

***2021-2022
Oberlin
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
Annual Report***

June 12, 2022

Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2021-2022 Annual Meeting Agenda
June 12th, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Words and Chalice Lighting
3. Welcome
 - a) Confirmation of Quorum (23 members)
 - b) Review of Agenda
4. Approval of 2021 annual minutes
5. Staff - Thank You's
6. Financial Report
 - a) Vote on Budget for 2022-2023
7. Minister's report
8. Committee Reports
9. 8th Principle
10. Vote on Causes of the Month
11. Leadership Elections for the Board, Nominating Committee and COM
12. HB109 Resolution Vote
13. Bylaw Changes Vote
14. Board President - Thank You's
15. Closing Words and Chalice Extinguishing

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, June 13, 2021

OOUF Board president Stephanie Gibson called the Zoom meeting to order at 12:00 pm, after verifying that a quorum (23 members) was present. After providing opening words and lighting the chalice, Rev. Mary Grigolia explained the ground rules for the Zoom polling process to be used in our elections.

Stephanie referred attendees to the Annual Report packet distributed via email, noting that there was an adjustment to the agenda. Treasurer Cindy Frantz will present the financial report and the vote on the budget later in the meeting. She also explained that the Annual Meeting packet includes all reports except for those of Building and Grounds and Communications which were not received in time for inclusion.

Review and Approval of June 14, 2020, Minutes – Minutes for the 2020 Annual Meeting were presented. **The motion to approve these minutes was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Appreciations – Rev. Mary expressed gratitude for those who have helped us present inspiring hybrid services this past year: Katie Cross who made music singable and accessible; Lara Lillibridge who showed us how it's possible to embrace Zoom; and Jeff Witmer and Cindy Frantz who stepped up to serve as Zoom co-hosts. Stephanie thanked Rev. Mary for her extraordinary efforts on our behalf during these trying times.

Rev. Mary lifted up the reality that our Fellowship has stepped up consistently during this pandemic period, noting that we have fared better than some other comparable-sized congregations. Our Caring Team led by Ann Cook-Frantz, Sara King, Katie Cross, Gail Powell, Kathleen Carothers, and others has reached out to members to help maintain OOUF's sense of community.

Membership Committee - Chair Stephanie Gibson noted that OOUF membership remains at 68 members. This figure is the same as last year. Holding on-line Zoom services for the past months has markedly limited the number of new visitors we might have had.

The pandemic showed us the need for spiritual community. How do we share what we have to offer and strengthen and grow our congregation? An important first step has been the efforts to update our website. This fall, we are planning three workshops on "Getting the Word Out," focusing on the WHY of our congregation, WHAT we have to offer, and WHO may benefit. Guided by marketing consultant Cindy Carty, we'll bring into focus what our congregation has to offer, learn the seven functions of marketing, and create a plan to welcome newcomers in the upcoming congregational year.

UUA 8th UU Principle: Committing to Racial Justice - The UUA February 2020 report "Widening the Circle of Concern" discusses how the UUA and individual congregations can successfully combat racism. This led to a proposed 8th Principle: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to

affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Rev. Mary and Stephanie plan to hold a series of workshop in the fall and winter to explore racism and racial justice through UU lenses of theology and practice. We will discuss four of the chapters from the report: Theology; Congregations and Communities; Hospitality and Inclusion; and Living Our Values in the World. Then the congregation will vote on whether we support adoption of the proposed 8th Principle.

ReTooling for New Realities - Lara Lillibridge reported on this UUA 8-month program designed by Renee Ruchotzke which began on November 30, 2020. Our congregational team -- Thom Colon, Ann Cook-Franz, and Lara -- met via Zoom with three other congregations with membership between 60 and 150: South Berkshires, MA; Jackson, MS; and Utica, NY. Each congregation studied videos and readings, met together as a large group, then broke into smaller groups to explore the topics more closely. Our team also met on Zoom with Rev. Mary every month to discuss the topics as they apply to OUUF.

The final ReTooling meeting is this June. The takeaway of the program is to identify some "low-cost, high reward" suggestions to bring back to the congregation, such as increasing our online visibility via social media, drafting statements or Letters to the Editor after major events, or distributing pamphlets or business cards to random locations.

We learned that all our congregations are struggling with the same issues: awakening to white supremacy culture, becoming more inclusive and welcoming, facing low youth attendance, and dealing with the burnout of the same core of volunteers.

