

UUMedford



Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

**Annual Report
2008-2009**

Annual Report 2008-2009

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Annual Meeting Agenda – June 7, 2009

1. Call to Order.
2. Chalice lighting and invocation.
3. Choose a moderator.
4. Act upon the minutes of the congregational meeting of June 8, 2008.
5. Receive and act upon the written or oral annual reports of the Minister, the Director of Religious Education, the Board of Trustees, and various committees.
6. Vote on proposed amendments to Article II, Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford to create an affiliate member category and to revise the procedures for removing members from the roll (text below).
7. Elect two delegates to the UUA General Assembly.
8. Accept and approve the proposed financial operating budget for 2009-2010.
9. Accept nominations and vote on candidates for the offices of Trustee, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, Collector, and Nominating Committee.
10. New business from the floor.
11. Adjourn.

Proposed Bylaws amendments (agenda item #6).

Underlined text = proposed additions; ~~struck through~~ words = proposed for removal.

Resolved, that Section 4 of Article II be amended to read:

Section 4. Any member may withdraw from the Church by submitting written notice to the Clerk. A member who is unable to attend services or otherwise participate actively in the Church community, due to relocation from the vicinity or any other reason, but who wishes to remain affiliated with the Church, may submit a written request to the Clerk to take affiliate member status. Affiliate members may participate in Church activities, but may not vote at Annual or Special Meetings and shall not be considered members for purposes of contributions to the Annual Program Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Association or its districts. Upon submission to the Clerk of written notice of intent to resume full membership status and upon approval by the Board, an affiliate member may resume active member status.

Resolved, that Section 5 be amended to read:

Section 5. When there shall be doubt as to the desire of an individual who has not taken affiliate member status to maintain membership in the Church, by reason of ~~removal~~ relocation from the vicinity, or by reason of non-attendance at meetings or functions of the Church for one year, the Board may direct the Clerk to inquire in writing of the individual whether that individual wishes to continue membership, either as a full member or an affiliate member. When the Clerk has so inquired by certified mail to the member's last known address, non-receipt of a reply within ~~six~~ three months shall be authority for the Board to strike the name of the individual concerned from the roll of members.

WARRANT

For an Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford to be held June 7, 2009 at 12:00 noon, or immediately following church services.

GREETINGS

You are hereby to notify and warn the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, Massachusetts to meet in the Sanctuary on Sunday, the 7th of June, 2009, at 12:00 noon, or immediately following Church services, at which time and place the following articles are to be acted upon and determined exclusively by Voting Members, in accordance with and subject to the Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford.

1. To choose a moderator;
2. To act upon the minutes of the congregational meeting of June 8, 2008;
3. To receive and act upon the written or oral annual reports of the Minister, the Director of Religious Education, the Board of Trustees, and various committees;
4. To vote on proposed amendments to Article II, Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford to create an affiliate member category and to revise the procedures for removing members from the roll;
6. To elect two delegates to the UUA General Assembly, and provide direction regarding votes on behalf of the Congregation;
7. To accept and approve the proposed financial operating budget for 2009-2010;
8. To accept nominations and vote on candidates for the offices of Trustee (three 3-year terms and one 2-year), Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, Collector, and Nominating Committee.
9. Such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Faithfully submitted,

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

Geoffrey Ward, Chair
Miles Fidelman, Past Chair
Hank Driscoll
Tom Innis
Karen Johnston
Denice Sakakeeny-Smith
Colleen Squires
Mary Stevenson

Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford Congregational Meeting June 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 pm.

Steve Schmidt agreed to serve as clerk for the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: To choose a moderator.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to appoint Annette Bloom as moderator.

Point of Order

A point of order was raised regarding whether or not to postpone the meeting since child care was not available, as a result of which several members could not attend. A motion was made and seconded to postpone the meeting. After discussion, the motion was defeated, by a vote of 5 in favor, 24 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

Agenda Item 2: To act upon the minutes of the congregational meeting of May 20, 2007.

The minutes of the meeting were accepted unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: To receive and act upon the written or oral annual reports of the Minister, the Director of Religious Education, the Board of Trustees and various committees.

The written reports presented to the meeting were unanimously accepted.

Miles Fidelman, Chair of the Board, presented an oral Report from the Board.

This oral report noted that the past year was very busy with financial and building matters, including many discussions with wide ranging discussion and participation from many church members. The Annual Canvas resulted in 50 pledge units for a total of approximately \$55,000. There is a distinct sense of eagerness and energy to carry on with the strategic planning activities that were begun and carried out over the past two years. The upcoming year will focus on implementing the results of today's Annual Meeting with particular regard to the next agenda item, the Board's Recommendation for the future direction of the church.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the Report of the Board.

Agenda Item 4: To receive, discuss and vote on the Board's recommendation for a future direction of the Church which will achieve financial sustainability.

The Board Recommendation is described in the letter attached to the Warrant of the meeting. In summary, the Board recommends that the next year be spent in looking into the possibility of forming a nonprofit organization to purchase the UUCM building and grounds. In effect this would be like selling the buildings and grounds to ourselves. By having a group of nonprofit organizations purchase the buildings and share in their use and maintenance, UUCM would gain some immediate income from the sale, as well as reduce its share of upkeep and maintenance of buildings and grounds. UUCM would become a co-owner of the buildings and ground with a long term lease to use them.

In order to explore the feasibility of this option, the Board recommends that the next year be spent finding possible partners to join this cooperative effort as well as looking into all aspects of such an effort, including legal, financial and UUA issues. The Board proposes that it give a status report to the Congregation every three months. If there is no significant progress, the Congregation should look seriously into the need of putting the buildings on the market and using the resulting income to re-establish ourselves in a way that is financially sustainable.

The Board also recommends that to implement this project, the budget should include \$20,000 to hire a bookkeeper or to obtain other professional services to move the project forward.

Any decision to sell the church property, either to a nonprofit organization or to another purchaser, will require a separate two-thirds vote of the Congregation at a later date.

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation of the Board. The motion passed on a voice vote, with three abstentions.

Agenda Item 5: To accept and approve the proposed financial operating budget for 2008-2009.

The proposed budget was presented. After discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as presented. The budget was accepted by a vote of 33 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention

It was then noted that the proposed budget did not include a cost of living increase for any of the staff. A motion was made and seconded to amend the budget to add a cost of living increase for all staff not to exceed 3%. After discussion, the motion passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 1 opposed and 4 abstentions.

