

**MISSION PEAK  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2014-2015**



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# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2014-2015

### Report from the Minister

Rev. Jeremy D. Nickel  
May 25, 2015

This was another exciting congregational year for Mission Peak UU, highlighted by our first experience as a teaching congregation, thanks to our Ministerial Intern Dawn Fortune. After last year, which was largely focused on external growth, this year was focused, although not limited to, a more internal gaze. Our Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee quickly acclimated to a new Director of Religious Education and our Director of Outreach continued to help us connect to the Stone Garden as well as with internal stewardship projects. We also began preparations for my coming sabbatical leave in the next congregational year. It is amazing to me that I have reached that Ministerial milestone already. As much as I am looking forward to that time of rejuvenation, I am even more excited for the future of this congregation and what I will return to. Thank you to everyone that is working so hard, and having so much fun, continuing to unfold the possibilities of Mission Peak UU!

#### Highlights

**Ministerial Intern** – Dawn Fortune’s time at Mission Peak UU was a mutual blessing. While they had an opportunity to learn and grow with us for ten months, we also benefitted greatly from their ministerial presence. Whether it was passionate and well thought out Sunday sermons, meaningful Adult Education offerings, pastoral care work, their help with our Stewardship Drive, or one of the many other ways they brought much love and wisdom to our community, we were lucky to have them and they will be missed!

**Religious Education** – After a trying year of change in leadership the year before, our new Director of Religious Education, Eli Stephens, helped us achieve what we needed most: a wonderfully stable and generative year. Our classroom teachers felt well prepared and the curriculum seemed to work very well for the children and youth. We also had seven participants in a very successful yearlong Coming of Age program.

**Recognition** – While we do our Ministry for personal and spiritual growth not recognition, it is nice when hard work is noticed by the outside, and can serve as important motivation to continue the necessary hard work. In that light it is exciting that Mission Peak UU was chosen by the Pacific Central District as this year’s winner of the Small Congregation Public Witness award. We were chosen largely due to our work with the Stone Garden and the Connections Counseling Center. And now we have learned that we have been nominated by the UUA for the prestigious honor of being named a Breakthrough Congregation. Just being nominated is worth celebrating, as it is such confirmation that we are doing great work. May it continue!

**Stewardship** – For the first time Mission Peak UU hired someone to lead both of our major stewardship activities; the Black and White Gala and our annual Canvass. Deanna Kosaraju has brought a level of professionalism and strategy to these efforts that we are deeply grateful for. And while I hear reports from my colleagues across the country of dismal fundraising campaigns, due to this extra efforts and the continuing radical generosity of the members of this congregation, I am happy to say that we are in a very healthy financial state.

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# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Annual Report 2014-2015

## Report from the Community Minister

Rev. Barbara F. Meyers  
May 25, 2015

### Community Ministry Mission, Vision, Strategy

**Mission:** Give compassionate help to people with mental health challenges and to their families, within and beyond the walls of our congregation.

**Vision:** to increase their hope, knowledge, and insight and help them find a sense of meaning in their lives.

**Strategy:** using fellowship, education, advocacy in the public arena, and honoring and deepening their spiritual lives.

**Chair:** Rev. Barbara F. Meyers

### Successes

Two initiatives from last year are coming to fruition.

1. Leading effort to create UU Congregational Disability Certification Program. This program will become generally available throughout the UUA in June of 2015. Successful field test helped immeasurably. Recruited and supervised a new administrator for the program.

2. Working to start the Connections Interfaith Counseling Center. Opened office and started seeing clients. Infrastructure is in place. Next challenge is recruiting clients. Monthly board meetings plus many other necessary meetings and actions to put things into place.

The short story-oriented video series called Faces of Hope and Resilience is now in hiatus due to loss of funding. All of the videos formerly produced are available on line at [www.mpuuc.org/mentalhealth/mentalVideos.html](http://www.mpuuc.org/mentalhealth/mentalVideos.html).

### Desired support from the Congregation

Continue to support the ministry and the interfaith counseling center.

