

# **Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek – Annual Meeting 2016**

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## **May 22, 2016 Agenda**

1. Opening Words – Rev. Gregory S. Pelley
2. Quorum Confirmation – Membership
3. State of the Society – Mary Pat Knauss, Board President
  - General Update
  - Staff Acknowledgements
  - Minister’s Report
  - Board Report
  - Committee Acknowledgements & Updates:
    - Adult RE –Jack Guerin
    - Building Maintenance – Dick Cronin
    - Pastoral Care – Brian Hanson
    - Communications – Vicky Tosh-Morelli
    - Finance – Adam Kegley
    - Membership – Maggie McLaughlin
    - Music – Heather Doty
    - Religious Exploration
    - Social Justice – Chitra Vaidyanathan
    - Sunday Services – Michele Cavanaugh & Stephen Petersen
    - Hospitality – Joanne Hartline & Linda Pugh
4. Budget Proposal and Vote – Adam Kegley
5. Acknowledgement of Outgoing 2015-16 Board Members and Nominating Committee
  - Board of Trustees:  
Ivonne Antongiorgi, Tracy Morgan, Bruce Koepcke, Mary Pat Knauss
  - Nominating Committee:  
Matt Doty, Pam Allenstein, Jamie Kegerise
6. Election of Incoming 2015-16 Board Members and Nominating Committee
  - Board President – 2 year term: Judy Pappenhagen
  - Board of Trustees – 2 year term:  
Stephen Selph, Seetha Coleman Kammula, Michele Cavanaugh, Vicky Tosh-Morelli
  - Nominating Committee – 1 year term:  
Tracy Morgan, Ivonne Antongiorgi, Bruce Koepcke
7. Closing Words – Mary Pat Knauss

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## Minister's Report

Dear Friends,

“This congregation holds a deep desire to deepen relationships within the church and into the wider community; a yearning to take the spirit of this community and have it permeate our daily lives.” I wrote that two years ago in my annual report to the congregation. I quoted it again last year. I do so again because, as I said last year,

“I remain steadfast in my belief that this [longing] is true for everyone that comes through the doors on Sunday morning, or on Monday night (or Tuesday, Wednesday, etc.) I believe this is true for every person who attends a *Kaleidoscope* concert, or helps on a workday, or plans a project, or teaches a class. I know it to be true for all who bring their gifts, talents, time, and treasure to provide resources for the good that is the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek. I am certain of its truth each time I see someone take a risk, to show up even when they'd rather not; to speak up even when their voice shakes. I know it to be true each time I watch you take that spark of your life and ignite another's, most often by simply greeting someone and letting them know that you're glad they are here, or perhaps by a hug, a touch on the arm, a simple acknowledgment of our shared humanity in all its suffering and all its joy.”

Being known by another person is both frightening and deeply joyful. Frightening, because to be known is to allow ourselves to be vulnerable enough to share our deepest gladness and our deepest pain with someone. Frightening, because when we do share, we have no control over how another person will respond. Will they love me? Will they revile me? Will they fear me? Will they embrace me?

But being known by another is also deeply joyful. To be known is to bridge the separation we sense between ourselves and others; between the self we have invented and our true self; between ourselves and God, (or however you name the holy or divine). To be known by another is to be connected and to be connected is what it is to be whole. And it is, I assert, this longing for — this call — to wholeness, that draws us to gather in religious community. Everything this church does needs to be in service to this call to wholeness, or we are wasting our time and precious resources.

Church is changing. Not just here at Mill Creek, but across the spectrum of faith. Some even say that even the very idea of church is dying. I do not think that the death knell is true, precisely because I believe that humans are called to wholeness and they instinctively know that wholeness means being connected to other humans, to this earth, and to something larger for which we have little language to describe or name. People, hungry for connection and meaning, are still gathering. They are simply not doing so in the traditions of our parents and grandparents. Religious communities that fail to respond to the changes in how (and when) we gather, will likely continue to shrink in participation and yes, even disappear altogether.

