

The Committee designed and administered a brief questionnaire to members present at both church services on one designated Sunday. In addition, committee members interviewed by telephone individuals who had expressed some level of concern on their questionnaire. Results of the surveys and telephone interviews were tallied and summarized in a report to the Board of Directors. The Committee reported that church members were overwhelmingly satisfied with the work of the minister. Areas of serious concern were noted and reported, as well. The Committee will continue to meet periodically with the minister to discuss further needs, as they develop, with particular attention to upcoming transitions, due to construction and building issues.

Pulpit Committee Submitted by Vilma Ortiz, Chair

The mission of the Pulpit Committee is to maintain the quality, consistency and sanctity of the Sunday service. We serve at the invitation of the minister, Rev. Judith Meyer, who is responsible for the structure and content of weekly worship services. We work in collaboration with Judith to evaluate the services and discuss issues related to worship. The Pulpit Committee finds speakers and pulpit hosts for Sundays when Judith is not in the pulpit—one Sunday a month from September through June and for the months of July and August. This year, we worked with the Committee on Multiracial Development toward making our services more racially diverse. We were pleased with the successful inter-generational services on at least two occasions this year. The committee meets monthly between September and June.

September through June: For the one Sunday a month when Judith is not in the pulpit, we rely on guest speakers. Our goal is to have Unitarian Universalist ministers lead Sunday worship as often as possible and to have ordained clergy from other faiths at other times. Over the years, we have developed relationships with a group of clergy who have a special affinity for our congregation and these individuals are invited to preach approximately once a year. We also seek out clergy who have an interfaith ministry or a ministry focused on an issue of concern to Unitarian Universalism. Occasionally we bring community leaders to the pulpit because of the important work of their organization and it's relationship to our church. We are fortunate that we have been able to identify and bring guest speakers to the church that help us provide a consistently high

quality worship service when Judith is not in the pulpit.

Summer: We are fortunate to already have guest speakers lined up for the summer. These include Jim Grant, Silvio Nardoni, and Jim Conn who have previously visited us.

Pulpit Hosts: It is the practice of our church to have lay congregation members serve as pulpit host when we have a guest preacher. The Pulpit Committee recruits, trains, assigns, and assists our skilled and committed group of lay pulpit hosts, who plan and conduct individual services with the visiting ministers. This is a task requiring courage, perseverance, creativity, organization, thought, and time management. We keep a script for pulpit hosts, which is updated regularly, so that they have the support they need to conduct the service.

Committee members include Vilma Ortiz, Sue Bickford, Kathy Cook and Tom Hamilton. Catherine Farmer joined us at least once to discuss ways of integrating the children's and adults' Sunday worship.

Covenant Groups (Small Group Ministry) Submitted by Marv Pulliam: Co-chair

In the Fall of 2006, three new covenant groups were initiated. Church members Dave Hedin, Denise Helton and Rhonda Peacock attended training workshops and subsequently co-facilitated in the new groups. Pat Gomez, Carol-jean Teuffel, and Marv Pulliam were respective returning co-facilitators. Two of the groups selected the standard approach of topic selection by members and one group signed up to cover the Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) course material. This was the first time that we tried devoting a covenant group to a pre-defined topic. We may try this approach again if there is sufficient interest. We will consider offering other formats, such as: singles, couples, or age focused. Plans for the Fall 2007 launch are complete and we look forward to another satisfying year.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION Report of the Director of Religious Education, Catherine Farmer

We have a Religious Exploration program to be proud of here at UUCSSM! It's been a good, if busy, year, and I am very grateful for the dedication of the more than 60 members of this congregation who have volunteered in our program this year. The RE Council and I are now in the midst of planning for the fall, and are very excited about what's to come – there are lots of great things in store for next year!

The nature of the DRE position necessitates an overlapping of many tasks with various people in our congregation both to create and run our RE program, and to provide leadership for our church community. Some of the items listed below were accomplished exclusively by the DRE and others were done in cooperation with the RE Council, RE committees, or other church/district groups.

This year the RE Council was chaired by Margot Page. Members of the Council during the year included Beverly Alison, Chris Brown, Amelia Harati, John Murray, Vilma Ortiz, Karen Patch, Beth Rendeiro, Linda Van Ligten and Board liaison Bronwen Jones.

Principles Focus - Year Four: This year was our fourth year of our UU Principles focus in our elementary RE program. This year, we tweaked our structure by incorporating monthly classroom-based Social Justice projects during the year and engaging in a special January “intensive” program called Lessons of Loss, a truly life-span RE program with lessons in all of our children’s and youth RE classes as well as a concurrent Adult RE workshop on Thursday evenings during the month. The Lessons of Loss program culminated in a very successful Intergenerational Sunday service on February 4th. Our focus for the first half of the year was the Sixth UU Principle, **The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty and Justice for All**, and for the second half of the year, the Seventh UU Principle, **Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence, of which We are a Part**.

Worship: This year our program focused on a select number of high quality community worship experiences for children, youth and adults in our community. In addition to our RE-focused “Celebration Sundays” for Day of the Dead in the fall and Easter in the spring, we tried out a new way of worshipping together as one faith community, with two truly Intergenerational Sunday services during the year, our Lessons of Loss service on February 4th, and a more intentionally worshipful RE Sunday service on June 3rd.

In addition to supporting these worship opportunities, my work in this area, also included involvement in the sanctuary, at least once per month, preparing and sharing stories and celebrations such as introducing Guest At Your Table, producing the “Three Miraculous Births” pageant in December, the story on Mother’s Day, leading the Bridging Ceremony recognizing our graduating high school seniors (eleven of them – our biggest group ever!), etc. as well as providing support for our two youth-led Sunday services, YRUU Sunday and Coming of Age Sunday.

Classroom: The first, second and third Sundays of the month are Classroom Sundays for all ages. At each service, elementary classes, a 6th-7th (Neighboring Faiths) class and a senior high program for 9th-12th grades. Our 8th Grade Coming of Age program meets during the 9:00 service. And this year, due to a very low enrollment in our 11:00 preschool class, the several preschoolers who attended at that service were folded into our K-2nd. Overall, our classes have gone well this year, thanks to the many dedicated volunteers serving as teachers in our program. As in past years, our physical space impacts the program that we offer – our classrooms are small and dark, and our teachers have done an admirable job of presenting quality programming in less than adequate space.

Social Justice: This year, the elementary RE program engaged in special Social Justice projects on the fourth Sunday of each month. During our spring focus on Principle 7, we were very lucky to have the assistance of Sandra Trutt and the Green Sanctuary Committee in planning our projects. Highlights of the year were our two off-site projects, our Beach Cleanup with Heal the Bay in March, and our participation in LA’s annual Big Sunday project, helping paint and spiff up a playground at a center for at-risk children in April.

Coming of Age: This year’s COA program was a great success, with six 8th graders – Colette Fletcher-Hoppe, Jessie Geoffray, Madeleine Hero, Angelica Jue, Rachel Moore, and Elizabeth Saldo - who worked hard all year on exploring their personal faith within the context of our UU faith, and developing their credo statements to share with us in a Sunday service of their own creation on May 20th. The program’s success is due to the dedication of our COA leaders, Ian Dodd, Karl Lisovsky, and Jennifer Westbay, and the support of the church members who signed on to serve as mentors to each of the youth: Bronwen Jones, Barbara Kernochan, Peggy Kharraz, Karen Lang, Felicity Nussbaum, and Margot Page.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU): This year was the second year that we have offered Senior High programming at 9:00 and 11:00, and our program is going strong! This year we found, believe it or not, that our 9:00 program was more highly attended than the 11:00. Over the past couple of years we have seen the size of our program more than double, and our senior high population will approach 40 next year. With the huge increase in size has come some growing pains, but the group has continued to be a very positive place for our teens, thanks to the leadership of the youth themselves as well as that of our YRUU advisors. This year we’ve done a great deal of work in assessing our congregation’s youth programs, including holding a Congregational Conversation on Ministry to & with Youth in December, led by Karen Patch and Jordan Paddock, as well as hosting a district Youth Advisor Training at UUCSM in May. We are committed to providing a high quality program for high schoolers at both of our Sunday services, and have been able to do so this year through the extraordinary dedication of our youth advisors Chris Brown and Liza Cranis. And it is with great excitement that we move toward our next year with a greatly expanded team of advisors: Liza and Chris will be continuing, with Sarah Gaillet, Gretchen Goetz, Cindee Hallinan, Tom Kafka, and Karen Patch on board to join them!

Our Whole Lives (OWL): OWL is a very important element of our educational ministry to children and youth, and I am very proud that we are a congregation that offers all five levels of the Our Whole Lives lifespan sexuality education program! This is thanks to the long-term dedication and organization of our OWL coordinator, Beth Rendeiro. This year, we offered Junior High OWL (8th & 9th grades), taught by Francois Bar, Kathy Cook, Stanley Johnston,

Beth Rendeiro, and Amy Thiel, a concurrent Parent OWL meeting, led by Karen Canady and Carl Hoppe, and Senior High OWL (10th-12th grades), taught by Ron Crane, Judy Federick, Linda Marten and Steven Van Ooyen. Both of these classes call for a special commitment of time from teachers, students and their families. Next year, we will offer the elementary OWL classes for K-1st and for 5th-6th.

