

***2022-2023
Oberlin
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
Annual Report***

June 11, 2023

***Oberlin Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship 2022-2023 Annual Meeting
June 11th, 2023***

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Words and Chalice Lighting
3. Welcome
 - a) Confirmation of Quorum (22 members)
 - b) Review of Agenda
4. Approval of 2022 annual minutes
5. Staff - Thank You's
6. Financial Report
 - a) Vote on Budget for 2023-2024
7. Minister's Report
8. Committee Reports
9. Leadership Elections for the Board, Nominating Committee and COM
10. Vote on Causes of the Month
11. Board President - Thank You's
12. Closing Words and Chalice Extinguishing

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, June 12, 2022, in-person/Zoom

1. Call to Order: OUUF Board president Jeff Witmer called the hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting to order at 12:00 pm, after verifying that a quorum (more than 20 members) was present. He reviewed the agenda and referred attendees to the 2022 Annual Report packet distributed via email.

2. Opening Words: Rev. Mary Grigolia offered opening words and lit the chalice.

3. Approval of June 13, 2021, Annual Meeting Minutes: Last year's minutes were presented.

A motion to approve these minutes was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Appreciations: Jeff thanked Eva Wynn for her years of service as our Office Manager and wished her well as she heads off to grad school. And then he welcomed Ryan Mincey as our new Office Manager.

Jeff expressed gratitude for our staff who have helped us present inspiring hybrid services this past year: Music Director Katie Cross who has continued to face the challenge of making uplifting music during a pandemic; Children's Church Program Coordinator Lara Lillibridge who creatively served until March 31, 2022 (Hanna Steele takes on the job of DRE on July 1); Rev. Mary for her extraordinary efforts on our behalf during these trying time. And special thanks to John McDonald for his efforts to maintain our Building and Grounds.

5. Financial Report

a) Vote on Budget for 2022-2023. Treasurer Cindy Frantz presented the proposed 2022-2023 budget for OUUF which was recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board. She noted that the current budget for 2021-2022 and the proposed budget for 2022-2023 are included in the Annual Meeting packet. We are unable to fund our Dream Budget for 2022-2023 due to increased costs in various areas. Although we are unable to give our paid staff raises or pay the full dues payment to UUA, we have increased the monthly payment to the Office Manager whose job responsibilities will now include basic bookkeeping duties and support for the OUUF Treasurer. **A motion to approve the proposed 2022-2023 budget was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.**

b) Vote to Approve Contract with West Roofing. The Board has reviewed options to repair the roof at 355 East Lorain St. and has determined the best proposal had been offered by West Roofing in LaGrange, a local company. West has made a bid to repair the roof for up to \$50,000, with a 15-year warranty. We have received a \$15,000 donation for this purpose and will start a capital campaign to support the project.

A motion to authorize the Board to enter into a formal contract for up to \$50,000 with West Roofing was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Minister's Report. Rev. Mary Grigolia's submitted report include the reports for the Worship Team and the Adult Program Team. She noted that 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 were grateful that Zoom offered us continuing and deep connections.

Although much of what we considered "normal" has collapsed or shifted, we now have an unparalleled opportunity to explore who we are becoming. A robust group of our 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." Mary is excited to support those working to get our message out to those yearning for open-hearted, open-minded spiritual community.

7. Committee Reports. Reports from the committees for Religious Exploration, Social Justice, and Membership are included in the 2021-22 OUUF Annual Meeting packet.

8. UUA 8th UU Principle: Committing to Racial Justice. As part of our consideration of UUA's proposed 8th Principle, Rev. Mary and Stephanie Gibson held a series of eight workshop in the fall and winter to explore racism and racial justice through UU lenses of theology and practice. At the special informational congregational meeting on Sun., Jan. 30, 2022, the primary agenda item was a vote on the question of whether OUUF should adopt the proposed UUA 8th principle. It was noted that our intent was to endorse the **process** of moving UUA toward adoption of the 8th principle.

A motion was made to submit to the UUA the statement: *We support the proposed 8th UUA Principle project, to hold us accountable as individuals, as a congregation, and as a movement, for dismantling oppressions in ourselves, our institutions and in society. It was seconded and passed with a majority vote.*

In support of the ongoing 8th principle project, some OUUF congregational leaders are taking part in a UUA pilot program to inform the work of the Article 2 Study Commission, which was charged with considering possible amendments to Article 2 "Principles and Purposes" of the bylaws of the UUA. The OUUF's Article 2 Study Group met for eight sessions, from Feb. 19 through May 28, 2022.

