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Budget, New Board Approved

At the annual meeting this spring, the members:

- Elected seven board members for the 2010-2011 church year.
- Approved a \$97,000 budget, a \$12,000 increase over last year.
- Approved a search committee to recommend a consulting minister for 2010-2011.

Adopted seven by-law changes regarding the board and committee chairs.

Elections: **Jim McIntosh** moves up from being president-elect to finishing the last year of **Ann Barefield's** term as board president.

Bill Coburn was elected treasurer (two years) and **Dick Chady** as secretary (two years). (Those two also swapped jobs as treasurer and communications chair.)

Other new board members are: **Ruth Deussen**; **Gil Gilleland** (two-year terms); and **Yolanda Brod** and **PK Kobes** (one-year term). **Fran Frydman** and **Bob Zannelli** continue with one more year on their terms.

Budget: The members approved a \$97,189,000 budget for the 2010-2011 church year, which began April 1. The spending plan is \$12,000 above last year. The largest increases are for Buildings and Grounds (\$2,700), primarily to cover higher-than-anticipated costs for mowing and water plant maintenance. The plan also shifts \$5,600 for a consulting minister into the regular budget (last year it was paid by special donations).

Many other smaller categories, such as supplies, maintenance and committee expenses were reduced.

The budget assumes we will receive \$73,000 from those who pledged and \$9,500 through the Sunday collection basket. We expect another \$3,200 in interest on investments and \$3,000 from fundraisers and gifts. Because the approved budget leaves a shortfall, the board is authorized to use up to \$14,000 in a surplus from the two previous years. (To p. 5)



President's Message

Pat and I enjoyed our long-awaited trip to Eastern Europe.



Of the 41 passengers who went on to Prague in the Czech Republic after the end of the Danube cruise, only four of us were able to fly out on time due to the volcanic ash induced flight cancellations. The rest had to extend their vacation at the companies expense. Who were the lucky ones there?

Traveling along the Danube and visiting a number of countries was a unique experience. The things that each city seemed to have in common were churches, forts and memorials to one war hero or another. It was almost as though those things went hand in hand.

The main religions in the various countries were Roman Catholic and Greek or Eastern Orthodox. The churches were typically hundreds of years old and truly magnificent in structure and ornamentation, all with lush paintings, statues, stained glass windows and gold objects.

Many churches were being repaired or refurbished either due to age or having been bombed in the Balkan war. One new church in Budapest was actually in the process of being built. Like most of the others it was huge with vaulted ceilings more than 100 feet high.

Construction workers were busily hammering and plastering, but the building was nowhere near completion even though it had been under construction for the last 80 years. We were told it would take an-

other \$50 million to complete.

You might wonder if the people's religious fervor matched the magnificent structures. In Prague I asked our guide how many people normally attended mass. As we stood in the middle of the sanctuary with that vaulted ceiling and the stained glass windows, the statues and the tomb of Good Prince Wenceslas (he never lived to be king), she had a surprising answer.

At 7:00 a.m. mass, they typically had between 10 and 20. The population of the Czech Republic is 40 percent atheist. Is this unusual in Europe? It doesn't seem so; our guide in Vienna said the Austrian people were mostly Catholic in "document" only. To a similar question about America, I would be tempted to answer that most are religious in imagination only. —*Jim McIntosh*

Bargar, Denison Head Stewardship Effort

Bob Bargar and **Bill Denison** will co-chair the Stewardship Committee and also develop a special capital campaign for 2010-2011.

Under a plan approved by the board of trustees, the two will develop a proposal to raise enough money to reduce or pay off the church's mortgage debt. The mortgage, provided by other members through a bank called Fellowship LLC, now costs \$37,000 per year, or about 40 percent of the annual budget. The UUA recommends that such costs not exceed 25 percent.



Bob Bargar

Other members of the campaign committee are: Jim McIntosh (president); Bill Coburn (treasurer); Tom Garman (major gifts chair); Andrea Coburn (administration); Dick Chady and Ruth Deussen (communications, publicity, and events).

The campaign committee has already begun to contact potential major donors. Their plan to is generate a mail solicitation to all 270 members, friends, and recent visitors as soon as possible. Details will be announced.

During the last two years, as chair of the capital campaign for the UU Fellowship of Chautauqua, NY, Bargar helped to raise \$1.1million to enable that fellowship to establish a UU House there. Denison has previously raised funds for a private charitable foundation.

Sunday Schedule for May

May 2

Forum: Open Discussion

Speaker: Rev. Don Musser "*The Promises and Perils of Inter-Faith Relations.*" The positive and negative aspects of attempting to bridge divisions between faith groups, based on the current religious and cultural milieu.

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: John Deckman

Building Open: Deckman Close: Kemp

Coffee and Hospitality: Hope Deckman & Susan Ashley

May 9

Forum: Rev. Meredith Garmon - *The History of UUism from 1961 to Date.*

Speaker: Rev. Meredith Garmon -- "*The Down Side of Spirituality.*" Keeping a wary eye out for all that 'frizz-frazz of people who can't deal with solid reality' -- while still cultivating lives of joy, awe, wonder, and beauty.