Financial Report and Vote on Budget for 2021-2022 - Treasurer Cindy Frantz noted that the budget for 2020-2021 and the proposed budget for 2021-2022 are included in the Annual Meeting packet. Although we are unable to fund our Dream Budget for 2021-2022 due to the increased cost of developing hybrid services, we have included a 2% raise for staff and increased the dues payment to UUA from \$1,000 to \$3,000. And we do have a bit of a slush fund.

Using the Zoom polling process, members were asked: Do you approve the proposed 2021-2022 budget for OUUF (which was recommended by the Finance Committee, and approved by Board)? Yes, No, or Abstain.

The 2021-2022 budget was approved by a majority "Yes" vote.

Causes of the Month Recommendations for 2021-2022 - Elizabeth Aldrich noted that there were no responses to the email queries asking for new cause of the month suggestions. Social Justice chair Sarah King reports that the team has decided to rollover the current 2020-2021 list of causes of the month into 2021-2022. Beginning in July 2021, the list of causes and the order in which they appear will be: Oberlin Weekday Community Meals, League of Women Voters-Oberlin Area Education Fund, El Centro, Genesis House, OCS Helping Hands, UU Service Committee-Guest At Your

Table, Let's Get Real, Haven Center of Neighborhood Alliance, Lorain County Free Clinic, Lorain County Rape Crisis Center, UUA Disaster Relief Fund, Family Planning Service of Lorain County.

Nominating Committee Report and Vote - The 2021 Nominating Committee (Jo Huber, Katie Cross, Lisette Burwasser) presented the slate of nominees. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected. Voting will be done using the Zoom polling process.

Nominated for 2021-2022 OUUF Board of Trustees for one-year terms: President Jeff Witmer, Vice President Stephanie Gibson, Treasurer Cindy Frantz, Secretary Elizabeth Aldrich, Trustee-at-Large Jan Larsen

Nominated for 2021-2022 Committee on Ministry three-year term: Tina Graf

Nominated for 2021-2022 Nominating Committee three-year term: Joanne Rahn

Thom Colon nominated **Don Leake for 2021-2022 Trustee-at-Large for one-year term.**

President Stephanie Gibson called for nominations from the floor, noting that any voting member may make nominations from the floor, provided the consent of the nominees shall have been secured. There being none, she asked for a motion to allow Jeff Witmer to serve a fifth year on the Board.

Using the Zoom polling process, members were asked: Do you approve extending Jeff Witmer an additional year of service on the Board? Yes, No, or Abstain

The one-year extension of Jeff Witmer's Board service was approved by a majority "Yes" vote.

President Stephanie Gibson asked for a vote on each individual candidate listed above.

Using the Zoom polling process, members were asked: Do you approve of the candidate? Yes, No, or Abstain.

Each individual candidate was approved by by a majority "Yes" vote.

Board President Thank You - Stephanie thanked Cindy Frantz for serving as Treasurer and expressed appreciation for her willingness to step up and help in other areas, developing surveys, arranging the installation of the bike rack, and initiating fund raising. She thanked Jeff Witmer for serving as President and for his efforts (and Rev. Mary's) to step up and handle our Zoom hosting technology.

Special Appreciations - Stephanie thanked Diantha Paré for her continuing vision and support of our beloved garden. Diantha has served this Fellowship well, helping us to achieve our goal to become a host church for Family Promise, working on various committees, and leading our Board as first vice chair, and then chair. But most importantly, in May 2012 she took on the task of creating a garden for us and helping us maintain it. Thank you, Diantha!

Closing Words and Chalice Extinguishing - Rev. Mary Grigolia offered the closing words and extinguished the chalice.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Aldrich, Secretary pro temp

OUUF 2021-22 FINANCIAL REPORT

prepared by Cindy Frantz, Treasurer

<i>INCOME</i>	<i>2022-23 Proposed Budget</i>	<i>2022-23 Dream Budget</i>	<i>2021-22 Budget</i>	<i>2021-22 INCOME As of 5/31/22</i>
Pledges	\$ 86,285	\$ 91,000	\$ 83,615	\$ 74,393
Operations	\$ 85,585	\$ 91,000	\$ 82,175	\$ 73,713
Capital Fund	\$ 700	??	\$ 1,440	\$ 680
Investment Funds				\$ -
Weekly Collection	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 9,371
Operations	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,745
Min Disc Fund				\$ 600
Cause of Month				\$ 2,026
Capital Fund				\$ 5,000
Misc Income				\$ 2,151
Special Donations	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,220
Fundraising	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,004
Bed & Breakfast	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,542
Rental Income	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 240
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 95,285	\$ 100,000	\$ 92,615	\$ 83,895