9. Vote on Causes of the Month for 2022-2023. 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.

The nine causes for 2021-2022, beginning in July 2021, were Oberlin Weekday Community Meals, League of Women Voters-Oberlin Area Education Fund, El Centro,

Genesis House, Let's Get Real, Haven Center of Neighborhood Alliance, Lorain County Free Clinic, Lorain County Rape Crisis Center, , and Family Planning Service of Lorain County.

In response to a request to the membership for additional causes, three were suggested: Citizen's Climate Lobby, Lorain County LGBTQ+ & Allies Community Task Force, and POWER. All are particularly relevant now and have been named causes previously. A list of the 12 causes from which nine will be chosen appears at the end of the annual report packet, with a description of the agency's mission.

Paper ballots were distributed to those at the meeting and collected. The results will be sent out to the membership after the weighted votes are counted and the collection months are assigned to the Causes. Most of the Causes are tied into specific months (such as national recognition, fundraising, OCS collection). Secretary Elizabeth Aldrich and Board member Jan Larsen will total the weighted votes.

10. Leadership Elections for the Board, Nominating Committee, and COM. The 2022 Nominating Committee (Jo Huber, Katie Cross, Joanne Rahn) presented the slate of nominees. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

Nominated for 2022-2023 OUUF Board Officers and Trustees for one-year terms:

President – Stephanie Gibson

Vice President – Lisette Burwasser

Treasurer – Cindy Frantz

Secretary – Elizabeth Aldrich

Trustee-at-Large – Jan Larsen and Meridith Sender

Nominated for 2022-2023 Committee on Ministry three-year term: Katie Cross (joining Tina Graf and Ann Cook-Frantz)

Nominated for 2022-2023 Nominating Committee three-year term: Jeff Witmer (joining Joanne Rahn and Katie Cross)

President Jeff Witmer 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, he asked for a voice vote on each of the individual candidates listed on the paper ballot in the meeting packet.

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

11. HB 109 Resolution Vote. This bill threatens our first amendment rights to protest and assemble to bring our grievances to those in power. It has already been passed by the Ohio House and waits for a vote by the Ohio Senate. Jeff Witmer asked the OUUF secretary to prepare a statement, based on UUJO's information, to be sent to

members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee (5 Republicans, 2 Democrats) who will consider the bill in early fall.

A motion to submit an OUUF statement opposing House Bill 109 was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

12. Bylaws Revision by the OUUF Ad Hoc Bylaws Revision Committee. At a May 1, 2022, special congregational meeting, the bylaws were reviewed and changes suggested by the COM and members of the congregation. On May 21, 2022, the revised bylaws, with the suggested changes added, were sent to the congregation via the Weekly Update (at this [link](#)) and appeared in the update through June 11, 2022.

A motion to accept the 2022 revised OUUF Bylaws was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

13. 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

Summary of Income & Expenses, FY 22-23

as of 5/31/23

INCOME	2022-23 Budget	INCOME As of 5/31/23	Monthly Pace
Pledges	\$ 85,585		
Operations	\$ 85,585	\$ 82,813	\$ 4,360
Weekly Collection	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,920	\$ 170
Misc Income			\$ -
Special Donations	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,700	\$ 558
Fundraising	\$ 2,000	\$ 45	\$ (1,788)
Bed & Breakfast	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,396	\$ 1,021
Rental Income	\$ 500	\$ 145	\$ (313)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 99,285	\$ 95,018	\$ 4,007

PAYROLL	2022-23 Budget	EXPENSES as of 5/31/23	Monthly Pace
Minister-Salary & Pension	\$ 30,600	\$ 24,833	\$ 3,217
Minister Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ 188
DRE Salary	\$ 9,689	\$ 7,439	\$ 1,442
DRE Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ (42)
Sunday School assistant	\$ 1,000	\$ 523	\$ 394
OWL/Campus Director	\$ 3,552	\$ 2,272	\$ 984
Music Director	\$ 7,906	\$ 5,075	\$ 2,172
Office Manager	\$ 8,612	\$ 6,044	\$ 1,850
Custodian	\$ 6,240	\$2,961	\$ 2,759
Worker's Compensation	\$ 160	\$ 56	\$ 91
Payroll taxes		\$ 12,536	\$ (12,536)
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$ 69,009	\$ 62,739	\$ 519