Agenda Item 6: To accept nominations and vote on candidates for the offices of Trustee, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, Collector, and Nominating Committee.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers:

Board of Trustees:

Miles Fidelman (1 year term)

Mary Stevenson (2 year term)

Karen Johnston, Geoff Ward and Jessie Jaeger (3 year terms)

Clerk: Nancy Kurtz

Assistant Treasurer: Helen Silver

Collector: Russell Tripp

Nominating Committee: Colleen Squires and Sue Driscoll

There were no nominations for Treasurer or a third person for the nominating committee.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented and unanimously accepted by the congregation.

Agenda Item 8: Such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

There was no further business.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

**Submitted by Steve Schmidt
Clerk pro tem**

List of members attending the meeting is available upon request.

Annual Report from the Board of Trustees

The powers and responsibilities delegated to the Board of Trustees include:

- Appoint annually the Chairs and other members of the Audit, Religious Education, Finance, Property, Membership, Ministry, and Worship committees, define their responsibilities and powers ...
- Appoint, from time to time, the chairs and other members of such special committees as it deems advisable, define the responsibilities and powers, and receive the reports of such committees ...
- Administer, directly or by delegation, all the affairs of the Church except as expressly provided otherwise in the Constitution and Bylaws and report its actions at the Annual Meeting, including a report of a proposed annual financial budget and a financial audit of the Treasurer's report.

A read through the Board of Trustee's powers and responsibilities listed above, taken from our church Bylaws, will reveal that the Board's function is fundamentally one of administration and oversight. Most of the actual accomplishments in the life of our church stem from the efforts of its *members*. Nevertheless, being on the Board brings visibility, and with that increased interaction with the congregation – which leads to a better understanding of what is going on in our community and what is called for. Communication drives the equation.

The Board started the church year with five new members out of a total Board size of nine. Jesse Jaeger left the Board part way through the year to become a staff member at another UU church in the area; his position was not filled. In September the Board and DRE Esther Rosado joined together in a half-day retreat where we generated standards for communication among ourselves and created a broad agenda for the church year.

As usual financial matters absorbed a nontrivial portion of the Board's agenda during the year. Last year's Annual Meeting approved a plan to find a partner who would assume a major portion of our property-related expenses in exchange for essentially equal access – with the proviso that we continue to be able to use our spaces for our Sunday event. The search for a suitably harmonious and financially strong partner was not successful. While finding such a partner candidate may yet happen, henceforth the Board focus in this domain will be on the more modest goal of maximizing the use of and revenue from our buildings.

The major expenditures on our buildings are behind us; however, Osgood House did require serious foundation work this past year. The Board also voted to fund the installation of programmable thermostats in the church sanctuary and Benker Hall. The search for ways to save energy and money continues. Various routine repairs that come with having a historic structure as our community home were funded and completed.

Board member Mary Stevenson organized this year's canvass. She created and filled the new Stewardship Committee. Committee members met with church members and friends ("pledge units," in the dry parlance of church fund-raising) one on one. The Stewardship Committee will continue to be active throughout the upcoming year. The success of the 2009 canvass can be evaluated by the results: 52 pledges were received totaling \$62 thousand, versus 41 pledges for \$48 thousand generated during the 2008 canvass.

In the canvass conversations, Stewardship Committee members encountered an abundance of good will and commitment in our community members. And as befits a UU congregation, there was no shortage of diverse ideas for ways to make our church function more effectively and manifest our mission. As always, a challenge is to channel people's energy and time into productive action and worthwhile accomplishments. The Board wants to encourage people to continue to communicate their thoughts and ideas with us – especially when the idea is backed with a commitment to implement it.

Board member Hank Driscoll undertook the substantial task of organizing a church "Tuesday Event" series. The (currently inactive) Strategic Planning Committee/Task Force had perceived a call for more community participation opportunities; the series was the Board's response. Hank masterminded the weekly series, including recruiting event leaders, for the entire September to May period. In practice event attendance was too low to deem the initiative an unqualified success. The Board will be considering community-in-action alternatives which might better serve the membership. We are open to suggestions.

Board members Karen Johnston and Colleen Squires and former Board member Cathy Collins are well underway on the project of reimagining, reengineering and refashioning the church website – our face to the outside virtual world. Getting the new site in condition to take it live will be a priority in the coming months.

Board chairman Geoff Ward and member Tom Innis formed an operations and procedures task force. Among their outputs was a written-down set of routine church communication procedures, and a comprehensive list of church volunteers by function. The later list is included in this annual report immediately after the proposed budget. There are several key operational areas where rethinking and reorganizing basic functions and procedures is called for. Causing such change will take persistent effort to overcome institutional inertia, but which can produce major payoffs in how effectively we function as an organization and as a spiritual community. Sitting still is not an option. Stay tuned.

Some highlight events and happenings from this past church year include:

- Our Religious Education program continued to thrive as an essential and dynamic element of the UUCM community. Our first Coming of Age Ceremony in several years was held on October 19th. The Our Whole Live (OWL) sexuality education program for 7th through 9th grade children was offered for the second time at UUCM. Many non-UUCM families participated in the OWL program as well.
- Our choir has built on past growth and evolved into a reliable core of participants. Twelve members of the community regularly participated, with several others making guest appearances.
- Our Building & Grounds Committee continued to provide exemplary leadership in improving our properties' interiors and exteriors. Favorable comments have been received from neighbors regarding the church grounds aesthetic enhancements.
- Brad Chapman completed two years of editing the church newsletter, and seamlessly handed off the editorship to Meghan O'Sullivan. Brad's legacy includes standardizing the delivery, including deadlines, of newsletter contributions.
- Our Thanksgiving Pot-Luck and Easter Pancake Breakfast were well-attended, as has been the case historically. Contributions from a wide spectrum of community members made the events happen.
- The 2008 church summer season saw strong attendance and a more than sufficient number of lay volunteers for leading the services.
- Our May rummage sale raised over \$1000 for the church, thanks to capable organization and the efforts of many volunteers.
- The Community Cupboard Food Pantry, based in the church and co-coordinated by church member Liz Ammons, served an increasing number of clients in the surrounding community as macroeconomic conditions deteriorated. Several church members serve invaluable roles in helping the Pantry operate weekly. Many other members of the church community volunteered to serve at special Pantry events such as the organization of school supply donations in September and the special Thanksgiving-week distribution.
- The Task Force on Immigration commenced operations and emerged as a new arm in the church's social justice and advocacy mission. They sponsored several events which were attended by significant numbers of people from outside the UUCM congregation.