I do not think, however, that the UU Society of Mill Creek shares that destiny. Perhaps that is hubris or wishful thinking on my part. But there are these moments, these crystal clear

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moments where I look into the faces of our members and friends and visitors and see the incredible possibilities of our life together. I see them in that tear that forms at the corner of your eye when the music has moved you. I see them when even the most mundane task and committee work is taken on with exuberance and faith. I even see the possibilities when we struggle to find enough volunteers to do all the things needed to operate this church in the ways we have learned to do so.

The challenge for our future is in making real the possibilities that arise, to find new ways of gathering and sustaining community. And it is in allowing ourselves to mourn the loss of the way we have “done church” for so long. When we do both, we will transform this church, all the people who call it home, and all those in our wider community.

All of this begins and ends in storytelling. In this past two years, we have begun to learn and share our stories. Many of you have participated in the two small groups that I have offered, “Listening to Our Lives,” and “Finding Our Stories.” Each, in their own way, are a means to build a shared language and capacity for this congregation to engage in some deeper discernment around the “why” of church. Not just the “why” of church in general - in culture - but the “why” of UUSMC. What is the core of this congregation - what is its beating heart - what is its divine spark that moves us to gather, to connect our lives together, to seek out our individual and collective wisdom? As we begin to build a shared vocabulary and a shared skillfulness in talking about matters of the heart, of matters of the spirit, we create the space needed for transformation - for the possibility of “growing our soul.”

This is soul-stretching work. It requires us to be deeply intentional, deeply trusting, deeply loving. It requires us to be vulnerable. It requires us to hold each other in care and compassion. It requires each of us to be present - to show up and speak our heart’s deepest yearnings.

This congregation has done amazing things in the last 27 years. We have grown. We have built. We have learned. We have become a strong group of people that care for one another and care for the larger world. And we have dreams. We aspire to a larger life — one that expresses our deep interconnectedness with the world. One that embodies all we know to be true about this life, and all we don’t yet know.

Let this be my invitation to you. To you as an individual, and you as a congregation. I invite you into the conversations we will have this coming year - in small groups and large ones; one-on-one and within ourselves. I invite you into a transformative space of blessing and of love so that we may discern who we are in the matter of Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek.

This is a blessed community, full of love and compassion. It is time for us to know ourselves and envision who we may become.

It’s going to be a great year.

Blessings,  
Greg.

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## **Board Report**

The Board of Trustees had three areas of focus this year: Religious Education (carried over from last year, Policies and Procedures, and vision/mission. A brief summary of progress in each area follows, more information can be found in the monthly Board minutes.

Religious Education: In September the Board of Trustees began a formal process to understand more fully the needs of our community regarding Life-Span Religious Education. A sub-set of board members (RE-Task Force) formed to delve into the subject. The RE-TF thought the most thorough approach was to invest time in focus groups as well as reaching out to the RECommittee and leaders in the community for one on one discussions about RE. Twelve of these meetings took place, over a span of three months.

The results from the meetings were insightful. There was consensus that the children and youth who participate in the program are benefitting from it, however, there were no recommendations to keep the program at status quo. The members who participated want to see the program grow, in numbers attending, engagement with the members in the sanctuary, and social action within and beyond our walls.

As a result the board is working with the minister and the director of religious education to build goals for the upcoming year that incorporate suggested changes. In addition, we will look for a new chair of the Religious Education Committee, and encourage expansion of communications about the religious education activities.

Policies and Procedures: To facilitate good management practices, a sub-committee of the Board (Judy, MQ, and Mary Pat) developed a Personnel Manual that lays out UUSMC's policies on such matters as equal employment, harassment, conflict of interest, wage administration, time off, and confidentiality among other topics. Many of these topics have been covered by past Boards, but documentation was difficult to find. This effort codified a comprehensive policy on common personnel topics. It was approved by the Board of Trustees in December and subsequently reviewed with each employee by Rev. Greg.