BUILDING EXPENSES	2022-23 Budget	EXPENSES as of 5/31/23	Monthly Pace
Utilities	\$ 7,500	\$9,667.71	\$ (2,793)
Mortgage&, Ins.	\$ 6,500	\$5,901.75	\$ 57
Maintainance & supplies	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,320	\$ (853)
Garden Expenses	\$ 6,700	\$6,664.61	\$ (523)
Capital Improvements	\$ 700	\$ 674	\$ (32)
TOTAL BUILDING EXPENSES	\$ 23,000	\$ 25,228	\$ (4,145)

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	2022-23 Budget	EXPENSES as of 5/31/23	Monthly Pace
Office, copier, supplies	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,503	\$ 605
Dues	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,425	\$ (119)
Communication	\$ 1,000	\$ 464	\$ 453
Miscellaneous		\$ 398	\$ (398)
TOTAL ADMIN	\$ 4,725	\$ 3,392	\$ 541
			\$ -

PROGRAM EXPENSES	2022-23	EXPENSES as of 5/31/23	Monthly Pace
	Budget		
Worship	\$ 1,000	\$ 950	\$ (33)
Music	\$ 500	\$ 200	\$ 258
RE Expenses	\$ 800	\$ 407	\$ 326
Adult Program	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 92
Membership	\$ 625	\$ 234	\$ 339
Social Action	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 458
Hospitality	\$ 50	\$ 577	\$ (531)
Care	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 92
OWL	\$ -	\$ 238	\$ (238)
TOTAL PROGRAM EXP	\$ 3,675	\$ 2,606	\$ 763
TOTALS - ALL EXPENSES	\$ 100,409	\$ 93,965	\$ (2,322)

	Budget	Actual	Monthly Pace
BALANCE	\$ (1,124)	\$ 1,053	\$ 1,685

Summary of Assets

As of 5/31/23

MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL BALANCE	
as of 5/31/23	\$24,352.00
monthly payment	\$299.64
Payoff amount	\$24,522.00
Interest Rate	6.50%
INVESTMENTS	
Edward Jones	\$15,505
Trillium Mutual Funds	\$44,386
TOTAL	\$59,891

CASH ASSETS AS OF 5/31/23		
Checking Account	\$ 53,461.45	
Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,022.99	
Paypal Account	\$ 150.97	
Uncashed Checks		\$ 525.00
Capital Campaign		\$ 14,763.00
23-24 Pledge Donations		\$ 16,000.00
Garden Fund		\$16,565.61
Available for Operating Budget		\$ 5,758.81

Summary of Donations for Cause of the Month

Cause	Month	Donations
Oberlin Weekday Community Me	July	\$ 207
LGBTQ+ Lorain County	August	\$ 199
El Centro	September	\$ 210
Genesis House	October	\$ 170
Holiday Helping Hands	November	\$ 527
UU Service Committee- Guest At	December	\$ 150
Let's Get Real	January	\$ 152
The Haven Center of Neighborh	February	\$ 386
Lorain Co. Free Clinic	March	\$ 160
Lorain Co. Rape Crisis Center	April	\$ 153
UUA Disaster Relief Fund	May	\$ 399
Family Planning Service of Lorain	June	
TOTAL		\$ 2,713

OUIF 23-24 PROPOSED BUDGET

<i>INCOME</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
	<i>Reality Budget</i>	<i>Dream Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Pledges	\$86,310	\$ 96,070	\$ 85,585
Weekly Collection	\$3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Misc Income			
Special Donations	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,800
Fundraising	\$1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
Bed & Breakfast	\$2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Rental Income	\$1,700	\$ 1,700	\$ 500
TOTAL INCOME	\$96,510	\$ 105,770	\$ 97,385

<i>PAYROLL</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
	<i>Reality Budget</i>	<i>Dream Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Minister-Salary & Pension	\$32,212	\$ 36,080	\$ 30,600
Minister Expenses	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 750
DRE Salary	\$9,689	\$ 10,368	\$ 9,689
DRE Expenses	\$500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Sunday School assistant	\$450	\$ 450	\$ 1,000
OWL/Campus Director	\$3,552	\$ 3,960	\$ 3,552
Music Director	\$7,906	\$ 7,906	\$ 7,906
Office Manager	\$8,612	\$ 9,070	\$ 8,612
Cleaning	\$3,372	\$ 3,372	\$ 6,240
Worker's Compensation	\$195	\$ 160	\$ 160
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$67,488	\$ 72,865	\$ 69,009

