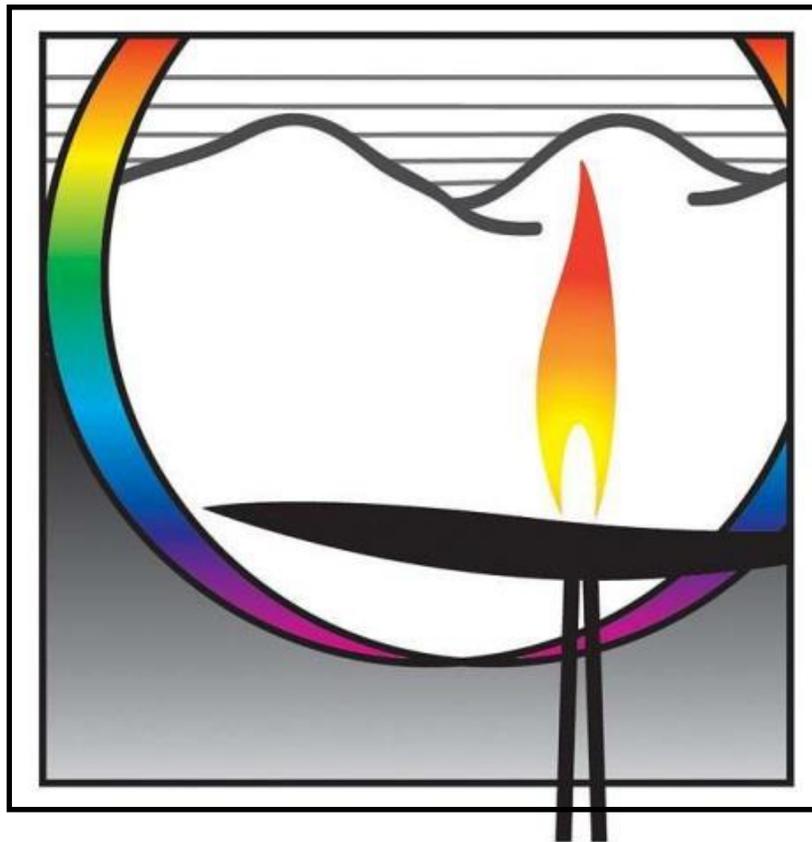
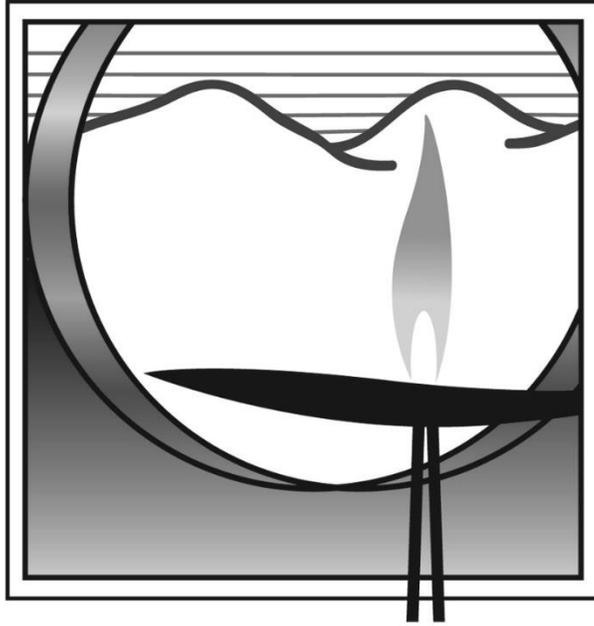


Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists



Annual Report
2016-17



**Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists
Co-ministers, Staff, Board, Committees, and
Task Forces**

Annual Report 2016-17

Our mission
is to build beloved community that respects diversities,
as we nourish the spirit, care for the Earth, and
inspire faithful acts of peace and justice.

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OUR MINISTERS AND STAFF

**190 Finley St.
Auburn, CA 95603
www.mysfuu.org
530-823-0953**

Co-ministers

Rev. Lynn Gardner and Rev. Wendy Bartel, serving since Aug. 2010

Office Administrator

Ronda Pate

Director of Religious Education

Adrean Dills

Music Director

Patricia Leftridge

PILLAR OF THE CHURCH AWARD

Robert and Janie Evans, Pillars of 2016-17

The highest honor that SFUU gives each year is called “The Pillar of the Church Award.” In 2014 the Board of Trustees has entrusted the selection of the Pillar of the Church to an ad hoc committee of former Pillars of the Church award recipients. The Committee has established minimum criteria for the eligibility for the award as is stated in the following outline.

Minimum Criteria for eligibility:

1. Must have been a member for at least 5 years
2. Must be a member in good standing. (Per bylaws)
3. Has displayed a depth of service to SFUU
4. Has displayed a breadth of service to SFUU
5. Has demonstrated leadership in our religious community

On May 19th and 20th, our two Pillars were on a bus loaded with children who went to visit their incarcerated fathers in the California Men’s Colony in San Luis Obispo. This was a journey that started at 1am in Sacramento and ended the following night back in Sacramento.