Vision and Mission (DNA Process): The Board established a working group (Bruce, Tracy, and Judy) to facilitate the DNA discernment process outlined by Rev. Greg. The intent of the process is for the congregation to collectively discern its core values, core beliefs, and mission. Central to this project this year has been a series of conversations about our core values that have been undertaken by the Leadership Gathering, each of our Chalice Circles, and the UUSMC Choir. Grounded in storytelling, key values have begun to emerge and be defined, including values such as: Community and Belonging; Acceptance and Openness; Spiritual Growth, among others. Moving forward, the group will facilitate further conversations on our values and how they shape - and are shaped by - our beliefs.

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This DNA process is intentionally designed to be slow, unfolding over time. It works best when as many people in the congregation are engaged with us in the reflective work, so we invite you to take any opportunity to talk with Rev. Greg and the working group and participate in the conversations.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Adult RE – Jack Guerin, Chair**

The goal of the Adult Religious Education (ARE) program is to create a mutually respectful, intellectually safe and stimulating environment where members of our congregation can explore their faith and spirituality. We seek to embody the seven principles in both the content and the processes of each class.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, we conduct classes almost every Sunday morning throughout the year. This is done to ensure members of the congregation that any given Sunday there will be a class. ARE continued through last summer and we are planning to continue this summer also.

ARE has continued to experiment with different formats to provide content for discussion. We have begun to use video (primarily YouTube videos) more than books or other printed material. We have also invited a number of outside speakers and have invited UUSMC members (other than ARE committee members) to lead discussions.

Our objective is not to inhibit participation by requiring advance preparation for ARE. We want the congregation to perceive of the ARE program as an open drop in group.

During last fall and winter, we focused on social justice issues with a primary focus on racial justice. We also devoted a few weeks to environmental and climate justice. This spring we did a unit on women's issues, followed by our current unit on comparative religion which will continue through June.

Participation in ARE varies substantially from 5 to a peak of 20. We haven't maintained precise attendance records, but the average attendance is approximately 8 members. Outside speakers have been the largest factor in increasing attendance.

The ARE committee has recently expanded with the addition of Ellen Wasserman and Seetha Coleman and the return of Bob Broesler. Linda Lucero and Patti Ferich continue to be active contributing members. Planning for ARE is more of an ad hoc process than it should be. We would like to survey the congregation to obtain a better understanding of congregational interests and needs.

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Our perception is that ARE content should address a range of subject matter during the church year. With the expanded committee, our objective is to do more advance planning and engage with leadership to determine priorities for ARE.

## **Pastoral Care – Brian Hanson**

In the past year the Pastoral Care Team has been engaged in expanding our awareness and capabilities around end of life issues.

1. In December 2015, Greg and Brian hosted a retreat for Pastoral Care Team members and others from the congregation who had previously indicated an interest in pastoral care. During this retreat, we used Rev. Nancy Schaffer's book, "While Still There is Light" as a framework to reflect on death and dying. We reflected on our understanding of death, how we think about our own mortality, and how we experience the death of others. We then shifted to ways in which we are able to serve, to care for, others who are dying, as well as their loved ones.

2. Members of our Pastoral Care team attended the Delmarva Cluster Pastoral Care Workshop April 30 in Lewes, given by District Executive David Pyle. The workshop included basic active listening skills, body language awareness training, directed listening techniques, explored the Five Wishes document, and dealt with making decisions about end-of-life care.

3. Additional in-house Pastoral Care training, emphasizing end-of-life care and counseling, is being planned for Fall 2016.

## **Communications – Vicky Tosh-Morelli**

Our General Objectives for the year were:

- Build awareness of who and what we are:
  - Our religious and spiritual foundations
  - How we serve people's spiritual and personal needs
  - How we serve the community
- Promote our events and activities to the local community
  - Cultural programs
  - Youth and kids programs
  - Small group ministries

We focused our efforts initially in promoting the Kaleidoscope Concert Series by developing a promotional outreach list, paying for online ads through DelawareScene, creating a Facebook page and running Facebook ads, creating banners, postcards, and flyers.

