

July 2022

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UUMAN and Family Promise

In June, UUMAN hosted families from Family Promise for three consecutive weeks, our longest hosting yet. These families, who are experiencing situational or temporary homelessness, often have to move every week from church to church. So it was good for them to be able to call Discovery Hall home for three weeks.

UUMAN can only provide hosting during summer months, when Premo school is on break. This year, we partnered with two neighboring congregations: the Roswell Masjid, whom we partner with each year, and Northbrook Methodist Church, a new partner. UUMAN and the Masjid were responsible for weeks 1 and 3, and Northbrook handled volunteer

tasks for week 2. This was not only an efficient way to provide support to the families, but a nice way to build community and get to know some of our neighbors.

We had two families for most of our hosting: one mom with a one-year old son, and one mom on her own. (Her son was visiting dad.) During the last week, we added another family: a mom and two teenage boys. If you volunteered, you know what a delight all of these people are. One of the special things about our Family Promise involvement is that it gives us a chance to get to know the families on a personal basis, and to be a friend to them during difficult times.

Family Promise is a non-profit organization that helps homeless families get back on their feet, aiding with organizing finances and debt and providing meals and temporary housing through a community network of volunteer churches, mosques, and synagogues. Unlike many shelters, Family Promise keeps the family unit together, without separating moms, dads, and kids, no matter their age. Because of the volunteer nature of their model, they can operate at significantly lower costs than most shelters.

A highlight of the stay was one Saturday morning, when the youth group from St. David's Episcopal came and made breakfast for our families. It was obvious that our moms were

touched by this event. The families always enjoy staying at UUMAN, because Discovery Hall is more like a home than a big antiseptic conference room, where they often have to stay. One of the moms, who has been in the program for several weeks, told me that this was her favorite place so far—a testimony to the warmth and kindness of our volunteers.

Family Promise is a great organization that is doing good work. UUMAN's partnership with Family Promise allows us to put our values into action, to make a real difference in our broader community.

- Mike and Donna
UUMAN Family Promise Coordinators



Peaceful Transfer of Power



JENNIFER:

Two years ago, I started my first year on the Board of Trustees with two conflicting emotions: gratitude for the elders who placed their faith in my abilities to lead this church and self-doubt at the realization that I didn't know how a Board works and how to be a productive member

of the Board. Both Dave, our minister, and Bob, our President, were very supportive. They showed grace as I stumbled through administrative tasks, and compassion as they suggested that I take a few workshops on governance and theology.

My second year, as President, was quite different. I was confident in my responsibilities and also wanted our congregation to be better prepared as we navigated through a second year of the pandemic. Our two most pressing challenges were how to provide structure and faith formation for our young ones without a Director of Religious Exploration (and hoping not to burn out our teachers) and balancing our next year's budget, on top of the usual goings-on of a Board and a church. My second year was much easier to navigate because of Miriam, your VP. Miriam is dynamic, inclusive, creative and tireless. She has navigated learning and standing up for her values in a direct and gentle way.

As I step down from La Presidency, I have no doubt that UUMAN is in good hands. As your incoming President, Miriam is approachable and will listen, truly listen to any members' concerns. She also has a great challenge as we transition into this "New Normal," still unknown and longer-lived than we anticipated. But she is not alone. Two new members join your Board. They will have a steep learning curve as they too learn how we operate. Mike and Jennifer bring new ways at seeing the same issues: how to provide safe spaces for adults and children to grow their faith, and how to financially support those efforts. Unlike many aspects of American life, Unitarian Universalists have a long history of embracing conflict and diversity without destroying important ideals, such as living the democratic process and giving a voice to marginalized and underrepresented people. As we start a new church year, please join me in welcoming our new Board members, our new Director of Religious Exploration and especially new members to our UUMAN circle.

- Jennifer Ratcliffe



MIRIAM:

Each year in June, UUMAN transitions its Board to prepare the incoming members prior to the stepping down of the outgoing members. It helps to ensure time to transfer information, acknowledge our outgoing members' service to our congregation, and begin to prepare the new Board for the work ahead. June is also the month after

the Bridging Ceremony and when Rev Dave begins his summer break. This year, Jenn Ratcliffe, aka La Prez, and I, her VP, decided to team up, reflect on this past year, and share thoughts about what is to come.