Additional Elements of the DRE position:

Events and Activities: Included support for as well as attendance at RE and church activities in addition to our Sunday morning classes. Events for this past year included RE Teacher Training, Adult RE Facilitator Training, Ingathering Sunday, Parent Orientation Potluck, New Member Supper, Westside Food Bank's Hunger Walk, Pilgrim's Feast, Guest at Your Table fundraiser for UU Service Committee, Cookie Bake, Congregational Conversation on Ministry to & with Youth, Winter Holiday Pageant intergenerational service, Christmas Eve services, Lessons of Loss Teacher Training, Lessons of Loss intergenerational service, Secret Pals, Youth Sunday, Easter Sunday, Coming of Age Sunday, RE Sunday and Bridging Ceremony, RE Council Retreat, Adult RE Retreat, Newcomer Orientations, and Congregational Town Hall meetings .

Communication/Networking: Included weekly RE UUpdates email to RE families and church leaders, monthly column in the church newsletter, announcements in the Orders of Service, monthly DRE reports to the Board of Trustees and the RE Council, annual DRE report to the congregation, planning RE Council meetings, greeting and following up with RE visitors, communicating and meeting with parents and families both in person and via phone call, email and snail mail.

Meetings: Regular meetings include monthly meetings with RE Council, Membership & Leadership Committee, and Board of Trustees, weekly staff meeting with Minister, subcommittee and other meetings ranging from 1-6 times/group included Adult RE, YRUU, Teaching Teams, Winter Holiday Pageant, RE Social Justice, Transition Planning task force, etc. There are also meetings with many church committees including Building, Green Sanctuary, Long Range Planning, and Multiracial Development.

Maintenance and Administration: Included registering and tracking enrollment and attendance of children and youth, managing the RE budget, coordinating supplies for Sundays, researching and making equipment purchases for the program, etc.

Research and Planning: Included research both online (through REACH and LREDA resource/idea sharing discussion groups) and off. This benefits our RE program and church community by enriching and broadening our understanding of the goals we are working toward, providing new frameworks and models, and connecting us to a larger movement. Some of this is event/program specific; the balance is organizational, management or

philosophical in nature.

Also included developing and presenting plans for RE Council/Committee structure, Teacher Training, RE recruitment, summer RE program, and next year's RE program beginning in the fall.

District/Denominational Activities and Professional Growth: As DRE, I make a commitment to continuing professional growth and development and to represent our church and our faith at various conferences and denominational affairs.

Activities this past year included Participation in the UUA's RE Credentialing Program, at the Credentialed Religious Educator level, with expected completion date of 10/2008. This program includes a monthly phone meeting with Credentialing mentor Patti Withers, DRE. Also, Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) PSWD Chapter Secretary (05-07) (3 meetings/year), UU Association's Campus Ministry Advisory Committee (CMAC), LREDA Representative (1 meeting/year – 3/29–3/31) , LREDA Fall Conference (10/20-10/24), UU Ministers Association/LREDA Retreat (1/29-2/01), Pastoral Care for Religious Educators Training (3/9-3/11), PSWD LREDA Professional Days (4/26-4/28), Hosted PSWD Youth Ministry Training at UUCCSM (5/19), UUA General Assembly (6/20-6/25), DRE Cluster meetings (bi-monthly)

The Religious Exploration Program is strong, growing and exciting, thanks to many dedicated volunteers who seek to model and pass on our UU principles and values to our children and youth. In my fourth year as your Director of Religious Education, I have been very impressed by this congregation's commitment to its educational ministry as well as by the level of energy and excitement around growth and change. I am eager to see what the next year will bring us, as our building plans come ever closer to fruition and as our congregation continues to improve its service to its members. It has been a joy to work with all of you; I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your DRE, and look forward to what we will accomplish together for many years to come!

**Religious Exploration Council
Submitted by Margot Page, Chair**

Recognition of the Volunteers in RE Council:

Council Members for the 2006-07 year were Catherine Farmer and eleven volunteers, Beth Rendeiro, Karen Patch, Amelia Harati, Linda Van Ligten, Judith Martin-Straw, Bronwen Jones, Beverly Alison, John Murray, Vilma Ortiz, Chris Brown, and Margot Page. We met on a monthly basis to generate ideas, solve problems, and to help Catherine make a strong embracing RE program for our youth.

Accomplishments of the Past Year:

Program Focus: This past year we focused in the fall on the 6th principle - goal of world community with peace, love and justice for all, and in the spring the 7th principle - respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Connection with Green Sanctuary Committee: As part of our 7th principle focus, we enjoyed an unprecedented connection between the RE program and other areas of church life. In particular working with Sandra Trutt and the Green Sanctuary Committee to integrate the work of the committee with what our children were learning in RE. Committee members spoke at classes, helped with Social Justice Sundays, and participated with our children in March cleaning the beach with Heal the bay and in April at Big Sunday.

RE Teacher Training: We hosted a one day training in September for new and returning teachers.

RE Parent Orientation and Potluck: Held in October and was a fun filled evening making connections.

RE Participation in the Social Justice: (1) Westside Food Bank's Annual Hunger Walk - This activity was well attended by our church members. (2) Cookie bake and toy drive in support of Santa Monica Head Start program's holiday party.

Holiday Events: Winter Pageant and Easter Egg Hunt

New Curriculum: Lessons of Loss - In January all levels of RE along with a corresponding adult course focused on a month long age appropriate exploration of loss. This was our first truly intergenerational RE focus. It culminated in a very successful Lessons of Loss intergenerational service.

Vibrant and Growing Youth Program: Including hosting teens from Las Vegas, Winterfaith Dance, the YRUU Sunday service, participation in social justice projects and events, a contingent of three youth and one advisor attending the UU-United Nations Office Spring Seminar in New York City in April, hosting a district Youth Advisor Training in May, and the honoring of our two longtime advisors Liza Cranis and Chris Brown as the Pacific Southwest District's Youth Advisors of the Year.

Visioning Meeting: Karen Patch and Jordan Paddock lead a YRUU congregational visioning meeting.

Increased Staff Support for RE: On Sunday mornings Carmen or Holly are taking turns helping teachers and greeting the children in Forbes Hall when they go to the classrooms and Catherine is greeting families in front of the church, being a visual presence in the sanctuary and guiding new families to the appropriate classroom. This year for the first time "Welcome Bags" are available for new children.

Our Whole Lives (OWL): The OWL program continues to be a vital part of our program. This year senior high, junior high and adult OWL classes were held.

Goals for the Coming Year :

1) The Great Move - Having lots of volunteers to come and help us move our supplies from Forbes Hall and 17th Street into the Blue House and several freestanding storage pods.

2) Spirit Play - A brand new program model for our elementary classes during our "program transition" in the Blue House. Spirit Play will be used in our two elementary classes - K-2 and 3-5. It is a Unitarian Universalist adaptation of the Godly Play and Montessori Methods, developed by Nita Penfold, D. Min. It is organized around sharing foundational stories with our children in a program model designed to present core stories, help children make meaning and wonder through art, create a spiritual community of children, support multiple learning styles, and create a strong Unitarian Universalist identity.

3) Six Advisors for YRUU - Along with Youth Advisor of the Year 2007 winners Liza Cranis and Chris Brown, four other church members will work with our YRUU Group this coming year.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Report of the Director of Music, Steve Wight

This has been a year of both growth and transition. After years of exceptional dedication, vision, and leadership as Music Committee Chair, Peter VanDenBeemt has found a worthy successor in Bronwen Jones. During his tenure as chair, Peter found a way to significantly increase musical activity within the church - creating the Louis Durra Trio and Stevning events - created and maintained a large Music Events email list to promote those activities, and raised the church's profile within the community, all with little or no increase in Music Department spending. Bronwen has continued in this vein, organizing a new series, Saturday Spotlight, which features performers drawn from church membership.

The number of volunteers who work tirelessly in behalf of the music program is almost too long to list. Rima Snyder has taken over the difficult and time-consuming job of choir librarian, is a dedicated Music Committee member, helps to run the new sound system, and is working with me to organize a fund-raising event to support the All Saints church legal defense fund in their fight with the IRS over their right as a religious organization to oppose the Iraq war. Rima is also an accomplished composer who has contributed some lovely music for the choir.

Bronwen Jones, in addition to her Music Committee and Sat Spotlight responsibilities, regularly performs as guest musician, always without pay. Cellist and church member Tom Lloyd is also a regular volunteer for Christmas Eve, Dining for Dollars, and Sunday morning events. Melissa Parkerton has taken over the job of organizing receptions for music events; Norb Gallery volunteers on the Music Committee and lends his considerable expertise to the running of the sound system; Dayla McDonald creates the wonderful posters we see displayed in the entry to the church, promoting all the music events. In addition, nearly all those listed above perform in the choir.

Though they are so ubiquitous as to be taken for granted, I believe there is no group of volunteers within the church whose impact is greater than the choir's. Weekly rehearsals and the pressure of regular performances

demand a very high level of dedication, and the members of our choir have been exceptional in this regard. In addition, we have been very fortunate to have several talented, dedicated new members join this year.

Sadly, this year marks the end of the tenure of a long-standing, fine member of our music staff. Tenor section leader Michael Lamb will be moving to the San Francisco area at the end of the music season. His musical expertise and personal warmth will be greatly missed, and we wish him all the best.

Finally, as always I owe a great debt of thanks to Judith Meyer and Louis Durra. In addition to being the most accomplished, elegant, eloquent minister I have heard, Judith effortlessly manages the almost impossible tasks of simultaneously being a fine supervisor and a valued friend. Louis's huge musical breadth and depth, and his endless musical curiosity, are sources of great inspiration to me personally and professionally.