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Our second major project was a complete redesign of the UUSMC website. Heather Brooks took the lead on this project and the result has been outstanding. There are some areas that need updating and we haven't implemented a members-only section yet. We would like to evaluate the need for one since it seems the only item that really needs to be members-only is the church directory.

We have been using Vertical Response to send UUSMC and Kaleidoscope e-mails and plan to switch to MailChimp to improve reliability of emails getting delivered.

The UUSMC Facebook group was transitioned to a private group and a UUSMC Facebook Page was created. There are several admins for both so posts and comments can be moderated and replied to as needed.

We worked with UUFN to jointly "operate" a booth at Newark Community Day. The coordination went well and was well received.

The committee is currently looking at designs to propose additional iconography or signs to better identify the building. These may include a chalice design or the church logo on the park facing side of the church. We are still gathering cost estimates and hope to begin presenting ideas to the congregation for feedback. We recognize that this item isn't in the current budget and hope to be able to do a special ask to fund this.

In the interim, the green roadside sign was updated with Greg's information and we are looking at cleaning up the stone sign to make the lettering more visible.

We hope to develop a general advertising campaign to promote the congregation to potential members. Our hope is that some of the "DNA" work currently underway will help in developing messages that resonate both with current members and future members.

Major props to Heather Brooks who pretty much single-handedly got the new site up and running and handled all the transition related issues, to Rev. Pelley who has been great guide throughout and has a wonderful way with social media himself, and to Andy Levin for getting the ball rolling!

### **Finance – Adam Kegley**

The UUSMC finance committee consists of Adam Kegley, Chair, Bruce Koepcke, Treasurer and Board Liaison, Lauri Rickard, Bookkeeper, Jamie Kegerise, and Bob Broesler. The committee meets monthly to provide oversight of the Society's finances. This oversight consists of a review of the bookkeeper's monthly notes, monthly operating income and expense report, year to date income and expenses vs. budget, and full balance sheet of assets and liabilities. The committee maintains insurance and mortgage contracts. It also prepares a draft budget

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annually for board consideration and approval and final approval at the congregational meeting. We will finish the 2015-2016 fiscal year on budget with approximately a \$25,000 draw on reserves. The next fiscal year budget will be very similar to this year's including no increases to salary expense and a similar draw on reserves.

### **Membership – Maggie McLaughlin & Jack Guerin, co-chairs, Eileen Selph, committee member**

In our annual certification of membership to the UUA, we reported 141 voting members and an average attendance of 81. Between August 2015 and May of 2016, we have welcomed 9 new members into the congregation.

In September of 2015, UUSMC shared a booth with UUFN at “Newark Community Day”, an annual event open to the public and held on the campus of the University of Delaware. Our intention was to promote understanding of Unitarian Universalism and to increase awareness of our places of worship. During the month of May 2016, a “New UU” course is being offered on Monday evenings to address the needs of those who want to know more about our faith.

Other activities of the Membership committee include providing greeters for Sunday services who welcome visitors and keep track of service attendance. We offer “welcome sessions” for prospective members, welcome new members into the congregation, provide name tags, update the membership rolls, register members for the annual meeting, and communicate with the UUA, as needed.

### **Music – Heather Doty**

#### Background

The committee members are Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Heather Doty (chair), Andy Levin (past chair), Gordon Roth, Brian Hanson, Pam Allenstein, Rudy Nyhoff, and Catherine Kegley, with Rev. Greg and office administrator Debby Damiani as ex-officio members. The committee meets monthly, generally via videoconferencing using Google Hangout. We generally have at least one in-person meeting during the year. We maintain a document on Google Drive for meeting agendas, which become the minutes after the meetings. We always welcome new voices, suggestions and members.

#### Accomplishments This Year: Outreach

This year was the second season of the Kaleidoscope Concert Series. Through this musical outreach program we provide high quality, professional concerts featuring regional musicians, with an eye for diversity in genre and style. Another objective is for UUSMC to become known

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as a good venue for live music, among musicians and concertgoers alike. With the help of the Communications Committee, we advertised the series using electronic and print media at a variety of locations. Thanks to a Faithify fundraiser held last fall we were able to provide artists with a minimum guaranteed payment, which is a sign of the program's growth in just one year. We also applied for and received a grant of \$500 from The Brandywiners. The concert series is not a church fundraiser -- income is used to support future concerts.

