



The ComUUnicator

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lima
Website: <http://www.uulima.org> June 2006



Internet Imperative



The UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) has mandated that congregational interaction with the “parent” organization be conducted on the internet from now on. Specifically, distribution of annual reports and other documents, as well as their collection of information back from the member congregations will now be done exclusively via electronic means. This has implications for us at a local level.

Perhaps the committee most impacted is one that might least be expected, the Nominating Committee! From now on, the President of a congregation **MUST** have routine access to the internet. By routine access, I mean that—if it is not available at home, at least it is available routinely at work or elsewhere. This assumes that one’s employer would not object to conducting UULima business at work. The Nominating Committee must therefore take such internet access capability into account as they wrestle with the task of coming up with the slate of officers for the coming year.

Oddly enough, the question of the internet and computers in general did not thrust itself into my mind because of the UUA, but because of this newsletter. The connection to the newsletter is itself in two parts. First, the obvious attempt on my part to increase

the electronic-only distribution of the newsletter to conserve costs to the Fellowship. Second, was an outgrowth of the discussion of what to do over this summer in the way of discussion group activity. I half-jokingly suggested that what we really needed was a computer class tailored to our congregation’s members’ specific needs. This is, of course, **NOT** the time to conduct such—in fact it is exactly the wrong time for a class. Half the congregation is gone during the summer.

But considering the increasing importance in computer literacy in the operation of the church, it may be that a computer assistance program is the next area of services that our church (and others) must provide for their membership.

There is a problem inherent in attempting such a “class”. Firstly, where and how do you come up with enough computers at what location to hold the series of events. Secondly, any training on a classroom computer has one tremendous drawback—it is not the student’s computer and things look and feel (and sometimes work) differently.

There may be a solution to all of this, and it would only work because of our small congregation. A “Round-Robin” group of three

or four students meeting with the instructor in each of their homes on different weeks just might be able to cover all the questions and address the unique issues that each student has with their own machine. In 3 or 4 weeks, each student would have had one session on his or her own machine. The group is not large enough to cause undue hardship for the student hosting any given week's event. It just might work.

Now the question arises, is this what we want to do, and when do we start? The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind—next year's wind. See you in September?

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

*The past is history - the future a mystery.
But today is a gift, which is why it's called
the Present!*

Birthdays

May—None listed...
 Brian Young—June 7
 Saharra Young—June 23
 Kevin Mack—July 6
 Louise Daniels—July 22
 John Bell—August 7
 Barbara Wilson—August 19
 Cris Elstro—August 29
 Liesl Sondheimer—September 16
 Katie Mack—September 25
 Rick Siferd—September 25

Anniversaries

Adaline Bridges—June 7
 Marilyn Bell—August 3

If I missed your birthday or anniversary it is because I was not aware of it. Please inform me of same and I will add your information to the list.

Event Schedule

May

28 -- [Ted Houghton](#) - *The Human Condition: Maya, Duhka, and Original Sin*
 - Service Leader: Anne Edwards

June

04 — 10:00am Summer Discussion Group:
 Book—*To Heal A Fractured World: The Ethics Of Responsibility* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks—Facilitator: Cris Elstro
 11—Discussion Group
 18—Discussion Group
 25—Discussion Group

* Full Schedule at <http://www.uulima.org> *
 Did you know that we also have a Church Calendar? You may access it at:
http://calendar.yahoo.com/uu_lima

Treasurer's Summary

Balance 4/9/06 _____	\$7718.35
Transactions 4/10/06-5/14/06:	
Total Receipts _____	1246.66
Total Expenditures _____	1017.12
Balance 5/14/06 _____	\$7947.89
Net for the Period _____	229.54

Executive Committee Summary

The May 15, 2006 meeting was a busy one with four main votes taken. In the first, the Board essentially reconsidered one of last month's adopted motions and voted to fully fund not only one General Assembly delegate's registration fee, but expenses as well—at least for this year. The motion

was: *At the annual discretion of the Executive committee, an estimate of one delegate's expenses will be made and that amount tendered to the delegate from the general fund. Any funds left over upon return from GA will be returned to the general fund.* No one other than **Barbara Wilson** has expressed an interest in going to GA this year, so she and **Chuck Thomas** will represent us at GA. Anyone who wishes her to address a particular issue should contact her directly.