Music Committee

Submitted by Bronwen Jones, Chair

The Music Committee presented two great Stevenings, with one more to follow in June, which will also be a Dining For Dollars event organized by Katie Malich. We put on three very successful Louis Durra Trio concerts, including Louis' DVD Release Party, and will present one more concert in June. We held two Saturday Spotlights, a new idea in which church members brought their wide variety of talents to the Sanctuary stage. A total of 23 church attendees participated in the Saturday Spotlights. The Music Table was covered in Forbes Hall after the 3rd, 4th, and when there was one, 5th Sunday of each month, providing information about the music program, and making choir CDs and Louis Durra CDs and DVDs available for purchase. The Music Committee also sponsored two special events: "The Viola In Concert", an exciting evening of viola music with 11 violists, and, The Celestial Opera Company's "Hansel and Gretel" starring our very own soprano, Michelle McWilliams, who put the event together. We also upgraded the church's PA system with a new amp, speakers, microphones and cables, and a donated mixer and effects unit.

The Music Committee leadership has been gradually shifting to ease the responsibilities of co-chair Peter Van Dem Beemt, who steered the UCCSM Music Program towards its current level of richness and smooth operation over the past few years. Rima Snyder and I have gradually been able to take on much of the load by learning the ropes, with the support of a music committee of about 13 members. We'd like to continue with the Stevenings, LDT concerts, the music table, Saturday Spotlights, and sponsoring special events that support the musical life of our community.

Steve Wight continues to go well beyond his job description, not only musically, but also by helping out in many practical ways such as helping folks get to and from church and helping out on technical issues. Kathi

McClure-Wight deserves special mention as she often donates her time as keyboardist for an event, for church services, and sings in the choir. Louis Durra goes out of his way to work with the experienced, inexperienced, the young and old at the church, working in every imaginable style of music. Dayla McDonald's artwork is now a signature of our program. Melissa Parkerton has effectively and efficiently organized the receptions that have followed each event, helped by Diana Spears and many other wonderful contributors. Joe Engleman has continued to be our door watcher/money collector. Liz Fuller oversees our music pages at the uusm.org website. Rima Snyder and Norb Gallery head up our tech team. Kim Miller has as been ironing out some insurance issues. Tom Ahern helped drum up support for the Saturday Spotlight. Thank you to everyone!

We invite all lovers of music to join us as we continue to make our music program thrive!

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action Commission

Submitted by Cathie Gentile, Chair

Accomplishments of the past year: Publication of one issue of the FIA Bulletin devoted to Green Sanctuary topics. Increasing awareness and donations to Step Up On Second, Daybreak, Turning Point, the UULM, and UUSC.

September 2006 Annual Issues Election, the Green Sanctuary Group was voted as a Faith In Action Commission group. Their significant accomplishments are mentioned in a separate report. Also, FIA agreed to support volunteers to the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals.

Town Hall meeting in February where the Congregation approved Judith signing the covenant with California Interfaith Power & Light and approved steps to becoming a Green Sanctuary as part of the UUA's Ministry for Earth. Presenting guest speakers to the congregation on the following topics:

- Clean Money Campaign representative
- Shakeel Syed, Executive Director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California on Islam
- Edward Alpers from UCLA on the history of the Darfur conflict
- Tovah Fuller from Physicians for Social Responsibility on the health effects of war on the Iraqi people.
- Hosted a postcard campaign in support of Rev. William Sinkford's: "An open letter to Members of the United States Congress."

Volunteers: Lyn Armondo, Liza Cranis, Eleanor Eagan, Janet Goodwin, Judy Federick, Jesse Figueroa, Phyllis Gabriel, Charles Haskell, Christine Haskell, Denise Helton, Arvid Knudsen, Patrick McGuire, Heather Smith, Leslie Reuter, Diana Spears, Marguerite Spears, Sandra Trutt, Alyssa Wood, & Marge Zifferblatt.

Goals: Increase volunteer base for ongoing activities.

Continue to bring guest speakers, show films and/or DVDs on topical social issues. Raise awareness and funds to continue the mission of the Faith In Action Commission: to inform and educate the congregation & public in areas of social concern.

Green Sanctuary Committee

Submitted by Sandra Trutt & Leslie Reuter, co-chairs

The Green Sanctuary Committee was officially voted into existence at the Feb. 11, 2007 Town Hall Meeting. Previously we were meeting monthly as the Green Living Group. Our current mission is to build awareness about environmental issues, including global warming, generate commitment and communal action by our members and to help them make personal lifestyle changes. We hope these things will help reduce our footprint on the earth and will promote environmental justice for others.

We are now working towards certification as a Green Sanctuary Church. Through Faith in Action we purchased two copies of the Green Sanctuary Manual from the UU Ministry for Earth. We are working on having greater representation of church groups on the G.S. Committee; developing a Charter by which the Committee will operate and formulating an action plan in response to an Environmental audit performed at our church. We will plan 12 activities as outlined in the G.S. Manual in order to apply for candidacy into the Green Sanctuary Program. The volunteers who have participated in our meetings and activities are: Helen Brown, Lloyd Drum, Laura Eklund, Fran German, Robin Lowney Lankton, Katie Malich, Ralph Meyer, Diana Spears, Catherine Farmer, Rick Swirkal, Hildreth Simmons, Ernie Pipes, Alison Kendall, Cathie Gentile, Sherry Handa and Greg Wood.

The goals for next year include completion of the activities outlined in our Action Plan and applying for accreditation as a Green Sanctuary Church. Being accredited means we are committed to reaching our goals and will actively work towards them each year.

Interweave

Submitted by Judy Federick, Chair

Interweave, the UU affiliate group for bisexuals, gays, lesbians and transgenders (BGLTs), and their friends and allies, is in its seventh year at UUCCSM. Our issues for study and action this year continue to be marriage equality and outreach to at-risk GLBT youth.

Our activities in the past year included the following: On Sunday, June 10, 2007, for the third year in a row, we marched in the Christopher Street Gay Pride Parade in West Hollywood.

In special recognition of his early work in supporting marriage equality, we honored the Rev. Ernie Pipes and Maggie Pipes. They rode in an open convertible, rainbow ribbons fluttering from their hats, as we walked with a banner proudly proclaiming that in 1959 Ernie was the

first minister in the Los Angeles area to perform a commitment ceremony for a gay couple. The warm crowds along the parade route loved them and Ernie and Maggie happily acknowledged the cheers.

On Sundays May 21 and 28, we asked our congregants to sign postcards to U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein urging them to vote against the Marriage Protection Act which would have written discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by forever denying marriage, domestic partner, and civil union rights to same-sex couples nationwide.

On May 28th, in addition, we screened the documentary film "Barbara and Tibby: A Love Story in the Face of Hate" with Tibby Middleton, who is featured in the film, as a special guest. In 2004, Virginia's state legislature went further than any other in the country by prohibiting contracts which "purport to bestow the privileges or obligations of marriage" between two individuals of the same sex. The film looks at the impact of the law through the lives of one couple, Barbara and Tibby, who were forced to leave the state when the law went into effect. In 2005, Barbara and Tibby were selected by the UUA as UU members who exemplified our denominational commitment to a just world.

Last year we made the decision to "adopt" the homeless youth program of Common Ground West, a local HIV/AIDS organization, as part of our outreach to at-risk GLBT youth. The agency's Homeless Youth Peer Education Program (or "H.Y.P.E.") really fits us as a church --the program is local, specific to at-risk youth, and has an explicit, understandable "needs" list.

As a result, Common Ground Westside became the focus of our fund raising-efforts this year. In July and August we asked our church community for donations of the two items of clothing --socks and t-shirts-- most requested by the program's homeless youth. As with our earlier clothing campaign, the members of the congregation responded overwhelmingly. Common Ground Westside's staff could barely fit the bags of clothing into their van when they carted the stuff away! The church further demonstrated its enthusiasm by designating Common Ground Westside as the beneficiary of the Generous Congregation collection several Sundays during the year.

Our sixth Annual All-Church Interweave Picnic was held August 13th with proceeds going to Common Ground Westside. Myra Wald's donation was especially appreciated --the money she made that day from selling her beautiful knit hats!

On October 8th, we once again hosted the Coming Out Day Service, with the Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the Office for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns for the Unitarian Universalist Association as the guest speaker. Addressing "The Voice of the Spirit" he asked "What does it mean to be a UU in these times? What are we called to do and how does our faith serve us as well as those around us?"

We thank our church members, board, and attendees for their ongoing personal and political support for us in our fight to be recognized as fully human and fully deserving of equal rights and respect.

**Peace & Civil Liberties Committee
Submitted by Diana Spears Co-chair**

The Peace and Civil Liberties Committee began in the fall preceding the start of the Iraq war in March 2003. We obtained a church-wide proclamation stating our position against the war, marched in protest and, after the war started, began a series of educational programs at the church that have continued to this day.

Long-time co-chairs of the Committee, Charles and Christine Haskell, resigned from the Committee in September and we have rotated chair responsibilities between committee members Arvid Knudsen and Diana Spears. We have had so many programs scheduled that we have had formal committee meetings only on a few occasions this past year. Our Committee members include a few active members and supporters who are less active, they are: Arvid Knudsen, Cathie Gentile, Diane Phillips, Tom Hamilton, Rima Snyder, Jay and Rachel Johnson, Marge Zifferblatt, Diana Spears, new member Rick Rhoads and prospective member Sean Morey.

In the past year: we have had speakers from both the Shia and Sunni Islamic community arranged by member Arvid Knudsen; a Stanley Foundation film, brought to us by member Rima Snyder, on the UN Peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" in co-sponsorship with the Green Sanctuary Committee.

