



THE OPEN DOOR

**CHEQUAMEGAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
SUMMER, 2009**

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org>

CUUF BOARD:

Ruth Oppedahl, Co-chair, 373-0973, ruth@oppedahl.com

Beth Reed, Co-chair, 682-8385, lipreed@cheqnet.net

Diana Granger, Vice Chair and Secretary, 373-1133, dianagranger@earthlink.net

Warren Kehn, Treasurer, 682-2256, , logkeh@ncis.net

Irene Blakely, 373-2907, blakely@centurytel.net

Megan Perrine, 278-3386, perrine@cheqnet.net

ANNUAL PICNIC, SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH, 10:00 - 12:00 P.M. LONG LAKE.

This will be a casual gathering without any formal service. We'll just gather and socialize and enjoy whatever food and games are brought. Of course, there's swimming and hiking as always.

UU WOMEN MEET FRIDAY, JUNE 12

The UU women will meet for a picnic (outdoor) potluck supper at my house on Friday, June 12 at 6pm. The address is 79020 Big Rock Road (outside of Washburn). Call me if you need directions. It would be a good idea to bring a chair and be prepared for bugs. Please let me know if you are coming. Contact info: Jill Lorenz 373.5908
jlorenz@centurytel.net

**NORTHERN NATIVE PLANT SALE: SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH
9AM-1PM**

Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute – Northland College

- Purchase local native plants
- Receive advice from native plant experts

For further information call Karen Danielson at (715) 765-4160

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The next Newsletter, September, 2009, and those following, will be edited by **Marilyn Einspanier**, who has created a special e-mail address for submissions: cheqbay@gmail.com. Please get this into your address book and be ready to submit material. The present editor is extremely happy about this turn of events and exhorts would be contributors to get material in on time.

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to Washburn high school graduates Amelia Silbert and Connor McCormick!

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to: Phil Sorensen who recently lost his mother Camilla Hanson and to Mary and Chris Gonderzik and family in the loss of Mary's great-niece.

Thank you to outgoing CUUF board members who did a fabulous job: Karen Crowell, Henry Quinlan, Scott Burchill, and Kathy Logan and treasurer Matthew Wolter. Thank you and welcome to continuing and new board members Ruth Oppedahl, Irene Blakely, Beth Reed, Megan Perrine, Diana Granger and treasurer Warren Koehn. The Fellowship will be well led!

Warm thanks and great applause to outgoing newsletter coordinator Mike Crowell and outgoing caring committee leader Beth Reed. Both have given invaluable service to our membership. Thank you and welcome to our new newsletter coordinator Marilyn E. and to new ready and willing caring committee members Jan Perkins and Patty Porter!

Thanks so much to all who have served our Fellowship in all the various tasks this year. We couldn't continue without all of us working together!!

Jan Perkins, RN, has graciously offered to visit members during a hospital stay to offer support to the patient. She can be reached at 373-5585.

If you have any caring concerns needing attention this summer please contact Jacki @373-0347, Jan @373-5585 or Patty Porter @682-9015.

Have a great summer!

Submitted by Jacki Rae-Ledin

FAITH IN ACTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Faith In Action-Ashland County is recruiting volunteers who are willing to help senior citizens this summer. The program has a list of seniors in need of help with mowing, cleaning, and laundry. Seniors provide their own mowing equipment. This is a great way to get to know an older person in your neighborhood and do a great community service. New volunteers are always welcome!

Call the Ashland County Aging Unit at 682-4414 ext 3 for more information. Email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org

CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 26, 2009 PONZIO CENTER, NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Present: Nicole Brew, Stefania Strzalkowska, Megan Perrine, Mike Crowell, Warren Kehn, Kathy Logan, Jacki Rae Ledin, Terry Ledin, Irene Blakely, Sally Bergerud, Birgit Wolf, Jill Lorenz, Cyndy Guy, Henry Quinlan, Aj Galazan, Matt Wolter, Scott Burchill, Jan Perkins, Doug Liphart, Beth Reed, Dick Granger, Diana Granger, Patty Porter, Phoebe Burchill, Karen Crowell, Ruth Oppedahl, Karla Hasart, Peggy Koehler.