<i>BUILDING EXPENSES</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
	<i>Reality Budget</i>	<i>Dream Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Utilities	\$8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,500
Mortgage&, Ins.	\$6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Maintainance & supplies	\$1,800	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Garden Expenses	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,800
Capital Improvements	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 700
TOTAL BUILDING EXPENSES	\$19,300	\$ 19,100	\$ 21,100

<i>ADMINISTRATION</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
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EXPENSES	Reality Budget	Dream Budget	Budget
Office, copier, supplies	\$1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,300
Dues	\$2,500	\$ 4,745	\$ 1,425
Communication	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
TOTAL ADMIN	\$5,300	\$ 7,545	\$ 4,725

PROGRAM EXPENSES	2023-24 Reality Budget	2022-23 Dream Budget	2022-23 Budget
Worship	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000
Music	\$ 725	\$ 950	\$ 500
RE Expenses	\$ 900	\$ 950	\$ 800
Adult Program	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Membership	\$ 600	\$ 610	\$ 625
Social Action	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 500
Hospitality	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Care	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 100
Café Q		\$ -	\$ -
OWL	\$500	\$ 500	\$ -
TOTAL PROGRAM EXP	\$4,425	\$ 5,260	\$ 3,675

TOTALS - ALL EXPENSES	\$96,513	\$ 104,770	\$ 98,509
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BALANCE	-\$3	\$ 1,000	\$ (1,124)
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MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT to the Congregation

From Rev. Mary Grigolia to
Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
for the Annual Meeting, June 11, 2023

OASIS OF RESILIENCE IN A TURBULENT TIME

As I reflect on our shared journey of the last year, I am grateful for the Fellowship providing an oasis of resilience for members, friends and staff during pandemic turbulence and its aftermath:

- I am grateful for the generosity and growing skillfulness of our volunteer leaders: members of the Board, Committee on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Care Team, RE Committee, Worship Team, Adult Program Team, Finance, hospitality and building teams.
- I am grateful for our effective, responsive staff members: Office Manager, Ryan; Director of Religious Exploration, Hanna; Music Director, Katie; OWL coordinator, Carmen.
- I am grateful to members and friends who trusted OUUF and returned to in-person programming on Sunday mornings. Attendance has been slowly rebounding, robust and glad to be together.
- I am grateful to those who persevered with us as we made Zooming a more positive experience. I am especially grateful to Ryan, Jeff, Don and Cindy for tech skills and attention.

Across the US, congregations of all kinds are reeling with changing religious/spiritual needs, assumptions and expectations. Many are closing or in danger of closing. The Fellowship has shown resilience - a product of LOVE, for this spiritual community of support in living our UU values of inclusion and respect, justice and compassion. We are stronger and kinder together, OUUF is resilient!

And although we have a lot to learn, let's celebrate this past year:

- After 2.5 years of Zooming Sunday services with Olmsted UU, the Fellowship reopened the sanctuary, offering hybrid services (simultaneously on Zoom and in the sanctuary).
- In September, Olmsted opted out: opening their sanctuary on Sunday mornings and discontinuing Zoom.
- We learned that some members and friends can only participate via Zoom, and decided to continue Zoom as a safe solution (welcoming several Olmsted members Zooming in).
- Our Adult Program Team (APT) decided to continue planning and co-sponsoring programs with Olmsted's APT. Adult programs remained stable through pandemic reset, including:
 - Living with Change covenant, meeting twice a month
 - 2 Sources covenant groups, meeting twice a month

- monthly spiritual support groups: Dream Group, Poetry Group, Reading Marginalized Writers, WISE Women, What Would Jesus Do, Monthly UU Kendal Check-in
- weekly groups: Men's Group, Deepening Circles Meditation

What we're learning:

- Social Justice needs a reboot. We held several post-service discussions and decided to change the model of how we do social justice, opting to join well-functioning teams in town, bringing information and inspiration back to the Fellowship, with ways to get involved. It was suggested that we start with two focuses and learn as we create this new structure. We will continue to vote on Causes of the Month and support them with a monthly offering.
- Leadership development: We observed that our leaders need opportunities for training for volunteer positions, a cultural norm that encourages taking a break after serving for several years and with processes for re-energizing.
- We also need to make it more apparent that we need and expect everyone's volunteer energy and willingness to serve (and learn).
- We need to make volunteer opportunities easier to find
- We need to THANK our volunteers and each other for the deep gift of time, attention, skill and creativity they bring, you bring, to all projects and programs at OUUF. THANK YOU!