In January we showed a film brought to us by Richard Mathias, "Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers." In February we had 2 events: a film "The Ground Truth" stories from our vets, followed with a speaker from The Soldiers Project, brought to us by member Diane Phillips; on Feb. 21 in co-sponsorship with US Tour of Duty, authors Scott Ritter and Jeff Cohen spoke on corporate media coverage of the war on terror to a large public gathering at the church. In March we promoted the church participation in the March 17th demonstration to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the Iraq and protest the "surge." We also worked with Judith on a sermon about the war and in support of the Rev. William Sinkford's letter to Congress protesting the surge, with a postcard campaign after both Sunday Services on March 18. In March we again co-sponsored with the Green Sanctuary Committee a film, "How Cuba Survived Peak Oil". The film was followed by a discussion led by Jay and Rachel Johnson who have visited Rachel's family in Cuba many times, brought this film to our attention and are knowledgeable about its subject. In April we met to discuss the two programs finalized after consideration at the March meeting. This is the April 25th presentation "Beyond Fear" from the Stanley Foundation radio producer that Rima Snyder works with. In May, Arvid Knudsen has scheduled church

member Glen Howell to speak on the US Space Program from his long-term perspective. In June, our last event before a July and August recess, we will probably have another film along with a planning session for the Fall.

**UU Legislative Ministry Program
Submitted by Cathie Gentile, Chair**

I Attended the UULM Leadership Summit on Sept. 22-23, 2006, in Sacramento with representatives from UU churches up & down California. The summit focused on informing a core group of people who could go back to their congregations and advocate on the UULM's three priority issues: Water & Global Warming; Health Care; and Clean Money.

On January 13 @ the Orange Coast UU Church, the UULM hosted a one-day meeting entitled: Liberal Voices in A Conservative Landscape. Rev. William Sinkford attended which was very exciting and participated in the opening service. There were workshops on Health Care, Marriage Equality and Clean Money.

Unfortunately, I am no longer able to serve as our congregation's representative for the UULM due to my responsibilities as the FIAC chair. I sincerely hope that someone steps forth to do this. Our church should continue its support (with people & funds) to the UULM.

**UU United Nations Program
Submitted by Eleanor Eagan, Envoy**

The outstanding event of the past year was sending another group of eager and interested young people from our Religious Education Department to the UU/UN Office Annual Spring Intergenerational Seminar in New York. This year's study topic was MODERN DAY SLAVERY: BREAKING THE WEB OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. Jesse Figueroa, Rachel Nannini and Alyssa Wood, ably chaperoned by their advisor, Liza Cranis, all report a highly stimulating information, action-filled and intellectual experience, both in activities at the UU/UNO Center and the session in which they took part at the United Nations just across the street.

The seminar subject was a difficult one to deal with both emotionally and intellectually. An estimated 45-50 youth from all over the US with 15 advisors who accompanied them, plus 50 additional adults who attended, all participated in the same lively student-led discussion groups. Our attendees were very active. Our own Jesse Figueroa was asked to lead one of the discussion groups. In addition, each group prepared a poster to alert the public to the fact that human trafficking is a major global problem affecting not only women but civil society as a whole and is second only to drug trafficking in terms of profits from global crime. Our members went prepared with some background materials and positive suggestions including information about the International Criminal Court.

This is the third year of our participation. Funds for the trip were supplemented last year by a gift from Sylvia Berke-

Foster. This year the seminar was recipient of one of the Sunday Service collections designated for a local group. All help is gratefully received.

R.E. Director, Catherine Farmer and our Minister Judith Meyer bear and share the entire responsibility for taking care of the multitude of details necessary each year to plan and arrange the entire trip. Liza Cranis as adult advisor was responsible for maintaining a safe experience for the youth and ensuring their safe return. She has volunteered her time for all three trips. Our goal is to enable Catherine Farmer to attend next year's seminar.

Basic to an effective United Nations System and global governance of any kind is an understanding of democracy as a process; requiring fair and responsible participation, honoring financial obligations, respecting a world rule of law and honoring international treaty agreements. Aware that our own citizenry is frequently lacking in basic information about civics, political governance and our own constitution, packets of material about the U.S. Constitution principle of separation of church and state were prepared locally and delivered to 75 people including our church Board of Directors, our FIAC and boards of other local NGOs committed to supporting the United Nations. The Rev. Meg Riley, Director of the Washington, D.C. Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association, is a Trustee of both the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and their journal, *Church and State*.

ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Administrator

Melinda Ewen

This has been a year of many transitions. The first is the retirement of Warren Mathews who, as a volunteer for 40 years, managed our church operations. Our Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, financial systems and bylaws were largely created by Warren. I thank him for his years of devotion and expertise.

Our physical plant is also in transition. The first step was remodeling what was the "Blue House" into what will be our administrative center after the new RE / Social Hall building is complete. We have been planning our space for the future and watching over the steps as they unfolded. We are anticipating a "Great Moving Day" this fall as we learn to live without Forbes Hall and the 17th Street building.

Our congregation is working toward becoming a Green Sanctuary as part of world-wide efforts to stem global warming. Analysis of our energy use, cleaning chemicals, transportation habits and recycling has begun. Our Green Sanctuary Committee, led by Sandra Trutt and Leslie Reuter, and Sustainable Works, a non-profit agency focused on helping local businesses "green" have spearheaded the effort.

Other transitions this year included.

- The Art Wall, transitioned into committee management after longtime leader, Shirlee Frank, moved out of state.
- An ad-hoc committee on religious symbols studied and led discussions after the world religion banners, which hung in the sanctuary for decades, became too faded and fragile for display.
- Building maintenance and upgrades were coordinated by S. J. Guidotti and Ren Renshaw. They painted the sanctuary, repaired Forbes windows and ceiling, refinished the sanctuary floors and repaired pews, repaired chancel railing, updated the nursery play yard, and replaced the sanctuary chalice oil lamp with a clean burning alcohol lamp.
- Building and courtyard security were enhanced by installation of iron gates.
- Holly Nguyen, Carmen Haley, and Attila Molnar were welcomed as part of our staff. All came in through the portal of search committee efforts in conjunction with Personnel Committee member Kim Miller, Esc. We also bid regretful farewells to staff members Chuck Craig, Mark Dwyer and Michael Lamb.
- Technology upgrades on office computers and software were made by recommendation of Dan Kegel. Our webmaster, Liz Fuller helped us transition our Calendar to Google's on line version, which allows it to be linked to our web site
- The Disabilities Committee, via Carol Agate, helped us select an assistive listening device system, establish wheel chair spots in the sanctuary, created handicapped parking spots on site, and led discussions about accessibility to the chancel.
- Money handling was standardized by setting up procedures for tracking cash collected for events and fundraising. New support by office staff for Stewardship efforts was implemented.
- Our Directory now includes photos thanks to the Herculean efforts of Charles & Christine Haskell. Communications were enhanced through bulletin board displays by the Green Committee, New Building Project, and Covenant Groups.
- Membership and Leadership Committee, via Laurel Bleak and Marsha Smith, coordinated functions of greeting new members, and sponsoring social events.

Critical to all these successes were the efforts of many, many volunteers, who were central in implementing these and other tasks. Their names would more than fill the pages of this Annual Report. Thank you!

Report of the Finance Assistant Holly Nguyen

My main duties include:

- maintain & track member's pledge records in Church Windows database
- send monthly pledge reminders to contributors and resolve pledge inconsistencies

- maintain facility rentals & rent collection
- make weekly deposits from Sunday's collection, pledge payments & rental monies to bank
- coordinate with Membership & Leadership Committee as well as Stewardship Committee

After graduating from UCLA, I thought it might be interesting to work in a non-corporate environment and maybe lucky enough to find a truly rewarding job. Fortunately, I was able to have such a wonderful opportunity here at UUSM. I started as the Office Assistant and a few months later I was promoted to the Finance Assistant position. There were many exciting changes especially in the roles and duties I perform. I find it very exhilarating and rewarding to work with so many talented people especially Melinda Ewen, Carmen Haley, President Ron Crane, Past President Charles Haskell & his wife Christine, Warren Mathews, Rev. Judith Meyer, Jacki Weber, Anne MacQueen and her crew, and so many other gracious volunteers.

**Report of the Office-RE Assistant
Carmen Haley**

Working at the Unitarian Universalist Community of Santa Monica Church has been an enlightening and invigorating experience. Over the past few months, I have come to appreciate the history and foundation of the Unitarian Universalist Church. It was my Dad who first told me about the Unitarian church's pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movements. For this contribution in history, I am truly appreciative. Furthermore, I have come to know great members of the congregation. I am inspired by the level of commitment and contribution that everyone gives for the growth and development of the church. It is a delight for me to work with all of the church volunteers. Everyone's contribution has made a significant impact on my role as Office Assistant. Special thanks go to Ellen Boag, John Fels, Anne MacQueen, and Helene Morrison for their volunteer service in the office each week. I am grateful to work with the best team ever: Rev. Judith Meyer, Melinda Ewen, Holly Nguyen and Catherine Farmer. Their assistance has positively aided my transition into the role of office assistant. I consider their continued support a true blessing. I thank the church for this opportunity.

**Building and Grounds Committee
Submitted by S. J. Guidotti, Chair**

Building and Grounds is a service group whose charge is to prevent the building from falling in on our heads or the grounds from swallowing us whole never to be seen again.

While this task entails meeting to decide when to call in professional plumbers, carpenters, or gardeners, it also includes exposing butt cracks as we bend over to do the work ourselves.

