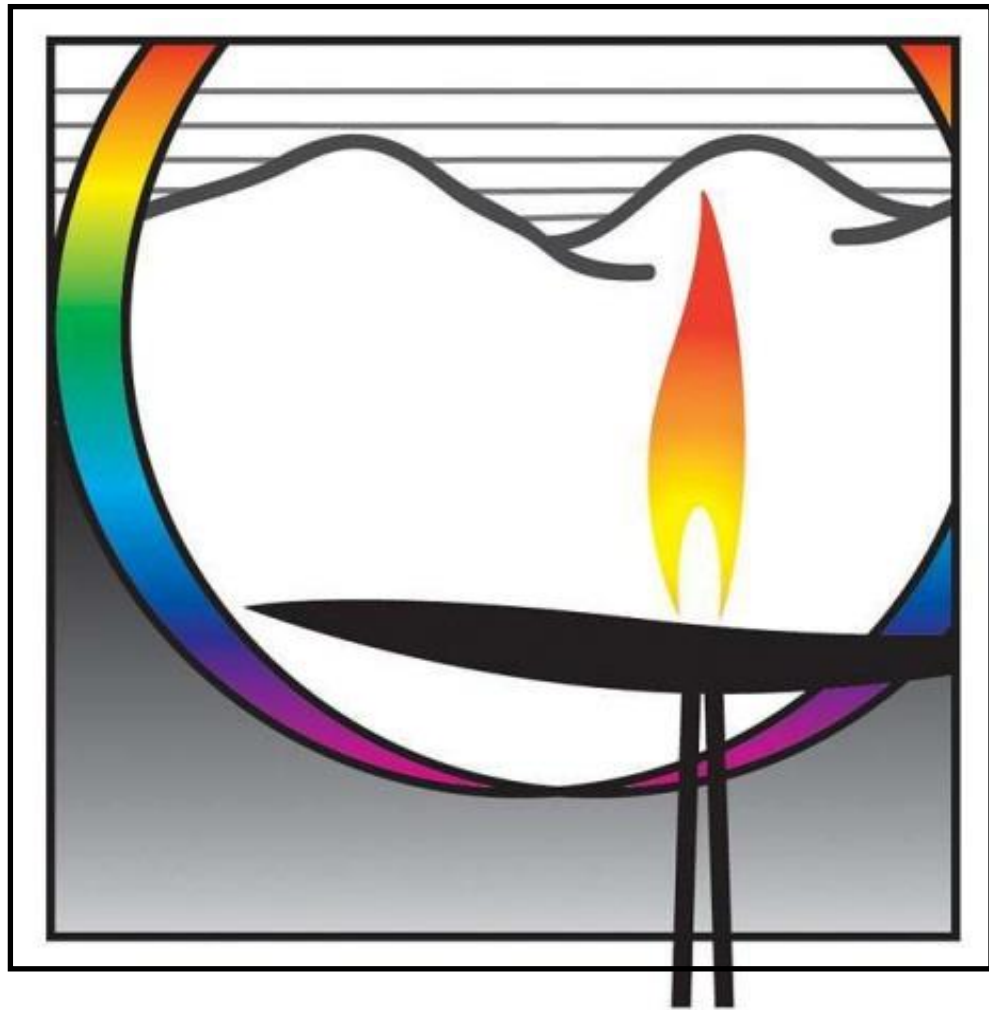
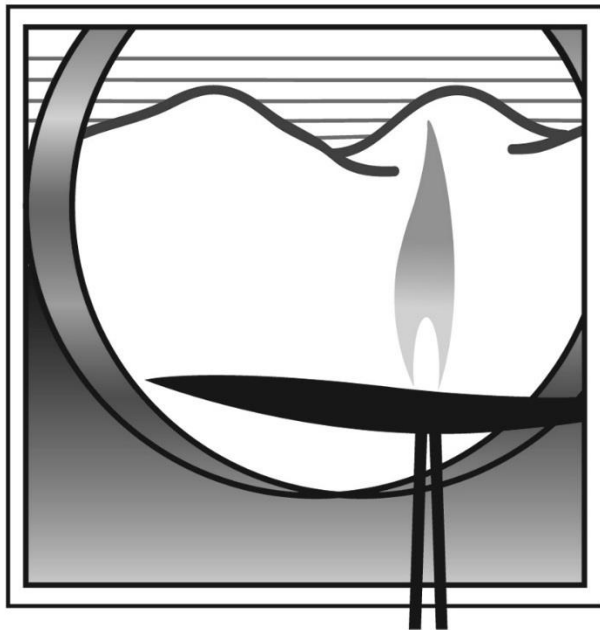


Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists



Annual Report
2021-21



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

Annual Report 2020-21

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 MINISTER AND STAFF

**190 Finley St.
Auburn, CA 95603
www.mysfuu.org
530-830-2544**

Minister

Rev. Alex da Silva Souto

Office Administrator

Vicky Jungers

Director of Religious Education

Adrean Dills

Music Director

Patricia Leftridge

PILLAR OF THE CHURCH AWARD

The highest honor that SFUU gives each year is called “The Pillar of the Church Award.” The Board of Trustees has entrusted the selection of the awardee(s) to an ad hoc committee of the former Pillar award recipients. This 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 congregation

The highest honor that SFUU gives each year is called “The Pillar of the Church Award.” Per the Board of Trustees’ direction, your active past pillars met in April to select the recipient of this year’s award. To be eligible for this award, you must meet the criteria listed above.

Once you receive this award, your name goes on a plaque in the foyer of our church building and onto the Pillar’s page on our website. Later, you get the joy of herding all the past pillars together to select the next year’s pillar, AND then you get to bestow the mantle of ‘pillarhood’ to the selectee during our annual congregational meeting. The following is a synopsis of the accolades given to this year’s recipient by SFUU’s past pillars.

This year’s well-deserved pillar’s award goes to someone who worked tirelessly to help SFUU move forward during the pandemic. Early on, she spearheaded the *Way Forward Survey* in an effort to improve our connections and cope more smoothly with doing church while physically distanced. More recently she worked to make our virtual covenant groups a success. Both the survey and the covenant groups were critical activities for fostering a sense of community while remaining physically isolated from each other. In addition, she serves as a vital back-up zoom tech for our wonderful administrator, she sings in the virtual choir with a big inviting smile, and she is on a team that is fine-tuning our ability to stream our services as we move back to in-person church services. If you haven’t figured it out yet, **Suzanne Borth** is this year’s Pillar.

Beyond being a stand-out during this unusual year, Suzanne is an active member of the Board of Trustees, and a welcome contributor to worship. She is deeply connected to our UU principles; and wants everyone else to be too. She was a member of our stellar Search Committee, which brought both Reverend AJ and Reverend Alex to SFUU. She attacks all of her tasks with purpose, energy, and reliability. Several years ago, she brought the Coming of Age Program to SFUU, and did all of the logistic work for the teens and their families, including three weekends of out-of-town events involving youth from two other congregations. Yes, Suzanne has demonstrated, depth, breadth and leadership here at SFUU.

Suzanne’s UU roots are deep, and she encourages others to explore the whole breadth of unitarian universalism (rather than solely the depth of SFUU). She was responsible for getting the word out about General Assembly and district-level meetings, and represented SFUU as a voting delegate last year at GA.

I have likely missed some or your other contributions, Suzanne. So, let me just say that we are immeasurably fortunate to be the beneficiaries of your energy, can-do attitude, and spiritual connection to Unitarian Universalism. Congratulations **Suzanne Borth**, Pillar of the Church.

Pillars 1989-2019

1998-99	Don Kelly
1999-00	Linda Olsen, Jacki Carr, Done Bowen
2000-01	Al Thym
2002-03	Tom Ferrel
2003-04	Anne Seeey
2004-05	Carol Arvay
2005-06	Ceci Dalton
2006-07	Laura Koerner
2007-08	Maureen Bauman
2008-09	Joan Lacktis
2009-10	Dan Dahl
2010-11	Ann Dennison
2011-12	Andy Cramer
2012-13	Karen Morse and Bob Niblack
2013-14	Ken and Amy Evans
2014-15	Val and John Bowman
2015-16	Marsha von Dessoneck
2016-17	Robert and Janie
2017-18	Mary Piette
2018-19	Stevie Rea and Jim Robison
2019-20	Suzanne Borth