<i>PAYROLL</i>	<i>2022-23 Proposed Budget</i>	<i>2022-23 Dream Budget</i>	<i>2021-22 Budget</i>	<i>2021-22 EXPENSES as of 5/31/22</i>
Minister-Salary & Pens	\$ 30,600	\$ 31,564	\$ 30,350	\$ 25,569
Minister Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 622
DRE Salary	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,251	\$ 6,402
DRE Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Sunday School assistan	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,000	\$ 266
OWL Dirextor	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ -	-
Campus Coordinator	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	-
Music Director	\$ 7,344	\$ 7,638	\$ 7,344	\$ 5,304
Administrative Asst.	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,092	\$ 4,896	\$ 4,392
Custodian	\$ 6,240	\$ 6,240	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,840
Withholding taxes	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,007	\$ 4,345	\$ 8,144
Worker's Compensatio	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ (6)
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$ 69,085	\$ 67,700	\$ 62,846	\$ 54,033

BUILDING EXPENSES	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Dream Budget	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 EXPENSES as of 5/31/22
Utilities	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,354
Mortgage&, Ins.	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,100	\$ 5,856
Maintainance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,111
cleaning & supplies	\$ 100	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ -
Garden Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750
Capital Improvements	\$ 700	??	\$ 1,440	\$ 4,995
TOTAL BUILDING EXP	\$ 17,800	\$ 17,680	\$ 17,920	\$ 24,066

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Dream Budget	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 EXPENSES as of 5/31/22
Office, copier, supplies	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,081
Dues	\$ 1,425	\$ 5,745	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Communication	\$ 1,000	\$ 850	\$ 900	\$ 354
TOTAL ADMIN	\$ 4,725	\$ 8,895	\$ 6,200	\$ 5,434

PROGRAM EXPENSES	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Dream Budget	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 EXPENSES as of 5/31/22
Worship	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,290
Music	\$ 500	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 155
RE Expenses	\$ 800	\$ 1,150	\$ 900	\$ 157
Adult Program	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Membership	\$ 625	\$ 625	\$ 450	\$ 250
Social Action	\$ 500	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 340
Hospitality	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ -
Care	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
Café Q	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
OWL	\$ -	\$ 250		\$ -
TOTAL PROGRAM EXP	\$ 3,675	\$ 5,725	\$ 5,050	\$ 2,292

TOTALS - ALL EXPENS	\$ 95,285	\$ 100,000	\$ 92,016	\$ 85,826
BALANCE	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ 599	\$ (1,931)

ASSETS AND DEBTS AS OF 5/31/22

MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL BALANCE	
as of 5/26/22	\$26,272.59
monthly payment	\$295.29
Interest Rate	6.50%

(was 5.88%)

CASH ASSETS AS OF 5/31/22	\$57,514.91
Checking Account Balance	\$56,022.76
Paypal Account	\$219.16
Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$1,272.99
ADJUSTMENTS	
Uncashed checks	\$75.00
Capital Campaign	\$9,639.00
Garden Fund	\$22,621.31
Youth Group funds	\$132.50
BLUU Money Undistributed	\$293.00
Funds for next year's operating budget	\$24,445.00
Available for Operating Expenses	(\$963.89)

INVESTMENTS	
EDWARD JONES	As of May 31
Mutual Fund CSGCX	15,183.12
Mutual Fund CSIBX	7,383.72
Mutual Fund CSIEX	24,193.94
Cash	0.52
CURRENT TOTAL	46,761.30
TRILLIUM MUTUAL FUNDS	
Mutual Fund PORTX	42,700.59
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL INVESTMENTS	89,461.89

2021-2022 MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION
From Rev. Mary Grigolia to the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This has been a tumultuous year, with morphing pandemic and attacks on democracy and human rights - at home and around the world.

Before OUUF welcomed us back into the building on Sunday mornings this winter, members and friends (and I) complained about Zoom yet showed up consistently, grateful for continuing connections, surprised by their depth, "even on Zoom."

With the world around us, we are in a collective sea of exhaustion, denial, irritation, loss, fear, confusion. Much of 'normal' collapsed or shifted.

This is also an unparalleled opportunity to explore who we are becoming.