And they have done much, much more over the past six years, including:

Robert has:

- Served on the SFUU Board, as a Trustee at Large and as Vice President.
- Currently serves on the Adult Religious Education Committee.
- Participated in Beloved Conversations.
- Has attended SFUU Nonviolent Communications classes.
- Is a Worship Associate.
- Has conducted forums on Immigration.
- Has been a bartender at our annual Auctions and started the Bob Miller Memorial Golf Tournament, which marks its fourth season this year.
- Hosted an SFUU Chalice Circle.
- Served on two special task forces – facility rental and creating the new SFUU Mission Statement.
- Participated in our building work days
- Attended Auburn Nisenan Water rights rallies.

Janie has

- Demonstrated incredible leadership as co-chair of our Social Justice Committee for the past five years.
- Has served on the SFUU Board as Vice President.
- Served on the subcommittee to measure the congregation’s carbon footprint.
- Organized forums on Healthcare, Immigration and Water Issues.
- Hosted a Chalice Circle at her home.
- Worked on several auctions acquiring items for the silent auction.
- Cultivated a relationship with Shelly Covert of the Nisenan Tribe in Grass Valley. Supported the people going to Standing Rock and helped organize donations.
- She has written amazing articles for SFUU’s newsletter and possesses great inter-committee skills especially with communications and adult RE.
- In short, she is an exemplary model of someone who lives our social justice commitment.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Board of Trustees
Chairperson and Members: President Jenny Ferris, Vice President Nicole Nelson, Secretary Meg Dorsey, Finance Officer Maureen Baumann, Members at Large: Jeff Chamberlain, Sally Knost, Javier Rivera
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: Review Policy and Proposals, Manage Church Funds
How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We have worked to make sure that the church remains as high-functioning and conflict-free as possible.
How has your work helped more people connect to one another? The meetings themselves allowed board members to become more connected to one another. Additionally, working with other people and groups to get their proposals done has been a source of connection.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: Sent the ministers to Standing Rock, managed a surplus budget, lead during transition/resignation of co-ministers. What were this year's challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force? I think this year's board worked together very well. I don't perceive any challenges or unmet needs.
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: Some have expressed to goal of creating a capital fund. My aspiration is to work as well as possible with the interim minister and maintain some stability within the church.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year. I just enjoyed getting to know people over the "Question of the Day." A lot of us bonded over our weed-pulling auction donation item (two hours of yardwork performed by the board – purchased by Jeff Chamberlain).
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation? I think the general role of the board allows for interaction in the wider congregation. Many of us took on roles at things like the auctions, which allowed us work in partnership with others.
Anything else?
Name of person submitting report: Jenny Ferris

CO-MINISTERS' REPORT

Name of those who serve: Co-Ministers 2010-17 Rev. Wendy Bartel and Rev. Lynn Gardner

Purpose:

To serve as religious leaders of SFUU, serve Unitarian Universalism, serve all religious professional colleagues, and serve the spirit of Love, whom some call God and some call the best of humankind.

How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year?

We have addressed various aspects of the mission in worship, the Board, committee work, task forces, pastoral care, going to the Capitol, connecting with the work of the wider denomination in our district/region/continental areas, going to be in humble solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, supporting leaders during a time of great transition in the UUA, UUMA, and the U.S. the Earth and many of her people,

Building beloved community that respects diversities is essential in nearly everything we do.

How has your work helped more people connect to one another?

Much of our work as ministers supports building and deepening relationships. Inviting people to come to church, to get involved, for long-timers to invite newcomers to events, to volunteer, to reach out to folks you've not seen in a while, and to attend to the pastoral care of individuals, couples, and families in the congregation and staff is all part of the ministry of SFUU. Attending game nights and a music/poetry jam and other fun events is a great way to build connections, too.

We have also invited people to use direct address, even when they are scared/nervous, even when they aren't sure how. Several brave people have chosen to prioritize a relationship-whether with us or with a staff person or with another congregant, or someone else in their lives-over comfort. We are so grateful.

Using direct address, particularly in a compassionate way, is not easy. It is deep spiritual work and we honor the many people who have leaned into their own discomfort and stopped giving anonymous feedback, encouraging one another to speak to the person, including us. We know many who have chosen to talk to the person(s) rather than about them. In almost every case, this courage has resulted in deeper connections. We know that several folks are still not sure how to do this. We hope practicing with Valerie Bowman's NVC group and future sessions with Jared Finkelstein will provide the support to continue building these skills and capacities. Beloved community depends upon us learning how to be in healthy conflict with one another; with shared aims of mutual understanding over right and wrong, connection over division, and compassionate direct address over anonymous feedback or parking lot conversations. We are so grateful that so many people have chosen to engage in this work. We will hold this vision for Unitarian Universalism that we all engage in this spiritual work to connect, inspired by SFUU's commitment to this vital work.

