

2025 UUCville President's Annual Report to the Congregation

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It has been an amazing year at UUCville with our continuing work on being a welcoming community, numerous new activities, strengthening our financial well-being and supporting a solid culture of transparency and open communication. As the disruptions to our national democracy continue, we have increasingly turned to each other and our shared values for support and for a platform to move into action. Our Sunday services provide a source of honest contemplation, comfort and framework for guiding our self-care and activism. Our community gatherings put our love in action.

UUCville is making wonderful progress on our Developmental Goals by first approving our Mission Statement in 2023, and then approving our Long Range Plan last year at our Annual Congregational Meeting, June 9, 2024.

Our Developmental Ministry Goals:

<https://uucharlottesville.org/about-us/developmental-ministry-goals/>

Our Mission Statement:

<https://uucharlottesville.org/mission-statement/>

Long Range Plan:

<https://uucharlottesville.org/love-into-action-a-three-year-plan/>

Our amazing staff and a huge number of volunteers have worked hard on many parts of our Long Range Plan this year, and with our successful Pledge Drive for the coming year, we are set to make even more progress.

There have been so many activities at UUCville in the past year, it is hard to track everything. I apologize in advance for missing some important happenings. Here are some of the many things we have done this year, and some of what we hope to achieve in the coming year:

From the Preamble:

Accomplishments:

- We reconstituted our Committee on Ministries (COM), appointed two members, and developed a system to track our tasks and progress. The charge for the COM is that it will work closely with the Lead Minister in supporting and monitoring implementation of the Long Range Plan. The COM will assist relevant staff and lay leaders in developing strategies for accomplishing the goals and priorities of the plan and in building the required infrastructure (teams & task forces, leaders, volunteers, financial resources, and publicity).
- This year, our Stewardship Steering Committee (SSC) has provided informational quarterly newsletters on stewardship, presented volunteering opportunities with the popular Service Fair, shepherded the Pledge Drive, developed a Planned Legacy Giving program which kicked off on May 18 this year, examined our Breeze system and helped in tracking our pledges.

- We hope to make our SSC a permanent committee at our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 8, 2025.
- Our budget updates are available to all on the website <https://uucharlottesville.org/financial-information/>
- We split up our Director of Administration and Finance (DAF) position into two positions and hired Sandra Schwartz as our bookkeeper and Steve Rogers as our Facilities Manager.
- We have written a job description for a Volunteer Coordinator(s) and have begun a search.

Plans for this year:

- Our SSC will explore the potential of a capital campaign in the next few years.
- We will continue to work to bring our staff to UUA recommended fair compensation levels.
- We will continue to grow church revenue from rentals.
- We hope to have at least one, hopefully two Volunteer Coordinators.

From the Key Areas of our Mission Statement

I. Cultivating a safe and welcoming place for all

Accomplishments:

- We are expanding our Membership and Greeter program and need more welcoming greeters.
- Our Membership committee has been working hard to help us be more welcoming to newcomers. We have Newcomers meetings after church once a month and Membership classes regularly.
- Our Gardens and Grounds Committee, Buildings Committee and Remembrance Garden group have been taking care of our campus and making it beautiful.
- Our Young Adult group has expanded with increased activities and more young adults attending.
- We have an impressive Communications Committee. They have created a fantastic website that they update frequently to keep us all informed. Our weekly email newsletter tells us about all the latest happenings. And now, we have group texts about important events.
- We are striving for transparency, healthy communications and respect in all our interactions.

Plans for the next year:

- We will appoint a Comprehensive Building and Grounds Plan task force.

- We will continue to enhance our Sunday morning Greeter program.
- We will continue to develop our New Members programming.
- We will continue to provide our Young Adult program with support.
- We will begin an assessment on how to make our congregation safer and more welcoming for historically marginalized communities.