Annual Report from the Treasurer-Elect

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Proposal

Dear Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford,

The purpose of this message is two-fold:

- (1) To review with you the proposed budget for FY2010, which you will find below.
- (2) To review with you my thoughts as Treasurer-elect and the challenges and joys we face as a community in FY2010.

Over the last few years we have had many discussions, some civil and some uncivil, about our sources and uses of cash here at UUCM. I have seen the following proposals over the years either shut down on sight or pursued without effect:

- (a) Selling the Osgood House
- (b) Selling the Church
- (c) Forgoing a Music Director
- (d) "Selling the buildings to ourselves"
- (e) Half-time minister
- (f) Merge with another church

What is clear to me through these discussions both as a congregant and as a Trustee, is that we love this amazing community and we have little appetite for what I would consider radical change. Now that we know this about ourselves, we have to make some changes in our comfort zone in order to be successful. As a result of this reflection, you will see no radical changes to this year's budget, but for the format.

To value our employees, we have proposed a 3% cost-of-living increase, consistent with years past. No new initiatives are undertaken to "solve our financial crisis," if you will, if indeed you still believe we are in financial crisis. However, the fact is that we operate at a deficit, proposing to withdrawn almost \$100,000 from our endowment principal this year. Some day this endowment money will run dry, and we will have to make tough decisions. But not now. History indicates we simply do not have the appetite for this at this time.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, I believe we have some opportunities this year to take little steps to work as a beloved community to work towards a financially healthy community. Below are my recommendations:

- **Building Energy Efficiency:** We spend \$60,000 a year maintaining our building and grounds. Although we operate every day of the year, the buildings largely are idle but for a few renters, the Food Pantry, and our well-attended worship service. We should work together to find ways to make the buildings more "green," more energy-efficient, and thus cut down on our utility bills. We can get creative about this, and there are abundant resources to assist with this.
- **Sharing our Buildings:** Currently we collect about \$5,000 annually for our rental fees. Renting our beautiful building brings more people into our sacred spaces and effectively shares this community with individuals who would not otherwise visit us. We should not pursue this just for the funds this brings to us, but also for the traffic it brings to us, the beauty this relationship shares. Let's be open-minded about what this means. We have had music lessons, dance troupes, meditation groups, self-help groups, weddings, Seders, and a concert or two in our sacred spaces to date. Let's work together and think about how we can bring people into our wonderful community.

- **Finance for Everyone:** Finance is not a boring topic. It is about relationships, it is about how people use scarce resources to enrich their lives, and it is about priorities and visibility into accomplishment of these priorities. However, we finance people tend to be a bit obtuse about how to share what finance is really about to folks who are a bit intimidated by a spreadsheet with lots of little numbers and percentages. My goal this year as your Treasurer-elect is to talk about money in a different way. The first step is to organize our financial data into a way that tells our story to those who otherwise would not know it. The new format of the budget is a result of this effort. I find it to tell a story of who we are versus who we think we are, and what it *really* takes – both labor and cash – to run our beloved community. I will provide budget updates quarterly in this format.

I also want to thank Helen Silver and Russell Trip, who are the backbone of the financial operations of this community. I would appreciate it if you could also thank them in your passing. The amount of work they do on a weekly basis to keep the machine cranking is unbelievable. I am grateful.

Please direct all questions to me at controllergal@hotmail.com.

Blessings,

Denice Sakakeeny-Smith

Fiscal Year 2010 Proposed Budget

	Worship	Ministry	Buildings & Grounds	Community & Social Action	Religious Education	General & Admin.	FY '10 Budget
Pledges						60,000	60,000
Plate	5,000						5,000
Other Donations							—
Flowers	730						730
Property Rental			5,000				5,000
Interest Income						20,000	20,000
Lawrence Trust Dividends "NPO"	3,500						3,500
Tucker Fund	300						300
Ministerial Fund Interest		20,000					20,000
Income	9,530	20,000	5,000	—	—	80,000	114,530

Minister		61,029					61,029
DRE					24,194		24,194
Sexton			11,164				11,164
Administrator						3,402	3,402
Music Director	13,675						13,675
Nursery					1,000		1,000
Guest Minister	600						600
Utilities			27,000				27,000
Snow Removal			15,000				15,000
Insurance						5,000	5,000
Building Maintenance			5,000				5,000
Supplies, equipment, programming	1,500	2,500	2,000	1,500	2,000	6,000	15,500
Women's/Tucker Service	300						300
Professional Expenses	1,000	5,000			1,300		7,300
Publicity						2,500	2,500
Flowers	730						730
Affiliations						6,500	6,500
Professional Services						7,000	7,000
Expenses	17,805	68,529	60,164	1,500	28,494	30,402	206,894
Change in Endowment :							(92,364)

Employee Count *	3	1	1		1	1
Volunteer Count *	19+	3+	5+	16+	28+	31+

* Details on following page

The People Behind Our Church

Worship	Ministry	Buildings & Grounds	Community & Social Action	Religious Education	General & Admin.
Employees	Employees	Employees		Employees	Employees
Rev. Hank Peirce	Rev. Hank Peirce	Fred Humphry, Sexton		Esther Rosado, DRE	Lynn Battenelli, Church Administrator
Ester Rosado, DRE					
Thom Lissey, Music Director					
Worship Comm. and Associates	Committee on Ministry	Building & Grounds Committee	Food Pantry	Religious Education Committee	Board of Trustees and Clerk
Daryl Bridges	Troy Liston	Maria Muller	Liz Ammons	Chris Fiorello	Colleen Squires
David Concepcion	Bill Stevenson	Mary Stevenson	Chris Fiorello	Clare Gallup	Denice Sakekeeney-Smith
Hank Driscoll	Carol Schachet		David Grayson	Dianne Dmytryk	Geoff Ward
Jenn Vento			David Pinkney	Linda Schwetz	Hank Driscoll
Paul Estin		B & G Volunteers	Geoff Ward		Karen Johnston
Steve Schmidt		Geoff Ward	Hank Driscoll		Mary Stevenson
Troy Liston		Joan Parker	Karen Johnston	RE Volunteers	Miles Fidelman
		Matt Haberstroh	Steve Schmidt	Anne Stevenson	Nancy Kurtz
				Ariana Fiorello	Tom Innis
Choir			Eco-Social Justice	Christine Blaber	
Anna Seleny			Heather Gomez	Clare Gallup	Nominating Committee
Geoff Ward			Eileen Dunne	Colleen Squires	Colleen Squires
Hank Driscoll			Helen Silver	Daryl Bridges	Sue Driscoll
Heather Munn				David Concepcion	
Helen Silver			Immigration Task Force	Denice Sakakeeny-Smith	Finance
Janice Dallas			Michael Glenn	Elizabeth Dowey	Denice Sakakeeny-Smith
Jenn Vento			Michael Sandberg	Hank Driscoll	Helen Silver
Joanne Perpetua			Susan Jhirad	Karen Heinze	Russell Tripp
Nancy Kurtz			Daniel Velasquez	Karen Johnston	
Paul Estin				Linda Coultas	Stewardship
			Tuesday Event	Linda Squires	Mary Stevenson
Social Hour			Hank Driscoll	Mary Finn	Ron Dallas
Maria Muller			Michael Glenn	Mary MacNamee	Mary Finn
Russell Tripp			Paul Estin	Michaela Coger	Bea Grayson
			Steve Schmidt	Michelle Piasta	Nancy Kurtz
UU Mass Bay District Rep.				Solana De Andrade Johnson	Troy Liston
Lynne Merl			Ferry Beach	Steve Schmidt	Gretel Munroe
			Mark Koenig		Linda Squires
			Troy Liston	OWL	Anne Stevenson
				Dal Coger	Bill Stevenson
				Kim De Andrade	
				Loren Gomez	Communications, IT
				Troy Liston	Brad Chapman
					Cathy Collins
					Colleen Squires
					Karen Johnston
					Miles Fidelman
					Meghan O'Sullivan