We held five concerts this year: The Afghan Jazz Project, Coro Allegro (choral holiday concert), FishCastle (children's music), Andrew Lipke (rock guitar and vocals), and The Serafin String Quartet (featuring UUSMC member Larry Stomberg, this classical concert was a fundraiser for the church). Plans for season three are well under way.

### **Service Music**

Live music has been provided for every Sunday service this church year, as well as for the Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve. Live music was also provided at most summer services.

Big Music Sunday, held on March 20, went well and featured 12 performing groups or solos. Like last year, we grouped performances around Rev. Greg's monthly themes. The overall theme was March's theme of "Laughter, Song and Dance."

We continue to encourage children and teens to perform on Multi-generational Sundays, as well as at the annual YRUU-led service.

### **Facilities**

Matt Doty continues to take lead on operating the sound system during church services. He would like to recruit more volunteers to help on a regular basis.

The hearing-assist unit was repaired and upgraded this year. It now includes a personal neckloop that transmits signal directly to the wearer's hearing aid. The other hearing-assist units have headphones.

### **Religious Exploration**

Support the goals and activities of RE in order to provide a safe, welcoming space for our children and youth to explore UU values.

The REC is in transition and has exciting ideas for the future. Currently there is no chair of the committee.

Members: Stefanie Anderson, Marina Van Renssen, Stephen Selph, Jeanne Hanson, and Roberta Headley

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### **Social Justice – Chitra Vaidy**

#### Share Our Plate Collections (half of undesignated Sunday plate collections):

July-Aug.: Southern UU Delaware Capital Campaign

Sept.-Oct.: Conference for Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow

Nov.-Dec.: Limen House

Christmas Eve: Family Promise

Jan.-Feb.: Kennett Adult Literacy

Mar.-Apr.: Premier Charities

May-June: Latin American Community Center

The total amount donated through April 2016 is **\$6255.45**.

Share our Supplies: Roberta Headley sold school book bags for a donation of \$10, handed out lists of suggested donation of school supplies, July-August. Our congregation filled 30 book bags and they were taken to a social service agency in Wilmington by Kathy Stamm.

Charity Gala Fundraiser on October 10th, 6-9pm, spearheaded by Chitra Vaidy: Our church raised money for children and families facing social injustice. We had an evening of cultural dances, international themed cuisine and DJ dancing. We raised **\$7,400** and gave over \$1,000 to each of these: Kalanjiyam Trust in India to help school girls, Cambodian Krama Yoga, which helps poor women and girls, Neighbors to Nicaragua in Wilmington which helps poor boys go to school in Nicaragua, Victims of the Earthquake in Nepal through Shawna Rose Foundation, Eastside Charter School in Wilmington and Syrian Refugees through UUSC.

Share our Bounty: Oct.-Nov.: Collected non-perishable goods and donated half to the Kennett Square Food Pantry and half to the YWCA Homelife in downtown Wilmington.

Share our Warmth: December. Collected purchased or handmade hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to go to the homeless in downtown Wilmington by Chitra Vaidy.

Heifer: This donation project is run by Lauri Rickard two Sundays in December. A donation of **\$1880** was made to this international charity providing animals for people in need to help them earn needed money.

Souper Bowl Sunday: Jan.-Feb. Roberta Headley gave out two sizes of plastic containers for folks to take home in January and return on Super Bowl Sunday filled with homemade soups. The committee sold them for \$10 and \$15 along with breads. A donation of **\$282** went to the Food Bank of Delaware.

Family Promise: Ivonne Antongiorgi coordinated volunteers for this and attended their meetings. Our church members helped St. Mark's Church provide dinners during the weeks they host the temporarily homeless families. Members provided dinner two nights each time they hosted, helped supervise and provided transportation to and from the church from the Family Promise office.