Last fall, a robust group of members participated in Getting the Word Out, a workshop series to explore and find our "brand essence," an up-to-date declaration of why we're here and what we offer. Our brand essence emerged as, "Oasis of Loving Engagement." I'm excited to support those working to get our message out to those yearning for open-hearted, open-minded spiritual community.

OUUF is a 'place' for reawakening us to life, through loving engagement. In the past two years, the 'place' was largely on Zoom, and we discovered to our amazement that heart-centered truth-telling/sharing via Zoom also serves as our Oasis.

Amidst outer and institutional challenges, turmoil, OUUF programs and services for our Oasis of Loving Engagement remained robust and well-attended. Sunday service attendance and participation remained mostly stable, with a few people falling away and a few newcomers showing up. There is gratitude for being together on-site for Sunday services, coffee hours, potlucks. Living with Change covenant group, What Would Jesus Do, Men's Group, Current Affairs Covenant group, Resilience monthly Kendal UU gathering - are all stable and offered in-person. OUUF members and friends Zoom in for the two Thursday meditation groups, and for Olmsted-sponsored programs: Poems to Live By/Poems Wake You Up, Reading Marginalized Writers Book Group, Dream Group, WISE Women.

There was robust participation from OUUF (and from Olmsted UU) at the January Worship Retreat, exploring what people yearn for and need from our congregation(s). Responses provide us a road map for rebuilding connections in this coming year and for deepening our focus on UU spiritual practices - using the principles, values, and sources to root us in new ways of being and offering spiritual community to respond to the needs of our time. And from a recent study group on the UUA Bylaws, we hear the need to root ourselves in the collective power and unifying theology of covenant, to be of benefit to one another and to our wider communities. We also hear the need to root ourselves in the Universalist side of our heritage - the Love holding us, holding all Life.

And, like all communities, we're experiencing reactivity - from pandemic exhaustion and impatience. We all are prone to look for someone/something to blame; and it's easy to blame spiritual communities powered by well-meaning though fallible humans. Several members have stepped away. We wish them well on their continuing journeys. If it's right for them to return, we'll welcome them.

This report also serves as a summary of the work of the Worship Team and the Adult Team. Both teams continued meeting this year with Olmsted's Sunday Service Committee and Adult Program Team. We suspect we will disengage somewhat this coming year. Both teams are in need of volunteers to define and support new structures. Join us!

This was a challenging year for the Board and Committee on Ministry. As a small congregation there's a tendency to be informal in training and expectations for leadership. I am deeply grateful for the care and courage in response to challenges which led the Board to consider several bylaws proposals. What is less visible are the spiritual changes in those who participated: going to deeper levels of truth-telling and care, setting boundaries, and holding one another with kindness.

We're in collective uncharted waters, between the worlds, without a map.

How exciting! May our UU tradition call us to:

Accept ourselves and one another as we are; to feel our feelings; to choose again and again to live from inherent worth and dignity, and to support one another in so doing; to listen to one another and speak our truth with kindness; to act with compassion, for justice; and to trust and strengthen the interdependent web of spiritual community we create together, as we evolve our Oasis of Loving Engagement.

*In fellowship,
Rev. Mary*

Oberlin UU Fellowship Religious Exploration Annual Report – June 2022

The work of the Director of Religious Exploration and the Religious Exploration Committee of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is driven by the Mission and Vision of the Religious Education Team:

Mission: Religious Education at the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship nurtures children and youth to develop a commitment to religious freedom, critical thinking, ethical action, and individual responsibility. We achieve this through experiential learning and developmentally appropriate curricula in keeping with UU principles and traditions.

Vision: Religious Education at the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship builds spiritually healthy children who respect themselves, each other, and the world. It

provides a safe and nurturing environment in which adults and children can collectively pursue their spiritual connection.

Our current RE Committee consists of: Stephanie Gibson, Katie Cross and Colleen Dirk. The 2021-22 year has been one of transition. At the beginning of the year, our DRE was Lara Lillibridge. She resigned in the fall but continued doing the Sunday morning Zoom services through the end of May 2022 on a contract basis. We have hired long-time member Hanna Steele as our new DRE, and she will be starting on June 1st, 2022.

The most successful part of the RE program this year has been the Sunday Morning Zoom Program for the younger children. We currently have 8 children from 6 families attending. Sunday Zoom is from 10:15 to 10:45. It has generally been led by Lara Lillibridge this year, with Katie Cross assisting on music. The routine is for Lara to check in with the kids about their “roses and thorns”, followed by music and a story. The kids are sent a coloring or craft project ahead of time to work on during the service. The children have been focusing on the Principles again this year.