Highlight this year's accomplishments:

Almost all of our accomplishments are in collaboration with lay leaders, staff, community partners, and/or colleagues when appropriate, so the accomplishments are shared. ☺

SFUU helped welcome and include many visitors throughout the year and especially post-election, including offering a community vigil

We were sent, by a vote of the Board of Trustees, to answer the Clergy Call to Standing Rock; followed up with worship services, a vigil, protests, and continued connection and communication between folks at

Standing Rock and SFUU. We reached out to a local Native leader and on behalf of the Nisenan of Nevada City, we brought a letter to the elders at Standing Rock from Shelly Covert, secretary of the Nevada City Rancheria Tribal Council.

offered pastoral care to individuals, families, and the congregation, especially during times of loss and grief.

Leading/singing in holiday choir

Served our UUMA colleagues as chapter president, (Rev. Wendy) and on the CENTER (continuing education) committee, (Rev. Lynn.)

For seven years in a row, stewardship and generosity have increased, resulting in an increased budget that allows for every increasing attempts to fulfill our mission. We helped plan a Stewardship Dinner with speakers from the community, focusing on how SFUU makes a difference beyond SFUU's walls.

Participated in the Youth Program, leading monthly classes along with lay volunteers. (This was a new model that would benefit from consistency and increased communication. It was great to have time with the youth!)

In a Communications Committee meeting, Joan Lacktis exclaimed she was so grateful that there were policies and procedures for the Facebook page because a few posts during the election time went a little astray and she could point to the p & p's and kindly remove those posts and remind folks of the guidelines. Wendy paused the meeting and said, "Wait, let's just savor this moment!" and everyone got a good chuckle out of that exchange.

Stories for all ages and watching the children, youth, AND adults get invested in the outcome of the story as it unfolds.

Sharing a good, good-bye was deeply important to us and many folks have honored that and been a vital part of that and we are so grateful.

Worked with lay folks to assume leadership of The(*)logies on Tap and Brewed Awakenings. These programs continue to have a high level of participation, particularly T on T.

Co-conspired with community leaders Natalie (Pohley) and Rocky Zapata and Leslye Janusz to put together a wonderful MLK program filled with younger leaders of color on how they are experiencing the world and the work to dismantle white-supremacy culture, held at the Gomez Center

Invited a facilitator from the Ruckus Society to lead a training in Non-Violent Direct Action at SFUU, following the MLK Day event

Recruited and supported a new chairperson for Social Justice (Shannon Dooley-Miller), thank you Janie Evans and also Lisa Boch. Also a new chair for Adult Religious Education committee (Jan Lowry), thank you Ann Heron and John Bohland.

Participated in the UUA white supremacy teach-in during a worship service on April 2.

Some progress has been made in bylaw review and room rental procedures.

What were this year's challenges/unmet needs?

Linda Snyder and Jim Robison have continued to work diligently for the Treasurer duties of SFUU. There were some challenges with bookkeeping that took a great deal of extra work for these dedicated volunteers. Maureen Bauman was also a support as financial officer of the Board and we are so grateful for all three of these folk's commitment to make sure the financial aspects were being cared for with an eye toward efficiency *and* fulfillment of SFUU's mission.

The building continues to limit SFUU's capacity for spiritual life and programs that matter, as well as for impact in the wider community.

Sometimes, we've been inspired by lay leaders and strongly support their efforts. Sometimes, we've had to make tough decisions about what is best for the congregation, even if it wasn't necessarily popular. Sometimes people have mistaken our making a different choice as us not listening. That has been disheartening.

Aspirations and Inspirations for next year:

*That SFUU knows how much we love you and that you can continue this trajectory of ministry and growth to serve this wider community

% That the congregation and Rev. Mike have a strong, healthy 1st year of interim ministry. Use the UUA process of interim and engage the work faithfully. Don't take shortcuts. Trust the process. Choose wisely when you choose a Search Committee. Consider the various constituencies in the congregation and be sure they are represented. Engage fully with the 2nd year of interim. Rev. Mike wants for your continued growth and success at fulfilling your mission. Finally, a bit more long-term-we wish you an excellent search where you find just the right match for the next settled minister(s) .

Share a favorite memory from this year:

*It was an honor to bring a letter of support from the Nisenan Rancheria of Nevada City to Standing Rock and to return with deepening commitment to learn the histories and support the rights of all Native Peoples.

*It was very powerful to watch so many people come to SFUU to experience and express their grief, overwhelm, and anger about the U.S. presidential election TOGETHER. It was humbling how many people from the congregation and wider community were willing to be vulnerable with one another and participate in the ritual we had created to be able to express all of our dismay.

*Experiencing the high percentage of people who leaned in to saying good-bye in a variety of ways, and to hear how SFUU and our ministry has had an impact. July 9, 2017 will be in our hearts. Words and music shared in such heartfelt ways was very moving. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Anything else?