Annual Report from the Minster

What makes my experience in the ministry so hopeful for me is that I am not alone in this careful hearing of both pain and excitement.

This is not something reserved for only one ordained and robed.

It is something we all do for and with one another.

Ours is a shared ministry, a giving and receiving.

We tell one another our stories, our myths, our inner most thoughts – and we seek to listen, if we can, with sensitivity and purpose and love.

We live lives.

We do not live creeds or theologies or even values.

We are engaged with real events and people, and we are related, torn and isolated together.

We are at odds and we are sometimes very close.

The spiritual center of our lives is not found in a faith, no matter how cherished or revered.

It comes, rather, out of the openness and honest engagement, the courage and pain, and the love we experience with one another.

Sometimes that openness is searching and doubting, confused or serene, ambivalent or empowered.

But it is an openness nonetheless.

And out of it comes a vision of a world made new by the reality of our lives, lived in the service of love and justice, of gentle goodness and forgiveness.

Robert Karnan, “Shared Ministry”

The words of Rev. Karnan are as true today as they were when he wrote them. Good ministry is shared ministry, one in which we all have a part in owning and and being responsible for it direction and its health. This year saw many wonderful things occur both inside our congregation as well as out in our nation. We also saw the results of things that occur in our nation affecting our congregation as well.

The church year started with a new carpet in the sanctuary, I am sure that all of us were relieved to see the old tattered one removed and the new one installed. A thousand thanks to the anonymous donor who purchased the carpet helping make our religious home as comfortable as our own homes. The new program which started this year occurred every Tuesday night, Hank Driscoll organized and hosted these events that ranged from intimate folk sings, to lectures on immigration that drew over seventy people. We should all thank Hank for his hard work in turning this dream that came out of the strategic plan into reality.

In the realm of social justice the Eco-Social Justice Committee and the new Immigration Task Force, the Medford Community Cupboard Food Pantry, and the “It’s Not *Your* Birthday” Project have kept us involved and active in the world. Before I move to write about the other programs in our church let me first hold up the folks who do the work of the Food Pantry, because this has been a trying year for many people and the increase in the number of people using the Food Pantry has been shocking. The myth that was trickle down economics became clear to almost everyone and the food pantries have had to do more with less. I do pray for a world where those with the least are not forced to suffer because of the greed of those with the most.

The Immigration Task Force which began this year has done an amazing job of educating and organizing members of our community on the complexities of the issues of immigration. We have all benefited from the hard work that this group of church members have done. The “It’s Not *Your* Birthday” Project in its second year raised over \$3100 for programs supporting the Hispanic community in Somerville, the Centro Presente.

Election of Barack Obama as president of the United States was met with great joy in our congregation not only signifying the end of a very illiberal presidency, but another step towards ending racism in our nation. However, along with his election came a large economic downturn which affected the church's endowment and the jobs of some church members. Yet even with this fact we had a wonderful stewardship campaign. We are blessed with a congregation who has continued to meet the challenges that have faced them when they a clear vision of what we want.

In conclusion; although we are struggling like many others our community continues to thrive because of the work of the members and friends of the congregation. This is truly a blessing and a sign of the ministry that we share.

Weddings

I will have performed four weddings by the time of the annual meeting. Two were held in our sanctuary and two "off-site." Kara McAweeney and Dean Rafferty were married at our church on August 23, 2008, Erin Kelley and Peter Brash were wed on October 12, 2008 also at UUCM. Dana Sibley and Stephen Venable will be married on June 6 , 2009 in South Orleans, Massachusetts.

Only one of the four couples has a connection to our church: Former member Isis Esteves and Eric Tornow were married by me at her family home in South Sandisfield, Massachusetts on September 6 2008.

Funerals

This church year I performed four funeral/memorial services. None of the four were members of our church but all had links either to our church or to our faith. In August I first performed a graveside service at Puritan Lawn Cemetery in Peabody for Mr. Stephen Shaw, the son of longtime member Marion Shaw. Later that month I performed the funeral at the First Congregational Church (Unitarian) in Burlington, Vermont for my great-aunt, Connie Bayles, a life long member of that church.

In march I performed two memorial services at our church. The first was for Ann McKay, wife of Robert McKay, the father of our Clare Gallup. The following week I lead a funeral service for Mrs. Gloria Corbett, the sister-in-law to Fred Humphries, our church sexton. Gloria grew up in the First Universalist Church in Medford and has a long history at the Ferry Beach Conference Center in Sacco, Maine.

Child Dedications

I had the absolute joy of performing the dedication service for Trudie Charlotte Innis, the daughter of Beth and Tom Innis, on January 25, 2009 as part of the worship service that morning.

Coming of Age

This year the culmination of a full years preparation and hard work resulted in two of our young people, both of whom grew up in our church school, taking part in a coming of age program designed and executed by our Director of Religious Education Esther Rosado and a number of advisors. This year James Castle and Russell Fidelman completed and exemplified their achievement by writing and sharing a personal statement of faith with the congregation. Hats off to the two of them, and we wish James Godspeed and good luck as he heads off to college at UMass Lowell in the coming year.