Service Leader: Dick Chady

Chalice Lighter: Dick Bassette

Building Open: Hord Close: Coburn

Coffee and Hospitality: Mary Hord & Barbara Thomas

May 16

Forum: "*The Neurons that Shaped Civilization.*" Robert Ridgard will lead the discussion following a video by neuroscientist V S Ramachandran that outlines the functions of mirror neurons. Only recently discovered, these neurons allow us to learn complex social behaviors, some of which formed the foundations of human civilization.

Speaker: Don Lubov -- "*My Six-Step Path to Enlightenment.*" Life's purpose is a spiritual one – conscious union with our creator while still in your physical body. The "Six-Step Path" reveals how to transcend suffering and have a spiritual awakening. You learn to live in the moment, 100% involved in your life and 0% attached. You change from a fear-based, separate individual to a (unconditional) loved-based part of the whole.

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Jim Mitchell

Building Open: Griffith Close: Mitchell

Coffee and Hospitality: Wendy Griffith

May 23

Forum: Religion in China: Lina Wu, born in China, author of five books, will give the presentation, "*How did the Boxer Rebellion come about?*"

Speaker: Ruth Deussen -- "*A Man Who Changed the World.*" In honor of Vesak, the holiday that celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha, we will learn more about the life of Gautama Siddharta, who was born a prince but died as a fully awakened man, a Buddha.

Service Leader: Doug Worthington

Chalice Lighter: Rona Gold

Building Open: Kobes Close: Deussen

Coffee and Hospitality: P K Kobes & Ruth Deussen

May 30

Forum: Cindy Kuckel will lead a discussion of "*What Does Memorial Day Mean to You?*"

Speaker: Jim McIntosh "*From a Distance.*" Religions exist for the purpose of obtaining "perfection". What that is and how one goes about it varies greatly from one group to another. Michelangelo is viewed as a great sculptor, when in reality all he did was take a large chunk of marble and knock off everything that didn't look like the Pieta.

Service Leader: Mary Ann Donato

Chalice Lighter: Mike Donato

Building Open: Frydman Close: Donato

Coffee and Hospitality: Betsy Gilleland & Fran Marciano

2010-2011 Board of Trustees



President: Jim McIntosh

Jim grew up and had a career in education in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. He served as a teacher, then assistant high school principal and assistant superintendent. The last

14 years were as school finance consultant for the state of Wisconsin. Having begun his UU experience in Madison, WI, Jim joined UUFMC in 2003.



Treasurer: Bill Coburn

Bill and his wife, Andrea, joined the church at Cherokee Park in 2003. After graduating from Purdue, Bill worked for IBM, both on mainframes and PCs. He has also served as communications chair at UUFMC.



Secretary: Dick Chady

Dick joined UUFMC in 2008 after moving to The Villages. Previously, he was a board member and communications chair at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, NY. His career was in journalism and public relations, primarily for health and social service organizations in Albany, NY. A graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa, he has master's degrees in journalism and library science.

Member-at Large Yolanda Brod

With a master's in social work, she worked in foster care and a clinician in residents for disturbed children. She also completed training at the Advanced Institute for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. A former Roman Catholic, she joined UUFMC in 2005 after seeing a photo on the paper about UU's enjoying a Thanksgiving dinner.

Member-at-Large Fran Frydman

Fran joined UUFMC in 2006 after moving to The Villages from Rochester, NY, where she was a member of the First Unitarian Church for 30 years. A native of Pennsylvania, she has a B.A. in economics from Chatham College and an M.ED in social studies from Penn State. After teaching high school social studies and reading, she later managed a reform synagogue and was a counselor at Planned Parenthood.



Member-at-Large PK Kobes

A native of South Dakota, PK lived 35 years in Philadelphia area, where she served as counselor/tutor coordinator for high risk students at Villanova University. She was a member of UU in Chestertown MD for three years, serving on worship and membership committees. She joined UUFMC in 2009.



Member-at-Large Bob Zannelli

After growing up in Providence, RI, Bob graduated from Rhode Island Radio and Electronics School. He worked at Raytheon Electronics in Massachusetts, then served in the Navy for six years, including four years aboard a nuclear sub. He later worked at nuclear plants, including 24 years at Indian Point 3 just north of New York City. He joined UUFMC after moving to the area in 2005.

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Work on Memorial Garden

Begins May 10

Workers will begin installing the church's Memorial Garden in the rear, left hand corner of the lot on May 10.

The \$4,000 project is being financed through donations and purchases, with more than half already received.

You may order an engraved stone with the name of a loved one for \$100. (*Dick Bassette, co-chairman B&G Committee.*)



Church Cleanup Day May 12

Please sign up for our first annual clean-up day and picnic Wednesday May 12th. Clean-up will be from 8 to 10 a.m. and the picnic will follow. Please bring your own lunch. Sign up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary. (*Dick Bassette, co-chairman B&G Committee.*)

Board (cont.)

