

**MISSION PEAK  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015-2016**



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**Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**Annual Report 2015-2016**  
**Report from the Minister**

Rev. Jeremy D. Nickel  
May 2016

After five years of energy and growth, I believe it is fair to characterize this year as a slightly quieter one for our congregation. Partly due to my five-month sabbatical leave much of the action was behind the scenes this year. I am especially excited about the work of our Strategic Plan Task Force and the growth of our Religious Education program.

### **Worship**

From all reports, though the attendance dipped slightly while I was gone Rev. Sonya Sukalski and our Worship Associates team continued to offer diverse and meaningful worship services. I am so grateful for everyone who worked extra hard this year in my absence.

### **Pastoral Care**

Thanks to Rev. Barbara Meyers our Pastoral Care team was well tended to in my absence as well. Although several of our members experienced some form of crisis while I was gone, all needs were met. Kudos to the Pastoral Care team!

### **Sabbatical**

Being gone for five months was incredibly regenerative for me, although I am seeing that it came with some cost to the congregation in lost momentum and volunteer stress. I am personally immensely grateful for the opportunity it provided me to deepen my practice and understanding of Buddhism, and to reconnect with my family and myself. If I am here long enough to earn another one, I may very well consider breaking it up into smaller pieces.

### **Annual Summary**

While Mission Peak UU experienced a bit of a lull this year there were also a number of things that are important to celebrate: Our Youth Group grew from one participant in the fall to ten in the spring, our OWL program thrived and was offered to the larger community with wonderful success, and we received the Badshah Khan award as well as recognition as a Breakthrough Congregation by the UUA. I hope we understand that others see us working hard and this outside recognition helps us continue to push towards a healthier and more robust community.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Annual Report 2015-2016

## Report from the Community Minister

Rev. Barbara F. Meyers  
May 2016

### 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 continue to progress.

1. Leading effort to create UU Congregational Disability Certification Program. This program became generally available throughout the UUA in June of 2015. Successful field test helped immeasurably. Supervised a new administrator for the program. Recruited teams of people to follow congregations who apply for the program.
2. Working to start the Connections Interfaith Counseling Center. Office has been open for a year and we've seen the first month of positive cash flow. Monthly board meetings plus many other necessary meetings and actions to put things into place.

### 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 2015-2016

## Report from the Director of Religious Education

Elijah Stephens  
May 2016

### Youth Group

We have had a consistent group of eight or nine youth (8th-12th grade) this year. The youth group has been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The 2nd Sunday they have game day where they try out new card games, board games, and sometimes team building games. The 4th Sunday they have a modified small group ministry discussion written by Natalie Campbell and Summer Lander. This year we had an overnight retreat in Cole Hall to plan the upcoming bridging service. There were seven youth present and three adult volunteers. Serving as youth group leaders this year were: Natalie Campbell, Summer Lander, and Alexa Sarten.

### Our Whole Lives

This year we decided to host Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education here at Mission Peak in partnership with the San Jose congregation and open it up to the Fremont community. We had 15 youth participate, 3 of them were not affiliated with either congregation. Our youth class facilitators were Steve Wallcave, Michealle Havenhill, and Summer Lander. Facilitating our parents class were Corby Dale, Jay Steele, and Marnie Singer (from San Jose congregation).

### Intergenerational Services

We had four intergenerational services this year. The water communion service, the winter pageant, the service on imagining God in new ways, and a service on progressive thought through the game minecraft. Kindergarten through 7th grade stayed through the entire service. Youth group still met on a few of the intergenerational Sundays.

### Pageant

This year's pageant, A Gift of Faith was written by one of our students. It was written to explore the many faiths that the children learned about in their classrooms this year. It included everything from a trip to India to an imaginary bunny. Sarah Baskin directed, Jay Steele accompanied and a few adults even had roles.