Annual Report from the Worship/Music Committee

Members of the committee this year included Rev. Hank Pierce, Jennifer Vento, Daryl Bridges, Steve Schmidt, Music Director Thom Lissey and Hank Driscoll. Religious Education Esther Rosado often attended meetings as well. Former Member Colleen Squires resigned from the committee at the beginning of this church year due to academic commitments.

The Worship Committee has met monthly throughout the 2008-09 church year. Our committee is charged with evaluating and recommending elements of the worship service such as themes, readings, hymns, choral arrangements, and celebrations of religious holidays. We also coordinate the scheduling of guest ministers and summer lay-led services.

This year has also seen the implementation and continuous assistance of Worship Associates. These individuals went through a brief training that included public speaking and presentation in the sanctuary. The Worship Associates communicated with the minister for the respective services, offering input on readings and hymns and participating in the services by reading spiritual selections, poems, responsive readings, and leading morning songs. This year's Worship Associates were Daryl Bridges, Jennifer Vento, Heather Gomez, Paul Estin, Hank Driscoll, David Concepcion, Steve Schmidt, and Heather Munn.

The congregation saw divinity students Daryl Bridges and Colleen Squires, and the Rev. John Burciaga appear as guest preachers this year.

Report from Music Director Thom Lissey

The choir learned new pieces from the hymnal supplement *Singing the Journey*, including "23rd Psalm (For My Mother)", "Building a New Way", "Everything Possible" and "Lean on Me", as well as songs from Jim Scott's "Earth and Spirit" songbook, including "May Your Life Be as a Song", "Roots and Wings", and "Winter Solstice Round".

In addition to the "Rise Up Singing" gatherings, the Tuesday Night Events also saw two choir sing-alongs: In March, contemporary songs led by Thom at the piano, and in May, traditional hymns led by Russell Tripp at the organ.

During Sunday worship, we have been experimenting with different music for congregational responses, including a new tune ("Truro") for the Doxology and a new song ("Now Let Us Sing") for the children's departure after Time for All Ages.

Many thanks to the choir members who sang, both regularly and occasionally, with us this past year: Janice Dallas, Hank Driscoll, Paul Estin, Nancy Kurtz, Heather Munn, Joanne Perpetua, Steve Schmidt, Linda Schwetz, Anna Seleny, Helen Silver, Jennifer Vento, and Geoff Ward.

A list of hymns sung this church year follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 May Nothing Evil Cross this Door
(x 2) | 159 This is My Song (x 2) | 350 The Ceaseless Flow of
Endless Time |
| 2 Down the Ages We have Trod | 166 Years Are Coming | 358 Rank by Rank |
| 4 I Brought My Spirit to the Sea | 169 We Shall Overcome | 368 Now Let Us Sing (x 4) |
| 7 The Leaf Unfurling | 170 We Are a Gentle Angry People | 370 All People That on Earth do
Dwell |
| 8 Mother Spirit, Father Spirit | 191 Now I Recall my Childhood
(x 2) | 388 Dona Nobis Pacem |
| 16 'Tis a Gift | 199 Precious Lord | 391 Voice Still and Small |
| 18 What Wondrous Love | 201 Glory, Glory Hallelujah (x 2) | 399 Vine and Fig Tree |
| 22 Dear Weaver of Our Lives Design | 202 Come Sunday | 407 Sit at the Welcome Table |
| 23 Bring Many Names | 203 All Creatures of the Earth and
Sky (x 2) | 409 Sleep My Child |
| 29 Joyful Joyful (x 3) | 205 Amazing Grace (x 2) | 1007 There's a River Flowin' in
My Soul (x 3) |
| 38 Morning Has Broken (x 2) | 207 Earth was Given as a Garden
(x 2) | 1008 Heart in a Holy Place |
| 44 We Sing of Golden Morning (x 2) | 209 O Come, You Longing Thirsty
Souls (x 3) | 1014 Standing on the Side of
Love (x 2) |
| 46 Now the Day is Over | 211 Jacob's Ladder | 1017 Building a New Way (x 3) |
| 52 The Sweet Fields of Autumn | 224 Let Christmas Come | 1018 Come and Go with Me (x 2) |
| 61 Lo the Earth Awakes Again | 226 People Look East | 1028 The Fire of Commitment
(x 3) |
| 67 We Sing Now Together | 231 Angels We Have Heard on
High | 1040 Hush (x 4) |
| 68 Come ye Thankful People Come | 237 The First Noel | 1046 Shall We Gather at the River
(x 4) |
| 87 Nearer My God to Thee | 239 Go Tell It On the Mountain | 1048 Ubi Caritas (x 3) |
| 93 To Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love | 240 I Heard the Bells on Christmas
Day | 1062 All Around the Child |
| 95 There is More Love Somewhere | 244 It Came Upon a Midnight
Clear | 1064 Blue Boat Home (x 3) |
| 100 I've Got Peace Like a River | 243 Jesus, Our Brother | 1066 O Brother Sun (x 2) |
| 101 Abide With Me | 246 O Little Town of Bethlehem | <u>Inserts</u> |
| 103 For All the Saints (x 2) | 269 Lo, the Day of Days Is Here | Auld Lang Sine (x 2) |
| 104 Go Down Moses | 270 O Day of Light and Gladness | Away in a Manger |
| 108 My Life Flows On | 295 Sing Out Praises (x 4) | Do You Hear What I Hear? |
| 110 Come, Children of Tomorrow | 299 Make Channels for the Streams
of Love | Hark the Herald Angels Sing |
| 111 Life of Ages | 303 We Are the Earth | If I Had a Hammer |
| 112 Do You Hear (x 3) | 312 Here on the Paths of Every
Day (x 2) | O, Come All Ye Faithful |
| 114 Forward Through the Ages (x 3) | 318 We Would Be One (x 2) | Over the River and Through the
Woods |
| 115 God of Grace and God of Glory | 330 The Arching Sky of Morning
Glow | Silent Night |
| 116 I'm on My Way (x 3) | 331 Life is the Greatest Gift of All | The Battle Hymn of the Republic |
| 119 Once to Every Soul and Nation | 345 With Joy We Claim the
Growing Light | The Voice of God is Calling |
| 121 We'll Build a Land (x 4) | 348 Guide my Feet | This Land is Your Land |
| 124 Be That Guide | | Trust Amid the Severities of God |
| 126 Come Thou Fount (x 2) | | Where have all the Flowers
Gone? |
| 131 Love will Guide Us | | |
| 132 Bright Those Jewels | | |
| 138 These Things Shall Be | | |
| 144 Now is the Time Approaching | | |
| 145 As Tranquil Streams (x 2) | | |
| 149 Lift Every Voice and Sing (x 3) | | |
| 151 I Wish I Knew How (x 3) | | |
| 157 Step by Step the Longest March | | |

Annual Report from Religious Education

I am completing my fifth year in serving UUCM as the director of religious education, and I continue to be impressed with the commitment and the generosity of spirit that is shown to our children and youth from our church family. Each year we rely on the support and involvement of the community, parents and non-parents alike. This year we were fortunate to have two members without children, Colleen Squires and Linda Squires, commit to teaching both terms. It provided continuity to the youth, as well as to the new in-coming teaching team in the Winter/Spring Term.