Birgit Wolff recording for Ruth Oppedahl

- 1) Karen Crowell called meeting to order (24 attended). Annual Report submitted.
- 2) Agenda was distributed
- 3) Call to Order, Chalice Lighting, and Reading --Kathy Logan
- 4) Minutes 2008 Annual meeting not discussed because Ruth was not present --Karen mentioned that it was a standard report and can be found on our website
- 5) Treasurer's Report--Warren Kehn handed out the summary. Matt informed all that as of today all pledges were met. Karen noted that we should thank all who meet their pledge obligation via phone call or in person.
- 6) Karen thanked the fellowship for being able to serve the congregation for 4 years as a board member. Handed out 2009 annual report. She mentioned the "garage sale" and "why we are UU's" was left out of the report. Karen showed a chart of WHO WE SERVE:

Friends of UU 76 people

General members (anyone who signed membership book) 69

Voting members (annual contribution of record) 29 members

Certified UUA members (annual contribution min. \$100) 40

RE enrollment 21

Average attendance between 50 with a max. of 90 per service

- 7) PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE- Article VI--Henry Quinlan led discussion (Proposed changes in CAPS below)

1. Proposed change: The Board of Trustees (board) at a minimum consists of SIX MEMBERS. Officers of the board include the PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND SECRETARY.

Irene made a motion to approve and Karen seconded-voted -24 approved, Motion Carried.

2. Proposed change: New board members shall be chosen by ballot at the annual business meeting. All normally serve for THREE-YEAR TERMS.

Irene made a motion to approve and Warren seconded-voted- 24 approved, Motion Carried.

Mike made motion of vote by show of hands rather than ballot and Warren seconded-voted- 24 approved, Motion Carried.

8) NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES--Henry Quinlan

Mark Perrine provided a list of potential members expressing interest, they included: Megan Perrine, Diana Granger and Beth Reed. (Warren and Ruth are continuing members of the board). AJ nominated Irene as well and she accepted.

Mike made motion that nominations be closed and Sally Bergerund seconded. Motion Carried.

Mike made a motion and Sally seconded that we suspend the rule requiring a ballot and vote with a show of hands. 24 aye, 0 nay. Motion Carried.

Henry made a motion, and Scott seconded that we adopt the slate of board directors: Megan Perrine, Diana Granger, Beth Reed, Irene Blakely. Motion Carried unanimously.

9) Ruth conducted a brainstorming session asking input from the membership as to what the board should consider discussion for the 2009-2010 year. (A wish list of sorts.)

- Meet every Sunday
- While singing the children out, stand and face them
- Consider using the words “light of love” instead of “God” in *Go Now in Peace*
- Have more UU speakers from other churches or fellowships
- Fund office administrator position to keep records (could be fulltime it’s so much work)
- Meet two times a month
- Think/do more active recruitment and develop lay leaders
- Greeting neighbors at beginning of the service (make it more part of the formal routine)
- Start “Coming of Age” program
- Pursue “Our Whole Lives”, Jan Perkins would consider becoming trained
- Parish Nurse-Jan Perkins volunteered to be our nurse to check blood pressure, make hospital visits, make phone visits, could be part of Caring Committee
- Jan Perkins offered some free “Healing Touch” sessions
- Consider having lending library instead of bookstore
- How do others do hospitality? Get more ideas
- Develop Circle Suppers (regular small group potlucks of members)

- Talk about money more often, reports in newsletter or in person to share the health of our finances
- Offer a personal finance study group
- Give board reports (updates) at every service, what is the board working on? (like RE teacher do during service)
- Move the holiday service up earlier in the day, like 4:00pm. It's too late for a school night the way it is.
- Tribal Church book(title?) about how to attract 20-somethings, are we meeting the needs of the community, eg could be a leader in green burials
- What is the progressive community looking for and how can we meet their needs?
- Have CUUF represented at Ashland congregational leaders meetings (pastor/minister meetings)
- Attract more members- recruitment
- Offer more personal testimonies at every/during every service "Credo-I Believe"
- Encourage coordinators to think beyond the regular order of service for other experiences/formats

These issues will be considered by the board and committees in the coming year. Thanks for the suggestions!

**CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
ASHLAND, WISCONSIN
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

Board of Trustees Report: Karen Crowell. 08-09 President

The board is responsible for developing policies, managing administrative, financial affairs, and planning, and overseeing the working and growth of a healthy fellowship that fosters our UU faith and principles. This year we worked on the following projects:

Policies: We wrote a Membership Certification policy for meeting our fair share contribution to the UUA. Passed the Statement of Conscience for Peacemaking proposal for the General Assembly. We developed proposed by-law changes to aid in the continuity of board leadership.

Budget and Finances: We developed the 2009-09 budget \$13, 818 and drafted the pledge drive goals to meet that budget at \$220 per member. We came closer to meeting our budget goals than in previous years with a pledge total of \$9,560 through the generosity of the membership. Plus the Sunday plate offering continues to average about \$1000 a year. Anni Schneider ran the pledge drive, sent mailings, and communications. Thank you CUUF members and friends! We developed systematic payment schedules for our paid speakers and music director.

Board Liaisons: We established board liaisons to all working committees to provide support to the committee chairs, to facilitate communications, and to foster productive change and growth.

Northland College partnership: We worked with David Saetre to nurture our partnership with Northland College for joint campus ministry and a Sunday service meeting rooms for worship and RE. We donated \$1000 to Northland College for that partnership. The College has approved our use of the Ponzio Center space for 09-10. Many thanks.

Ad hoc committee on facilities scoping and planning: Knowing that we may not have the space use at Northland College in the future, we established an ad hoc committee to assess our facilities needs and investigate future options.

Administrative Oversight: We drafted a job description for a professional office administrator to maintain fellowship record and communications and drafted a budget for equipment, rent, and wages/salary.

Strategic Planning: We met with Tim and Karen Hirsch, our district resource liaisons, on December 13, 2008 to begin the process of planning and asking the long-range question: What does this fellowship want to be? The result was recognition of what a remarkable UU Fellowship we have and a list of proposed board goals for the next six months. Development of the ad hoc facilities scoping and planning committee arose from that meeting.

Rites of Passage: The board initiated a child dedication this year.

Leadership Development: The board sponsored one person to attend the Fall district Leadership Workshop, young adults to attend two youth cons, and six persons to attend the Prairie Star District Annual Conference in Duluth. Ruth Oppedahl nominated Megan Perrine for the Unsung Heroes PSD award which she was awarded at the conference.

Sunday Worship Committee Report: Birgit Wolff, chair

The CUUF's Worship Committee, consisting of David Saetre, Jan Perkins, Mike Crowell, Megan Perrine, Cyndy Guy, and Birgit Wolff (head), with Irene Blakely (board liaison), met in person at Northland or via internet throughout the 2008-2009 season and considered/accomplished the following:

Scheduled services, chose topics, recruited speakers

Interfaced with Joni and guest musicians as well as Religious Education

Arranged for payment of speakers, musicians, David etc.

Thanked speakers

Discussed beautification of meeting space; screen behind speakers, candles, banner, podium

Sought and mentored service coordinators as needed

Developed (in progress) s

ervice guidelines if speaker is a "no show"

Regularly updated master schedule (speaker, topic, music, coordinators)

Incorporated "dedication" ceremony

Brainstormed 2009-2010 service schedule, topics and speakers

Developed draft budget 2009-2010

Met with David Saetre to discuss: his future with CUUF and NL, our remaining at Northland, Sig. Olson and other possible setting, his input for speakers and topics for 2009-2010

Discussed future needs and ideas such as; Improved sound and public address system, more worship lay leaders, services in Sigurd Olson building.

Children's Religious Education Committee: Kristin Quinlan, program director
This year the RE committee used two UU curriculum programs, *We are Many, We are One* for the pre-school and kindergarteners; and *World Religions* for older children and young adults. The RE program of the Fellowship has grown to an enrollment of 21 children. We sent two students to two youth Cons for the first time this year. We wish to acknowledge our great appreciation for the work of our ALL volunteer teaching staff: Kristin Quinlan, Megan Perrine, Beth Reed, Ruth Oppedahl, Cindy Van Horn, Stephania Strzalkowska, Brenda Brouder, Mary Gonderzik, Peggy Koehler, and Jim Paruk. We also wish to thank everyone involved in our December Holiday program and celebration.

Communications Committee: Scott Burchill, chair
Many special thanks to Mike Crowell for another year of on-time newsletters. And a big thanks to June Bavlinka for continuing to communicate information about our fellowship to the newspaper and make and post posters in strategic locations (thanks to Terry Ledin too). We've been working on the website and trying to keep up with the information there.