Among this year's projects were Forbes window repair, the

painting of the sanctuary, and the putting off of roof repair in case it never rains again.

Membership is open to anyone who knows how to buckle a tool belt and includes Bill Dimpfl, S. J. Guidotti, Karl Lisovsky, David Olson, Marv Pulliam, and Ren Renshaw.

**Finance Committee
Submitted by Warren Mathews, Chair**

A Year of Transition

This year has been one of major transition in the financial workings of the church. Melinda Ewen, as Administrator and about to be retitled Business Manager, has almost completely assumed the entire spectrum of finance administration and business management functions that Warren Mathews had been handling for four decades.

Also, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the elected Treasurer automatically serve as chair of this committee. Warren, as the elected Treasurer, has filled that dual position this year, and that policy will continue into subsequent years. With those major changes as a backdrop, the emerging roles of the Finance Committee are:

1. To develop the annual operating budget.
2. To oversee the church's financial policies and to recommend changes therein in as needed, including acting on major budget deviation requests.
3. To advise the Board and the congregation on finance matters as appropriate.

Apart from development of the annual budget, the role of the Finance Committee is becoming one largely of policy oversight and advice as the Administrator/Business Manager assumes the finance administration functions that previously fell to the Committee and the Treasurer.

The 2007- 08 Budget (see pp 12-13)

The budget development process also underwent a major transition this year. Instead of starting with a projection of expected income then fitting the expense budget to that projection, we started with an initial phase of the multi-year vision (*table p 23*) developed by the Long Range Planning Committee (*report p 25*) and, together with the Stewardship Committee and the Board, built a financing plan to accomplish it (including a significant investment from our accumulated savings). This approach involved the Board much more intimately in the early phases of budget development, and represents budgeting to facilitate what the church wants to become rather than merely to continue the existing program structure.

What's Next?

This has been a relatively unpressured year for the committee, but we anticipate an increasing need for our deliberations as phase two of the new building construction gets underway and begins to impact the church operations financially as well as functionally.

LONG-RANGE VISION ITEMS IN 2007-8 BUDGET

(First Year of Multi-Year Vision Plan)

Strengthen Administrative Infrastructure

Office Administrator → Business Mgr	14,550	
Finance Assistant → Full-time	9,140	
Part-time Office & RE Assistant	17,210	
Increase Sexton Hours	<u>10,600</u>	<u>51,500</u>

Deepen Congregational Life

Coordinator of Congregational Life	Volunteer	
FIA Lecture Series	600	
Multiracial Development	<u>300</u>	<u>900</u>

Establish Lifespan Religious Exploration

Preschool Teacher	4,400	
Childcare for All Church Events	2,200	
Youth Ministry Support	2,000	
RE Administrative Assistance	<u>incl above</u>	<u>8,600</u>

Bolster Spiritual Life (Music & Ministry)

Bass Choir Section Leader	3,800	
Alto Choir Section Leader	<u>3,800</u>	<u>7,600</u>

Total First-Year Vision Expenses **\$68,600**

Offsetting Income

Increased Pledge Receipts	49,000	
Retain Jacki Weber to Manage Pledge Solicitation	(12,000)	
Transfer from Savings	<u>32,000</u>	

Total Offsetting Income **\$69,000**

Members of the Finance Committee this year have been Carol Agate, Anita and George Brenner, Steven DePaul, David Hedin, Ofelia Lachtman, Warren Mathews and Sheldon Stone, standing members; Ron Crane, Ed Field, Jacki Weber and Patricia Wright, ex-officio members; and Melinda Ewen, regular staff attendee.

Investment Committee Submitted by Ed Field, Chair

The Investment Committee is a subset of the Finance Committee. It places church financial assets where good returns can be safely earned. Because most of those assets are earmarked for construction under the building program, the vast majority of our assets are invested in short-term, risk free cash equivalents, such as CDs. Interest rates on those investments have held relatively steady over the past year.

Office Volunteers

Submitted by Anne MacQueen, Chair

As Coordinator of Office Volunteers, I call on folks to join office work crews. On Friday afternoon we collate the Sunday Order of Service. Once a month, we prepare the newsletter for mailings and do other mailings when called upon. Volunteers this year included, Lyn Armondo, Sylvia Berke, Carolyn Berry, Sheila Bjornlie, Ellen Boag, Helen Brown, Peggy Butler, Mary Cole, June Jameson, Gist Lavoie, Jean Maucieri, Helene Morrison, John Raiford, and Grace Weaver. It's fun. Let me know if you like to be on-call.

Personnel Committee

Submitted by John Fels, Co-Chair

The Personnel Committee is responsible for recommending and advising the Board on personnel policies, procedures, and other issues regarding the church paid staff and ministers.

Among the Committee's duties are reviewing and recommending revisions of job descriptions, job performance and salary evaluations.

Members of the Committee will be selected by the Nominating Committee in the future. This year members were: John Fels, Shawn Kerr, Jerry Gates, Kim Miller, Pat Parkerton and Lynn Strother plus the Minister and Church Administrator.

COMMITTEES

Art Wall Committee Submitted by Nels Hanson

Shirlee Frank was the Gallery Wall Committee for years and years. Everything went smoothly, there was art on the wall every month, and I believe the congregation was grateful to have a new vision of visual creativity. It was a focus of conversation for both new and old.

When Shirlee moved back to the east coast to live with her daughter, there was a realization that there was a need to institutionalize the support and promotion of the Gallery Wall and Melinda Ewen proposed the formation of an Art Wall Committee. She approached Carol Ring, Betty Mill, and me to be on the committee. With Melinda, we met in July 2006 with Mathilde Lombard, the artist Shirley worked with to select exhibiting artists. We would not have the variety of art we have without Mathilde's work and knowledge of the local art scene.

Artists show for one month, January through October. In November, the Art Wall is given to the Faith in Action Commission, and in December, there is a call from artists of our own church to display their work.

Artists that exhibited: June 06: Milly St. Charles; July 06: Loraine Stern; August 06: Carol Ring; September 06: Gilbert Johnquest; October 06: Lynn Mikami; November 06: Faith in Action; December 06: "Our Own Artists"; January 07: Lynn Gadal; February 07: Ruth Rosen; March 07: Florence Levine; April 07: Evelyn Debes; May 07: Irene Horinchi; June 07: Bettye Barclay; July 07: Joanne Cullen & Lois Haytin; August 07: Diana Spears; September 07: Ettiore Andreani

The church receives 20% of sales from the Art Wall from non-member artists and 10% from church member artists. Art Wall sales in 06-07 have totaled over \$10,000 of which \$2,353 was contributed to our church general fund. With the imminent tearing down of Forbes Hall to make way for our new and expanded facilities, the Art Wall Committee has not met to choose artists for 2008. However, we believe that the Art Wall is an essential part of our church life and the committee will meet during this time to see if there are other ways to continue to share the joys that art can bring.

Bookstore Committee Submitted by Carol Agate, Chair

The bookstore got a new look this year when it became clear that people like to see book covers when they browse. We took a tip from Borders and Barnes & Noble, where featured or sale books are spread out on tables. The shelves are for people who already know what they're looking for. So we're encouraging browsing by placing books flat on a table and by advertising featured books in the order of service.

Another change was the board's decision to allocate the bookstore income to the building fund. Except for special sales of gently used books, everything is sold at list prices. However, there is actually a discount on every book because we pay the sales tax directly instead of adding it to the cost of the book.

Our all-time best seller is "Leaving Room for Hope" by Judith Meyer. We have an exclusive arrangement with the author and all proceeds are donated to the building fund. Contributions of your books are welcome as long as they are in mint condition and are either new or timeless. All other books may be donated to the library.

Many thanks to the wonderful bookstore staff of Nancy Babbitt, Phil Bonacich, Rebecca Crawford, Jeff Greenman, Max Johnson, Jacki Paddock, and Sandra Trutt. If you love books and chatting with customers, especially visitors, come join our staff.

Bylaws and Policies Committee Submitted by Charles Haskell, Chair

The Board established this committee in 2003 to (1) review and study the Bylaws of the Church and its policies and procedures and (2) to make recommendations to the Board from time to time for revisions to the Bylaws and to the policies and procedures of the Church for adoption by the Board and the congregation. Members of the committee include Carol Agate, John Agnew, Kathy Cook, Melinda Ewen, Kim Miller, and Charles Haskell (chair). The BPC meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Blue Cottage from 6:30-8:00 PM. BPC recommendations for action by the Board of Directors are reached by consensus and recorded in minutes prepared by the chair. All meetings are open to members of the congregation. Our work product is on file in the church office in a comprehensive manual and on the church's web site: uusm.org.

Capital Campaign Committee Submitted by Ron Crane, Co-Chair

Part two of the Capital Campaign began 2006 with a goal to raise an additional \$900,000. As of the date of this report, we have exceeded our goal, bringing in combined campaign pledges to near \$2,400,000. Gratitude is due to members of each capital campaign and to every member of the congregation who has supported the building of our community.

The New Building Committee report available on page 27 of this Annual Report, tells that we now have plans for Phase II of our building expansion: a new social hall and education building, the design of which has been approved by the congregation. The Capital Campaign Committee will now get back to work to raise the necessary funds to realize completion of our long held dream. This continuation of the Capital Campaign has a goal of raising an additional \$500,000 to meet the rising construction costs for Phase II.