### Future plans

- The most important future activities are to continue the momentum of these two initiatives, and to keep past initiatives going.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Annual Report 2014-2015

## Report from the Intern Minister

Dawn Fortune  
May 25, 2015

The Intern Minister's mission is to experience as fully as possible the pastoral responsibilities of a congregational minister, learning all aspects of congregational life and administration and to serve the needs of Mission Peak UU, its members and community.

### Successes

This year, I have participated in worship at least two Sundays per month, have led worship at least one Sunday each month, led the Time for All Ages portion of the worship service, provided pastoral care to several people, organized and led two adult religious education classes, participated in several social justice public witness opportunities. I engaged in outreach with communities of sexual minorities and attended and presented at a national conference for sexuality educators in Los Angeles in September, and was enrolled at Pacific School of Religion in the Certificate for Sexuality and Religion program half-time through the year.

I was immediately welcomed and embraced by the members of Mission Peak UU, who supported me through the year as I strove to learn all I could. I was humbled by the amount of trust that was placed in me, and grateful for the helpful feedback I received. My experience here has made me a better minister and the things I have learned I will bring with me into my professional ministerial career.

### Desired support from the Congregation

I know that there will be no intern minister for the next year or two, but I would suggest a few things for the next time Mission Peak decides to embrace its role as a teaching congregation.

First, I would encourage the congregation to consider providing a living wage for the intern. Financial hardship during a learning year provides no new or helpful lessons for an aspiring minister.

The UUA provides fair compensation guidelines for all areas of congregational staffing, including interns. Mission Peak paid what was recommended, and that was good. The fault lies in the numbers provided by the UUA. If an intern is expected to work 48 hours each week (standard contract) there is no time nor energy to find other income sources. The stipend I received this year was so meager that I qualified for Medical, and food assistance. I enrolled in a certificate program at PSR primarily because it enabled me to take out another \$20,000 in student loans so I could pay rent and buy groceries.

Fair compensation is a justice issue. It is in violation of our values as Unitarian Universalists to pay intern ministers with graduate degrees in ministry less than minimum wage. Without student loans, I would not have been able to afford to live this year. That needs to change if you choose to engage another intern. The cost of living in the Bay Area is among the highest in the US. Mission Peak ought to be a leader and provide a livable wage and/or housing. To do otherwise is unethical.

### Future plans

This congregation is a vibrant and healthy model of a Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The lessons and practical experience available here are not to be underestimated. I would encourage Mission Peak UU to consider building into its annual budget an intern position.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Annual Report 2014-2015

## Report from the Director of Religious Education

Elijah Stephens  
May 25, 2015

After being hired as the Director of Religious Education in August 2014 the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee (CAYRE) and I have worked to maintain our primary goal, consistency. We wanted a program that was reliable but still set the ground work for growth and discovery.

### Youth Group Program

We started with the youth group. We have been trying to maintain a structure of having game Sunday the first Sunday of the month and small group ministry the third Sunday of the month. Since October we have successfully moved from having one youth to having five students and moved to having four youth leaders. Natalie Campbell, Summer Lander, and Alexa Sarten have been incredible additions to our youth program. Robert Madden-Watson has been an incredible continuation of our youth leader team. Natalie Campbell has been working very hard to provide the materials and lessons for the small group ministry Sunday. The youth also joined with the 6 to 8 class to stuff eggs and hide them for the younger kids. They also helped out as assistants in the classrooms during the planning and prep for the Winter Pageant.

### Coming of Age Program

This year we have seven Coming of Age participants. We had our kick-off meeting in October. We had all but one family present. All of our mentors were present. Jeremy led the beginning ritual and I lead the break out groups after. A week later myself two mentors and our missing family had the chance to have a second meeting. After that all of our youth participated in the three district retreats. All but one of our youth participated in the four meetings with Jeremy to work on their credo. I joined Jeremy as the second adult for these meetings. I met with our one youth who was unable to attend any of the meetings via skype. Currently the youth have joined with the 6 to 8 class to work on developing the youth service for May 31<sup>st</sup>. This program was a difficult task for me this year as I am new to the Coming of Age program and only one of our CaYRE members has had experience with the program, but it seems to have been a successful endeavor.