### Classroom Attendance

A classroom attendance went down, due to several families relocating outside of the Fremont area. So we restructured our classrooms down to two rooms instead of three. We came to the understanding that our 8th graders had already done the world religions curriculum so we moved them up to be a part of our youth group. We then divided the rest of our students into two classrooms, kindergarten through 4th grade and 5th grade to 7th grade. We have had a consistent 8 to 9 students in each classroom on regular Sundays.

### Summer Program

Summer 2015 we used the culture camp curriculum as a lead in to our global religions curriculum. We tried to give our regular teachers a break and had many volunteers come to talk about countries they have visited. We only had one classroom for grades kindergarten to 8th grade. We had around 7 to 8 students per week.

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

**Curriculum**

We used all new curriculums for our classes this year after the CAYRE committee and I decided we needed to use materials that have at least been written within the last decade. When we began the fall semester we had three classrooms. Our kindergarten through 2nd grade class was using the Picture Book World Religions Curriculum. Our 3rd through 5th grade was using the Stories of Our World Traditions Curriculum and our 6th to 7th graders were using the tapestry of faith curriculum Building Bridges. When we restructured our classrooms at the start of the spring semester, the kindergarten through 4th grade class began using the Stories of our World Traditions Curriculum and our 5th to 7th grade class continued with Building Bridges, but after sitting in on a few lessons and hearing feedback from teachers I came to the conclusion that our students were bored so we shifted and put everyone on the Stories of our World Traditions curriculum.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Annual Report 2015-2016

## Report from the President of the Board of Trustees

Name of Committee Chair: President DeAnna Alm  
July 2015-June 2016

### Committee Mission

From the Bylaws: The Board has general charge of the property of the Congregation, the conduct of its business affairs, and the control of its administration, including the establishment of committees.

**Chair:** DeAnna Alm, President

### Successes

The board helped keep MPUUC running smoothly while the minister was gone on a five-month sabbatical. Through approval of and working with the Strategic Plan Task Force, we helped MPUUC take steps toward the goal of restructuring governance and improving leadership development. As part of our goal of sustaining MPUUC's youth, we supported OWL (Our Whole Lives) and are very happy with the attendance and feedback we have received.

### Desired support from the Congregation

The Board is always happy to have Congregation members attend the meetings. Sometimes Board spots can be difficult to fill, especially the Treasurer, so willing volunteers are always welcome.

### Future plans

If the proposed Strategic Growth plan passes at the Annual Meeting, then a major commitment for the board will be helping to transition from the old to the new governance structure. If the plan does not pass, the board should still work closely with the Leadership Development team to improve the growth to leadership process at MPUUC.

The budget is likely to be a continuing issue for the next several years. This year's board is taking a variety of approaches to try and help (making an appeal for increased pledges, reducing expenses/budgets wherever possible, etc.) but this is a problem several years in the making and will not be fixed in a single year.

I'm working on a "rolling calendar" that lists various items that need to be done each month, so that the next president does not get caught by surprise.

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**Adult Religious Education**

Linda Messia  
May 2016

**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**

The committee continues to be grateful for members who step 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. Although we have experienced a drop-off from the last couple of years, we still have had close to 125 members and friends sign up for 16 classes. (Many have 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, the Enneagram and Compassion Meditation. We were also able to offer some new ones such as Poems, Kitchen Medicine, Whence Cometh Thee, and the Five Love Languages of Teenagers. Our new class Singalong with Jackie and Joann was so popular that we hope to offer it quarterly in the future. 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 propose 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. Jackie and John Porter will be leaving the committee at the end of this year. Thank you Jackie and John for all that you have contributed over these many years!

**Future plans**

We hope to be able to continue our current popular classes: the Enneagram, Singalong with Jackie and Joann and Compassion Training. In addition, we always try to offer some new classes. We hope to expand the number of offerings that we have. This however will be dependent on space and instructor limitations. So if there is anything you would like to teach or take, please let one of the committee members know

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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### Canvass Committee

Ilze Duarte  
May 2016

#### **Committee Mission**

The Canvass Committee plans and conducts the annual canvass campaign. The canvass efforts aim to collect pledges of financial support from members and friends of the congregation for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Chair:** Ilze Duarte

#### **Successes**

The committee used several means to publicize the campaign: pulpitorials on the purpose and process of the main events, weekly announcements on the Week on the Peak, a canvass brochure and giving guide sent through regular mail, and email evites and reminders of the event. The committee held the annual leadership event, in which a considerable amount was pledged by the members of the leadership of Mission Peak. The congregational dinner, held a week later, was well attended, despite its coinciding with the Easter holiday and spring break in the tri-city area. Most pledges were collected during this event. During the "mop-up" phase of the campaign, several remaining pledges were collected.