We mourn the deaths of four members this year (Renie, Mary Lee, Betsy & Tin) and the resignation of three members.

Even as we celebrate the arrival of seven new members.

I celebrate the collaborative Sunday services I've participated in and heard about. I celebrate the joy of the Easter egg hunt that allowed all present to experience OUUF as a truly intergenerational congregation. And to do so again, enjoying the waffles the children made for the adults on Mothers Day.

Personally, in May I announced my intention to retire from parish ministry at the end of the next congregational year, in June 2024. I am grateful to have another year as your minister, celebrating the resilience of this oasis of loving engagement, powered by LOVE - in each and every member, friend and staff person.

In fellowship,

Rev. Mary

Director of Religious Education Annual Report

Submitted by Hanna Steele

We began the year outside at Spring Street Park and moved our Sunday gatherings to the fellowship from 11-12:00. After the Story for All Ages the congregants sing the children out to Religious Exploration space where we start with Circle Time which includes our chalice lighting, sharing of joys and concerns, 7 principles song, brief overview of the lesson and discussion on the story for all ages. On occasion, a Wonder Box is presented to help the children visualize the lesson's message. We typically move to the table for the exploration activity and move deeper into the theme of the week with hands-on activities and music (Soul Matter Spotify Playlists for each month's theme). Our Religious Exploration committee meets monthly and consists of Stephanie Gibson, Colleen Dirk, and Katie Cross. The committee has also been taking turns assisting with RE each week.

This year we followed the Soul Matters Curriculum, and loved the flow with our small group. Together we explored belonging, courage, change, wonder, finding the center, love, vulnerability, resistance, creativity, and delight. There were 4 families and 6-9 more kids that have regularly attended RE who range in age from 3 to eleven years old.

Our last Religious Exploration was June 4. We have 4 events planned this summer including a park celebration, Tye dye party, canoe trip, and ice cream party with litter pickup too. We're hoping to reach out to more families this summer through these events, and also via flyers and social media and start strong in the fall. September 10 Weekly Sunday Religious Education Starts!

We had many ups and downs together this year. Some of our struggles this year were kids being dysregulated at the start of RE, and not being able to sit for a lesson. We worked through some of this by asking the Worship Committee to move up our sing out time to just after the introduction and story for all ages, problem solving with parents, and going with the childrens flow more often. This summer, with the help of our RE committee and parents to further encourage a space where everyone is welcome, we're creating a sensory room for kids when they have big energy. We will be moving shelving into the nursery and the rocking chair and swing into the Milk Room. We plan on giving the RE space some much needed organizing and with emphasis on creating an inviting "yes" space throughout.

The children excelled at reciting our chalice lighting and singing our 7 principles song. Lots of big beautiful happy messes were made this year. The children practiced self expression all year long through music and dance, building, teamwork, cosplay, and so much beautiful art. They practiced relationships with friends, older and younger through mixed age play. We embraced their curiosity through each theme and explored all the wonderful questions together. The joy flowing in the RE space each week was palpable. The children learned so much this year and it was an honor to learn and grow alongside them.

This coming fall we have big plans! We are hoping to reach more families and have teens to hold a youth group for. We are planning to hire a student helper for 2 Sundays a month. I'm hoping to hold more intergenerational services together with the worship committee and encourage congregants participation in the RE program. We plan to be more present in community activities such as the Big Parade in hopes to encourage curiosity and attendance.

Hanna Steele became the DRE in June of 2022 and renewed her contract again this year. It has been an honor to use my experience in Free Forest School and knowledge of UU values to guide the children through lessons this year. At the beginning of June I continued my education at a retreat in North Carolina where I learned the basics on how to lead a chant, non violent and compassionate communication, sacred relationship, ecstatic dance, breath work, and yoga for children. It was a heart opening and transformative experience and i am excited to bring the tools I learned and experienced into our fellowship each week. I look forward to attending virtual GA and furthering my education this summer. This has been a year full of growth for the kids attending and for me to find my footing as the new DRE and I am beyond grateful for the support and encouragement from the congregation to be able to provide this program for our future, our children.

Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Our Whole Lives Sexual Health Program 2022-2023 Annual Report

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexual Health program enjoyed back-to-back full enrollment in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 courses offered for students in 7th-9th grade.

The Fall 2022 course saw 15 students enrolled for 13 2-hour sessions. The Spring 2023 course was adapted to accommodate 12 students for 9 2.5-hour sessions. We offered the Spring session as an effort to make up for not hosting OWL during 2020 and 2021. Students receive full credit for the State of Ohio Board of Education health course requirements.

Director of OWL Carmen McFarlin along with trained facilitators Julia Robinson and Katie Sorokos facilitated the weekly programming. They were supported by Oberlin College students from two student organizations: the Sexual Information Center (SIC) and the Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct (PRSM) student organization. These collaborations were very successful and added a deeper level of connection and experience. We also had support from Alexis Dedek, a Certified Health Education Facilitator from the Family Planning Services of Lorain County. Alexis partnered with OWL for our session on Pregnancy Prevention, STIs, and Menstruation. Her expertise was much appreciated as was connecting our OWL students with a local resource.

Student feedback ranges from “excellent” to “this is so embarrassing” with everything in between! We consistently see students become increasingly comfortable with discussing sexual health and taking responsibility for their choices. We did not even have to

advertise for the Spring course as we already had a waiting list created solely on word-of-mouth (and we already have a waiting list for Fall 2023).

For the Fall 2023 session, we have submitted an application to the Oberlin College Bonner Center in the hopes of securing a part-time student intern. The Bonner Center will fund 75% of this internship, with OUUF fulfilling the remaining 25%. This has been included in the Fall RE Budget. This internship will provide much-needed consistent research and teaching support as well as create a direct liaison between OWL and the college student organizations.

We are also very grateful to Ryan Mincey, our OUUF Office Manager, for all his administrative and tech support throughout the past two OWL programs. Thank you, Ryan!

We look forward to offering OWL again in the Fall of 2023 and are very grateful for the support and trust given by the OUUF Board of Trustees, the congregation, and the Oberlin community.

In gratitude,
Carmen McFarlin
Director of Our Whole Lives

Membership Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

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, Gail Powell and Bobbi Mick

We are currently at 64 members, which is slightly down from last year. We have welcomed 6 new members this year.

We are working on marketing and have two sub-groups working on that.

First, we have a team updating the website that consists of Ryan Mincey, Stephanie Gibson, Don Leake and Jan Larsen. We have pretty much gotten it up to date at this point and are working to maintain it.

Second, we have the Getting the Word Out team, which includes Ryan Mincey, Stephanie Gibson, Jeff Witmer, Don Leake, John MacDonald and Jo Huber. We have been working on several goals that will increase our visibility, including, optimizing our website for searches, designing a T-shirt for the congregation, discussing getting involved with social justice groups in our community and updating our Cable Co-op ad.

Annual Report
Building & Grounds Committee
Submitted by Cindy Frantz, Chair

The Buildings & Grounds committee reconstituted this year after a COVID hiatus. Many thanks to John McDonald, who kept tabs on the building and garden throughout the pandemic.

The roof was replaced in the fall of 2022 at a cost of \$40,760. We withdrew \$30,000 from our investment funds to pay for this. Thus far, \$20,333 out of \$31,443 pledged has been collected. Those wishing to pledge (or increase their pledge!) to the capital campaign are encouraged to do so. This will allow us to fully repay our investments so that we are poised to install solar panels and make other upgrades to help us maximize efficiency and reach carbon neutrality.

We currently have \$16,566 in the Garden Fund. The porous stone paving in the area near the parking lot was repaired for \$1400.

The B&G committee is in the process of establishing a routine of inspections (yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly). We have collected checklists from a variety of sources (insurance companies, other churches) and are in the process of tailoring one for OUUF needs.