### Sunday RE Classes

We are currently in our UU year of curriculum rotation. We have three classrooms; k-2, 3-5, 6-8 and the youth who meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. We have an average of about 4 to 6 children and youth in each classroom and an average of about 2 to 4 children in the nursery. Our K-2 class is using the Wonderful Welcome Curriculum which spends each week focusing on a different intangible gift, such as peace and friendship. The 3-5 class is using the Sing to the Power curriculum which teaches them about the power of the earth and their power to participate in the world around them. The 6-8 class is using the Amazing Grace curriculum which is teaching them about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. All of these are from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum, which we are using for the first time and it seems to be going well. Some of the comments in support of our new curriculum have been that it is free, that it is written in a way that our teachers understand and allows for them to feel confident in teaching their students, the curriculum is electronic which means it is easy emailed to teachers every week, and the curriculum has so much in each session we have been able to use it for our spring semester by doing all the activities we skipped the first time around. In addition to the new curriculum we changed the amount of prep our teachers do for Sunday. They are only required to read and research what they are teaching. I gather all their materials and set up all the classrooms on Sunday morning so that our teachers can focus on the ultimate priority, teaching. We have about 25 teachers and 10 substitutes. I instituted a policy that unless a teacher volunteers we do not ask them to teach back to back

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**Report from the Director of Religious Education  
(Continued)**

Sunday spots. Our teachers seem to be happy, our students seem to be enjoying themselves and we are constantly working on ways to improve the overall experience for our teachers and our students. I am currently working on developing a better teacher manual and would like to offer a class on being a religious educator in the fall. We have one classroom that we have had difficulties in but we have been working to find the best ways to engage our students in learning that fits who they are as individuals.

**Winter Pageant**

Jay Steele and Sarah Baskin co-wrote a UU Christmas Carol, based off the Charles Dickens story. We spent three Sundays prior to the pageant service rehearsing songs, scenes, and building props. We decided to divide our rooms into these three areas as oppose to only having everyone in the same room. Jay Steele ran our music room. Sarah Baskin ran our acting room and Natalie Campbell ran our art room. Sarah Baskin directed our pageant, Colleen Arnold managed and organized our backstage crew, Jay Steele led our young people in song, Mark Kahn accompanied on the piano, and Jen King provided an incredible breakfast for everyone. We had about 25 kids participate and many other adults, I don't have the space to name, volunteered their time in one way or another. Our ministerial staff even got involved and joined in for a special scene.

**Future Happenings**

We are planning to use new curriculum for all classes next year. We decided as a committee to no longer use any curriculum that was not written within the last ten or so years. We are still in discussion about our curriculum plan, but so far we are excited by our top picks. For the Summer we are doing the Culture Camp curriculum to lead into our World Religions rotation. Our goal is to give our Fall and Spring Teachers the summer off so we have geared our search towards individuals who are not currently teaching. We are also looking to do an RE recognition service in the fall to commission our new teachers and honor our current teachers. We would also be thanking Natalie Campbell for all her work as she steps down from being the chair of the committee and continues her focus on working with our youth and celebrating the Corby Dale's willingness to take over as the 2015-2016 chair.

**Life as a DRE**

Aside from facilitating the schedule of teachers, set up of classrooms, and the picking of curriculum; I have also been working with the CaYRE committee to expand on their dreams for the future of the RE program, attend monthly staff meetings and supervisor check ins with Jeremy, attended two program council meetings, put together the display for the recruitment Sunday, organized an Easter egg hunt, took the global religions class at Pacific School of Religion, attended the Pot of Gold conference, met with other DRE's for advice, provided pastoral care for a few of my teachers, parents, and one young adult, hosted a party for the returning graduates of the RE program before the Christmas Eve service, participated in three worship services outside of my role as DRE and pretty much fell in love with Mission Peak UU. I am excited about the work we have accomplished together this year and even more excited about the future work we will do together.