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

The canvass campaign extends through the winter and spring and need to be planned well in advance. It would be very helpful to recruit much earlier in the year (end of summer or beginning of fall) the individuals who will serve on the committee and to select individuals whose talents and experience match the types of work that is done by the committee (scheduling, publicity, event planning, etc.). It is essential to provide training, also early on, for these individuals. Such training should include a thorough description of the canvass process; definitions of the specific member roles to be performed, including expectations for tasks to be performed and the time commitment necessary to perform them; a suggested timetable of completion of tasks and accompanying deliverables; and a discussion of what resources are available to the canvass committee (e.g. members of other committees that canvass committee members can collaborate with, materials already available, etc.).

#### **Future plans**

We plan to collaborate with the leadership and with Rev. Nickel to provide more guidance and support for the work that the canvass committee does. We plan on building on the successes of previous canvass campaigns and strengthening the committee through better training to ensure even more successful campaigns and less burn-out for committee members.

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**Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CaYRE)**

Corby Dale  
May 2016

**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 childrens' religious exploration and classes and activities.

**Chair:** Corby Dale

**Successes**

Hosting and expanding OWL into the community.

Strengthening and expanding our high school-aged youth group.

Organizing the World Religions-themed Winter Pageant.

Supporting teachers through greater materials and curriculum preparation by the DRE.

Being flexible about classroom assignments to allow for the realignment of Sunday classrooms to accommodate a shifting congregational body more effectively.

**Desired support from the Congregation**

Help us help our DRE focus on the Children's and Youth's Religious Education by having non-RE committees utilize the information available online to arrange childcare providers for all non-RE committee events.

Identify additional members that are interested in becoming a Sunday teacher or part of the CaYRE leadership team.

**Future plans**

Adolescent programs: Coming of Age is already a discussion point for our committee for the 16-17 year. We anticipate serving 7 of our congregation's youth in COA this coming year and will be more organized with the calendar of events than in the previous cycle.

Sunday School: We intend to continue with the 2 classroom + nursery structure for the foreseeable future, perhaps moving to a K-3/4, 4/5-7, and youth group model using a supplemented Superheros of the Bible curriculum in the early elementary level and the Simpsons curriculum in the middle school classroom. Our large number (12 anticipated) of 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth will meet in Room 2.

Safety: We also intend to follow up with the new board to formalize the policy on physical boundaries for children playing on the Methodist campus. Tangentially related, we intend to examine a policy of having a background check run for the chairperson of the CaYRE committee to alleviate some babysitting/childcare issues that occurred in the 2015-16 year, specifically related to sibling presence at OWL

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**Choir (Peak Performers)**

Drew Wilson  
May 2016

**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 one meeting this year to plan a second fundraiser and fine tune the Job Description and Job advertisement. The church designated a “share the plate” Sunday to us over the summer, which raised about \$500. We held the second fundraiser in January, a concert by Eric and Angelina Niessner, with deserts and dancing. It was well attended and raised about \$1,300.

The choir has continued to perform and improve under Shauna Pickett-Gordon's excellent direction.

**Desired support from the Congregation**

The various fundraisers have raised about two thirds of a year's worth of part-time choir director salary. The congregation had also voted to make up the final one third of a year using special funds, which we haven't spent and hope can be continued for next year.

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.

**Future plans**

We will 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

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### Committee on Ministry

Annette Breingan  
May 2016

#### **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.

**Co-Chairs:** (until Feb 2016) Sarah Baskin & Annette Breingan

#### **Successes**

We met about once a month with our ministers to share information about the functioning of the ministry of our church. We had a committee retreat in September. Annette represented COM on the Sabbatical Task force.