II. Nurturing heart, mind, body, and spirit

Accomplishments:

- We are expanding the services of CareNet support of our elders (<https://uucharlottesville.org/carenet/>) to help with transportation and with small home repairs.
- We are maintaining a strong Pastoral Care Team.
- Our Adult Faith Development program is offering new programs including:
 - A class for people dealing with dementia as caregivers and/or with deeply affected friends or family members.
 - Strengthening our Labyrinth Ministry.
 - An information session on Natural Burials.
 - Numerous Yoga and Tai Chi classes
- We are centering families, youth and children in our Sunday morning services and in afternoon activities with the support of childcare.
- Our Friendship and Fun Team (FFT) organized a chili and bingo evening.
- Our Elder Ministry program included our Annual Elder Brunch and many opportunities for building a supportive community.
- We had a strong presence at Charlottesville Pride in 2024 and already have our reservation for 2025.
- Our Music Ministry has expanded and deepened with a larger choir and numerous creative offerings on Sunday mornings.

Plans for this year:

- Engage in “AfterWords” programs through periodic conversations about the service/sermon theme after Sunday services.
- Continue to enhance worship and music programs.
- Support and expand our Elder Ministry.
- Continue to support FFT activities.
- Continue expanding our Music Ministry.

III. Equity, justice, and peace for all people

Accomplishments:

- Rev. Tim has been meeting with numerous groups in Charlottesville to explore potential partnerships. UUCville is currently collaborating with several community partners including:
 - Sin Barreras (providing preschool classes that encourage English language learning and rides to appointments for immigrants),
 - Ebenezer Baptist Church (engaging in pulpit exchanges, a gathering, and supporting the Black Farmer Initiative),

- City of Promise (in their Nurturing Neighborhood program that forms “extended family” support for families),
 - PACEM (People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry) in which UUCville helps provide shelter for people in our community,
 - The Haven (where UUCville groups provide lunch every Sunday), and
 - IMPACT (Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together) where we advocate for action by our local elected representatives.
- We are pursuing other community partnerships with the Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR), Equality Virginia and Blue Ridge Abortion Fund.
 - Our Mosaic Squad has begun an assessment of our resources to help us become a more anti-racist, anti-oppressive and multicultural community. This team is also currently working on developing a system to quickly communicate information to interested congregants and on providing a class on safer ways to protest.
 - As noted above, UUCville had a wonderful presence in Cville Pride this year.
 - Rev Tim is continuing to offer the popular UUCville Israel-Palestine Learning Circle to increase our understanding of Middle East conflicts.
 - Our Monthly Social Action Collection raised funds for 10 local organizations:
 - Blue Ridge Abortion Fund, Inc.
 - Central Virginia Community Justice
 - PHAR
 - City of Promise
 - LilyPads Housing
 - PACEM
 - Partner for Mental Health
 - RISE Foundation
 - Sin Barreras / Without Barriers
 - The BUCK Squad
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 - We are offering safer space to marginalized groups.
 - Since September 2024, we have made 828 Meal Packets for hungry families who have loved ones in the UVA hospital.
 - We wrote and sent 1,500 post cards to voters this year. Writing post cards to voters in swing states is a continuing effort at UUCville.
 - We offered an Adult Faith Development Lobbying 101 class this fall.

Plans for this year:

- Continue to support all the many efforts from this year.
- Support our Mosaic Squad in their organizing to help us become more anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural.

IV. Equity, justice, and peace for the planet.

Accomplishments:

- Our Ministry for Earth team is active in advocacy, education, building improvements, and love in action work days in the community (<https://uucharlottesville.org/environment/>).
- Our Ministry for Earth group is also researching upcoming environmental legislation, organizing letter writing events, writing letters to the editor to local papers, meeting with local legislators, partnering with other local environmental groups, tabling to get signatures, and volunteering with UU The Vote to reach voters.
- We had quarterly Sustainable Eating Potlucks Sundays after the services.
- Sunday Service for Earth Day.

Plans for this year:

- Continue supporting Ministry for Earth group's numerous activities.
- Coordinate Ministry for Earth collaboration in the development of the Comprehensive Building and Grounds Plan.

Though we do not know all that the next year will bring to our country and even in our local community, we do know that we can rely on our UUCville community for love and caring and to help us do what we can on behalf of love and justice for all people and the planet.