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Fair Trade: This project is run by Joanne Knowles to sell fair trade/Equal Exchange coffee, cocoa, candy bars and tea. It helps the farmers and provides a small donation to UUSC and to our church.

Food Bank of Delaware: Ongoing collection in hallway, dropped off periodically to Food Bank donation sites.

Solar Panels: The committee suggested to the Board of Trustees that our church look into purchasing solar panels. Jamie Kegerise is helping the board look into this.

Committee Members: Chitra Vaidy, Ivonne Antongiorgi, Matt Nolan, Jamie Kegerise, Doris Roth, Lauri Rickard, Jack Guerin, Felicia Shaw, Melissa Bryson, Roberta Headley

### **Sunday Services – Stephen Petersen and Michele Cavanaugh**

Mission of this committee: Sunday Services continues to work closely with Rev. Greg Pelley to plan and coordinate the weekly services, to find substitute speakers when the minister is off, and to provide a weekly Worship Associate to assist with the actual service.

Accomplishments this past year: Committee members assisted with weekly services during the year and contributed to an inspiring summer program, maintaining quality and continuity while offering a diversity of worship topics and styles. The committee also worked with the Social Justice and Music committees as well as with Religious Education to help as needed with coordinating special services during the year.

Current status of the committee: Rev. Greg's monthly themes are a new trend for UUSMC that requires cooperation from guest speakers, etc. Committee members have been participating with Rev. Greg every two months to plan readings, music, and ideas for sermon topics for the themed services.

The role of the committee continues to evolve as we work with Rev. Greg to improve the service experience for longtime members as well as for new members and visitors. Recent service changes include experimenting with the format of the Joys and Sorrows portion of the service to best capture the intended spirit of this ritual. The Order of Service has also had some changes to promote better flow to the worship experience. The ongoing goal is to keep a sense of tradition while being open to new ways to sequence the elements of the service. Thus, for example, the Opening Words will be retained but renamed the Covenant to better reflect their significance and the fact that they now fall later in the service.

Committee Updates: Rev. Greg will be in the pulpit much of this summer as he wants to be available as new people move to the area and are looking for a church. There will only be 4 Sundays he will not be preaching over the summer.

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Committee Needs: After committee numbers dwindled in the past several years, we have successfully recruited a few new members and are still working with Rev. Greg to identify future candidates for the committee and to add to our numbers. It remains important for both the committee members and the congregation to have a variety of faces in the Worship Associates role from week to week, and to continue to add new members to replace outgoing ones.

Committee Goals: The committee continues to strive to make the programming an integral and vital part of the church community supporting the overall mission of the church as it grows and defines its position in the larger community (our DNA). To that end, continued support of other committees (music, RE, hospitality, etc.) is essential to the life of this church family and the greater community over time.

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## **Board Nominees**

### **Judy Pappenhagen - President**

Judy Pappenhagen was born to UU parents in Evanston, Illinois just outside Chicago. She grew up in the Lake Shore Unitarian Universalist Society, a small congregation similar to UUSMC. She has affinity for Quaker values, having graduated from Earlham College, a small Quaker liberal arts college in Richmond, Indiana. Judy has been an adult member of four UU churches and was married 28 years ago to husband Tom at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. Judy has lived in Delaware for 23 years and she and Tom raised two twenty-something daughters with the help of the UUSMC “village.” She has a graduate degree in public policy from the University of Chicago, and, after many years home with her children and working as a volunteer community leader, has continued her career in health care, working for the past eight years at Christiana Care Health System as a planning analyst and health planner in the Strategy & Planning Department. As a long-time member of UUSMC, Judy has served on many committees over the years including the Facility Search and Building Committee, Long Range Planning, Social Activities, Membership, Capital Fund Drives, Ministerial Search Committee, Minister’s Study Group on Generosity and the Religious Exploration Committee, of which she was chair. Judy thinks UUSMC is the friendliest congregation she knows and finds working for the future of our congregation a labor of love. Her favorite quotation is from Margaret Mead: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

### **Stephen Selph – 2 year term**

Stephen and his wife Eileen have been members of UUSMC for slightly more than a year, with their initial visit in early March 2015. By the end of the service on that early March Sunday, a spiritual home was found: a home that he did not even realize he was seeking. The impact of this church, and fellow congregants, can only be described as profoundly uplifting. Having received so much here, there is a deep desire to give back to this community by helping in any way that is needed.