SFUU has come a long way since 1982! We have been honored to serve you for seven years as part of your history. We hope you will continue on the path of healing, health, and growth. Listen to your heart. Honor one another. Know you are loved. Hold one another with kindness. Remember best practices. Respect that you are one of the member congregations of the UUA and we are all connected-as President Jenny reminded us-ministering to your cousins in Schenectady. You are not alone. We are in this together, even as we begin a journey apart from one another. We love you.

Name of person submitting report: Rev. Wendy Bartel and Rev. Lynn Gardner

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Chairpersons:** John Bohland and Ann Heron
- 2016 Active Members:** Rev Lynn Gardner, Rev Wendy Bartel, Janet Russell, Jan Lowry (end of year).
Robert Archer
- Resigned Members:** John Bohland resigned in September of 2016. Ann Heron resigned in April of 2017. Ann and John served for over 3 years.

Purpose of Committee:

In accordance with the SFUU Mission Statement, we work to include a variety of options to meet the diverse learning needs of adults in this congregation and the larger community. To that end, we coordinate classes, forums, ongoing groups, and events offered by the minister(s), members of the congregation, and guest speakers. We select and solicit programs on a range of topics and themes that further our understanding of Unitarian Universalism and reflect the values of our faith.

Adult RE Alignment to SFUU Mission:

Adult RE offerings are always considered with their alignment to the UU seven principles and the SFUU Mission Statement.

Adult RE in Service to the Church Community and Community at Large:

Adult RE content is drawn from many sources but the most weight is always given to topics brought to the Committee by Church members – especially topics that Church members are passionate about and for which they are willing to develop and lead themselves.

We recognize the interconnections within our congregation and the extended community. To that end, we also keep informed about what is happening for our Children and Youth Religious Education program as well as other groups/Committees in the church who want to offer classes and programs that may interest the congregation and the community at large.

Accomplishments:

1. The Committee brainstorms Adult RE content each semester and tries to meet the congregation's diverse interests and needs by slotting some offerings into categories such as:
 - i. Series and Classes
 - ii. Forums
 - iii. Events/Activities (Hiking, Movie Nights)
 - iv. Groups (Men's Group, Crafting Group, for example)
2. The Adult RE Committee communicates programs in the bi-monthly publication SFUU newsletter and weekly in the SFUU e-Beacon. When appropriate, we reach out to local media such as the Auburn Journal and other outlets.
3. Second Sunday forums have become a fixture at SFUU and continue to draw 15 to 20 attendees for most topics. Towards the end of 2016, we explored offering that time slot to Social Action.

4. The Committee completed its review of its Policies and Procedures.

Challenges and Unmet Needs

Dedicated space for religious education activities remains an unmet need but one that we work around by scheduling our activities within the SFUU facilities in accordance with the shared Church calendar. For a while our committee membership was down to 3 people; member ship as of early 2017 was 4.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Ann Heron with input from John Bohland

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Building & Grounds
Chairperson and Members: Bob Niblack, Javier Rivera (Board Liaison) and all the people that show up for the work days and those that help out when I ask in the days between.
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: To maintain, repair and improve SFUU's physical structure(s) and landscape to the extent the annual budget allows. How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? Helped ensure that our meeting places and bathrooms function so that the work of the congregation can continue in a safe and comfortable place, largely indoors. How has your work helped more people connect to one another? Seventeen or more people showed up on June 17 for the semiannual work day. They got to know each other better by working together and having a meal together.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held Spring Work Day to repair, clean and conduct maintenance on the church and to conduct annual landscaping tasks.• Installed motion sensitive exterior lighting to illuminate the building's RE entrance.• Contractor cleaned and maintained three hvac units.• Removed hazard from Finley side of building where rotten fixtures threatened to release a large timber onto the sidewalk.• New shrubs planted along sanctuary
What were this year's challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove wood and other cellulose debris from crawl space that can attract termites.• Install timer or sensor to control emergency egress lighting.• Block inactive register in foyer ceiling with piece of plywood to prevent insulation from falling down.• Change batteries in the smoke detectors

- Paint ceiling in RE room where light fixture was changed
- Improve lighting in basement
- Replace busted bathroom window
- Finish and paint dry wall patch behind bookcase in Fellowship Hall
- Install weather stripping on front door
- Exterior patching and painting
 - Paint over spots where rust is seeping through
 - Patch cracks in stucco
 - Repair east side soffet
 - Scrape and paint peeling paint at entrance
 - Paint exterior window sills
 - Paint and scrape exterior windows
 - Paint and scrape ventilator ring near roof peak (difficult to access)
- Replace doors separating sanctuary from Fellowship Hall with acoustic accordion dividers.

Aspirations and Inspirations for next year:

- Address unmet needs listed above and...
- Find a suitable floor covering for kitchen area
- Fix leak in roof
- Repair rotten wood in foundation
- Continue to improve electrical system to remove knob and tube wiring hazards

Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year.

On the Spring Work Day, Harriet Stephens once again defrosted the refrigerator removing an inch plus thick buildup of ice. She owns this job and year after year, she makes sure it is done (but this is not the only thing she did.)

