

Ministerial Appreciation and Vision
Rev. Roger Jones & Rev. Lucy Bunch
Congregational Meeting of May 15, 2016
Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

Religious Education at a Glance for 2015-16

2015-16 Program	Age Range	Number Registered	Attend. Range	Number Volunteers		
Nursery	Birth-age 5	20	3-12	2 paid staff		
Spirit Play	K-grade 2	18	3-12	10		
True Reflections	grades 3-5	17	4-16	9		
Jr. High Youth	grades 6-8	12	4-8	3		
Sr. High Youth	grades 9-12	15	5-9	5 + RE Coordinator		
Coming of Age during June-Aug]	grades 9-10	10	10	11 + Sr. Minister	Art Works!	grades 1-8 [weekly
Summer SHYG	grades 9-12	{monthly during June-Aug}				
Our Whole Lives	grades 4-6	[coming 2016-17; recruiting teachers]				
Our Whole Lives	grades 7-9	[coming 2016-17; recruiting teachers]				

UUSS Music Program at a Glance for 2015-16

Music Committee established, task force selected Music Director Keith Atwater for a ¼ time position. Music Committee chair (retiring volunteer director) Meg Burnett attended UU Musicians Network conference in July. Keith will attend in July 2016. Keith will take guitar and sleeping bag to UUSS All Church Camp June 10-12. Music Committee met monthly, held celebratory reception after Ina Jun’s Master’s recital at CSUS. Stoles designed and made for several seasonal occasions.

Weekly choir practice, August-May. Choir sings at two or more services per month, September-May, with average of 19 singers and up to 25 in April. Keith formed a brass quintet of UUSS members and friends; they played on Easter Sunday. Members and friends shared their talents on several Sundays and on Christmas Eve, playing violin, cello, guitar, saxophone, and bass. Professional singers and drums/percussion were utilized twice in 2015-16. Keith has incorporated short music reading and vocal / singing technique lessons into rehearsals. Sectional rehearsals take place too. Choir continued tradition of post-rehearsal fellowship time.

New Website: www.uuss.org

Thanks to Website Planning Committee and IT Consultant/Web Designer Dirk Tuell, the new site features many photographs and makes it easy for groups and committees to post updates. It is user friendly, so leaders of our groups can post to it. The home page features daily updates, and the data show lots of traffic comes to our site!

New Fellowship Groups

In addition to ongoing men's and women's groups, Ministry Circles, GenX-Boomers, Soup Sundays, Salad Sundays, Ted's Web, etc., new groups include Walkin' Boots (hiking), Spiritual Deepening Circles, Young Adults Group, and Senior Fellowship and Aging Challengers. To learn about them all, see our website, weekly Blue Sheet, or the Pathways brochure.

Membership and Hospitality

New programs in support of membership efforts started this year and are going well. Monthly Newcomer Orientations have drawn 42 people between October and April. Monthly "Exploring UUism" classes give newcomers and members a chance to learn more about Unitarian Universalism. We have welcomed 45 new members and pledging friends since July of last year. Thanks to our Greeters Team and our Coffee Hospitality volunteers. They welcome new volunteers any time. It's a great way to serve for as little as one Sunday per month. Thank you to our volunteers and staff members for making Sunday morning quite full and rich!

Adult Enrichment and Spiritual Practices

Our new series of [Sunday Morning Spiritual Practices](#) is going well with folks engaging in a different spiritual practice each Sunday before services. We are concluding the second year of [Spiritual Deepening Circles](#) with a dedicated set of co-facilitator teams and dozens of members and friends building connections. [Our Adult Enrichment](#) Committee offers workshop and courses throughout the year, including lay and clergy-led sessions on meditation, Yoga, various book discussions, and studies of ethical, theological, historical and spiritual topics. A very [fun way to help this team](#) is to sign up to stand behind the Connections table in the Welcome Hall after the service one Sunday per month. You help folks find fliers about and sign up for workshops of interest.

Just a Few of Our Other Accomplishments in 2015-16

Renovation! Survived and thrived during 13 months away and the first major expansion in 54 years! Generous contributions of time, talent, labor and money to finish and fill the new building and landscape. Farewell service at Sierra Arden and major move back home with rededication ceremony. Thanks to Rev. Lucy, Building Project Steering Committee, Fundraising Teams, Board of Trustees and our Staff Members for going the extra mile!

Theater One produced varied and excellent shows in the Fahs Classroom and a Midtown theater. It started a series of plays for children (and their attached adults). Back at home, T-1 used new lighting and sound for a strong season, starting with a successful run of "Last Days of Judas Iscariot," with a large, diverse cast of local area talent augmenting our own UUSS actors and crew. T-1 has awarded the 2015-16 Bobby Award to Timothy Anderson, our amazing sound, lighting and stage design wizard (and workhorse) at UUSS.

Program Council organized and hosted the first Activity Fair in two years, with record participation of new and longtime groups. **Spring Fling** Auction & Dinner sold out, netted \$28,000 and was a ton of fun. Thanks!

New oversight: Board of Trustees appointed two ad-hoc committees to coordinate, oversee and carry out important activities at UUSS. Both meet monthly, each one with a minister.

Administrative and Property Management Team: Linda Clear, Denis Edgren, John McMillan, Glory Wicklund, Cassie Wilkins, and Rev. Lucy Bunch, with support from Michele Ebler and Stanton Vedell.

Fundraising Strategy Team (FRST): Cathy George, Karen Gunderson, Shirley Hines, Linda Klein, Eric Ross, and Rev. Roger Jones. Schedules, recruits, advises and approves fund raising events and activities so they are coordinated and successful, whether primarily for large monetary goals or fellowship and fun.

New Programs Coming in Fiscal Year 2016-17

Refugee Support—A planning team from UUSS and UU Church of Davis has been learning from resettlement agencies and plans to make available a variety of opportunities for us to help newcomers feel at home.

NOTE: **Saturday, May 21, 3:00** piano/cello benefit concert at UUSS.

NOTE: Sunday, May 22, after service Bicycle Drive, cookout, and blessing of bikes for new refugee families.

Ministerial Intern—D. Scott Cooper was selected to serve with UUSS for nine months as a full time intern doing a variety of ministerial roles, starting in September. As a lively and loving congregation with great momentum, we have much to teach an intern. Scott brings many gifts in preaching, pastoral care, social justice and religious education. A longtime lay leader at 1st Unitarian of Dallas, he just graduated with an M.Div. from Brite Divinity School. His spouse and stepchildren will remain home but are likely to visit. He'll visit to meet us all on July 10.

Roger's Sabbatical—All hands on deck! Roger's first leave since arriving here 8 years ago: thesis writing November & December 2016, back at UUSS in January, and travel, rest, retreat and continuing education February through May. Rev. Lucy will serve in the Senior Minister role, adding supervision of RE and Music staff and Intern to her supervision of our Administrative staff. How can *you* help? This will be a time of challenge and renewed commitment to the sharing of our mission as a congregation and volunteer organization!

Social Justice Theme—As described in the May Unigram, the Board selected an overarching theme of Confronting Economic Inequality for the coming year. This reflects the current Congregational Study & Action Issue selected by delegates to UUA General Assembly. Throughout the year we will engage with this theme in a variety of ways, including some direct action selected by the congregation. The plan includes partnering with community organizations working on issues related to income inequality and poverty. There will be lots of opportunities to be involved. Stay tuned. Rev. Lucy seeks an oversight task force to work on linking this theme and our various program areas at UUSS—worship, RE, Adult Enrichment, social action and outreach.