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## Report from the President of the Board of Trustees

DeAnna Alm  
May 25, 2015

Greetings to you all! As always, it has been a very busy year for your Board of Trustees. While our previous year was focused on being more outward-facing and becoming more visible in the community, this year we concentrated more on increasing our internal strengths and support structures. Our Strategic Planning Task Force has been meeting weekly as they work toward improving our governance structure and helping Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation to operate more smoothly and efficiently. Rev. Jeremy Nickel, as directed by the board, worked to assist some important committees that were having difficulties. Those committees are strengthened and prepared to move forward.

MPUUC is very fortunate in its staff. Rev. Jeremy Nickel provides us with excellent worship services every week, then juggles a huge amount of other tasks. Pastoral care, staff supervision, and committee involvement are just a few of the areas he takes responsibility for. In addition to our minister, we have several other excellent staff members. Our ministerial intern, Dawn Fortune, has been a great gift to our community. They have added insights and ideas to everything from our understanding of gender issues to our Sunday services to our board and committee meetings to our fundraising process. I think we have learned at least as much from them as they have from us. Our DRE, Eli Stephens, has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from everyone who works with him. We feel very confident that next year's Religious Education program is in good hands. Deanna Kosaraju has effectively organized volunteers for work in the Stone Garden and the Black and White Auction, as well as working on the Strategic Planning Task Force and providing leadership for this year's canvass. She and the other members of the canvass committee helped bring about a much-needed increase in pledges this year. Finally, our office administrator, Sandra Lange, keeps a huge amount of work running smoothly behind the scenes.

Increasing our membership continues to be a challenge. While our work with the Stone Garden brought us some publicity and increased attendance, those have not translated into a quickly growing membership. We value all our members, and we want more of you! We also seek to increase the amount that our members volunteer, for everything from board positions to committee memberships to social justice projects. We hope that having Deanna K continue her work with us will help bring some of this about.

If you are interested in a more detailed account of the Board's work over this past year, all the minutes of our meetings are available in the Members' Only section of our website. Board members are happy to answer any questions you might have, and of course all board members are open to members.

Finally, I greatly thank the current board for its dedication and hard work over the last year. It was an adventure for me to leap into the presidency, and this board has made the adventure educational, efficient, and even fun! My gratitude goes out to:

Colleen Arnold, Vice-President  
Mark Kahn, Treasurer  
Patricia Osage, Secretary  
Vinnie Bacon, Lisa Newstrom and Melissa Holmes, Trustees At-Large

DeAnna Alm, President

**Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**Annual Report 2014-2015**  
**Adult Religious Education**

Linda Messia  
May 25, 2015

**Committee Mission**

The purpose of the Adult Education Committee is to offer a variety of classes, workshops or seminars which will nurture and stimulate the spiritual and personal growth of our adult church community.

**Chair:** Linda Messia

**Successes**

At the beginning of the year, we made a decision to change our name from Adult Religious Education to Adult Education. There were two reasons for this. The first is that it was very confusing to some because we have a Director of Religious Education and many thought that Adult RE fell under that. Secondly, the scope of our classes reaches far beyond "religious education". After some discussion, we felt that Adult Education better describes what we are trying to accomplish with our classes.

The committee continues to be grateful that so many people are stepping up to both teach and attend classes. We have been able to offer a large number of classes/activities providing a wide variety of information and experiences. We have had close to 200 sign up for 21 classes. (Many enrolled in more than one class.) Classes have covered a broad spectrum of interests. We continued to offer some of our old favorites: Buddhism Meditation and the Enneagram. We were also able to offer some new ones such as the Mystery of Aging and Exploring Mortality. In addition, our ministerial staff offered Building Your Own Theology, 50 Shades of Gray: Sex, Love & Relationships, and Your Mysterious Mind. Thanks to everyone for making this an exciting time for Adult Education.

**Desired support from the Congregation**

We hope to be able to continue the success we have had this year. We would like members of the congregation to submit to us classes they would like to take and/or teach. To teach a class, obtain a Proposal Form from the Committee Chair. This information may be submitted any time of the year. The committee will be responsible for arranging which classes will be included each quarter.

In addition, we are looking for members who may be interested in joining our committee. We will be participating in the Committee Fair this fall.

**Future plans**

We hope to continue many of our programs in the next year such as Buddhist Meditation, Enneagram, and Compassion Training. We also will be offering some new classes. We hope to expand the number of offerings that we have. This however will be dependent on space and instructor limitations.