Name of person submitting report: Bob Niblack

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chairperson and Members:

Laurie Soper (Chair); John Bowman, Joan Lacktis, Amy Evans, Rev. Wendy Bartel, Jessica Mason

Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose:

The Communications Committee (CommComm) is responsible for policies and procedures pertaining to both internal and external communications at SFUU. It is also responsible for executing various communications activities.

How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We primarily help to “build beloved community” by trying to keep the lines of communications open among members and between the congregation and the larger community beyond SFUU

How has your work helped more people connect to one another?

By keeping them informed about what others are doing and thinking/feeling as well as opportunities for participation.

Highlight this year’s accomplishments:

- Jessica Mason joined the committee!
- Ongoing website updates
- Started podcasting revs’ sermons
- Established guidelines for Churchies and monitored posts
- We continued to receive good coverage from the Auburn Journal (like the MLK Jr. celebration). Also, we had our twice-a-month small ad in the paper as well as two large "Advertorial" write-ups and photos
- Developed a process for ongoing planning and production of the newsletter
- Started Member Stories feature on website.
- Started a Committee Directory

What were this year’s challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force?

The ministers were doing a lot of the work of soliciting content for the newsletter and we will need to develop a new sustainable process for doing that

Aspirations and Inspirations for next year:

Evaluate how the newsletter will be produced and what it will look like in the future. Develop Committee Directory. Evaluate church database systems and see if we want to change from Congregation Builder. Help Rev. Mike get up to speed on communications at SFUU and find out what he needs from us

Share a favorite memory from your group’s work this year.

Having guidelines for Churchies in place before the election allowed us to limit political posts without causing any controversy.

Name of person submitting report: **Laurie Soper (Chair)**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee

Chairperson: Maureen Bauman, Financial Officer – Board of Trustees

Members: Linda Snyder, Treasurer, Jim Robison, Marsha von Dessonneck, Tom Crandall, Rev Lynn Gardner

Committee Purpose: The Finance Committee supports the Board of Trustees and Treasurer in carrying out the financial responsibilities of SFUU. Specifically, the Committee is responsible for overseeing financial accounting and reporting, preparation of the annual budget, financial planning, asset management, coordination with the Annual Stewardship Drive, recordkeeping for member pledges and preparation of pledge statements, collection of income and payment of expenses, and making policy recommendations to the Board with respect to financial matters. The Committee, together with the Treasurer, has supervisory responsibility for counting and depositing the cash collection and pledge receipts each Sunday. The Financial Officer serves on the committee as Board Liaison. The committee meets frequently during the 3 months leading up to preparation of the annual budget, and on an as needed basis at other times throughout the year. The committee reviews monthly financial statements prepared by the Treasurer.

In practice, most of the tasks related to the above are performed by the Treasurer, who manages the paid contract bookkeeper and payroll services. The Treasurer also coordinates with the paid Church Administrator for some data entry. This is a time-consuming position, and a continuing focus of the committee has been to review a breakdown of the responsibilities and try to identify ways to lighten the burden of the Treasurer's job.

SFUU bylaws designate the responsibility for an "annual review of the books and records" to the Financial Officer, who may enlist the aid of members of the Committee or of others in performing the review, providing they are independent of the day-to-day financial operations of the Congregation.

How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? By providing a sounding board and forum for thoughtful discussions of financial processes and issues, we assist in maintaining a sustainable budget, to support the many valuable programs offered at SFUU that build beloved community.

Highlight of this year's accomplishments: Jim Robinson transitioned from being the Treasurer to mentor and continuing some specific tasks for new Treasurer Linda Snyder. There was significant work when our bookkeeper gave notice. Thank you Cathie Tritel for your years of service. A search was conducted but the initial contract, with a new organization, was determined to not meet our needs. A second search was completed resulting in a new bookkeeping services and a new payroll service. As part of this process there was a transition to a new electronic bookkeeping system. All of this required a significant amount of work by our new Treasurer, including a review of the chart of accounts and all the basic information entered into the new system. Linda worked tirelessly to contract with the new services and finalize the new system (thank you Linda). The new system is a significant improvement. In addition, Marsha von Dessonneck organized and managed the "collection counters" to assure that the collection was counted and recorded weekly (thank you Marsha). Lastly the budget was developed (by our new treasurer) and a balanced budget was presented to the Board which was ultimately approved by the Congregation.

What were this year's challenges/unmet needs? The transition to a bookkeeping service and a new accounting system was the biggest challenge but it was accomplished.