#### **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.
- \* Support and provide input to the Strategic Planning Task Force.
- \* Refresh committee vision and charter, better defining our role within the congregation.
- \* Provide quarterly Report on Congregational Trends at Program Council.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2015-2016

### Denominational Affairs

Holly Ito  
May 2016

#### **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 (PWR) and nationally.

**Chair:** Holly Ito

#### **Successes**

In June, five members, our ministers and our DRE attended General Assembly 2015 in Portland, Oregon. Rev. Meyers and Rev. Nickels spoke at a workshop on how parish and community ministers work together. Rev. Meyers also gave an introduction to the AIM Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry at a Plenary session.

In April 2016 PCD District Assembly was held at the Newark-Fremont Doubletree and a number of Mission Peak members volunteered or attended some part of the weekend programs.

Holly Ito continued serving as a member of the PCD Board for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year and served as Treasurer on the Board and member of the Regional Task Force.

The UUA's common read book *Just Mercy* served as a Worship Service topic and a group book discussion class led by Allysson McDonald from the Social Justice Committee.

Mission Peak was chosen as a "Break-through" Congregation by the UUA. In April staff members of the UU World Magazine visited with the congregation in preparation for an article about the Congregation.

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 2015-2016

### Facilities Committee

Andrew Dean  
May 2016

#### **Committee Mission**

The mission of the Facilities Committee is to maintain and upgrade as appropriate the physical plant, inside and outside, that MPUUC has occasion to occupy.

**Chair:** Andrew Dean

#### **Successes**

Throughout the past year, Facilities has taken the following action:

- New bulbs for Cole Hall: \$24
- Rental of scaffolding: \$64
- Electric cord protectors: \$54

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

Help from time to time from various MPUUC members is appreciated, especially for larger jobs.

#### **BUDGET**

It's been a light year. I would anticipate a small budget being needed next year, like \$100

#### **Future plans**

- Remain in compliance with fire code.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2015-2016

### Membership Committee

Annette Breingan  
May 2016

#### **Committee Mission**

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

#### **Successes**

The Membership Committee welcomed 39 first-time visitors to MPUUC in 2015/6. We have seen a slight increase in visitors in 2016. One New to UU class was held and a second is planned for May. We currently have 109 members. We got a new display rack for brochures and magazines to replace the old unwieldy one and reorganized the welcome area.

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

Bringing in friends and acquaintances to visit MPUUC, 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. The board needs to explore ways to increase publicity and increase the number of visitors to the congregation. We also need help in recruiting some additional people for the Membership committee.

#### **Future plans**

A New to UU class is planned for May with an ingathering to follow in June if some newcomers are ready to join. Membership needs to meet and regroup on our plans for the future.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2015-2016

### Nominating Committee

Drew Wilson  
May 2016

#### **Committee Mission**

Our task is to nominate next year's Board members and next year's nominating committee. This year we have six (though 3 or 4 is more typical) board seats to fill.

**Chair: Drew Wilson**

**Members: Elke Gunn, Yvonne Hughes**

#### **Successes**

We've been able to fill most positions, and are confident of filling the remaining positions in time for the annual meeting.

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

More folks willing to serve on the board would be nice. See the future plans section for more details.

#### **Future plans**

Under the proposed by-laws revisions the Nominating committee will be combined with the leadership development committee and become a six member committee with the mission of proposing a slate of board members and nominating committee members to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting as currently done, plus the enlarged committee will assume the Leadership Development mission of the current Leadership Development committee and the combined committee will be known as the Leadership Development Committee. We will need the congregation's support for the various leadership training and education programs we will be undertaking to ensure that MPUUC continues to have well qualified board members and committee chairs to lead the important work of the church. All the above is contingent on the congregation passing the proposed by-laws amendments at the June 2016 annual meeting.