MINISTER'S REPORT



:

MISSING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Name: Board of Trustees
Chairperson and Members: Maureen Bauman, President, Marsha von Dessonneck, Vice President, Rick Marshall, Secretary, Geoff Smith, Finance Officer, Suzanne Borth, Rick Ross and John Bohland, Members at Large
<p>Purpose: Responsible for overseeing the operations of the Congregation, review, and update policies, consider proposals, and manage SFUU Congregation funds.</p> <p>How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We have worked to make sure that the church remains consistent with our values, and we have programs that nourish the spirits of our members, care for the earth and support our work towards peace and justice. We commit to open and honest communication as a congregation and board.</p> <p>How has your work helped more people connect to one another? The impact of COVID lasted longer than anyone anticipated, and we sorely missed contact with each other. Over the course of the year, despite regular online services, we noticed a zoom fatigue among members of all ages. Committees continued their work online with Adult Religious Education (ARE) taking a big role in facilitating multiple ways for members to connect.</p>
<p>Highlight this year's accomplishments: A survey was conducted early in the fiscal year to get input from our Congregation Members about ways they wanted to connect. As a result, ARE oversaw the implementation of multiple online groups including covenant groups, book groups, and social/discussion groups that had been previously held in person. Thirty percent of our members responded to the questionnaire and the variety of options allowed many people to be engaged.</p> <p>The issues of COVID remained a huge concern through the year. Work began in 2021 to figure out how to enhance our system so we could “stream” our services when we at last returned to in-person services. This was a huge lift for a small group of people who worked tirelessly at figuring this out. At the same time a new COVID Task Force was constituted of members of the BOT to determine how we could return to services safely in the Fall. This included active listening to members and reaching out to each family with children unable to be vaccinated due to their age.</p> <p>Most significantly, our newly called Minister, Rev Alex Van Tine, was forced to resign, at the end of his second year, in order to return to the east coast due to his wife's health issues. A Search Committee was quickly put together and consultation with UUA staff helped us to determine our next steps. The Search Committee determined a two-year contract minister was the best alternative, with the option of a sanctioned call process at the end of that time, if there was agreement with all parties. The Search Committee reviewed applicants, interviewed, and then joyously contracted with Rev Alex da Silva Souto.</p>
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: To work with our new minister, Rev Alex, to increase our presence in the community and through this effort increase the number of members in our congregation.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year: COVID conversations were hard, but we worked diligently to hear each other and strive to develop policies that everyone could support. One evening in particular we had quite a challenge but through the work of all present we came to a decision everyone could live with and support.
<p>Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?</p> <p>The congregation clearly was ready to return to in-person services with many restrictions in place to achieve safety for all. It was joyous to realize that we had solid policies in place, that allowed a return to in-person services, despite the increase of illness in our community due to new variants.</p>
Name of person submitting report: Maureen Bauman, President BOT

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Name: Adult Religious Education
Chairperson and Members: Jan Lowry, Chair Members Mary Lou Bailey, George Lowry
Purpose: To engage the congregation in meaningful dialogue while learning how our values can help others. How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We continued to have our group gatherings on Zoom including Men's Group, Brewed Awakenings, After Hours, and our Covenanted Groups: Elders, Womans, UU Mamas, Sacred Language and Sacred Traditions, and Community Builders. How has your work helped more people connect to one another? ARE received great feedback from the Covenanted groups. They were a wonderful way to connect with others.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: Training facilitators to run the Covenant Groups and actually having the group members connect with one another. Doing all this over Zoom was a learning experience but it was well worth it.
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: Having more members in ARE. Resuming the Second Sunday Forums when we are able to meet face to face again.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year: Realizing that ARE did some good things this year. Seeing everyone come together.
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?
Name of person submitting report: Jan Lowry