We had one outing for all ages last summer. We went on a canoe trip that allowed us to be together while socially distanced during COVID.

We have not had much of a youth program this year. We hope to revitalize it next year by combining with other congregations.

For OWL (Our Whole Lives) – we have again gone another year without offering this. It is a program that teaches 7th, 8th and 9th graders about sexuality and relationships from a UU perspective. Because this topic is so sensitive, we felt that it must be held in person, rather than Zoom, and we have not been able to meet in person because of COVID until recently. For the past several years, the Director of Religious Exploration has overseen organizing and helping to teach OWL. We chose this year to split the DRE job in two. The DRE had previously been hired for 12 hours a week. We split off 2 of the hours a week and hired Carmen McFarlin as our OWL director, while Hanna has the rest of the DRE job at 10 hours a week. Carmen this year has recruited two volunteers from the community to help lead OWL. They have been trained in teaching OWL this spring. We plan to have two sessions of OWL in the next school year instead of our usual one, one in the fall and one in the spring, in order to make up for the missed sessions in the last two years.

Looking Forward: The youngest children have not yet been vaccinated against COVID, so any in person activities will continue to be outside for now. We hope to schedule more of those over the summer. Once kids can be vaccinated, we will need to make decisions about Zoom vs in person on Sunday morning. Right now, the suggestion has been floated to alternate zoom and in-person. But things remain in flux.

Stephanie Gibson, for the RE committee.

**Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Social Justice Team 2022 Annual Report**

Although the pandemic interrupted in-person meetings, there was still plenty of social justice energy within our congregation. Many thanks to all of you who persevered in challenging circumstances to express, support, and participate in social justice work that had deep, personal meaning to you.

Some of that effort included our ongoing commitment to the Causes of the Month program and the behind-the-scenes work required to complete voting for the annual causes. Our Fellowship has three permanent causes: Oberlin Community Services (OCS) Helping Hands, Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Disaster Relief Fund, and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest At Your Table. OUUF members then choose nine other causes to support each year at the OUUF Annual Meeting

Those nine causes for 2021-2022, from July 2021 through June 2022, were Oberlin Weekday Community Meals – League of Women Voters Oberlin Area Education Fund – El Centro – Genesis House – Let’s Get Real – The Haven Center of Neighborhood Alliance – Lorain County Free Clinic – Lorain County Rape Crisis Center – Family Planning Services.

At the 2022 OUUF Annual Meeting, these organizations plus three proposed causes that we have supported in the past -- the Climate Control Lobby, Lorain County LGBTQ+ & Allies Community Task Force, and Power -- will be on the ballot (attached) from which members of the Fellowship will choose the nine causes to support for 2022-2023.

The congregation’s social justice activities in 2021-22 included:

- Promoting and participating in the annual Oberlin Community Candidates Night, this year presented as virtual sessions.
- Joining the UU the Vote’s and other organization’s efforts with voter registration, education, and protection.
- Participating in Oberlin Community Services Holiday Helping Hands.
- Supporting UUA Disaster Relief Fund.
- Sponsoring and contributing to UUSC Guest At Your Table.
- Participating in Super Bowl of Caring fundraiser for OCS and Oberlin Weekday Community Meals.
- Lifting up the voices of people of color in our weekly practice of Candles for Racial Justice.
- Participating in the UUA study series on the 8th principle and voting to support an explicit commitment to racial justice.
- Supporting the protection of reproductive rights as an expression of UU values: honoring a woman's right to choose, respecting the rule of law in our democracy, and exploring the roots of the cynical grab for power polarizing America.
- Participating in the First Church Green Group gatherings which include representatives from many local Oberlin environmental groups advancing sustainability and climate-change initiatives. In April 2022 at the first in-person

potluck meeting since covid shutdowns, members shared information about current projects.

- Celebrating an Earth Day Awakening that focused on the spiritual and moral imperative that calls us.
- Supporting the work of Oberlin Community Supporting Immigrants, a new nonprofit group organized to help those fleeing persecution and navigating their way around the U.S.'s refugee/asylum/immigration systems.

Whether you support social justice issues through OUUF or outside our congregation or both, everything you do brings more light and love into this world.

Your Social Justice Team

Membership Committee Annual Report 2021-22

The mission of the OUUF Membership Committee is to strengthen the membership of the Fellowship by welcoming prospective members, fostering a welcoming culture, and making our presence visible in the larger community.