For the first time, the Religious Education Committee members did not teach and were able to concentrate on the comprehensive sexual education curricula, Our Whole Lives, and in giving support to the many details that this curriculum demands, adapting and coordinating the pageant, and planning an end-of-year field trip, providing support to the volunteer teachers, and assisting in Chapel. When there is enough coverage in the program, the Religious Education Committee members can provide visioning and support, and I am grateful to everyone who made this year run so smoothly.

Nursery

We are fortunate to have such wonderful youth providing a comforting and consistent presence in our Nursery. Last June Emma MacNamee, our previous Nursery Care provider, graduated from high school. We were sad to see her leave, but happy that she was continuing her studies in early childcare education. We have two high school youth from the church, Ariana Fiorello and Solana De Andrade Johnson replacing Emma this year. With two youth covering the nursery, I have not had to recruit as many volunteers to serve as the second person in the nursery. This has allowed for our young families to be present in the sanctuary more often and it has helped to integrate them into our church community.

Curriculum

The Religious Education program chose Social Justice and Bible Literacy as their themes for the curricula. The 2nd – 4th grade grouping covered constructive ways of resolving conflict and promoting peace. The 5th – 8th grade grouping discussed what peace is, how to promote peace and justice within themselves as well as in their relationships with others.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Curricula</u>	<u>Term</u>
Nursery	Celebrating My World and Me	Both Terms
Preschool K – Kindergarten	Discovery Year	Fall/Winter
	Super Heroes: Bible People	Winter/Spring
2 nd & 4 th Grades	In Our Hands	Fall/Winter
	Bibleodeon	Winter/Spring
5 th , 6 th , 7 th & 8 th Grades	In Our Hands	Fall/Winter
	Bibleodeon / Popcorn Theology	Winter/Spring
7 th , 8 th & 9 th Grades	Our Whole Lives	Both Terms

Taking into consideration that the Sunday morning programming for the 7th – 8th graders would be registering for OWL, the RE Committee decided that the movie-based curriculum, Popcorn Theology, would be interspersed with the Bibleodeon curricula to the 5th – 8th grade grouping. The hopes were to encourage youth to attend the both the morning programming, as well as the OWL classes in the evening. Guised as entertainment, this curriculum offered the youth an opportunity to explore some of the big questions such as: “the nature of the divine,” “truth,” and “meaning,” and how these concepts are impacted by experiences and points of view. The curriculum proved to be a success with the youth as well as the leaders, and we will continue to offer Popcorn Theology with other curricula for the upper grades.

Coming of Age

The Coming of Age (COA) service was postponed last year, as the youth felt they needed more time to write their credos. Our COA youth, Russell Fidelman and James Castle had their service on October 19. After two years of in-depth mentoring and studying of Unitarian Universalist history and identity, our church family celebrated this exciting rite of passage.

Our Whole Live Curriculum (OWL)

The Religious Education Committee, in response to numerous requests from junior high parents that we offer Our Whole Live (OWL), a sexuality education program for grades 7th through 9th considered offering it again this year. This is the second time it is offered at UUCM. Previously it was offered to six youth in 2003-04, and the leaders of that group, Kim De Andrade and Troy Liston, recommend that the class only be offered if a minimum of 10 to 12 youth could be registered. Since we had only seven youth, the Religious Education Committee agreed to offer the program to families outside of our church families. The junior high families, along with RE Committee members actively invited families they knew to come to an information meeting on September 21. It resulted in 17 youth registering, and we then offered OWL on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00, with a dinner for the youth from 5:30 – 6:00 provided by the families. We encouraged the OWL families to donate to the food pantry each week from a list of much needed items from Liz Ammons. With each weekly class reminder a note was written concerning the “featured items” needed for the month, and each month we collected many items.

A potluck dinner was held for the families in January and a celebration activity for the youth and their families. In order to provide a year long OWL program on Sunday evenings we required two alternating teaching teams. We were fortunate to have two trained leaders, Kim De Andrade and Troy Liston, who had taught the OWL at UUMC previously, Loren Gomez, Dal Coger, and Jesse Jaeger, a trainer-of-trainers, who accompanied Dal Coger until he completed the OWL Training. We could not have run this time-intensive program without these dedicated volunteers, and the RE Committee and I are enormously grateful to them.

Social Action

We engaged the children in youth in various social justice activities such as:

- Community Cupboard Food Pantry: sorted food donations on several occasions, in addition to preparing special trick-or-treats, as well as participating in the a special Thanksgiving distribution where the ingredients for 190 complete Turkey dinners was assembled for the volunteers to give out.
- Walk for Hunger: 5th – 8th grader completed the 20 mile walk and received \$300.00 in pledges.
- Birthday Wishes: preschool – 1st grade and the 2nd – 4th grade groupings help assemble 48 party favor bags that were presented to Birthday Wishes is a non-profit organization in Newton, MA, that brings birthday parties to homeless children.
- UNICEF: boxes were distributed and \$59.00 was collected.

Community Life

By popular demand, Young Church held two “Souper Sundays.” Soup was prepared and sold on two Sundays. The proceeds helped to purchase the party favor bags for Birthday Wishes, and on another occasion \$105.00 in soup was sold and the proceeds donated to the English as a Second Language program, housed in the Medford Library, for the purchase of materials and resources.

Once again the Religious Education Committee sponsored a successful game night. This year we offered numerous electronic games as well as board games, and as a result we engaged more middle school youth.

The RE Committee is also coordinating a year-end field trip to Canobie Lake Park on June 21 – the last Sunday before the Summer services begin. Since this date falls on Father’s Day, free admission and free lunch is provided to fathers when they are accompanied by a paid child.