As I reflect on my year as Vice President, there are three major points I want to highlight. The first is how much I have appreciated working as a team with this group. Each person brings a unique perspective to the Board—whether they helped found UUMAN or are new to UUMAN within the last ten years, whether their children were raised at UUMAN or not. Each Board member provides a slice of knowledge, history, and personal perspective that is important for a Board to function well. We did not always agree, and that was ok as long as we all kept UUMAN's needs front and center. The second and third points are connected, and they relate to our DRE. The Vice President is tasked with overseeing personnel matters, so I worked very closely with Ayanna and the Board in the fall, leading up to when she announced she was stepping down as DRE in January. We wanted to reflect on what type of religious professional would be best suited for our programming for children and youth, so we took time to hear from the youth, from families, and from RE teachers. We formed a search committee who reviewed and revised the job description for the DRE, and the non-Board members of that search committee have made themselves available to support Lexie Tangney as she steps into the DRE role. I am very proud of the work that the Board has done in support of the DRE. And I know that Mike Chambers will continue to support UUMAN's staff as our next VP.

What is to come this year? I am excited to serve as your President. The Board will retreat on Aug 6th for its annual work of reflecting on the previous year's goals and setting goals for the new year. I am eager to have additional opportunities to grow UUMAN's leaders—there are great classes offered through the UUA's Southern Region, as well as through the UU Institute. And I want to hear from you—feel free to reach out to me at president@uuman.org. You can also feel free to text or call me: 360.918.4667. Together, we can make this a great year!

- Miriam Patanian



Notes from the Board



Life Celebrations

It's been my honor the past 3 years to be on UUMAN's Board of Trustees, first as the VP, then as President and this year as Past-President. During this time there have been many challenges including a pandemic which caused us to rethink how we "do church". However, through all the ups and downs, UUMAN has shown great resilience and passion for our Mission and Vision. I've been very fortunate to during my tenure to have worked with some outstanding, passionate, and hardworking UUMAN Board members and feel very confident that the new Board that takes over on July 1 is no exception.

I will miss being on the Board, it has been a way for me to grow personally and in my faith. I would like to encourage everyone reading this to consider taking on a leadership role at UUMAN, no matter how large or small. It doesn't matter whether you've been a member at UUMAN for a very short time or are a long-time member, you can make a difference! I guarantee that you will get more than you give by getting more engaged in the "work" at UUMAN – our Mission.

UUMAN has always been a congregation led by "champions", individuals that have a passion or an interest in some part of our Mission and step forward to "get it done". It could be greeting new arrivals or making coffee on Sunday, being an RE teacher, a Care Circle Coordinator, a choir member, or someone that fixes things that break. Find something, anything and get involved! The more you give of yourself, the more you will get!

Nurture our Spirit * Strive for Justice * Transform the World

Bob Popp

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to

membership@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
7/3	Elizabeth R. is celebrating a birthday.
7/7	Kyson P. is celebrating a birthday.
7/7	Ilona W. is celebrating her anniversary of 26 years
7/10	Lawton E. is celebrating a birthday.
7/12	Dillon C. is celebrating a birthday.
7/30	Benny B-D. is celebrating a birthday.

On June 10, UUMAN updated its Covid-related guidance: UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. As the Atlanta Metro area and all but one of our members' counties are yellow, or medium risk, we request that people wear masks indoors and practice social distancing (no hugging/kissing). We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted--thank you for continuing to do your part to keep us all safe! Please check the top of our landing page for the most up-to-date information: uuman.org.

July 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
7/3	<p>UUA Service from General Assembly</p> <p>We will be viewing the Synergy Bridging service from this year's UU General Assembly, "Replanting Interdependence". This service showcases the young minds and hearts of our denomination and highlights the creativity with which youth and young adults create new traditions. If you are unable to attend UUMAN in person, you are invited to watch "Replanting Interdependence" from home by clicking this link: UUA Replanting Interdependence</p>	Shelley Nagrani
7/10	<p>Report from General Assembly</p> <p>We will deliver a report from General Assembly.</p> <p>We will also be introduced to our new Director of Religious Exploration, Lexie Tagney, making this a very special Sunday.</p>	<p>Carla Kapeskas</p> <p>Jennifer Ratcliffe</p> <p>Randy Blasch</p>
7/17	<p>Religion and the Poetic Imagination</p> <p>Religion and spirituality include mystery, that which transcends understanding; otherwise, we would simply call it philosophy. So how do we relate to what is so important, so rooted in our souls, yet cannot be fully described? Poetic metaphor and imagery are powerful tools that can help us relate to and be inspired by that which we cannot fully understand, in some ways similar to modeling in science. Join us for a service investigating and celebrating the poetic imagination.</p>	Shelley Nagrani
7/24	<p>I'm Not a Lorax but I Speak to the Trees</p> <p>We will talk about connection between people and nature, especially trees!</p>	<p>Randy Blasch</p> <p>Rhea Mongia</p>
7/31	<p>UU The Vote</p> <p>As reproductive justice is on the ballot this November, actively taking part in the election is especially important. Our denomination has provided many tools for us to use, providing an answer for those of us wishing we knew</p>	<p>Amanda Bralle</p> <p>Mandi Winders</p>

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org