Name of person submitting report: Maureen Bauman

INTERIM MINISTER TASK FORCE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Interim Minister Task Force
Chairperson and Members: Chair – Jenny Ferris. Members – John Bowman, Suzanne Borth, Ken Evans, Barbie Laderman-Jones
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: Choose and hire interim minister for 2017-9
How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We needed an interim minister, so we got one.
How has your work helped more people connect to one another? Well, the task force folks all got along well and got to know each other better. Not really an opportunity to reach out to anyone else...
Highlight this year's accomplishments: Interim minister hired. What were this year's challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force? It was a difficult task to do all of the research and interviews for this job. A lot of work over a short period of time.
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: Hopefully there won't be a need for this task force again for a long time. Next step in a called ministry in 2019.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year. It was funny watching people (including myself) struggle with Skype.
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation? This was required to be a closed process, so no.
Anything else? This job needs about 40 hours of work from its participants. Anyone considering doing this needs to be flexible and committed to getting the job done in the time required. Also, salary ties into the number of perks being paid. Should understand UUA minister compensation before negotiating salary.
Name of person submitting report: Jenny Ferris

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Membership Committee
Chairperson and Members: Chairpersons: Marylee Drake for 10 months; Marsha von Dessonneck for 2 months Members: Harriet Stephens, Rob Bietz, Bob Coombs, Marsha von Dessonneck, Marylee Drake, Ronda Pate, (SFUU Administrator) and Reverend Wendy Bartel.
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: The purpose of the Membership committee is to support people in finding a meaningful connection with SFUU through exploring the path to membership; attending worship; offering service through volunteering; and building and deepening relationships with this multigenerational community. The Committee's purpose is to retain members after they join, allowing the congregation to grow and prosper.
How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We have had membership functions throughout the year to engage current and new members in getting to know one another better: a picnic and game night in the fall; participation in the Auburn Community Festival of Lights parade during the holidays; a mid-winter potluck at SFUU; and a potluck after the youth service in June. We also had 3 Saturday Suppers, where we invited visitors to SFUU who want to get to know some members a little better.
How has your work helped more people connect to one another? See above. All of these activities helped to increase connections with members and visitors to SFUU.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: We had 10 new members join SFUU, with an increase in visitors throughout the year.
What were this year's challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force? For the most part, the committee ran smoothly. However, it would benefit from a few more members who are willing to help with the various activities that we would like to do.
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: We would like to continue to have activities that will allow for folks to meet more of the members, friends, and visitors to SFUU. More volunteers for the committee would help do this.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year.
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?
Anything else?
Name of person submitting report: Marsha von Dessonneck

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – CHILDREN/YOUTH -COMMITTEE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: RE Committee
Chairperson and Members: Tricia Caspers (chair), Randy Nemeth, Bonnie Dahl, Joan Harris, Chelle Kucera and Adrean Dill (DRE). Formerly: Jennifer Warner
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: The C/YRE is tasked with tending to the atmosphere and direction of Religious Education opportunities for the children and youth of SFUU. How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? This year the RE committee welcomed a new RE director, and together we sought out volunteers to teach the RE curriculum (historical UUs). The RE committee works to create a space where children, youth and parents feel welcome. How has your work helped more people connect to one another? This year the RE committee arranged several RE activities outside of the SFUU building, including a movie night, a picnic, May Day deliveries for new families, the RE-led service, the annual RE retreat, and the upcoming pool party.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: The RE had a large group of children this year in the K-5 classes, and those classes were filled with excellent and lively teacher volunteers. Another highlight was our three-day family retreat to Montara lighthouse where we played games, went tidepooling, cooked and served meals together. We've created bylaws! We will approve them in August. What were this year's challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force? Our youth group really struggled this year. We combined both youth into one group because there were so few in attendance. We're hoping that changing the structure of youth group (with one youth leader) will provide more continuity next year. We also plan to bowl. We would like to have one more member of our committee but haven't yet found the right person.
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: We'd like to have a more robust and consistent youth group. We'd also like to have more RE-inspired intergenerational activities. We've sought a new location for our RE retreat (for variety) but have been unsuccessful so far. New teacher volunteers.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year. Sitting in a giant circle and Montara Lighthouse, laughing and playing games with adults and children.
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation? It's always fun to have member-led RE activities in the summer.
Anything else?
Name of person submitting report: Tricia Caspers

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – CHILDREN/YOUTH – DRE REPORT