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

MISSING

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Name: Communications
Chairperson and Members: Joan Lacktis(chair), Amy Evans, Trish Caspers, Vicky Jungers (church administrator)
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. In this year of minimal in-person communication, communication through the newsletter and Facebook pages helped us maintain a sense of connection with each other, with SFUU, and with the denomination as a whole
Highlight this year’s accomplishments: We were able to continue all of our basic functions throughout the COVID quarantine so people could stay informed and have some sense of connection We changed the look of the buttons on the Homepage of the website in response to a suggestion from the minister Barb Munn took over a lot of the responsibility for maintaining the social justice pages on the website and has greatly expanded the content. Barb also took responsibility for posting the recordings of the services which started when the services went to ZOOM We experimented with asking a question related to the service on the Facebook page as a way to stimulate discussion. It was difficult to keep up on a weekly basis and we let it go after a couple of months
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: We would like to have more of a presence in the Auburn Journal We are looking forward to working with our new minister and incorporating his vision for SFUU communications into our work
Share a favorite memory from your group’s work this year: Rev. Alex enjoys writing pieces for the Auburn Journal so we have more visibility in the Community and more people are finding out about SFUU
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?
Name of person submitting report: Joan Lacktis

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MISSING

Fun-d-Raising COMMITTEE

Name: Fun-d-Raising Committee
Chairperson and Members: Stevie Rea, Cindy Stubblebine, Mary Piette, Marsha von Dessonneck, Joan Lacktis, Vicky Jungers, Jeanine Meunier
Purpose: To oversee two main non-pledging fundraisers each church year, incorporating community building activities for all ages; provide suggestions for and solicit donations from congregants and greater community; manage online auction site.
How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? Supplement the gap between budget and pledges in a fun and engaging way.
How has your work helped more people connect to one another? By suggesting and offering activities for all ages and interests, the donated events provide small group gatherings that allow people to get to know one another better, and to build camaraderie by working together to put on in-person events.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: 2020-2021 Fall of 2020: organized the Nightmare on Zoom Street, Halloween-themed entertainment. No of donated items: 95 amount raised: \$6411 Spring of 2021: organized Metamorphosis, Story Slam event with 10 members participating as storytellers. No of donated items: 46 amount raised: \$5095 (plus \$4,000 one-time matching donation)
Aspirations and Inspirations for 2021-2022: Fall of 2021: in person, at church, 11/6 tentative date Spring of 2022: Story Slam in May
Budget goal for 2021-2022: we will need to raise \$15,000
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year: Learning how to best do online auctions and the many capabilities of Auctria So much fun working together as team on Zoom Love how members of SFUU supported our fundraising efforts on zoom
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation? Our Fall MCs and Leah sliding into icy water to bump up donations. Our Story Slam storytellers and their stories!
Name of person submitting report: Stevie Rea/obo committee members

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Name: Membership Committee
Chairperson and Members: Chair: Mary Piette. Members: Bob Coombs, Vicky Jungers (SFUU Admin), Janet Russell, Marsha von Dessonneck, Jim Ferris. During the 2020-2021 year, then-minister A.J. van Tine was an ex-officio member who attended each meeting.
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 also to retain new members, allowing the congregation to grow and prosper.
<p>How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year?</p> <p>We offered monthly, later weekly, opportunities for newcomers to Chat with the Minister following Zoom Sunday services. We sent greeting letters to people who filled out the newcomer link. We took attendance at Zoom Sunday services.</p> <p>We educated ourselves on using Google Docs for committee business.</p> <p>Working with the Stewardship Committee, we reviewed the list of Members and updated it for accuracy and completeness.</p>
<p>How has your work helped more people connect to one another?</p> <p>We supported the pre-and post-church Zoom breakout rooms for discussion and socialization.</p> <p>We kept an eye out for people we had not "seen" at Zoom church for awhile, and followed up as needed.</p>
<p>Highlight this year's accomplishments:</p> <p>We completed an official Charter document for the Membership Committee, in line with the church's goal to standardize committee organization.</p>
<p>Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: We hope to gain and retain members for SFUU via a resumed, in-person Path to Membership program. We can do this by welcoming newcomers to in-person services, Saturday Suppers, and Chats with the Minister.</p> <p>We will help to implement the smooth, safe return to in-person services by updating procedures and recruiting volunteer staff for Welcomers, and Open/Closers.</p>
<p>Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year:</p> <p>Nothing comes to mind, except that it was fulfilling to "see" committee members once a month via Zoom.</p>
<p>Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation?</p> <p>Frankly this was an "annus horribilis" for Membership.. SFUU's main draw for membership is the welcoming, friendly nature of our community and this was difficult to execute with Zoom services. For the first time in SFUU's history, we welcomed zero new members during this fiscal year. Sadly, we lost several members to relocation and waning interest in online church.</p>
Name of person submitting report: Mary Piette, Membership Committee Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – CHILDREN/YOUTH -COMMITTEE

