

President's Annual Report 2023 2024  
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We have had another successful year at UUCville with a terrific second year of Developmental Ministry with Rev Tim. We expect our Developmental Ministry to take at least 5 to 7 years. During these years, we will be working on our four Developmental Goals (<https://uucharlottesville.org/developmental-goals-works-in-progress-board-of-trustee-updates-december-2022/> ). We are extremely grateful to have Rev Tim as our lead minister through these years. His wisdom in all areas on congregation life, his hard work and his loving kindness are accompanying us on an excellent path.

In our continuing work on our Developmental Goals, our Long Range Plan Task Force has worked hard to engage the congregation in conversation to develop a detailed plan (<https://uucharlottesville.org/uucvilles-long-range-plan/>) for how we can work on actualizing our Mission Statement that we adopted in June, 2023 at our annual congregational meeting:

**The UU Congregation of Charlottesville  
builds community through love in action.  
Together we cultivate a safe and welcoming place for all.  
Together we nurture mind, heart, body, and spirit.  
Together we work for equity, justice, and peace for all people and the planet.**

We will vote on the three year Long Range Plan on June 9, 2024 in our annual congregational meeting.

We have come out of the pandemic with an appreciation for all the things we missed when we were so restricted and a renewed energy for many new ways of doing things. We have continued to have expertly led multi-platform services. We have developed an increased appreciation for being together in person and we have many fun events and luncheons on Sundays after the service which have been supported by extended childcare.

Our RE program has been flourishing. We celebrated Rev Leia's many accomplishments and supported her long overdue sabbatical in February with mixed feelings of appreciation for her, excitement for the additional wisdom she will bring back to us, and sadness for missing her until her return at the end of August. We are very fortunate to have Rev Susan with us to coordinate RE while Rev Leia is gone. Rev Susan's expertise and care have been a wonderful addition to our RE program.

Children's RE has many parts to manage. Our 5 year olds through 7th graders have been joining adults in the sanctuary for the first 20 minutes of services and then participating in Growing Anti Racist UUs (a nationally recognized curriculum written by members of our own congregation and used by congregations across the country). We also offered OWL (our sexuality curriculum) to 7th to 9th graders, YRUU to our high school students and Children's worship services. We have started UUPS (pronounced

oops!) which is our self-led UU parents' group. Our Children and Youth RE Committee has been revived and is much appreciated for their hard work and creative thinking.

Our Adult RE programming has also been hugely successful. Classes and events have included BodyAfro Flow Yoga, Tai Chi, Kundalini Yoga, Mindful Parenting, UU Elevator Speech, Parents as Sexuality Educators, UU Bible Study, Spirituality Book Group, Creativity Salon, Dream Diving, Transforming Hearts (Trans inclusion in UU congregations), Women's Dream Quest and more.

More people have been coming to UUCville and been welcomed with a Connections Table, New Members and Friends Classes and Newcomers Circles.

We have had enlightening services with fantastic music. Rev Tim, Rev Leia, Rev Susan and our Director of Music, Scott Deveaux, collaborated with each other and many others to provide creative engaging services. Our choir has nearly doubled in number and they have sung a wide variety of beautiful songs. The Children's Choir is back and we have a Music Committee again.

Many other programs have also been developing and expanding. Our Ministry for Earth group has offered plant based potlucks and a cooking class in addition to organizing work sessions on the Rivanna River Trail. Our Young Adult group has been meeting and growing. Our Covenant Group program is expanding. We have new UUCville T shirts and we created "Words of Thanks," a book of blessings contributed by congregants.

Our Pastoral Care team and Care Net have been very active in caring for so many of us in our times of need. We have had Food Sharing Sundays that have been appreciated by many congregants.

Our Building and Grounds team have maintained and replenished our beautiful gardens. We replaced the rapidly deteriorating Summit House porch and ramps with a beautiful (and solid) new porch and ramps. The slate on the walkways was uneven and very slippery when wet and so we replaced them with crushed stone as an intermediate step to make them safer while we consider the overall building and grounds plan (referred to in our Long Range Plan).

We have continued excellent work to maintain our financial well being. We had a well run, fun and successful Pledge Drive (though we did not meet our ambitious goal and had to pare back on some of our priorities). We had successful fundraising events including a Fall Auction, and a Spring Auction focused on events. We will have another yard sale in August.

The Stewardship Steering Committee has been very active in developing a comprehensive view of stewardship at UUCville, including our financial well being, care for our building and grounds, and support for staff and volunteers. They organized a fall

Service Fair that introduced us to the many groups and activities that engage us. They developed a quarterly Stewardship Newsletter and a Pew Rack Card and they are developing an informative Planned Giving program. They conducted a Process Map evaluation to monitor our financial process that led to a detailed understanding of our financial procedures.

A very important part of our stewardship is support and care for our excellent staff. Our Personnel Committee has been engaging in UUA trainings related to all aspects of personnel management from understanding health care insurance options to fair compensation policies. We strive to meet all UUA recommendations.

Through all these activities, our Communication Committee has kept us fully informed. They have posted terrific photographs and made our website colorful and engaging. Our excellent website, email newsletters and texts of important events have made information on our activities and processes easily accessible and transparent. The Communications Committee's work has been critical in maintaining our cohesive sense of community.

We have been increasingly active in Social and Environmental Justice movements. In the 2023- 2024 year we have supported many local groups with our monthly Social Action Collection, including B.U.C.K. Squad, Partner for Mental Health, Birth Sisters, Sin Barreras, Living Energy Farm (sponsored by Serenity Solidarity), New Beginnings Christian Community Food Ministry, Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR), Cultivate Charlottesville, and the Blue Ridge Abortion Fund.

We engaged with many groups in the larger community on behalf of social justice including: Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together (IMPACT), People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry (PACEM), Ebenezer Baptist Church's Black Farmer Initiative, The Haven's soup kitchen and Cville Pride. We partnered with Sin Barreras to provide a two day per week enrichment program for Pre-K children to offer support with English language skills. We provided support for Greer Elementary School students with a Giving Tree program around the winter holidays. We sent a team of youth and adults to the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) in summer 2023 and will be sending another group this summer.

We continue to operate the extremely important Meal Packets initiative to supply meals to family members of patients at UVA hospital, and the UUCville Friday Food Pantry program.

We are already doing so much to meet our Developmental Goals and to support our Mission. As we begin on our Long Range Plan, we will become even more active and effective at bringing Love in Action to make a difference in our communities.