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

Barbara Meyers  
May 2016

**Committee Mission**

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

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

**Successes**

- Rev. Barbara Meyers substituted for pastoral care when Rev. Jeremy Nickel was on sabbatical
- Trained all pastoral associates at a half-day training, plus on-going training at each meeting
- 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

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**Small Group Ministry**

Summer Lander  
May 2016

### **Committee Resources**

We correspond mainly through email and phone conversations. We are working on establishing a leader meeting time to have regularly starting Fall 2016.

### **Committee Chair, Duties and Contributions**

The Chair leads the leaders' business meeting, organizes the End-of-year Potluck in May/June, assesses needs for training throughout the year as issues arise.

### **Summer Lander, Chair**

Gayle Tupper, Contact of Tuesday morning SGM for women.

Jeremy Nickel and Ty White, Co-leaders of Wednesday evening SGM for men.

Eric Dittmar, Leader of Thursday night SGM/Meditation group

All leaders share the topics they lead in their own group with all the other leaders. Thus many topics are discussed in several of the small groups. All SGM and their leaders are encouraged to choose topics of interest to them. Topics can also be adapted to each particular group.

### **Changes in Leadership**

This year, Rebekah Elowyn stepped down as chair and leader of the Tuesday morning Small Group. Other leaders also have left in the last two years, necessitating an overhaul of the groups. The group calendar will be shifted to be in-line with the church calendar, starting in September and ending in June. Summer will also work with Jeremy to recruit new leaders and hold new trainings.

### **Budget**

We do not have a budgetary line item.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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### Social Justice Committee

Allysson McDonald  
May 2016

#### 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

- We sponsored an affordable housing forum in April which was attended by about 80-100 community members - most of whom were not affiliated with Mission Peak. Visitors included a group from the Fremont deaf community, members of a communal housing project, Assembly member Kansen Chu, and many other interested folks. SEIU 1000 provided a sign language interpreter. Mari-Lyn Harris spearheaded this effort. Publicity was carried out by Mari-Lyn, Allysson, and Deanna K.
- We conducted a "Congregational Read" of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Eleven members and friends signed up, though not everyone was able to attend the discussions.
- .As a follow-up to the book read we collected 30-40 signatures to put the Safety and Rehabilitation Act on the ballot.
- Our annual Guest at Your Table collection for the UUSC was coordinated by Natalie Campbell. This year we collected \$825 from the congregation in January, which with the Shelter Rock matching gift raised \$1625 for this worthy cause.
- Share the Plate is also managed independently by Natalie Campbell. This year we raised \$4,560, for the 8 local non-profit organizations we supported. The recipients are always genuinely grateful and surprised by your generosity.
- The Sandwich Squad purchased supplies from their own budget to make sandwiches on the third Sunday monthly for TriCity Volunteers. Katherine Rubie was the chair, and now Maria Luisa Villegas is heading that up.
- In partnership with the Abode Service Home Warming program we collected furnishings and other necessities for at least one individual. Andrew Dean has continued to head up this partnership and attends monthly meetings with representatives of other local churches.
- In February we honored Anu Natarajan 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. This was publicized in local media.
- A new committee charter was created to reflect the inclusion of mental health issues, which had previously been under a separate committee. This year's annual congregational project also focused on mental health issues, and a separate steering committee was formed to manage the project in coordination with the Social Justice Committee.
- The Committee continues to meet almost monthly, with several people participating regularly in planning and leading activities.

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## Social Justice Committee (Continued)

- Last year's all- congregation social justice project of creating the Stone Garden, wrapped up. Over the course of the spring/summer growing season the project supplied over 1,000 pounds of produce to TriCity Volunteers.
- We facilitated a process for the congregation to choose an all-congregation social justice project theme and Mental Health was chosen as the focus for this year.
  - October worship service introducing the project
  - October – December, a congregational book read on “American Psychosis” by E. Fuller Torrey
  - December Holiday party at Morton Bakar psychiatric hospital
  - January worship service a call to action based on the lessons from “American Psychosis”
  - January – Survey of the congregation on what mental health concerns were most important to them. Topping the list was stress and anxiety management.
  - March – A joint workshop on Stress Management with the Family Bible Fellowship in Newark
  - May - A community event was an advocacy forum with a panel from various mental health constituencies speaking about what they see as the most important problems and how people can get involved in working on them. Members of the local community were invited to attend.

