



DENTON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

<http://www.dentonuuf.org>

August 2010 Newsletter

Just Sayin'



Dear Members and Friends,

Last spring, the 2009-2010 Board of Trustees met on multiple occasions (more than five and that's a lot) to hammer out some long-range plans for the Fellowship. That process included participation from members of the congregation on a Saturday morning and Monday evening. The results? Please see the "Ends Statements" published on page three. In the best of all worlds, these Ends Statements reflect who we are and what we want to do as a Fellowship. Of course, Ends Statements and long-range planning are hollow phrases and wasted effort without the proverbial buy-in from members. Fortunately, our Fellowship believes in the democratic process. Accordingly, after the Sunday Worship Service on August 22nd we will gather for a Congregational Meeting so that members can formally endorse (vote on) these Ends Statements.

I have to admit to being somewhat conflicted about long-range planning. Consider these disparate views:

"Everyone has a plan - until they get punched in the face."

- Mike Tyson, Boxer

"Have a plan. Follow the plan, and you'll be surprised how successful you can be. Most people don't have a plan. That's why it's easy to beat most folks."

- Paul "Bear" Bryant, football coach, University of Alabama's Crimson Tide.

OK, my apologies for the sports metaphor. And the irony surrounding my skeptical attitude toward long-range planning - I am a management professor after all -- is not lost on me. Nevertheless, as an alumnus of the University of Alabama (Final Score: Alabama 37 Texas 21) I am compelled to revere the words of Coach Bryant. And, to be honest, the long-range planning process did open my eyes to the dreams and aspirations of my friends at the Fellowship. I should add that there was a lot of energy and enthusiasm generated during those meetings.

In closing, I hope you will take some time to read and think about our (your and my) "Ends Statements." More important, think about how you can help realize those lofty goals. Otherwise what Yogi Berra once said will come true *"You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there."*

In Faith,
Mark Davis
Congregation President

MANY THANKS!



What wonderful participation in the Apple Tree Project by DUUF members & friends, as well as friends of DUUF members & friends! The Fellowship has provided two sets of clothing for **16** children, in addition to contributing a total of **\$370** to Interfaith Ministries of Denton. That is the highest number of children clothed & monies received since Wendy Leung has been coordinating this annual effort. The following is a list of people who shopped & gave donations.

John Beckett, Suzanne Blaylock, Lynda Brown, Lori Cadwallader (2 children), Community School, Norma Davidson, Mary Curtis/Mark Davis (2 children), Ellen Frenkel, Eva Hunter, Wendy and Paul Leung (2 children), Marilyn and Bob McWilliams, Rebecca Meyer, Solveig Olsen, Theresa Page, John Plevock, Judy Smith, Kelly Taylor.

Others may have sent contributions directly to Interfaith and those donations are not included in the \$370. Thanks are extended to them!

You may still participate in this Project. Call Ann Pape at 940-566-3927, or email her at annpape@ifmdenton.org to obtain an Apple student. Or you can send your donation to Interfaith Ministries, PO Box 1744, Denton, TX 76202.



Report from GA 2010 - Resolution on GA 2012 in Phoenix, AZ

As the DUUF delegate to GA 2010, I want to report on the major action that was taken regarding the location of the 2012 GA.

1. When the Arizona anti-immigrant law was signed this spring, the UUA Board was faced with a moral dilemma as the 2012 GA had been scheduled for Phoenix & advanced payments had been made.
2. Initially, the Board decided to join other groups in an economic boycott of Arizona, & drafted a resolution to be voted on at GA that would move GA to another state, even though it would result in substantial losses of deposits.
3. At the Mini-assembly at GA on this resolution, the ministers & church members from Arizona asked that this be changed, & begged us to come to AZ in 2012 to support them & their efforts in protesting AZ Law SB 1070. They described this as the Civil Rights struggle of our decade & asked UUs come & witness as they did in the south in the 1960s.
4. After much discussion & debate, the resolution was redrafted to call for GA to meet in Phoenix in 2012 to support the Arizona UUs. Further recommendations were that GA not be "Business as Usual" there but rather that it be a "Justice GA"—with events focusing on immigration, racial & economic justice. We have been invited to partner with the groups Puente (Bridge) & the National Day Laborers Organizing Network.
5. This was the resolution that was presented to the Assembly for a vote. Ministers from the Arizona churches made a moving presentation asking for us to join them. They then introduced the Hispanic organizer of the Puente Arizona Movement, who praised the local UUs for their active support. Because most of the UUs attend the marches & demonstrations wearing their yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts, he calls them "The Love People."
6. After discussion & debate, the resolution was passed overwhelmingly, & a pledge was made that, unless things change, the planners would work to make as small an economic "footprint" as possible—perhaps renting some of the large black churches for meetings rather than the Convention Center.