Member-at-Large Ruth Deussen

Was born in Germany, but emigrated to the U.S. at an early age. Raised in the Baltimore area, she joined First Unitarian of Baltimore in 1967. A career in the military led to casual attendance at various UU churches. She joined UUFMC after visiting the service in the Elks Club.

Member-at-Large Gil Gilleland

Gil worked as a reporter at newspapers in Hawaii, Los Angeles and Memphis, then headed journalism schools in Reno, NV and Boston. Starting in 1952, he helped to found the UU church in Honolulu, where Barack Obama later attended religious education. He and wife Betsy Gilleland joined UUFMC in 2005, after attending for several years.

Annual Meeting (cont.)

Consulting Minister: By a vote of 51-4, the members approved hiring a consulting minister for a second year. A nominee will be presented by a search committee composed of: **Fran Frydman, Joyce Mills, Millie Mitchell, Robert Ridgard and Bill Coburn.** The congregation must approve the nominee.

By-law changes: (1) the position of president-elect is renamed "vice president;" (2) the board may appoint to fill any officer vacancies; (3) past presidents no longer are required to serve on the board; (4) clarifies that board meetings are open to members and friends, except for executive sessions; (5) the board may act between meet-

ings for emergencies or time-sensitive issues (6) adds the option for the board to fill vacancies by a membership vote or on their own; (7) allows committee chairs and co-chairs to be seasonal residents if they are reachable by e-mail. They must still be members.

Memorial Garden: A memorial garden will be added to the left rear corner of the property, under a plan approved at the meeting.

Spielberg Calling: Rita's AV Award



It's the Florida UU district's version of an Oscar or an Emmy: Rita Ridgard won the district's first annual award for use of multimedia in worship service.

She and husband Robert Ridgard joined UUFMC when it first moved Cherokee Park. She started making family digital slide shows, which then led to putting the images to music with transitions and effects.

Shortly after the Ridgards moved to the Villages, they started the Cabaret showcase club and she began making videos using music from the 40's 50's and 60s, and as well as some seasonal compilations. She has also done work for the classical music lovers club and the Village Greens. You can sample her fine work on www.youtube.com/villagerita.

Now Hear This: AV Committee Needs Help

In order to let more members use our AV system, we will be offering training (about 30 minutes) during the last week of May. We hope that each appropriate committee/club will send two representatives.

Anyone else interested in using the system during the forum or service is also invited. We will cover system start up, DVD and CD player features, microphone control, and Internet access. *Contact Robert Ridgard at rbridgard@yahoo.com to sign up or get more information.*

Alaska Cruise This Fall?

Would anyone interested in going on an Alaskan Cruise July or August 2010, please call me at (352) 751-5587, or e-mail yoyorain-bow@embarqmail.com. There is some urgency due to the late date we might be registering. *(Yolanda Brod)*

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If You're Thinking About Becoming a Member

This invitation is for anyone who regularly enjoys our Sunday fellowship gatherings and may be thinking about becoming a member.

We can make arrangements for you to sign the book before a service. We will plan for a formal recognition of new members on the third Sunday of any month where someone has signed the book.

If you have questions before taking the step to covenant with UUFMC, call me at 633-3563. I will be glad to address any of your concerns. *(PK Kobes)*

Learn How to Strengthen Volunteer Efforts at DeLand Workshop May 8

The Northeast Cluster will present a workshop on volunteerism from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8 at the new First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia, 116 South Clara Avenue in DeLand. Rev. David Miller of the UU church in Solana Beach, CA, will speak on *"Feel the Topic-Volunteerism."* Registration \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, including lunch and other refreshments. See <http://necluster.uufg.org/>. *If you're interested in carpooling, contact Andrea Coburn (andracoburn@thevillages.net) 751-6673.*

May Birthdays



Roy Love May 5

Hal Sands May 11

Karen Wink May 22

Catherine O'Neill May 23

Cindy Lenhart May 26

Jim Mitchell May 30

Books for Kids May 30



The 5th Sunday Collection on May 30 will be used to purchase books for programs that serve the children of Marion County. We encourage you to be generous in helping to put books into the hands of children.
(Andrea Coburn)

UUFMC Can Send Two More Delegates to General Assembly June 23-27

You can join thousands of other UUers at the annual General Assembly in Minneapolis. Shirley Loebel is already planning to attend and we're entitled to two more delegates. The GA features uplifting worship services, programs, workshops and social events. The session will take up the Statement of Conscience, *Peace-making*, as well as Congregational Study Action issues, proposed changes and amendments to UUA Bylaws and Rules, and the proposed Business Resolution.

You must pay your own way (registration \$355), but if you'd like to be considered by the board to be a voting delegate, contact board Secretary Dick Chady at rchady@comcast.net.

Events for Florida UUs

You can find events of interest to Florida UUs on the district's Web site at www.floridadistrict.org/

Unitarian Universalist of Marion County

UUFMC

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