This year, the membership committee consisted of Stephanie Gibson (chair), Don Leake and Gail Powell. Mary Grigolia also gives input. Greeters have included Helen Kopp, Don Leake and Gail Powell

We are currently at 66 members, which is slightly down from last year. We have welcomed 3 new members this spring.

We have continued to struggle with COVID this past year and have only recently started having in person services again. As a result, we have started having visitors to our congregation again, which is exciting.

We are working on marketing and have two sub-groups working on that. First, we have a team updating the website that consists of Mary Grigolia, Stephanie Gibson, Don Leake and Jan Larsen. The website was quite out of date, and we have gradually been working through it, updating pages and reformatting sections.

Second, we have the Getting the Word Out team, which includes Stephanie Gibson, Mary Grigolia, Jeff Witmer, Don Leake, John MacDonald and Jo Huber. In the fall, marketing consultant Cindy Carty came and gave us a presentation over three Saturdays on the principles of marketing and gave us any number of suggestions. As a group, we have been reviewing the videos of Cindy's presentation and coming up with a list of things we might do to increase our visibility. We came up with a brand essence for our congregation, Oasis of Loving Engagement.

Nominating Committee slate of candidates for 2022-23

SG President: Stephanie Gibson

Vice President: Lisette Burwasser

Secretary: Elizabeth Aldrich

Treasurer: Cindy Frantz

Board members at large: Jan Larsen and Meridith Sender

Committee on Ministry (joining Tina Graf and Ann Cook-Frantz): Katie Cross

Nominating Committee (joining Joanne Rahn and Katie Cross): Jeff Witmer

JUNE 2022 CAUSE OF THE MONTH BALLOT

You may vote up to and including 9 causes.

OOUF uses a ranking-weighted system when counting votes. Please place a number 1 next to your first choice, a number 2 next to your second choice, and so forth.

_____ **Citizens Climate Lobby** - Empowers everyday people to work together on climate change solutions. Supporters are organized in more than 400 local chapters across the United States including one in Oberlin. Together they build Congressional support for a national bipartisan solution to climate change.

_____ **El Centro** - Focuses on meeting basic human needs, improving physical and mental health, and providing community development as Lorain County's only bilingual social service agency. Donations support its food pantry, create access to mental health services, offer summer workshops for low-income youth, offer citizenship exam classes, and much more.

_____ **Family Planning Services of Lorain County** - Offers affordable reproductive health care to both men and women and their families at medical offices in Elyria and Lorain and provides health education programs on request.

_____ **Genesis House** - Provides a comprehensive range of family-focused services for Lorain County victims of domestic violence. It strive to provide tools to both survivors and loved ones affected by domestic violence. It serve a dual purpose to be both a part of a collaborative community effort to provide a responsive system of care for victims while also raising awareness about domestic violence.

_____ **The Haven Center of Neighborhood Alliance** – Provides shelter, hospitality, meals and comprehensive support services to families without homes. Provides homeless men and women in Lorain County with beds, meals, and support, including referrals for work, vocational rehab programs, and help in applying for affordable housing.

_____ **The League of Women Voters Oberlin Area Education Fund** - Encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. This nonpartisan political organization's Education Fund has 501(c)(3) status.

_____ **Let's Get Real** – Provides alcohol and drug counseling. This centralized Lorain County resource center's mission is to provide information, education, and recovery assistance to family and loved ones in their journey from addiction to recovery.

_____ **Lorain County Free Clinic** - Provides comprehensive health care at low or no cost to the uninsured.

_____ **Lorain County LGBTQ+ & Allies Community Task Force** - Collaborates with community partners to facilitate access to local and regional services and engages the community at large to support Lorain County's LGBTQ+ community. The Task Force was organized in early 2017 to identify the unmet needs of community members.

_____ **Lorain County Rape Crisis (a service of the Nord Center)** - Provides free and confidential support and advocacy 24/7 to men and women of all ages in Lorain County who are survivors of all forms of sexual assault.

_____ **Oberlin Weekday Community Meals** - Serves a free hot meal to anyone in need Monday through Friday, feeding an average 25–30 people each evening, with numbers higher toward the end of the month when other supports, such as food stamps, run out.

_____ **POWER (Providing Oberlin With Energy Responsibly)** - Provides information and assistance in navigating available energy efficiency programs in Oberlin. May be able to provide limited income-based assistance for insulation and weatherization.