We have recruited an Oberlin College student to conduct a carbon inventory, research funding opportunities, and help us develop a plan for maximizing energy efficiency and becoming carbon neutral. Preliminary research suggests that there are many funding sources available and that solar panels may cost considerably less than our quote of two years ago. Potential projects include: finish upgrading our lighting to all-LED bulbs (sanctuary, RE wing); install solar panels; install heat pumps to phase out the use of our natural gas-powered furnaces.

Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Social Justice Team 2023 Annual Report

Realizing that our OUUF Social Justice outreach needed a reboot to become more effective, members interested in reinvigorating these efforts held several post-service discussions. The group recommended that we modify the model of how we do social justice, opting to join various well-functioning teams in Oberlin and the local area, then bring information and inspiration back to the Fellowship, with ways to get involved.

It was suggested that we start with two focuses and learn as we create this new structure. We will continue to vote on Causes of the Month and support them with a monthly offering.

There is still plenty of social justice energy within our congregation. Members are involved in such groups as the Citizens' Climate Lobby, OCSI (Oberlin Community

Supporting Immigrants), Oberlin FCNL Advocacy Team, SEPA (the local Oberlin group that provides support to two indigenous Guatemalan villages), LWV Oberlin Area, and more.

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

The nine causes chosen for 2022-2023, from July 2022 through June 2023, were Oberlin Weekday Community Meals, LGBTQ+ Lorain County, El Centro, Genesis House, Let's Get Real, Haven Center of Neighborhood Alliance, Lorain County Free Clinic, Lorain County Rape Crisis, and Family Planning Services of Lorain County.

These organizations (plus the Citizens' Climate Lobby and POWER, two other proposed causes that we have supported in the past) will be on the ballot from which members of the Fellowship will choose the nine causes to support for 2023-2024. In addition, members have been asked for suggestions for other causes. The June 2023 Cause of the Month ballot is enclosed in the 2023 Annual Report packet.

The congregation's social justice activities in 2022-23 included:

- Promoting and participating in the annual Oberlin Community Candidates Night. This year was the first time in its 30-year history that the event was held on the Oberlin College campus and planned in collaboration with a student group, Oberlin Students for Civic Engagement. Two OUUF members served on the Planning Committee.
- 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 Souper 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.
- 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.

- Initiating a weekly practice of Candles for Climate Justice, emphasizing the need to take action now and face the social and spiritual reality of our changing world.
- 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.
- Voting at the 2022 OUUF Annual Meeting to submit a statement to the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee from the Fellowship opposing Ohio House Bill 109 which threatens our first amendment rights to protest and assemble to bring our grievances to those in power. Already passed by the Ohio House, this bill was before the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. Because of opposition from concerned groups like OUUF, the bill died in committee at the end of 2022.

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.

~On behalf of the OUUF Social Justice Team

Leadership Elections for the Board, Nominating Committee and the Committee on Ministry

Board:

Pres: Stephanie Gibson₁

VP: Lisette Burwasser

Treasurer: Cindy Frantz

Sec: Elizabeth Aldrich

At-large: Carol Graham

Committee on Ministry:

COM-3: Tina Graf

COM-2: Katie Cross

COM-1: Marge Diamond₂

Nominating Committee:

Nom-3: L.D. Moore₃

Nom-2: Jeff Witmer

Nom-1: Helen Kopp₃

Footnotes:

1. The term limit for the board is 4 years, and this will be my fifth year on the the board. To override the 4-year limit, we will need a 2/3 vote of the congregation to approve that.
2. COM - Tina and Katie are completing three-year terms on COM. Tina will be doing her third year and Katie her second. We will be voting to appoint Marge to a three-year term.
3. Nominating committee - Jeff will be in the second year of a three-year term. Both L.D and Helen are nominated for the first time this year, LD for a one-year term and Helen for a three-year term.

JUNE 2023 CAUSE OF THE MONTH BALLOT

You may vote up to and including 9 causes. A separate ballot sheet has been provided alongside this page to use as a reference for an explanation of the causes.

OUUF 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, Oberlin Chapter - 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.

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+ - 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. It 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.

OCS Cooper Community Resource Center - Renovating a new larger facility to create easy access to an array of services, a “one stop shop” for food, rent and utility bill relief, health care, government programs, and other helpful services. It will cooperate with partner agencies such as Lorain County Public Health, POWER, Neighborhood Alliance, Legal Aid, Oberlin Weekday Community Meals, so that all these services can be under the same roof.

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.