Please feel free to talk to me or go to the UUA website www.uua.org if you would like more information.

Gerry Veeder
Denton UUF Board Trustee



Board to Approve Ends Statements

As part of the long-range planning process in the spring, the Board, with input from the congregation, has generated the following Ends Statements as a set of objectives intended as a guide for the Fellowship over the next few years. If you would like to comment on or have questions about these Ends Statements, please talk to any member of the Board of Trustees. The board will move to approve these Ends Statements at the next Congregational Meeting, Sunday, August 22, 2010.

To effectively and enthusiastically further its mission, the Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship covenants that...

Growth and Membership Involvement

Visitors and newcomers are nurtured by church practices to become members.

A clear path to membership is provided to those who wish to join and new members are quickly and actively engaged in the life of the Fellowship.

A warm and welcoming atmosphere at worship services and other events, along with a wider community profile encourages enthusiastic participation.

A vibrant membership committee is charged with and empowered to achieving optimal growth and effective membership processes.

Ministerial Leadership and Support

The roles and responsibilities of the minister and the lay membership are clearly defined in an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration that reinforces a philosophy of shared ministry.

Standards of fair compensation promoting equity and trust with the minister are established.

A Committee on Ministry facilitates and promotes the ministerial/congregational relationship.

The minister is empowered to provide entrepreneurial leadership to the fellowship.

Worship Experience

The Worship Committee works collaboratively with and supports the minister in order to provide vibrant and diverse spiritual experiences for the fellowship, with diverse lay participation.

Spiritual growth is promoted through services and programs that include traditional and new rituals, diverse holidays, stimulating speakers, and activities promoting social justice.

The words and music of Unitarian Universalist writers, ministers, leaders, and musicians are used to provide a distinctively Unitarian Universalist experience of liberal religion.

Social Action

Partnerships with religious and lay groups that share our values on particular issues are established and nurtured.

The values of justice and compassion embodied in our faith are proclaimed with words and actions.

Educational programs and other resources are developed for all age groups to promote social justice issues and actions.

Religious Education

The children and youth of our church who participate in our religious education program reflect Unitarian Universalist values.

Spiritual growth and inspiration among members and friends of all ages is promoted in words and actions.

Spiritual and intellectual needs of the congregation are nurtured by providing opportunities for lifelong religious education that includes Humanist, Pagan, philosophical, and other ideas.

Congregational and Community Life

Opportunities for a shared social life are promoted, including potlucks, parties, field trips, and other gatherings for interest groups, families, and the entire fellowship and its friends.

We affirm our commitment as a Welcoming Congregation.

We reach out to the University communities.

Egalitarian, inclusive, and effective participation in the governance of our Fellowship is promoted and nurtured on all committees, boards, and volunteer activities.

Who's Who at DUUF

Rev. Pamela Wat, Consultant Minister, hours by appt

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Gerry Veeder, Trustee (Odd Year) and

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John Beckett, Past President

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August Worship

August 1: Awesome Talent Among Us - A Service of Arts

August 8: Immigration

August 15: The Case for God

August 22: Women's Equality Day

Aug. 29 Ingathering

August Birthdays' and Anniversaries'

3 Faye Hudson

10 Angie Dickinson

11 Shari Withey

13 Linda Roth

14 Mary Curtis & Mark Davis

15 Theresa Page

16 Sharon Barnhill

17 Bill Barnhill

22 Bonnie Davidson

23 Jackie & Hal Gibbons; Solveig Olsen

28 Bob Olson & Nga Nguyen

To include special dates please call Wendy Leung at 940-321-8961 or email wleung50@hotmail.com.

More at: www.dentonuuf.org | Facebook | Blogger



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