# **Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

## **Annual Report 2014-2015**

### **Canvass Committee**

Deanna Kosaraju Committee Co-Chair  
May 25, 2015

#### **Committee Mission**

Conduct the annual Canvass Campaign of the Congregation.

**Co-Chairs:** Deanna Kosaraju and Lisa Newstrom

#### **Successes**

We have successfully completed the 2015-16 canvas. We also had a series of events: a Founders Dinner, a reception, and a large Congregation Dinner in the month of April to communicate our canvass goals in the coming year. We enlisted help from people in the Congregation to assist with messaging and communication. To date we are 5% above last years canvass with 82% of pledge cards turned in.

#### **Desired support from the Congregation**

We are wrapping up Canvass for the 2015-16 year. We are actively reaching out to the last remaining members who have yet to turn in their cards. This activity will conclude by the first week of June.

As an outcome of Canvass, it is noted that (so far) 10 members (and their families where applicable) have/will leave the congregation this year and we are not gaining the same level of new members and subsequent support. We must all pull together to understand the changing dynamics and growing population in the Tri-City area, how this change is affecting Mission Peak UU, and adapt our programs and messaging to encourage new membership in order to thrive.

#### **Future plans**

It is necessary to hold canvass each year in order to do our work here at Mission Peak UU. Research needs to be done to understand the best possible timeline to hold canvass. We must communicate throughout the year how goals and objectives here at Mission Peak UU are tied to financial responsibility by all of its members.

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## Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CaYRE)

Natalie Campbell  
May 25, 2015

### Committee Mission

The Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee (CaYRE) sets the direction of the children's religious education program at MPUUC and works with the Director of Religious Education in organizing children's religious exploration and classes and activities.

**Chair:** Natalie Campbell

### Successes

We got a new DRE!!!! Last year's DRE left suddenly, and we were in a panic to find someone new in a big hurry. Lucky for us, Eli Stephens was looking for a job at just that time. He joined us in August, and hit the ground running. He immediately went to work finding new teachers for our Sunday school program. He is organized and thorough. He is very dependable and works hard for our children. Teachers know what to expect when they come into the class, and many times, Eli has already set up the room and prepared lessons for them. Our retention rate for teachers has been very high. This is important after having such a stressful year last year.

We tried a new approach to High School youth group this year. We met every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday either in the office or in Natalie Campbell's house. The first Sunday is dedicated to playing games together, and that was led by Robert Madden Watson and Alexa Sarton. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday was a Small Group Ministry type of meeting with a different topic each month. It was led by Summer Landers and Natalie Campbell.

Our annual holiday pageant was written by Jay Steele and Sarah Baskin, and was a retelling of Charles Dicken's Christmas Story, with a Unitarian Universalist theme. It went really well, and included singing.

There were 7 MPUUC youth enrolled in the Coming of Age Program this year. The program began in the Fall of 2014. Seven Mentors were found for the COA participants. They went on three different retreats over the year. An outward bound one was in the Fall. In the Winter, they participated in an Inner City retreat with the homeless. In the Spring they attended a silent retreat in Nature, to write their credos. The final Coming of Age service was planned by all of the youth and is to be held on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. This will mark the end of the official teaching season.

### Desired support from the Congregation

We ALWAYS need more people to help teach Sunday School.. We will need more help with OWL in the 2015-16 year. And the more help with the youth group, the better!

We need more people on our committee including congregants with no children or adult children. That way we could cover the DRE substitutions easier. And of course, more heads are better than one. It would be nice to have more people to discuss topics with and plan with. We also need a new committee chair.

### Future plans

We would love for Eli to be upgraded to ¾ time this year. He would like this to happen, as well! Eli also needs to get more help with curriculum and planning.

We are discussing having support groups for families with special needs kids and gender fluid kids. For our congregation, and perhaps the surrounding community.

Corby Dale will be taking over the chairperson role of CaYRE in July.

**Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**Annual Report 2014-2015**  
**Choir (Peak Performers)**

Drew Wilson  
May 25, 2015

**Committee Mission**

1. Develop final Job Description
2. Establish a search plan with a timeline
3. Develop a fundraising plan and timeline, including how to make this a sustainable part of our budget going forward.

**Chair:** Drew Wilson

**Successes**

Our committee held three meetings over the summer, the first two to address how we might continue the choir, and the third to plan a fundraiser. The fundraiser was quite successful, but the Holiday season and canvass drive deferred further committee work until January. Meanwhile, a friend of the congregation has stepped in to lead the choir, but due to the long drive she has, she is only doing so on a temporary basis. Thus, we have about four months of choir director funding in hand, and will soon be starting the search process in earnest.

**Desired support from the Congregation**

We know there are more singers in the congregation who are not members of the choir, and we could use a few more of you! In addition, we need the financial support for choir conductor position to eventually be part of the annual budget, and have proposed that one third, about \$1450, of next year's funding come from the church budget. In addition, a few hundred dollars a year is needed to maintain and expand our music library.

**Future plans**

We will continue fundraising for now, launch a search for a permanent choir conductor with the goal of having one hired by mid-September. We also hope to work with Jay Steele and Sarah Baskin to form a youth choir and recruit for choir members, including from the community.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2014-2015

### Committee on Ministry

Terri Parker King  
May 25, 2015

#### **Committee Mission**

The mission of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is to (1) continually monitor and periodically review the ministry of the MPUUC community, and (2) periodically inform the Board of Trustees and the Congregation of the functioning of the ministry of MPUUC.

**Chair:** Terri Parker King

#### **Successes**

We met at least once a month with our ministers to share information about the functioning of the ministry of our church.

We offered a "Report on Congregational Trends" at each Program Council. We also reported observations to the Board each month, as part of our committee report.

In September, we hosted a multi-congregation workshop on Visioning and Best Practices for Committees on Shared Ministry. The workshop was led by Nancy Bowen (PWR) and Joshua Searle-White (PCD). It was eye-opening and very well received.

We held two half-day retreats— one in December and one in May – to refine our vision for the Committee on Ministry.

Sarah represented COM on the task force for Jeremy's mid-year check point.

Annette represented COM on the Sabbatical Planning task force.

Terri represented COM on Jeremy's end-of-year performance assessment task force.

With Board approval, we identified a new COM member to succeed Terri when her term expires at the end of this fiscal year.

#### **Desired support from the Congregation**

We would like members of the congregation to give us feedback on how the church is succeeding in its ministry and how we could improve our church's ministry. One definition of the church's ministry is everything we do to fulfill our mission.

#### **Future plans**

- \* Continue to evaluate and communicate on the state of MPUUC's ministry.
- \* Provide quarterly Report on Congregational Trends at Program Council.
- \* Debrief the process used for Jeremy's evaluation, and recommend adjustments if appropriate.
- \* Consider how to enhance organizational effectiveness throughout the congregation.
- \* Support and provide input to the Strategic Planning Task Force.
- \* Refresh committee vision and charter.

**Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
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**An Interest Group**  
**Connections: A Counseling Center Affirming**  
**Spirituality and Diversity**

Barbara Meyers  
May 25, 2015

**Accomplishments from June, 2014 – May, 2015**

We have incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation

We have raised over \$165,000 in donations and grants

We have acquired and furnished an office at 39055 Hastings Street, Suite 106, Fremont, CA 94538

We have recruited a counseling staff and an office administrator

- A psychiatrist
- A clinical psychologist
- A marriage and family therapist
- Two interns
- Two spiritual directors
- An office administrator

We have started our Wellness and Education Center

- A Bay Area “hub” for Non Violent Communication

We have developed and/or made decisions on

- An Electronic Health Records system
- A Billing and Insurance Credentialing service
- Payroll, Bookkeeping, and Accounting services
- Personnel and Financial procedures
- Clinical policies and procedures
- Fund raising and grant writing
- A website

We have formed sponsoring relationships with

- Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Niles Discovery Church
- Dutra Enterprises
- Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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**An Interest Group  
Connections: A Counseling Center Affirming  
Spirituality and Diversity (Continued)**

We have met and continue to meet with local leaders of

- Many faith groups, including communities of the major world religions - Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian – who may become sponsoring faith communities
- Social services organizations in Fremont who will do referrals of counseling clients to us
- Ethnic community groups who are interested in doing referrals or in working with us to extend our programs
- Doctors and health care providers who will do referrals of counseling clients to us
- Local businesses who are potential supporters

We have begun to see clients

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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### Denominational Affairs Committee

Holly Ito

Date: May 25, 2015

#### Committee Mission

Raise and maintain the congregation's connectedness to the larger Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) movement within the Pacific Central District (PCD), the Western Region and nationally.