### Desired support from the Congregation

We could use a few more committee members to spread out the work. **We especially could use a committee secretary** to record minutes and send them out in a timely way! We also need a **new Home Warming Coordinator**- as Andrew Dean steps down we would like someone to step up and be trained to fill those (big) shoes! It would be helpful (but not necessary) to have a strong back and a big truck. We would also appreciate your responses when we ask for input, such as nominations for our annual Courageous Love Hero award and suggestions for our all-congregation project. Finally, **when the congregation chooses an “all-congregation” project we need a commitment from everyone to participate** in some way. A lot of effort goes into planning events and activities, but their purpose is lost without congregational participation. Mission Peak UU likes to think of itself as putting a lot of energy into social justice and we claim to stand on the side of love. This work cannot be left to a small circle to carry out on their own.

### Future plans

We hope to facilitate a closer partnership with the UU Justice Ministry of California. We will continue to, encourage share the plate offerings and the sandwich squad, and work with Family Giving Tree or other organizations to serve children in need. We hope to continue to support Abode Services rehousing projects, but that will depend on having a coordinator. 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 more ways to participate in social action, to affect change and make a lasting difference. In

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**Social Justice Committee (Continued)**

particular we want to have continuing conversations and devise actions around affordable housing in the TriCity area, support the NAAMI walk in the fall, and follow through on UUA and UUJM themes such as Black Lives Matter and prison reform.

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**Sunday Service Team**

Name of Committee Chair: Currently vacant (formerly Yvonne Hughes)  
May 2016

**Committee Mission**

No official charter. The Sunday Services committee's mission is to transform Cole Hall into a welcoming spiritual space for all to enjoy.

**Chair:** Currently Vacant

**Successes**

The Sunday Services Committee has ensured yet another year of comfort at Cole Hall, by providing set-up, aesthetics, greeters, coffee, snacks, and take-down at every service!

**Desired support from the Congregation**

Sunday Services could really use a deeper pool of volunteers. This is a great low-impact way to contribute to our congregation in a way that is so meaningful to all who enjoy the little things that make our gatherings so homey. It is a great way for newer members to meet more people, and for those taking a break from more strenuous commitments to keep a volunteer connection going.

**Future plans**

Leadership Development is looking into ensuring the future success of Sunday Services. The Board has discussed seeking ways to creatively revive the way in which we ask for commitments, possibly moving to a system of signing up for specific dates rather than a locked monthly rotation. There are many parts of the coordinator job that could be automated or streamlined, such as the reminder emails that go out to volunteers the week of their service. One constant wrinkle is the problem when somebody who has signed up cannot make their commitment, so more thinking might be done on ways to create a pool of substitutes that the original volunteer could call on.

# Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Annual Report 2015-2016

### Worship Associates

Paul K Davis  
May 2016

#### **Committee Mission**

The Worship Associates work closely with the minister in order to provide Worship Services that are meaningful and well organized. They lead services in the absence of the minister, and constantly work to improve the worship experience at MPUUC.

**Chair:** Paul K Davis

#### **Successes:**

- Provided Worship Associates to weekly Worship services, including for many guest speakers.
- Provided support for Sabbatical Fill-In Preacher.
- Provided Worship Leaders to 3 Worship services.
- Reviewed the Worship Diary regularly.
- Implemented a change in chalice lighting words.
- Supported our minister in a new/refresher Worship Associates training.

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

We would like to see more comments in the Worship Diary, as we do use it to help decide on changes to the Worship service practices.

We wish feedback on changes, when introduced, into our Worship Services.

#### **Future plans**

- We will continue to provide Worship Associates and Worship Leaders as needed.
- We will continue re-evaluating our Worship Services.

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