Thank you all for what you have done to make our long journey into the new buildings a reality. Capital Campaign Steering Committee members were Ron Crane, Ofelia Lachtman, Carol Kerr, Carol Agate and Rev. Judith Meyer,

**Coffee Hour Group
Submitted by Nancy Howell, Coordinator**

The coffee committee volunteers have enjoyed serving coffee, tea and cookies to the congregation after the church services. This year, with the help of the Green Committee, we are proud to have become more aware of our environment. We now serve coffee and tea in paper cups rather than Styrofoam. We are serving sugar from a glass container rather than individually wrapped packages. We serve only fair traded coffee and are in the process of obtaining fair traded tea. We use cloth tablecloths rather than paper. Our next napkins are to be made of recycled paper.

As coordinator, I would like express my appreciation for a great committee. They are as follows: Nels Hanson, Robert Kory, Dan Nannini, Sheila Bjornlie, Leah Moore, Patrick Meighan, Lindsay Pinkham, Melanie Sharp, Peggy Durst, Amy Lacombe, Gerrie Lambson, Pam Teplitz, Nancy Howell, Nancy Babbitt, Katie Malich, RAC Clark, and Sylvia Young. We miss Erin Peters, who was previously a part of our team. We also thank our former coordinator, Ellen Boag. We also are grateful for Sandra Trutt who is in charge of the kitchen and keeps our supplies in order.

Our goal for the next year is to remain flexible and continue the great coffee service even in the absence of a kitchen due to the construction of our church. We would invite anyone interested to join our volunteer group. It is an enjoyable way to meet and greet the people in our church.

**Dining for Dollars Committee
Submitted by Helen Burns, Chair**

The Dining for Dollars Committee fulfilled its mission by dropping about \$20,000 into the church till, while simultaneously encouraging members and friends to have fun and enhance a sense of community. This was all made possible by the generous offers of fellow congregants' meals and entertainment.

This year's committees consisted of Sue Moore, Sandra Trutt, Anne MacQueen, and Helen Burns, and supplemented by Nels Hanson, our computer guru and pinch hitter in the time of need.

**Report of the Historian / Archivist
Submitted By Rob Briner**

Having taken over this responsibility from long-time historian/archivist Milt Holmen in 2003, there are now over 9,500 indexed documents in the church archives, including but not limited to (1) monthly newsletters; (2) weekly Orders of Service; (3) Minutes and other documents related to board meetings and annual meetings; and (4), added in 2007, 2,300 membership cards from 1956-2004. Historical commemorations in the future include the 15th anniversary of the William and Marjorie Anderson Courtyard in October 2007 (1992-2007). Upon completion of the Building Program in 2008 or 2009, the archives will be returned to on-site storage (since 2004 storage has been off-site, at no cost).

**Lending Library Committee
Submitted by Sandra Trutt, Chair**

The Lending Library Committee has been inactive this past year. The books are still circulating, a few new books have been added and a few taken out of circulation. I anticipate that during the upcoming year, things will continue this way. We will need to evaluate the bookshelf space available in the Blue House to determine how many books it will hold. We will then make decisions on which books to keep and new ones to add.

The Committee members were Ilse Kleinman, Nedra Bickel, Robert Kwan and Sandra Trutt.

**Long Range Planning Committee
Submitted by Patricia Wright, Chair**

Following the creation and spin-off of the Membership and Leadership Committee (M&L), Long Range Planning (LRP) reconvened in early 2006. The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) currently consists of Rebecca Crawford, Judith Meyer, John Raiford, and Patricia Wright. Edna Bonacich and Jacki Weber also participated and we are grateful for their contribution.

LRPC has been working on a plan for our church over the next 3-5 years. In five years we see a church with our building program completed, our organization well staffed with employees and volunteers, new programs ready to run, all reflecting our vision: *"We want to build a church that is an agent of transformation, central in individual people's lives and in the community at large. We desire to reflect our larger community and its diversity and to be a place where people feel welcome, well connected, valued, and loved."*

No small task! We explored how we can achieve our vision and concluded that the key is to institutionalize the major (and essential) areas of our congregation's energy, beginning with: strengthen administrative infrastructure, deepen congregational life, establish lifespan RE, and strengthen music element of spirituality. Details of these "energy centers" were presented at a Town hall Meeting in February and received enthusiastic endorsement by those who attended the meeting. The Long Range Vision items

in the 2007-08 Budget (*table p 23*) included in the Finance Committee report reflects our work, and is the instrument for implementation of our goals in the next year.

One of the most exciting components of our vision is the Coordinator of Congregational Life, an eventual staff position whose role would encompass membership development, community building, and outreach functions. We are very fortunate to have a talented volunteer, Marsha Smith, who will help us launch and define this position for a startup year.

We cannot ignore the enormous challenges that we face over the next three years. We will need to work with the construction process and the availability of space until the building is completed. We face possible rental costs during construction and increased operating costs after construction. We will have to carefully monitor the progress of our vision against these difficulties. Nonetheless, we want to keep our sights on our enormous potential for the future.

As we move into the next year, LRPC will continue to explore ways in which program development, further organizational support, and programmatic movements can bring us closer to realizing our vision.

Membership and Leadership Committee

Submitted by Laurel Bleak & Marsha Smith, Co-Chairs

The role of the Membership and Leadership (M&L) Committee is to support existing and develop new programs that sustain and enhance the welcoming, membership and leadership systems of the church, and to sustain a church culture in which all members can participate fully and productively.

Accomplishments:

1. Expand committee with new members: *The membership has increased from five (after losing two original members to other committees) to a participating committee of ten. The church Administrator, Melinda Ewen, and Director of Religious Education, Catherine Farmer, also actively participate to ensure alignment in our programs and processes.*

Current membership includes: Laurel Bleak, Marsha Smith, as co-chairs, Charles Haskell, Ron Crane, Audrey Lyness, Kathy Cook, Rob Briner, Farrokh Allen, Linda Van Lighten, and Jan Dunn.

2. Better utilize the "Interests and Skills" survey to find and place volunteers in appropriate activities: *The surveys are now more broadly distributed within the Greeter program with follow up calls to those that indicate their interest in this program. Just recently we are analyzing those surveys where new members indicate their interest in the coffee hour (the surveys have not been used and many new members indicate an interest in this area). We will continue to investigate ways of using the surveys to connect new members to areas of interest.*

3. Develop a new photo directory: *It was largely a goal of the church president that the M&L group sponsor and facilitate its completion.*

4. Update data and develop a new format for the "Getting Involved" directory for church committees and activities and volunteer opportunities: *The president and the church Administrator largely worked on this goal under the sponsorship and facilitation of the M&L committee.*

5. Provide recommendations to enhance the web site for visitors: *A small independent study was conducted using people not familiar with our church or web-site to understand how easy (or hard) it was for them to navigate through the site to find the information needed as a visitor or new member. Several recommendations were implemented including adding a "frequently asked" site for visitors. Liz Fuller was very instrumental in making the changes.*

6. Support the development of training program for the Church Welcoming System (includes Greeters, Ushers, Coffee, and AskMe): *Two co-chairs, Judy Federick and Grace Phillips, volunteered to coordinate the Greeter program. Two training sessions have been conducted, using our welcome system diagram as a training tool. The diagram has been continuously upgraded as we have received input and changes have been made and processes refined.*

7. Create Visitor Welcome Folders/Bags that includes content that is more focused on the Santa Monica church, its people and activities: *The Welcoming folders for adults and bags for children were developed and are now part of the Greeter program.*

8. Develop volunteer positions for follow-up phone calls to visitors, new members, and exiting members: *Audrey Lyness has done some experimental work calling new members. We will more fully explore how to make this effective in the new year.*

In addition to the stated goals and objectives, the M&L Committee has developed or rekindled some existing programs and plans to fully implement them in the new year:

1. Sponsors four different pamphlets produced by the Santa Monica church. The membership worked on fine-tuning the "frequently asked questions" document and made it consistent in both paper and on-line versions.
2. Sponsors the "new member dinner" program and will add and coordinate a second new member dinner in April. Members of the major committees – the Board, Membership and Leadership, and Stewardship will be asked to provide the potluck meals to welcome new members.
3. Sponsors "Friendship Dinners" (known in the past as "Circle Suppers"). The co-chairs, Farrokh Allen and Jan Dunn, are developing and implementing the new program which started in February

4. Sponsors the “Getting Involved Sunday” which had its first event in October. We are currently looking at making it into a formal program offered more frequently

The M&L Committee will also work next year to:

5. Develop a “Fellowship Council” focused on coordinating various social programs and activities. The idea is to bring together the various chairs or organizers of major events: Pilgrims’ Feast, Christmas Vespers, Friendship Dinners, New Member Dinners, camping outing, RE activities, and various potlucks to coordinate dates and facilitate implementation.
6. Enthusiastically recommend to the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board, and help to develop, the position of “Director of Congregational Life”. Many of the programs embedded in the accomplishments above would be within the role and accountability of this new position. The Director of Congregational Life would develop, implement and sustain and/or be accountable for the following:
 - The welcoming system and programs that includes visitor and new membership packets, Newcomer Orientation, New Member Dinners, etc.
 - The communication system that includes coordinating with the church Administrator and various volunteer groups both external and internal publications, the church web-site and newsletter, and announcements.
 - The “to be formed” Fellowship Council to set the event calendar and coordinate various church events and activities.
 - The development of programs that facilitate the transition of visitors to members and members to committed membership and leadership roles. The position would align with and complement activities of the Board, Membership and Leadership, and the Stewardship Committee.
 - A system that tracks visitors, to new memberships, to the fulfillment and engagement within congregational life. This system should provide analysis tools that allow us to understand what works to attract visitors, to encourage new membership, membership participation, and attrition rates and why people decide to join or leave the church and/or its activities and programs.
 - Work to increase membership in total, membership commitment through volunteerism, and diversity in membership.
 - Create a system to formalize a process to continuously recognize volunteers, who are the backbone of the church, its activities and its community.
 - Support and facilitate the membership activities for the various community outreach programs.