**Chair:** Holly Ito

#### Successes

Although Mission Peak's official participation in the UUA's Leap of Faith Program ended in June 2014, the relationship with the mentoring congregation in Boulder, CO has continued.

Delegates for Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA), June 2014 in Providence RI were Robert Jensen and Lucienne Bouvier. Robert led the Chalice Lighting for the Service of Living Tradition.

The fall PCD leadership training was attended by several members.

In April 2015 at the PCD District Assembly in San Francisco Mission Peak was the recipient of the Small Congregation Award for Community Presence.

Holly Ito continued serving as a member of the PCD Board for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year and served as Treasurer on the Board and member of the Regional Task Force.

The UUA's common read book *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* served as a Worship Service topic and a book discussion led by the Social Justice Committee.

Several members and all our ministers are planning to attend General Assembly 2015 in Portland. Rev. Meyers and Rev. Nickels will be speaking at a workshop on how parish and community ministers work together. Rev. Meyers is also giving an introduction to the AIM Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry at a Plenary session.

Mission Peak has maintained its status as an Honor Congregation for its contributions to both the UUA and the PCD Annual Program Funds.

#### Desired support from the Congregation

The committee was formed in January 2010 with Rev. Barbara Meyers as the interim chair. Holly Ito agreed to take over in the fall 2012. However, there are no committee members and no meetings have been held. Support from Congregational Leadership would include assistance in identifying potential committee members and encouraging members and teams of members to participate in workshops and other PCD events and attend General Assembly.

Connecting our youth to the PCD's MUUGS and Youth programs would also help expand our congregation connections within the district.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2014-2015

### Membership Committee

Annette Breingan  
Date: May 25, 2015

#### **Committee Mission**

The Membership Committee works with the minister to recognize and welcome newcomers and facilitate their transition from newcomer to member to involved participant in the congregation.

#### **Successes**

The Membership Committee welcomed 45 first-time visitors to MPUUC in 2014/5. Seven people signed the Membership book in 2014/15. Two New to UU classes were held. Two ingatherings of new members were held. We currently have 125 members.

The Membership Committee gained 4 new committee members, bringing much needed energy and enthusiasm to the committee. In January, Annette stepped in to serve as chair, ending six months with no leader. Kathy Wallcave visited the Boulder congregation in January and brought back many new and inspiring ideas to the committee. We had 2 very productive planning meetings and hope to try some new ideas in the fall.

#### **Desired support from the Congregation**

Welcoming newcomers, educating them on Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, and helping integrate new members is a job for the whole congregation, not just the Membership Committee. Representatives of the board need to be present at the New to UU classes. The committee can also use help with childcare and food for newcomer and new member events.

#### **Future plans**

The Membership Committee is exploring new ideas on how best to welcome, track, and involve newcomers. We hope to try some different techniques in the fall. We will continue to hold New to UU classes and plan to have more 3 session Small Group Ministry programs for new members. We hope to add some social events geared to newcomers and new members.

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**Mental Health Committee**

Name of Former Committee Chair: Rev. Barbara F. Meyers  
Date: May 25, 2015

**Committee Mission**

This committee has merged with the Social Justice Committee. See that report for information on mental health-related projects.

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**Pastoral Associates Circle of Care Committee (PACC)**

Barbara Meyers  
May 25, 2015

**Committee Mission**

To work with the parish minister in providing pastoral care to congregation members and friends.