MISSING

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Name: Social Justice 2020-2021
Chairperson and Members: George Lowrey Carol Koons, Barb Munn, Loretta Saenz, Mary Lou Bailey, Tracy Dunigan
Purpose: How has your work served the Mission of SFUU this year? We promoted projects that cared for the earth and acts of peace and justice. How has your work helped more people connect to one another? We organized and led a book study on the topic of plastics and held zoom gatherings for participants in UUtheVote.
Highlight this year's accomplishments: UUtheVote, Mission Earth plastics study, Project Drawdown Ecochallenge, Ongoing support of Peace Camp, in December we participated in NorCal Resist Adopt a Family. We also participated in Placer People of Faith Together
Aspirations and Inspirations for next year: To continue UUthevote, Mission Earth and holiday giving activities and to bring back some activities we have done in the past, such as Crop Walk and Guest at Your Table.
Share a favorite memory from your group's work this year: In a time when we were so isolated due to covid, we were glad to be able to gather virtually with UUtheVote and the Plastics study.
Any highlights in the wider congregational life? or partnerships with other folks in the congregation? We partnered with Adult RE for the plastics book study and with worship team for Earth Day service. We advertised our UUtheVote meetings with the UUA and were joined by a few people from other parts of the country, including John and Val who talked with us about the political situation in Iowa.
Name of person submitting report: Carol Koons and Barb Munn

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MISSING

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee 2020-2021 Chairperson: Meg Dorsey Members: Pattiey Leftridge, Pam Downs, Jeanine Meunier, Amy Evans, Stevie Rea, Vicky Jungers Rev AJ van Tine. Board Liaison Suzanne Borth

Committee Purpose:

The purpose of the worship committee is to plan and present quality worship that is informational, inspirational, meaningful and transformational. The committee plans and presents worship services on Sundays when the ministers are away from the pulpit and supports the minister when they are in the pulpit. Additionally, we solicit and evaluate feedback from the congregation and make adjustments to improve the quality of services to meet and support the intentions and wishes of the membership. The worship committee directs and supports the Worship Associates and identifies a worship associate for each service where one is needed, along with providing training and support for all services areas.

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

We have served the Mission of SFUU this year in many ways. In our effort to build and maintain beloved community in this extraordinary year of pandemic, we have transitioned successfully to fully online services utilizing the zoom platform. Several members have developed skills to navigate our services seamlessly, most especially Vicky Jungers, Amy Evans and Suzanne Borth to whom we are most grateful. A benefit of this transition includes only one service at 10am which has allowed our members who have not previously shared service together to experience unity. Our facilitated meet and greet breakout sessions have allowed our members who have not previously socialized to get to know others in our community. We conducted 1 Worship

Training session this year, greatly expanding the skills and participation of our members in services. We have continued the use of Soul Matters resource packets and have enhanced coherence of our monthly themes as well as expanded access to beautifully curated readings, music and sermon themes. Our YRE team has been more active in services which has greatly enhanced our beloved community.

Highlight of this year's accomplishments:

As noted above, successful transition to online services, expansion of member participation in services and adoption of Soul Matters has highlighted this year for the Worship Committee.

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

During this second year of pandemic, there have been many challenges such as remaining connected as a committee and with the congregation. Ongoing zoom technology and plans to transition to a live streaming format have been very difficult and time consuming. Other than transition to online services, we have experienced no significant challenges and continue to grow in strength and creativity.

Aspirations and Inspirations for next year for your committee/board/etc:

We will continue to connect with the congregation and membership of SFUU to solicit feedback on enhancing worship service during the coming year of zoom church. We also hope to include more members in service participation with reflections, special music, special projects and ideas/suggestions for service themes. The committee has aspirations to create more intergenerational connections and incorporate members from all ages to contribute to services. We will continue to hold annual Worship Training and support members who wish to begin taking a more active role in services as they develop Worship Associate skills- We have learned that as members contribute, they feel more connected to the community and to the Unitarian Universalist principles and social justice action.