Multiracial Development Committee Edna Bonacich, Chair

Ours is a new committee, formed out of the desire to make our church a more welcoming community for people of color, and to guide us in the continuing fight against racism. Members this year included (in alphabetical order): Edna Bonacich, Amelia Harati, Leon and Nicole Henderson-MacLennan, Deborah Hermann, Vilma Ortiz, Jacki Paddock, Linda Van Ligten, and Alyssa Wood. We also got good support from Judith and Catherine Farmer.

Our main activities this year were to hold a video/potluck, showing a video that dealt with the history of racism. Leon and Nicole led a discussion group that led the reading of the book Soul Work, a compilation about race and racism by leaders of the denomination. Next year we plan to contribute to the Pilgrims’ Feast and Kwanzaa celebrations, to hold more potlucks that include videos and discussions. We may also encourage the church to host a Jubilee. Several of our members are active in anti-racist activities in the denomination, and are bringing this work to our community.

New Building Program Submitted by Carol Kerr, Chair

The New Building Committee had another busy year in which we successfully modified our application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) through the City of Santa Monica. Our new CUP modifies the design for our new classroom and social hall building and completely renovates Forbes Hall to accommodate on-site parking, well in excess of the amount legally required. The Planning Commission unanimously approved our modified CUP and we did not receive any objections from our neighbors. We also broke ground in late 2006 on Phase 1 of our project (renovation of the Blue Cottage) and we expect to move into this new space in fall 2007. The Committee also submitted our design for Phase 2 (new classroom, social hall and Forbes Hall renovation) to the Santa Monica Architectural Review Board in April and hopefully will be able to complete the design process, pull permits for Phase 2 and begin construction by November 2007. With the assistance of Keith Ludowitz, the plans submitted to the Architectural Review Board include exciting landscape designs. We have had several congregational town hall meetings to review the design for Phase 2 and appreciate the congregational support of our design efforts.

Members included: Carol Kerr, Chair, Alison Kendall, Design Chair, Carol Agate, David Denton, Mel Horan, Rod Lane, Keith Ludowitz, David Olson, Steve Paddock, and Greg Wood.



Newsletter Committee

Submitted by Dayla McDonald, Chair

The UCCSM newsletter publishes articles and announcements by and about our congregation. Our goal is to keep our members and friends informed of church activities, board and committee actions, involvement opportunities, and to provide a forum for members to communicate opinions of interest to the UCCSM community. The newsletter is distributed monthly, by mail and e-mail.

Nominating Committee

Submitted by S. J. Guidotti, Chair

The Nominating Committee, in addition to recruiting members of the Church Board, has now agreed to assist with recruitment for the Finance and Personnel Committees. We of the Nominating Committee wholeheartedly support the drive for term limits that will open our governing councils giving many more church members the privilege of serving. With this expanded responsibility, we ask every member of our community to get involved and for their input and judgment in seeking qualified individuals.

Committee members continuing next year include Victor Paddock, Liza Cranis, Carol Agate and me. We thank outgoing members Jon Fels and Linda Van Ligten and look forward to the contributions of Rob Briner and Karen Patch.

Committee on Religious Symbols

Submitted by Dan March, Chair

It is hard to believe, but this Committee has been in existence for just over a year. It all began as a simple effort to clean one banner. When it became obvious that the banners were worn out Joyce Holmen just happened to be both the person who declared the old set as being beyond repair and the person who knew that we had already replaced one set. The logical assumption was that this set would also be replaced with a similar set. A pagan banner had been requested for quite some time, so that could be worked into the new set.

When a little research led to some questions about "correctness" and other aspects of that set of banners, Joyce, I, Judith and a few others had conversations about what might be involved in determining "minor" changes. And so a slippery slope was created. Seeing this, I envisioned the need for official sanction and petitioned the board for recognition, which was received shortly thereafter. At that point, the committee included Cicely Gilman, Joyce Holmen, Carol Ring, Valerie March, Melissa Weaver and myself. Elizabeth Wheat joined briefly. Judith Meyer was an active advisor. Somewhat later, Max Johnson and Silvio Nardoni also joined.

We did manage to create a pagan banner. The spiral was put forth especially by Cicely Gilman and eventually

endorsed by all. Although it is probably not the most universal of pagan symbols over all time and cultures, it is certainly important. It is seen as speaking to Neo-Paganism perhaps more than the admittedly more universal "sun-wheel" and its variations. The spiral speaks of centeredness in combination with continual evolution and often cyclic change – core characteristics of life today.

And we managed to create, shepherd, and evolve a set of world religion banners through a process that included a good deal of congregational input which finally resulted in board approval of the designs.

Through the month of January, I manned each week's most recent version of the banners, listening to praise and criticism and suggestions. For most of the year, Carol Ring produced seemingly endless accurate, professional computer graphic interpretations - first of our own discussions of design elements and then added congregational input as well. Among the most consistently expressed feelings was one of eagerness to see the new set installed in the sanctuary.

In that process, however, an underlying question arose: What are we saying with these banners? That question rose to congregational proportions, and the Board asked the Committee to hold a Town Hall Meeting on April 15 to discuss this and other related questions. At the Annual Meeting in May the banners were approved, as well as a process for future banners outlined.

Stewardship Committee

Submitted by Jacki Weber, Chair

In 2006, we continued the work of expressing our congregational health through encouraging all members to annually consider their individual commitments to the church via a pledge drive. We also continued the encouragement of the idea of "five years, five percent" – that once you've been at the church for five years, 5% is a healthy amount to be giving to support a congregation that helps you become the best person you can be and that demonstrates a commitment to help in the transformation of the community at large to be more just, compassionate, environmentally aware, etc.

We achieved more than 50% participation in the pledge drive, progress in the right direction; and we believe that the idea of "striving for 5%" is gaining a little traction, though there's definitely more work to be done.

We also encouraged the idea of a Vision Budget and are thrilled to see Long Range Planning and the Board embracing that idea with a kind of three-year plan so the members of our community can see how we want to manifest our vision for this church (and the budget impact of that manifestation).

This longer-term vision is exciting. Now all we need is to fund it. Is it too early to ask you to consider increasing your pledge for the coming year to support our community's vision? Maybe you can start thinking about it.

The committee is officially comprised of Phil Bonacich (co-chair), Jacki Weber (co-chair), Ron Crane, Sanjeev Jain, Ofelia Lachtman, and Patricia Wright. We meet regularly as a committee, and seek dialogue with all members of the congregation.

**Report of the Webmaster
Submitted Elizabeth Fuller**

In 2006 and the first part of 2007 the website continued adding depth by including chalice lighting texts, our latest bylaws, annual reports, an organization chart and the texts of more than 40 Management Policies. We also did a little reorganizing to create top-level sections for Faith in Action and Covenant Groups (increasing their profiles and making them easier to find), and we wrote a new set of Website Policies.

In the coming year, if all goes well, we'll be adding to our technical sophistication and "gee whiz" factors with news feeds from the UUA and UU World, a site search tool, an easier-to-use calendar, and - yes, they're coming! - podcasts of Judith's sermons."

ACTIVITY AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**Books 'R Us
Submitted by Phil Bonacich**

Books R' Us is a monthly fiction discussion group that meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 at the home of Mary Fonseca in Mar Vista. The only rule is to have read the book before the meeting. Light refreshments are served. Average attendance is 8-12

**Caregivers Support Group
Submitted by Joyce Holmen**

Being responsible for providing care for a chronically ill family member or friend can be alternately rewarding, frustrating, isolating, and overwhelming. It's good to discuss what's happening with others who are in the same boat. The Caregivers' Support Group can help you deal with day-to-day problems and questions while maintaining your own life.

A support group can provide a little boost to help you get through tough times and give a cheery "hooray" when you've coped with another crisis. Our small group has been meeting for five and a half years, with people coming and going as their needs change. Members encourage each other to mind their own health and well being while doing a zillion necessary tasks, usually for others.

Do you provide just about round-the-clock care for someone every day? Or do you monitor things as a long-distance caregiver? Or are you unsure if you even could be called a caregiver? Questions and newcomers are always welcome. Members of the group have shared their experiences and expertise in taking care of loved ones with various situations including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer, depression, heart problems, and other

chronic conditions.

Our goal for the coming year is to keep being available for caregivers in our church community who are in need. We invite you to contact us even if you can't attend meetings, which are on the third Tuesday of the month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Forbes Hall. For information, please email Joyce Holmen, mort4@earthlink.net, call Helen Brown, 310-450-3087, in the evening, or look for one of us on Sunday.

**deBenneville Pines Weekend
Submitted by Sharon Voigt Damerell**

We had another great camp June 15-17, 2007. Attendance was around 88, and many were new to the weekend. Campers presenting workshops or assisting with programs included Marv Pulliam, Sharon Voigt Damerell, Bill Damerell, Bob Deitz, Joyce Holman, Kerry Thorne, Cicily Gilman, Virginia Palmer, Steven Zucker, Greg Coleman, John Michael Lisovsky, Amy Lacombe, Bruno Lacombe, Elle Long, Jacki Weber, Greg Wood, and Kyle Bergerson. Linda Van Ligten served as camp nurse.

Workshops included tie-dye, hiking, archery, dam-building, creative writing, papier mache, a rock walk, water rocket launch, talent show, mini-covenant group, and others. Many families attended and there were an abundance of happy toddlers this year!