**Chair:** Rev. Barbara F. Meyers

**Successes**

- Recruited two new pastoral associates, retired three other long-time pastoral associates
- Trained all pastoral associates at a half-day training, plus on-going training at each meeting
- Intern Dawn Fortune did a survey of larger congregations and how they do pastoral care to give us recommendations on what to change as we grow.
- Held a service commissioning pastoral associates and completely updated our Caring Circle referral list.

**Desired support from the Congregation**

Participation in the Caring Circle. Financial support in the budget.

**Future plans**

Continue helping in pastoral care in the congregation

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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### Social Justice Committee

Allysson McDonald  
May 25, 2015

#### Committee Mission

The mission of the Social Justice Committee is to affirm, promote, and work toward Social Justice, based on Unitarian Universalist principles and guided by the Mission Peak mission statement, both outside and within our congregation.

**Chair:** Allysson McDonald

#### Successes

- Share the Plate comes under our umbrella, but is managed independently by Natalie Campbell. This year we raised \$4536, for a total of 8 local non-profit organizations supported. The recipients are always genuinely grateful and surprised by your generosity.
- CAYRE and Natalie coordinated the Guest at Your Table collection for the UUSC, which raised over \$1700.
- The Sandwich Squad had a budget of \$350.00 for supplies to make sandwiches once a month for TriCity Volunteers. Katherine Rubie is still heading that up.
- In partnership with the Abode Service Home Warming program we collected furnishings and other necessities for Kandy, a single mom, in February, and for a single male veteran in early June. Andrew Dean is heading up this partnership and attends monthly meetings with representatives of other local churches.
- In February we honored Samina Sundas, founder of the American Muslim Voice Foundation, with a Courageous Love Award. The award was given in conjunction with the national *Standing on the Side of Love* campaign, which promotes equality for marginalized communities.
- We conducted a "Congregational Read" of *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Rasor. Several members participated. We had a worship service on the theme led by committee members and a book discussion later.
- The Committee urged the board to request that our bathrooms be remodeled so that they could be handicap accessible, family friendly, and gender neutral. The United Methodist Church was unable to do that, but did allow better signage to direct folks to the accessible bathroom in the Okerman building. The design is now in process.
- Rev. Barbara Meyers requested that the Mental Health Committee be folded into the Social Justice Committee, and we supported a film night on PTSD and the NAMI walk since then. A new committee charter is being created to reflect the change.
- The Committee has grown and we have some new faces, thanks to the committee fair.
- We have been working on the development and implementation of a process for discerning and choosing a new all congregation social justice project with the twin goals of encouraging a stronger sense of community within the congregation and to make a difference in the greater community.

#### Desired support from the Congregation

While the financial generosity of the congregation is awesome, having more folks also participate in programs like the book read and movie night would be encouraging. We also struggled to get commitments to coordinate this year's congregational social justice project.

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**Social Justice Committee (Continued)**

**Future plans**

We will continue our partnerships with Abode and UULM, do share the plate offerings, make sandwiches, and work with Family Giving Tree or other organizations to serve children. We will support Sunday services on justice related topics, make a Standing on the Side of Love award, and offer congregational reads. However we also want to find ways to participate in social action, to affect change and make a lasting difference.

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**Sunday Service Team**

Yvonne Hughes  
May 25, 2015

**Committee Mission**

Transform Cole Hall into a worshipful space for Sunday services.

**Chair:** Yvonne Hughes

**Successes**

Jeremy conducted a Committee Assessments last fall via a survey. He utilized the survey with a Sunday Service "True Colors" that coincided with a Committee Fair. Each Committee had a triptych that showed what they did and how the volunteers could match their skills to the committee needs.

**Desired support from the Congregation**

When a volunteer resigns from a job, Sandra Lange advertises the job in the Order of Service and the Week on the Peak. The Congregation can show its support by responding promptly.

**Future plans**

The Committee Fair activity was successful for MPUUC and would be a valuable tool for the coming year, considering it was done at only one service and the attendance was small.

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**Reports Not Included in Report**

- Coffee Purchasing
- Facilities
- Leap of Faith
- Small Group Ministry
- Stone Garden
- Website
- Worship Associates

**Please check Annual Report on Website. The reports will be posted on the website when they are received.**

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