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth
Chairperson and Members: Chair: Adrean Louise Dills
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: Plan and oversee RE opportunities for the children and youth of SFUU. Ensure that nursery care is available and appropriate policies and safety measures are in place.
<u>How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year?</u> This year the children’s programs focused on UU identity. They learned and practiced the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism. The C/YRE committee, childcare workers, and volunteer teachers welcomed over half a dozen new families. While not all of these families will make SFUU their spiritual home, I am confident that they were welcomed in the spirit of Unitarian Universalism and genuine hospitality.
<u>How has your work helped more people connect to one another?</u> Provided continuity from previous years and created an environment for children and youth to develop community with one another.
<u>Highlight this year’s accomplishments:</u> As a year of transition to a new DRE, maintaining RE programming without being overwhelmed by change is an accomplishment. Volunteers, parents and staff assisted with this transition. The children and youth also shared a lot of enthusiasm for the annual RE worship service, jumping at the opportunity to play speaking roles. The K-2 class completed the Wonderful Welcome curriculum while the 3-5 th grade class completed Faithful Journeys.
<u>What were this year’s challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force?</u> The ministers and I experimented with a rotating schedule for the youth group, which coupled with sporadic attendance and small numbers, did not seem to meet the youth’s needs for consistency or a coherent program.
<u>Aspirations and Inspirations for next year :</u> Goals for this coming year include: assisting the C/YRE committee with re-drafting/updating bylaws, rebuilding the youth program, find at least one occasion to collaborate with the Grass Valley congregation, and to update and utilize the field trip and driver policies.
<u>Share a favorite memory from your group’s work this year.</u> This year I really enjoyed getting to know the C/YRE committee volunteers at the committee meetings. It was wonderful to feel the levity of coming together in a small community setting!
<u>Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?</u> I have reached out to neighboring congregations with several invitations and opportunities in hopes of building inter-congregational alliances. I will continue this work into the coming year. I also appreciate Bob Niblack’s offer to assist with improvements to the kids play area in the back of the church. Thank you to everyone who came forward this year to volunteer to teach, organize materials, or be a Guest Star this summer! Jennifer Warner deserves particular mention for sharing the wisdom of experience
Anything else?
Name of person submitting report: Adrean Louise Dills, M.Div.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Social Justice Committee
Chairperson and Members: Co-Chairs Lisa Joseph Boch, Shannon Dooley-Miller; Members as of June 2017, Janie Evans, Loretta Saenz, Carol Arvay, , Mary Lou Bailey, Millie Livingston Allen Edwards, George Lowry; Project Leaders Reverend Wendy Bartel, Guest At Your Table; Laurie Soper, Auburn Interfaith Food Closet; Heidi Knost, Equal Exchange,
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: The SFUU Social Justice Committee provides education, awareness and invites congregants to participate in issues of social justice. How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? Our Congregational Discernment and Engagement project chosen “Caring for the Earth—Water and Food as it Relates to Water” has given us the opportunity to focus on water issues and the impact of climate change. Through our exploration we have created opportunities for congregants at SFUU to be inspired to care for our earth and participate in Social Justice activities that promote peace and justice. How has your work helped more people connect to one another? We have held workshops, had letter writing activism opportunities and field trips that have hopefully given SFUU members and visitors an opportunity to explore together and create awareness of the need to be involved collectively on Social Justice Issues.
Highlight this year’s accomplishments: We had a Climate Footprint project with workshops and surveys to create awareness of our carbon footprints by Allen Edwards and Carol Arvay. Allen also lead a workshop on solar energy. There was a field trip to Allen’s Tree farm and a Tree planting event on US Forest lands attended by SFUU members. We hosted the workshop about the Centennial Dam. We had several letter-writing opportunities after church on Sunday that addressed the issues at Standing Rock, Fracking and comment letters for the Centennial Dam. Carol Arvay has overseen and developed our library resources with books about water justice and maintained our Social Justice Bulletin Board with upcoming events. Lisa Boch coordinated with Placer Collaborative Network to have SFUU host an Immigration Forum. What were this year’s challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force? The committee questions how valuable the Social Justice activities have been for the congregation as participation is limited at times. We are beginning to get more committee members learning to use Google Docs to work on project developments.
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year : We will continue to develop our commitment to our CDEP project and explore ways to involve the congregation. We hope we will be able to connect with other UU churches and participate in more District level workshops. Reach out to other social justice agencies and make partnerships for joint advocacy projects and events. Explore our commitment to continue to be a Green Sanctuary this next year.
Share a favorite memory from your group’s work this year. We put on a workshop at SFUU about the Centennial Dam and invited representatives from local community agencies including Foothill Water Network, Nisenan Rancheria, Friends of the Bear River,

and had the film maker of “Voice of the Bear River”. People were informed about their opportunity to write comment letters to the Army Corp of Engineers about their concerns about the environmental impact and alternatives to having a Dam on our local Bear River. We were grateful that SFUU could host this collaborative event for not only our congregants but for our local community as well.

Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?
Hoping we can coordinate more with Adult RE and the Children’s RE program more on Social Justice education this next year.

Anything else?

Name of person submitting report: Shannon Dooley-Miller

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship Committee

Chairperson and Members: Chair: Gary Koerner
Members: Mary Piette, Marsha vonDessonneck, Stevie Rea, Andy Cramer
Reverends Lynn & Wendy

Purpose:
Annual Pledge Drive

How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year?
We achieved our goal of sustaining our pledge income at last year’s level.

How has your work helped more people connect to one another?
We held a congregation wide dinner where more people connected with one another.

Highlight this year’s accomplishments:
We achieved our goal of maintaining pledge income from the previous year.

What were this year’s challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force?
To meet our ultimate goal of all expenses covered by pledge income, we need increased membership.

Aspirations and Inspirations for next year:
More of the same, but some new blood would be nice.