Future goals include increasing attendance and recruiting more church members to help with planning. Any interested parties who would be willing to help with registration and program planning should contact Sharon Voigt Damerell at Sharon@croptart.com.

**Ernie Pipes Lecture Series
Submitted by Leonard Adler**

The Ernest D. Pipes Distinguished Lecture series at The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica was initiated as an annual event in 1991 in honor of the retiring Minister, Dr. Pipes. Previous speakers have included William Schultz, Amnesty International, Ramona Ripston, ACLU, former presidential candidates: John Anderson and Michael Dukakis, journalists: Arianna Huffington, Robert Scheer, and Patt Morrison, and Professors Erwin Chemerinsky, Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Gary Small and Tom Platt

The committee invites the annual speaker, and organizes and staffs the event. Duties include speaker search, speaker hosting, pre-lecture publicity, and hosting a reception for the speaker at Forbes Hall following the event. The committee welcomes introductions of possible future speakers.

Members of the committee are Elizabeth and Leonard Adler, Rob Briner, Marguerite Spears, Nedra Bickel and Pat McGuire. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Theresa Castelli and Marvin Pulliam.

fUUsion

Submitted by Robin Lowney-Lankton

fUUsion, a group for 18 to 35 year-olds at UCCSM, was started in July 2006. Since its formation, the group has grown to include 50 members. fUUsion held 20 events during the year ranging from lunches after Church, potlucks, hikes, bowling, and more recently, service projects. fUUsion became an integral part of the Church. fUUsion members participated in the Holiday Pageant, taught RE, served as greeters, represented the Church in the pride march, and sponsored Dining for Dollars events.

fUUsion also worked with other UU groups. fUUsion attended a Soulful Sundown service at the Onion and a work weekend at de Benneville Pines. Robin Lowney Lankton represented fUUsion during a conference call with eight young adult group leaders in the Region, organized by Lynn Kelly, Campus Ministry Consultant.

The majority of the events were coordinated by the fUUsion Coordinator, Robin Lowney Lankton. fUUsion members Sarah Gaillot, Katrina Thompson, Chris Brown, Jennifer Smigelski also helped plan events.

fUUsion participated in Getting Involved Sunday, and worked to be a welcoming presence in the Church, especially for young adult members and visitors. fUUsion goals for FY 07-08 include: complete 4 service projects at the Church or in the community, increase listserv membership to 75 members, and hold at least 15 fUUsion events. We plan to continue our outreach efforts during fellowship in Forbes Hall, flyers at the visitors' table, a listserv, and blog.

Gardening Group

Submitted by Fran Hotchkiss

There has been a hiatus of gardening. Due to the acquisition of the next door property, all plans for the garden have been put on hold until after construction. Our thanks go to Sue Stoyanoff who tends the plants in the atrium. Sue has faithfully watered the plants every week for at least ten years.

The Men's Group

Submitted by Phil Bonacich

The UUSM Men's group meets the first Monday and third Wednesday of every month. There are usually 6-10 in attendance. At each meeting we discuss a pre-agreed upon topic. Our additional goal is to be useful to the congregation. We are thinking of establishing a new men's group for younger men.

Pilgrims' Feast

Kathy Cook, Chair

Saturday evening, November 18, 2006 marked the fourth time that our congregation celebrated Thanksgiving by using a scripted ritual that has been used in our denomination for decades. The original draft of this service was written in 1965 by Rev. John F. Hayward to be used at a community meal at First Unitarian Church of Chicago. Since then, it has undergone revisions by several ministers and congregation members to incorporate current sensibilities.

Those who have participated in Passover services will recognize the pattern of this Harvest Feast. Passover celebrates the escape from slavery and the building of a new life and culture in a promised land. Similarly, our American Thanksgiving celebrates "exodus" from tyranny in which pilgrims accepted the risks of the sea and all the dangers of an unfamiliar continent. For generations, Americans have celebrated the event with a festive meal. Our UU Harvest Feast celebrates the various and diverse experiences of escape from bondage and emergence into new hope.

The meaning of the symbolic salt water, bitter herbs and maize on your table was made clear during the service. Glasses of wine or juice were sipped after the words of blessing were spoken. This service, which deals with serious matters, is essentially a festival of rejoicing and the giving of thanks. By plan, it is seasoned with laughter and lightheartedness.

Seating in the sanctuary is limited to 140 persons. Those attending brought an assigned dish for the meal and participated in the event by doing a setup, performance or cleanup task. Many people worked hard to make this intergenerational event happen. An offering was taken to support the work of our Faith in Action Commission who provides meals at Step-up on Second, an agency serving mentally ill clients in Santa Monica.

Poetry Group

Submitted by Diana Spears

The Poetry Group underwent some radical changes this past year. Our group met monthly except over the months of July and August. Early in 2006, one of our original members and mainstays, Shirlee Frank, moved to Atlanta. Shirlee had hosted and provided refreshments for a majority of our meetings since the group began. In the last couple of years she had shared some hosting duties with Julie Gilliam, Pat Shinaberger, and Jane Machnik. However, recently Julie Gilliam has not been able to participate as often because of time and health issues. Jane Machnik, one of two members who married last year, also has become a less frequent attendee. Of necessity, the group undertook to broaden the number of people who did hosting duties and helped in this endeavor by deciding everyone should share in bringing refreshments. The other member to marry was George

Serruta, whose wife Helen Chacel, has become a valuable new member to our group increasing our ability to do bilingual readings. Perhaps the biggest change was that our founding leader, Jeff Greenman, left the group in December to devote more time to his music. His knowledgeable guidance is sorely missed.

Despite these changes the group decided to continue as a group. We have a core group of 8-10 active members and others who attend less often. Carolyn Berry has become a new host as has Diana Spears and Pat Shinaberger continues to open her house as well. In September, Arvid Knudsen presented Robert Lowell; in October George and Helen co-presented Jorge Luis Borges; in November Jeff Greenman presented Robert Bly (Ghazals). In December we did our annual Holiday Free Form presentation with everyone bringing poems to read. We have kept to this form of having a theme, e.g. Beginnings in Jan, Love in Feb., Irish poets in March, and Spring in April, rather than have one person do a poet. We each then bring in several poems to share and discuss. This has worked well, but we won't abandon the other practice entirely as members decide on a poet they wish to present.

Science Non-fiction Reading Group Submitted by Rebecca Crawford

The Science Non-Fiction Book Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss a book from current popular science literature. In addition, the group has expanded somewhat into history, with an emphasis on science or scientists. Some of the recent books we have discussed are the following: *Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble* by Lester Brown; *The World Is Flat*, by Thomas Friedman (about technology access in the 21st century); and *The End of Faith* by Sam Harris. We meet in the home of Rebecca Crawford at 7:00 pm for dessert, with the discussion starting at 7:30. All are welcome, but we have the expectation that people will have read the book before coming.

TAG: The Adventure Group Submitted by S. J. Guidotti

For the second consecutive year, no one from TAG or The Adventure Group, has jumped from an airplane while in flight. Instead, we have sponsored numerous hikes and successful campouts at Big Sur and Point Mugu.

TAG is open to both singles and couples and our age policy continues to mirror that of the U.S. Army—don't ask don't tell but if you think you're too old you probably are and if you think you're too young you should probably play a video game instead.

Join us for our next harebrained scheme or better yet think of one yourself and then contact TAG to enlist fellow conspirators.

Report of the Women's Alliance Submitted by Joyce Holmen

In 1927 both our church and our Women's Alliance were founded. For 80 years, the Alliance, as an affiliated organization, has provided ordinary and extraordinary opportunities for leadership training, interesting programs, fundraising, worship, good food, community outreach, personal growth, and getting to know some amazing women. Acknowledging the many gifts received from our Unitarian and Universalist foremothers, we tend the flame that they tended for us.

In 2007 we had 16 members. The Alliance meets quarterly for a Sunday lunch and sharing circle to talk about books, emotions, family, feminism, friends, gardens, history, love, mentors, music, peace work, spirituality, and more. Recent topics included:

- Who Is Your Heroine? Lyn Armondo started by telling us about vibrant Santa Monica Salka Viertel: actress, writer, wife, mother, and political activist.
- All the Best about My Mother, sparked by Serena Shames.
- "Come, dream a dream with me." The title comes from Carolyn McDade's song in our hymnal, #346. How about bringing 80 dreams?! Both the personal and the wider vision. Program details are in the church newsletter, and non-members are always welcome.

We help provide dinners for Step Up On Second (in connection with Faith In Action) and add a few dishes to Interweave's summer picnic. Our dues let us maintain membership in the UU Women's Federation, which awards grants to explore feminist theology and for outreach projects in the U.S. and abroad; to find out more, please visit www.uuwf.org.

Zen Meditation Group Submitted by Bernie Silvers

I am again proud of the fact that so many different members and people from the community have attended at one time or other the Zen Discussion & Meditation class. They have benefited greatly, so they have told me, by my teaching different meditation methods which they can use at home. I have also this year brought in different CD's of various teachers showing the variety of meditation methods. Meditation has helped everyone reduce the stress, anxiety and worry of their lives. In our discussions which everyone has participated in we have looked at the insights into the wisdom of Buddhists, Unitarians and Sufis. We have spent time on issues such as death, anger, happiness, parenting, relationships drawing again from the wisdom of the world's religions.

I want to thank Melinda Ewen and Richard Mathias for their help and participation.

My goal for the next year is to take on new topics and show how spiritual insights can help in dealing with difficult situations that at one time or other we all face.

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