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Annual Report Notes 2009

Every year there has been some crisis, kerfuffle or emergency emerge. This year has been remarkable in it's smoothness. (Though we still have month and a half.)

Change in Service Times

Last fall we shifted our Sunday service times. And our families voted to move the children and youth program to the earlier service.

The shift has been very successful. Service attendance has evened out so that there is room for new folks in both services. All age services are better attended than in the recent past.

The shift wasn't completely painless. Some families found the earlier hour hard. The attendance at lunch has been lower. And we've had to make some adjustments in congregational events, like the annual meeting, to make it's as easy as possible for all to attend.

But all things considered, it went amazingly smoothly.

Roger

This year also brought Roger in as our Family Minister. Roger's presence has brought energy, a new source of regular communication through his mid-week emails, lightness, humor and depth in the pulpit, new ideas to religious education, new member orientations, family friendly dinners and much more. He's been wonderful colleague to work with.

Margaret

Margaret Wilcox has brought thoughtfulness and steady wisdom to the congregational presidency. She's been wonderful, as have the other officers: Linda Klein, Carrie Cornwell and Lisa Malkin.

In fact, it has been a very good Board. The Board has built skillfully on the work of previous Boards and moved us into serious and substantive Long Range planning – not easy for UU congregations.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Drive this year was amazingly successful. I know we still need to hear from some of you. But right now, we have more money pledged this year than ever. And this during shaky economic times. This says a lot for the heart and generosity of us all. Many thanks to Rich and Mary Howard for managing the stewardship two years in a row. Next year, Ginger Enrico and Joann Anglin will be guiding our efforts. So please let them know how you'd like to help.

My Contributions

Margaret told me I should tell you a about my contributions this year. I feel shy about this because I resist doing anything by myself except write sermons. If can't get anyone interested in something, then it probably isn't worth doing. So there are a lot of things

I support, guide or help but I don't want to take credit for other's good work.

Probably my most important role is to hold up a mirror to help us all see our spiritual nature and attend to the health of our religious community. My series of "Religious Experience" is one outward expression of this. But there are other things I've done collaboratively or promoted actively behind the scenes. For example:

The welcoming entry project, long range planning, shaping the new part-time Membership Support position we hope to start in the fall, community garden, a possible new labyrinth, new member orientations, stewardship drive, recruiting various leaders, Alliance (though I missed a few meetings this year), camp out, all ages activities, new member socials, reformatting membership directory, to name a few.

I meet regularly with the staff, the Board and the Program Council, and have had a hand in shaping things like the use of bequests policy, budget priorities and building use policies.

I try to get to Forum and Social Responsibilities, Green Sanctuary, Family Promise, PeaceMakers, Community Garden, etc. but don't always get there or get there late because they like to meet after Sunday services and I like to be as available as I can to individuals then.

I play direct leadership roles with Ministry Circle Facilitators, Lay Ministry, Spiritual Journeys Group, Sharing the Path, Religious Services Committee and training Worship Leaders. Next Fall I'll be starting a new intensive training program called "Spiritual Grounded Leadership."

I give direct supervision to May, Barbara and Roger and give support to other staff.

I also do weddings, memorials, individual and family pastoral counseling.

I am a voice for Unitarian Universalism in our larger community, with the press, at rallies, at CSU and in community organizations.

In our larger UU circle I continue to serve as Good Offices to the Pacific Central District. This means I am a kind of minister's minister available to help ministers sort out problems. I serve on the Executive Committee for the Pacific Central Unitarian Universalist Ministers. I'm on a Ministers-District Executive relations team. I formally mentor a number of newer ministers. And I'll be the lead chaplain again this year at the national General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

And most importantly, I helped Roger get an old couch out of his apartment that he didn't have room for – we gently dropped it off his balcony.

Next Year

As for the coming year, I want to mention a few things and then see if you have any questions.

The **Welcoming Entry Project** is not just about physically improving the entry. It is about limbering up for long-range planning and a capital campaign.

Some background: the congregation hasn't done a significant capital campaign in many years. Some people feel discouraged about our ability to do one. At the same time, we are interested in improving our campus and there is a lot of generosity here. We've been a little shy about asking for that generosity. So

in the last few years people have had to sneak in the back door and leave checks ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

So, as we begin long range planning in earnest, I thought it would be helpful to do some smaller project – something with a high aesthetic impact and modest budget that would remind us of what we can do. The project includes input from the congregation as well as its own fundraising. These are a warm up for the larger long-range planning which will include a new building master plan and programming.

I am very excited about the welcoming entry project. I hope you'll

look at it and give them your input, if you haven't already. And offer them whatever financial gifts you feel moved to. And tell them not be shy about accepting your gifts. I certainly plan to.

And finally, next year we hope to hire a part-time **Membership Support** person. We've talked about this for years. It is needed to help newer folks as well as longer-term members find good connections here. The Board has voted to use some of the bequest money we received this year as seed money to get this up and running.

Any Questions?