Name of person submitting report: Gary Koerner

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Name of Board/Committee/Task Force: Worship Committee
Chairperson and Members: Amy Evans – Chair Members: Joan Lacktis, Pam Downs, Suzanne Borth Ad hoc: Vicky Jungers, Barbie Ladermann-Jones
Board/Committee/Task Force Purpose: We conduct worship to acknowledge the worth of ideas, persons, and things around us. The purpose of the worship committee is to plan and present worship that is informational, inspirational, and transformational <u>How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year?</u> We strive to inspire people to engage with both their community (via acts of kindness, justice, social action, or compassion) and to engage their inner selves and find meaning in the diversity of our world and in our own experiences. <u>How has your work helped more people connect to one another?</u> Worship associates work closely together and also reach out to members of the congregation for help with services. The work of creating worship is a tremendously personal experience and all involved come away more connected to each other.
<u>Highlight this year's accomplishments:</u> Many successful reflections from members continues our work to build community by sharing our stories. Additionally, we have trained several committed worship associates. <u>What were this year's challenges/unmet needs of your board/committee/task force?</u> We tried to implement a more formal process for feedback for worship associates but haven't had a lot of 'pick up' of the idea as people tend to get a bit overwhelmed with all the steps involved with being a WA.
<u>Aspirations and Inspirations for next year:</u> Inspire new members of the congregation to participate in worship; continue to see consistent attendance whether it's the ministers, visitors or members of the congregation in the pulpit. Would also like to get some training or other ideas for the chair and key members of the committee. May also need to attract some new members since Joan is leaving the committee.
<u>Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year.</u> Joan and Amy's technology service was unique and hopefully inspired people in the congregation – both to disconnect at times and to use tech to increase knowledge.
<u>Anything else?</u> Good working relationship with the ministers makes the work rewarding and fun.
Name of person submitting report: Amy Evans

BUDGET

Year 2016/17 Budget

Approved 5/22/16

	Approved Budget July-June <u>2015/16</u>	Approved Budget July-June <u>2016/17</u>	Expense Group <u>Subtotals</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Pledges	165,000	170,000	
Non-Pledge Contributions	5,000	5,000	
Sunday Collections	7,000	8,000	
Auction & Fundraising	15,000	15,000	
Scrip	600	600	
Center for the Arts	1,000	1,000	
Rental Income	0	0	
Interest & Investment Income	100	0	
Other/Election Income	300	1,600	
Child/Youth RE Income	0	0	
Adult RE Income	0	0	
<i>Transfers from Birthday Fund</i>			
Total Income	194,000	201,200	

Expense

ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrator	14,000	14,000	
Computer and Internet	1,100	850	
Office Supplies & Copies	400	600	
Bank, Broker, EFT Fees	340	240	
Telephone	580	580	
Postage	150	130	
Casualty Insurance	3,000	2,800	
Board Expenses	400	400	
Accounting	3,000	3,000	
Misc Admin Expenses	400	400	
Payroll Taxes	3,456	3,129	_____
Copier	1,000	1,030	
Worker's Comp.	1,400	1,400	
Furniture & Equipment	500	500	
Coffee & Admin. Supplies		50	
<i>Est. Salary Rate & Hours Adjs.</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	30,109

COMMITTEES

Social Justice	750	300	
Finance & Stewardship	500	500	
Membership	500	500	
Committee on Ministry	700	700	
Caring Ministry	200	200	

Communications	500	535	
Placer People of Faith	1,050	1,050	
All Church Functions	200	200	
Misc. Projects & Program Development			3,985

MINISTRY

Salary & Housing (see Note 1 below)	75,500	78,061	
Benefits	19,000	19,226	
Professional Expenses	8,600	8,701	
Sabbatical Reserve	1,000	1,000	
Ministerial Discretionary Fund	0	0	<u>106,988</u>

WORSHIP

Honoraria/mileage	3,000	2,500	
Music Director	8,400	8,400	
Choir Director	1,568	0	
Accompanist/Performers/Misc.	2,500	2,000	
Supplies, Sacred Space	600	400	
Choir Supplies	400	0	<u>13,300</u>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Director / Staff	13,080	14,400	
Youth Coordinator	4,290		
RE Supplies	500	800	
Child Care Staff	4,400	3,100	
RE Training	1,000	700	
RE Youth	400	400	
RE Snacks	360	300	
Adult RE	250	300	
Background checks	100	100	
Chalice Lighter Grant	(2,600)	0	<u>20,100</u>

BUILDING

Janitorial Services	3,900	3,900	
Taxes and Fees	650	680	
Grounds Maintenance	1,600	1,600	
Utilities	3,000	3,000	
Disposal Service	330	330	
Maintenance & Repair	1,000	3,000	
Technology Improvements	0	2,000	
Building Supplies	300	300	<u>14,810</u>

Total Expense	200,680	201,006	201,006
Net Income (Expense)		(6,680)	194

**Note 1: The Salary and Housing line includes 7.65% of the salary in lieu of the FICA tax (per UUA 50% of the self-employment tax that they are required to pay

equivalent to approximately