Worship

As in previous years, the RE Committee coordinated and modified the December Pageant for the intergenerational service. The adapted pageant allowed for more speaking parts and for more youth participation.

Last Spring with the assistance of Thom Lissey, Director of Music, and Russell Tripp, former Director of Music, we were able to enrich Young Church’s Chapel Services by incorporating the choir during the first few minutes of the Chapel Service. Often I have been told how lovely it is to hear the choir in the Moore Room for Chapel services, not only because it adds to the texture of the service but because the coziness of the room lends for better listening. We are so appreciative of the choir for supporting worship services to our youngest members.

Professional Involvement

DRUUMM Conference, Murray Grove, New Jersey

MIT Lecture: Trans-racial adoption and racial identity, Cambridge, Massachusetts

LREDA Annual Conference: Building a Multigenerational Faith, Albuquerque, New Mexico

DOMT Retreat: Finding Our Way Home, Atlanta, Georgia

Ferry Beach: July, 2008 Served as Coordinator of Children’s Programming during RE Week

Remembering all this reminds me again how fortunate we are, and honored I feel to serve as your Director of Religious Education. Together with the RE Committee, we thank all the many volunteers who make the religious education programming possible, and I look forward to another year enriching year.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Rosado,
Director of Religious Education

Linda Schwetz, RE Chair

Diane Dmytryk

Chris Fiorello

Clare Gallup

Annual Report from the Committee on Ministry

Members: Carol Schachet (chair), Bill Stevenson and Troy Liston

The Committee on Ministry met more or less monthly throughout the year to offer support to Rev. Hank, discuss pastoral concerns among the congregation, and outline plans to respond to those identified needs in the church community.

Current members include Carol Schachet (chair), Bill Stevenson and Troy Liston. Mary Finn also served on the committee for the first part of the church year until her position was filled by Troy Liston.

Annual Report from the Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund Committee

The committee convened on May 11, 2009 to review applications for awards from the Paul Grayson Scholarship.

It was determined that the total in the Scholarship Fund was:

\$1,812	Beginning Balance
\$1,230	Added in 2009
\$3,042	Total Funds Available

The committee decided to distribute a sum of \$1500.

Three applications were received. After review, it was determined to recommend the following awards:

\$750.00 to Jennifer Vento toward course work this summer at Lesley University to assist her in obtaining Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies certification to supplement her certification in drama and theater arts, for the purpose of improving her teaching skills.

\$500.00 to Ariana Fiorello toward a summer program in veterinary medicine at the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia, to further her ambition to pursue veterinary science.

\$250.00 to Colleen Squires toward her Clinical Pastoral Education internship at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, which she completed this past year, in furtherance of her call to serve as a hospital chaplain and to work with children.

All three applications presented worthwhile personal educational goals and all three applicants have contributed significantly to the community of the Church, thus fulfilling the criteria for award from the Paul Grayson Scholarship Fund.

The Committee was pleased to recommend the above awards be made to encourage and support the educational goals of these individuals.

The Board of Trustees subsequently approved the Grayson Scholarship Fund Committee's recommendations.

Bea Grayson
Nancy Kurtz
Linda Schwetz

Annual Report from the Buildings & Grounds Committee

Members: Maria Muller (chairperson), Mary Stevenson

Once again the Building & Grounds Committee has had a very productive year. Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed their time. The committee has continued efforts towards making the interiors of our buildings energy-efficient, safe, attractive and comfortable; and maintaining and beautifying our spectacular property.

The following are some accomplishments for the year:

Grounds:

- There were three church cleanup days, where we raked leaves, weeded, and swept and removed accumulated sand and dirt from the parking lot.
- Ongoing planting of shrubs and perennials and mulching.
- A cement platform was poured outside Osgood House on which a new bike rack was mounted.
- Several trees, shrubs and large tree branches were cut down and removed by volunteers.
- Patched holes in the church parking lot.

Building:

- Two programmable thermostats were installed in the church. (Church heating oil use declined slightly despite a much colder winter.)
- A water heater timer was installed in the church.
- Battery operated smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms were installed in the church and Osgood House.
- Patched a damaged wall and painted the Quiet Room.
- New carpeting was installed in the church aisles.
- Tablecloths were sewn for all the folding tables used in Benker Hall functions.
- Tablecloths were sewn for the social hour and church life tables in Benker Hall.
- Additional lighting was installed in the church kitchen.
- Part of the floor in the front of the church sanctuary was sanded.
- A seating area was created in a corner in Benker Hall.
- Most locks at the church and Osgood House were reconfigured.
- The church gutters were cleaned out.
- A section of Osgood House's brick foundation was rebuilt.
- The church steps were repointed.
- Covered Osgood House front door inside with anti-draft plastic.
- Patched several sanctuary cushions.

Annual Report from the Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Although the Community Cupboard Food Pantry is economically self-sufficient, each year we submit an annual report because we believe the Food Pantry provides an important link between the church and the community.

Located in the front of the church, the Food Pantry serves clients from Medford and surrounding communities such as Malden, Somerville, Everett, and Chelsea. Because of the terrible economy, the number of people using the Pantry was very high this year. Typically 70-80 people came each week, which is a lot for a small pantry such as ours. On some occasions we had over 90 people receiving food. Clients are diverse in terms of age, race, gender, family situation, and occupational status. They include unemployed people, employees making poverty-level wages, elders on fixed incomes, and people with disabilities. Many are immigrants and many need to come each week. Much of the food goes to children.

The Food Pantry is supported by grants we apply for from Project Bread (funded by the Walk for Hunger) and the Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund. Realtors Against Poverty and Century 21 Realty in Medford contributed financially, and throughout the year the Food Pantry also received donations of money and food from other churches, Temple Shalom, the Buddhist temple in Medford, schools, and many individuals. The annual Post Office Food Drive in May provided the Pantry with donated food.

Volunteers from the church and the community work together to keep the Pantry running smoothly. Volunteers deliver bread every Thursday; sort food; stock the shelves; staff the Pantry every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 p.m.; pay the bills; complete the quarterly reports for our grant from Project Bread; shop for dried beans at a local supermarket; load and drive truckloads of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank each month; and write grants and newsletter notices. During this past year, these volunteers made those things happen. From the church: Liz Ammons (co-coordinator), Chris Fiorello, David Grayson, Steve Schmidt, Dal Coger, Geoff Ward, Naomi Wilson, Karen Johnston, Jennifer Vento, Michael Glenn, Clare Gallup, Helen Silver and Hank Driscoll. From the community: Dave Pinckney (co-coordinator), Jim Calorio, Julia Alvarez, Byron Alvarez, Joan Parker, Moira Tumbleson-Shaw, Marilyn McGrath, Susan Gerould and Mary Werowinski. Other people from the church and the community also provided help on occasion, including the Church School children and teachers. The generous labor and collaboration of all these volunteers kept the Pantry open and stocked with food every week.