The second vote concerned a lack of sufficient hymnals during well-attended services. Some hymnals are legitimately "on loan" to persons who need them to perform routine and ongoing tasks related to Programming. For instance, Barbara has one in her capacity as Music Director. *The purchase of six additional hymnals to make up the difference was authorized unanimously.* At the same time, we would like to ask everyone who has a hymnal to consider your current requirements and return the book if at all possible and consistent with what you are doing for the Fellowship at this time. "Hey, Buddy, can you spare a song book?"

Perhaps more discussion revolved around the third vote than all the rest of the issues combined. Ultimately, the book that will be used for this summer's discussion group was chosen. Initially proposed by Cris Elstro, *To Heal A Fractured World—The Ethics of Responsibility* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks was the overwhelming winner. June 4th will be the first session, so those wishing to get the book must make their wishes known immediately. The regular price at Amazon.com is \$16.50, and if we want to get a bulk discount we must order all of them as a group.

By contrast, the fourth motion was in regard to our regular service schedule and slightly modifies the Order of Service. *Service Leaders are urged to read a short (3 minute*

maximum) selection written by a deceased member, or an original poem/essay of their own or a current member, during the chalice lighting. This step was taken for two reasons. It was noted that Nancy and Otto Austin's writings presented at the Library Dedication Ceremony had an extremely powerful effect. These resources should be utilized to such good effect as much as possible. Secondly, there is the intent to stimulate current members to write their own works, which can hopefully be gathered and published as were those of past members.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held June 19 at Liesl's.

Annual Meeting Summary

On May 21st, our congregation held its Annual Meeting immediately following a delicious potluck. We breezed through the usual officer and committee reports and then got down to work.

The Nominating Committee's slate of officers was unanimously elected. They are:
President—MD Wilson VP—Don Mack
Sec.—Marilyn Bell Treas.—Evelyn Vanek
Trustee—Louise Daniels RE co-chairs—
Barbara Wilson and John Bell.

Next year's Nominating Committee was elected and consists of Rick Siferd, Edie Dunbar and Don Mack.

As previously reported in these pages, there were two amendments to our Code of Regulations on the agenda. Both passed unanimously and the updated document will be available to all on the website soon.

Still in a unanimous mood, the assembly ratified Chuck Thomas and Barbara Wilson as this year's delegates to General Assembly.

There followed a LOT of discussion around taking the initial step in the UUA's "Uncommon Denomination" program to promote and grow our congregation. The motion was: Commit ourselves to the process and authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with its implementation. The actual first step that was implicitly agreed upon was that the newly elected president should fill out, sign and send in the Covenant between the UUA, Heartland District and our congregation that initiates the process. This motion carried, with one abstention and a minority opposed. A sample of the media materials available in the program appears elsewhere on this page. Others similar to it will appear in future editions of this newsletter.

Finally, a proposal from the floor to authorize the Executive Committee to pursue putting a portion, perhaps as much as \$3000, of our usual annual budgetary surplus into a CD of some sort was passed unanimously.

Just before we adjourned, a question from the floor prompted your president's tacit admission that there has been at least one, and possibly more, request for adult education in UU principles and such that—for one reason or another—has not been fulfilled. Expressing frustration and a sense of failure, he vowed to implement such a program in the coming year, with a suggestion from the floor that a special group meet on some evening during the week. As a result, he charged the new RE co-chairs to come up with a workable solution to the problem.

President's Pulpit

As if I haven't spouted off enough in this issue, there is one more announcement to be made. It appears here because there are a few who do not have email and missed my announcement in church that I am taking a

new job. I will no longer be employed by Sprint. The newly spun-off Local Division of Sprint, now known as Embarq, will be my new employer. While I will be sitting at the very same desk, I will no longer have anything to do with Client Support. Instead, I will be what is called a "Packager". This entails preparing software for electronic distribution to the roughly 20,000 computers that are scattered throughout the company.

I therefore begin the summer with a real distraction, which may entail my being out of town in training for a week or so at some point. I beg your indulgence.

Imagine a religion
where people with
different beliefs
worship
as **one faith.**

The Uncommon
Denomination

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