Stephen was an active duty enlisted member of the United States Coast Guard from 1992 to 2013. During those 21 years, he performed many services to the nation to include budgeting, accounting, acquisitions, law enforcement, and logistics. This service took him to many states and foreign countries. While the travel to foreign nations was exciting, it served to expand his awareness of problems that inhibit human quality of life both in America, as well as abroad. Since retiring from active duty military service, he has worked as a law enforcement (LE) liaison between the US Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service and various LE organizations by providing data analysis on check theft and fraud patterns. Most recently, he accepted a position as an Administrative (Finance and Acquisition) Manager with the US Navy at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

### **Seetha Coleman Kammula – 2 year term**

Seetha Coleman Kammula was born in India into a conservative Hindu family and lived in India until she obtained her bachelor degree in chemistry. She moved to the U.S. for graduate school where she met and married Brian Coleman - a Christian. Being an only child, marrying a non-

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Hindu caused a great deal of turbulence in her family and tested her values and personal beliefs. Soon after she started attending UUSMC, Seetha and Brian followed the course “Listening to our Lives”- which drew them to Unitarianism. In 2015 they became members of UUSMC as it offered an environment for spiritual growth, community and friendship which they were looking for. Seetha is a recent member of the Adult RE committee, and has been helping with lessons on world religions. Her daily spiritual practice includes sitting meditation. Most of Seetha’s professional life was in the corporate world starting in R&D before moving into strategy, business and technology management which took her to live in and experience many cultures around the world. She is a co-founder of a sustainability consulting company which advises companies in the U.S. and Asia how to be socially and environmentally responsible. She is a member of the Society for Organizational Learning and serves on the advisory board of several non-profits in the US and India. Seetha and Brian are proud parents of Elizabeth Julian.

### **Michele Cavanaugh – 2 year term**

Michele Cavanaugh is married to Margaret McLaughlin and has been a member since November of 2007 after being a perennial visitor for about 4 years prior to joining. She was immediately at home with this liberal faith after being raised in the Roman Catholic tradition (which she doesn’t have major quarrels with but is no longer a good fit for her). Her spiritual life and the spiritual life of this church community are important to her. She organized the women’s retreat last year in Lewes.

She has a BS from Villanova (in case you didn’t notice her fandom during the NCAA tournament!) and a graduate degree in Pastoral Counseling from Neumann University. Her career has taken her in many directions: from working as a Critical Care Nurse, to hospice care, to working as a family therapist with children. She is currently providing clinical hypnosis and now working as a Behavioral Health Specialist in a large neurology practice in Newark.

She does volunteer work with her canine buddy, Sam (known to most of you as the first UUSMC canine member) with PAWS for people. Michele has been a greeter, co-chair of the Sunday Service committee for many years, is on the Committee on (shared) Ministry and was on the ad hoc task force designated to find a contract minister who eventually became our settled minister, Rev. Greg. Her extensive church community involvement has been mostly “behind the scenes”. She hopes to contribute her skills and UUSMC experiences serving as a Board Member.

### **Vicky Tosh-Morelli - 1 year term (remaining year of Judy’s)**

First began attending UUSMC in 2001 and joined in 2004. She has previously served on the Welcoming Congregation and Membership Committees and recently became chair of the Communications Committee. Vicky has over 14 years experience in the non-profit sector in health promotion, cultural competency, program development and evaluation, marketing and communications. For more than 20 years, she has done public speaking and training on LGBT issues to diverse audiences including healthcare, business, higher education and law enforcement. Vicky currently works for Blue Blaze Associates Marketing and PR doing web development, project management, social media and marketing strategy.

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