At Thanksgiving the Food Pantry distributed holiday baskets (frozen turkeys, trimmings, etc.) to 170 recipients. At the winter holiday we gave out special food items contributed by church members. Other churches and several benevolent organizations in the city contributed to the success of these holiday distributions. In September the church continued its tradition of distributing school supplies to Pantry families. A grant from the Tri-Cap Hunger network allowed us to buy a new refrigerator, hand-truck, and stanchions.

As Unitarian Universalists it is important for us to recognize that a Food Pantry should not be needed in our community or any community in this nation. Its existence reflects the grossly inequitable distribution of wealth in our country and the need to work for social change. Since hunger, unfortunately, does exist, the Community Cupboard Food Pantry serves a valuable purpose of providing emergency assistance to people in need. Its mission is to do so with respect and kindness for all the people who use the Pantry. It is one way, we hope, that our UU commitment to social action and community involvement expresses itself.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Ammons, Co-coordinator

Annual Report from the Task Force on Immigration

The Task Force on Immigration began in late July 2008, when Michael Glenn sent out an e-mail inviting people who wanted to work on immigration issues to get together. In all, about a dozen people participated in its work, including Elizabeth Cremens, a member of the Medford Human Rights Commission, who joined the group in the late fall.

The group held monthly meetings, which included time for study, discussion and planning events. We also maintained a bulletin board in Benker Hall, which displayed newspaper articles about immigration and news of the group's activities.

Michael Sandberg proposed and organized a September "Candidates Forum," which was sponsored by the Social Justice-Eco Committee. Four of the five candidates for state representative spoke in the church to an audience of about sixty people.

In the fall we organized three Tuesday night programs, which were aimed at bringing a deeper understanding of immigration issues to our congregation:

- The first, in September, kicked off our support of the statewide Welcoming Massachusetts Campaign; it featured Anthony Zuba who gave a talk, "For you were once a stranger: Economic justice and immigration in the United States."
- The second, in October, examined the recent raids and attacks upon immigrant workers and communities, and featured speakers from the Haitian community and from Centro Presente. We also showed the documentary "Detained" and heard from Malden film-maker Jennie Alexander.
- The third, in November, honored four local groups who serve immigrant communities – the Community Cupboard Food Pantry, the (Malden) Refugee Immigration Ministry, the English-at-Large program, and Emmanuel Exilhomme's Haitian advocacy group, Towards a Better Tomorrow Charity, Inc. The event also featured a talk by Steve Schmidt entitled: "The spiritual basis for doing our immigration work: A stranger in a strange land."

Other areas the Task Force was active included:

- We co-sponsored the October 1st Vigil at City Hall demanding an end to raids and the deportation of immigrant; half a dozen members attended.
- We asked the church board to endorse the Welcoming Massachusetts Campaign, and it did.
- Four of us traveled to hear the author Aviva Chomsky speak on "Immigration and human rights" at North Shore Community College.
- We raised money for English-at-Large and other groups doing immigrant-related work.
- Michael Sandberg and Annette Bloom won Representative Donato's backing and co-sponsorship for a measure which would grant in-state tuition to state colleges and universities to children of undocumented immigrants who had graduated high school in the state.

In the winter and spring of 2009, we held events which reached out to the broader Medford community as well:

- We co-sponsored a monthly series of films on immigration with the Medford Public Library.
- Eric Kamba, the manager of the Refugee Program for Mass General Hospital in Chelsea, spoke one Tuesday night in January about "Resettling Refugees in America: Challenges and Opportunities."
- Professor Aviva Chomsky, professor of History at Salem State College and author of "*They Take Our Jobs!*" and *20 Other Myths About Immigration*, spoke to more than sixty people in the church on March 24th on "Immigration Rights and Human Rights." The talk was co-sponsored by the Medford Human Rights Commission and the Students at Tufts Acting for Immigration Reform (STAIR).

- Attorney John Willshire-Carrera, Lead Attorney of the Immigration Unit of the Greater Boston Legal Services spoke in May on “Prospects for Immigration Reform.”

In February, members decided to join the local Malden-Melrose “cluster” run by the Malden-based Refugee Immigration Ministry. This group unites people from different faith-based organizations to support local refugees and asylum-seekers. As part of our work, we participated in RIM’s annual Mother’s Day Flower Sale fundraiser and were grateful for church members’ enthusiasm.

On April 19th, the Task Force led the Sunday service, with many different people taking part. Afterwards we collected 45 signatures for a letter-writing campaign sponsored by Centro Presente, aimed at helping Latino workers get pay for cleaning work at Legal Sea Foods which they had been denied.

We also endorsed this year’s Mayday Rally, which was around the cause of Immigrant Rights.

This year’s members included Liz Ammons, Bill Barbeau, Annette Bloom, Phil Bloom, Nick Boisin*, Elizabeth Cremens*, Hank Driscoll, Eileen Dunne, Michael Glenn, Heather Gomez, Nancy Kurtz, Esther Rosado, Michael Sandberg, Steven Schmidt, Daniel Velasquez, and Catherine Wang Hsu*. (* Not members of UUCM.)

Annual Report from the Eco-Social Justice Committee

This year the Eco-Social Justice Committee partnered with Susan Altman of the Medford Climate Network and also the Task Force on Immigration on a number of projects.

Accomplishments:

- August 17, 2008 – Ran lay-led sermon on Environment and Immigration at UU church in Medford.
- September 21, 2008 – Attended a Barn Raising on in Cambridge, which consists of a group of people working on one house to make it more energy efficient. Discussed having a Barn Raising at Osgood House.
- November 1, 2008 – Helped to publicize and run a Global Warming Café at the West Medford Community Center with Susan Altman of Medford Climate Action Network.
- February 24, 2009 – Held Low-Carbon Diet Workshop in to promote Low-Carbon Diet program with the Medford Climate Action Network and as part of the UUCM Tuesday Night Events series.
- Purchased a compost bin from the City of Medford and installed it behind the Osgood House.
- May 2009 – Held a composting talk as part of UUCM Tuesday Night Events series.
- Put a bin in the church kitchen for compost bin materials.
- Planned numerous projects with Michael Glenn of the Task Force on Immigration.