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

Meg- being introduced via video to our new settled minister, Rev Alex!

Amy - working with Leah and other guests from congregations far away.

Vicky - helping to create and experience the lovely and meaningful COL for Carol Arvey. I would never have imagined it to be so connected and moving for SFUU and her family.

Joan- Learning to create worship services with Rev. Alex

Name of person submitting report: Meg Dorsey

APPROVED BUDGET

SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS		
Year 2021/22 Budget		
		Budget
		FY
		<u>2021/2022</u>
	<u>Income</u>	
4050 PLEDGE + NON-PLEDGE RECEIPTS		160,000
4150 SUNDAY COLLECTIONS-- generally cash		3,000
4200 OTHER INCOME-- election inc, etc.		700
4250 SCRIP		100
4400 COFFEE SALES		50
4750 FUNDRAISING INC-- auctions and other fundraisers		15,000
Total Income	\$	178,850
	<u>Expense</u>	
6000 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
6005 ADMINISTRATOR Salary		16,695
6006 All Staff PROFESSIONAL EXP		500
6007 ADMIN BENIES & RETMT		1,670
6010 COMPUTER AND INTERNET		800
6011 Website & management software		1,072
6015 OFFICE SUPPLIES & COPIES		400
6020 BANK, BROKER, EFT FEES (VANCO)		1,000
6025 TELEPHONE		800
6030 POSTAGE		100
6040 CASUALTY INSURANCE		3,200
6045 BOARD EXPENSES		200
6050 ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL		3,000
6060 EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES		3,500
6065 COPIER Lease		1,405
6070 WORKERS' COMP		1,400
Total 6000 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$	35,742
6100 COMMITTEE EXPENSES		
6108 SOCIAL JUSTICE		150
6110 FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP		300
6112 MEMBERSHIP		100
6114 COMM ON MINISTRY		0
6116 CARING COMMITTEE		0
6120 COMMUNICATIONS		400
6126 ALL CHURCH FUNCTIONS		100
6128 PLACER PEOPLE OF FAITH		250
6129 CRAFTIES		0
Total 6100 COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$	1,300
6200 DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS		
6230 UUA FAIR SHARE & PCD		10,398
Total 6200 DENOMINTL AFFAIRS	\$	10,398
6300 MINISTRY		
6310 MINISTER SALARY + HOUSING *		62,168
6350 MINISTER BENEFITS		15,000
6360 PROF EXP		7,500
6370 MINISTER MOVING EXPENSES		10,000
Total 6300 MINISTRY	\$	94,668

SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS		
Year 2021/22 Budget		
		Budget
		FY
		<u>2021/2022</u>
6400 WORSHIP		
6410 HONARARIA/MILEAGE		2,400
6420 MUSIC DIRECTOR		13,896
6440 MUSIC MTLs, TUNING, LICENSES		600
6445 GUEST MUSICIANS		800
6450 WORSHIP/SACRED SP. SUPPLIES		100
6455 Soul Matters Subscription		435
6460 A/V SYSTEM SUPPLIES, e.g., batteries		50
Total 6400 WORSHIP	\$	18,281
6500 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		
6505 RE DIRECTOR		16,167
6515 CHILD CARE STAFF		2,250
6525 RE (training & scholarships)		300
6530 RE SUPPLIES		100
6545 RE SNACKS		50
6555 ADULT RE EXPENSE		100
Total 6500 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	\$	18,967
6600 BUILDING & GROUNDS		
6610 JANITORIAL SERVICES		1,500
6620 TAXES AND FEES		800
6630 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		1,200
6640 UTILITIES		3,000
6650 DISPOSAL SERVICE		400
6660 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR		3,000
6680 BUILDING SUPPLIES		300
6690 JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$	50
6695 TECH IMPROVEMENTS	\$	300
Total 6600 BUILDING & GROUNDS	\$	10,550
Total Expenditures	\$	189,905
NET SURPLUS OR LOSS		(11,055)