We're hoping to make this committee more cohesive in the coming year. Also to finally get the website to the point where all committees and the fellowship as a whole can use it as a focal point for communication. Anyone interested in helping with any of this can contact Scott Burchill.

Hospitality Committee: Karla Hasart, chair. The committee provides food for fellowship during the fellowship hour after every service and organizes the potlucks. We wish to thank all of our volunteers: Jacki Rae Ledin, Terry Ledin, Stefania Strzalkavaska, Vicki Koval Mary Gonderzik, Cindy VanHorn, Warren Kehn and Kathy Logan, Peggy Keohler, Nicole Brew, Jan Perkins, Marilyn Einspanier, Diana and Richard Granger, and all other contributors.

Music Committee: Joni Chapman, coordinator
Ruth Oppedahl, Megan Perrine. and I worked as the committee. We had occasional help from Mary Rehwald, Warren Kehn and Kathy Logan, Maya Quinlan, Donn Christensen and Tracey Ledder. There are probably other names I should mention. As far as hopes for the future: a real chorus? More volunteer musicians? We've got talented people. I'd like to others step up to the challenge of playing for services.

Membership Committee: Karen Crowell, chair
The membership committee welcomes member, visitors, and guests to Sunday worship services; makes nametags (Cindy Van Horn does this); keeps track of visitors; oversee the member and friends database, email lists, and newsletter mailing list; provides information about CUUF, UUA, and becoming a member, coordinates the annual new member service. It is also the committee's responsibility to integrate new members into the life and stewardship of the fellowship. The committee is interested in starting Circle Suppers to get to know members better next year. We need a committee of five or six members for next year.

Caring Committee: Jacki Rae Ledin and Beth Reed, chairs.

The Caring Committee coordinates support for members affected by illness, death and personal crisis. It expresses compassion, congratulations, and sympathy communications on behalf of all the Fellowship.

UU Women: Jill Lorenz, coordinator

The UU Women's group has been meeting monthly in homes and restaurants for a meal and conversation. Gatherings provide an opportunity to share news of our lives and to get to know each other better. It's our hope that the women in the fellowship feel comfortable to join us whenever they can, in whatever condition they find themselves.

Fellowship Historian:

Jill Lorenz wrote a Fellowship history in honor of our 11th Fellowship anniversary on February 22, 2009.

Social Justice and Community Action Committee: Needs chairs and coordination. Kristin Quinlan organizes the UUSC Guest at Your Table program every year. Northland students have worked actively in protests of the School of Americas injustices and for the Habitat for Humanity (Ashley Lokken, member leader). Though our membership continues to be active in community justice and service organizations individually, for example, peacemaking, environmental justice and conservation, Faith in Action, humane society, social justice, ABC Healthy Families, City council community service, 4-H and youth community programming, etc., we have not organized a committee effort within the Fellowship. We hope for a more organized effort with greater visibility of CUUF involvement in social justice activities.

Nominating Committee: Mark Perrine, chair.

Facilities Exploration Ad Hoc Committee: Irene Blakely

The 2008-09 board members established an ad hoc committee to explore issues and possibilities related to CUUF facilities. The key question was how we would plan for facilities needs in our long term and short term future. The committee includes Irene Blakely, Rick Dowd, Dick Granger, Kathy Logan, Mark Perrine, and Mary Rehwald. We have met twice to discuss the scope of our inquiry and the process we might use to explore possibilities. We have generated a list of questions that we believe we must ask and find answers to. We have decided to proceed with a meeting in the fall with a member of the Bemidji UU Fellowship, who can tell us how they worked toward the purchase of their own facility. We have also agreed that we need a lot of feedback, and will start with a survey of our fellowship about our facilities needs, preferences, cautions, hopes, and dreams. We will meet in the summer to develop the most functional survey questionnaire that we can. We invite your participation. Please contact any committee member by phone or email to assist us with advice and information.

New 08-09 Program Committees and Activities:

Adult RE *Chosen Faith* Book group – Jan Perkins and Patty Porter, chairs.

Sing-a-Long at Christensens

UU Bookstore: Karla Hasart and Cindy Van Horn, chairs

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank all volunteer members and friends for making this Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship possible.