

November 2021

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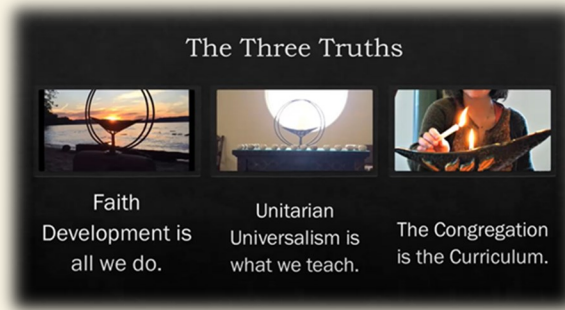
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The Three Truths of Membership Engagement



Natalie Briscoe, co-lead of the UUA Southern Region introduced “The Three Truths” of membership engagement during one of its Leadership Seminars. She said:

I know that if you’ve been with any of our Southern Region staff you are familiar with the three truths. We call them truths because you don’t get to vote on them. They just are what they are. There’s no discussion.

The three truths are:

1. Faith Development is All We Do

Faith Development is the business we’re in as congregations; and everything that we do is toward the end that we develop faithfully.

2. Unitarian Universalism is What We Teach

That is our faith tradition. I guarantee that the Baptists and the Methodists are not teaching Unitarian Universalism. We are the keepers of Unitarian Universalism. We teach that.

3. The Congregation is the Curriculum

This third truth is taken from Maria Harris and her book “Fashion Me a People.” It means that everything we do, everything we are, everything we say and feel, and act, and the way we treat each other in the congregation teaches ourselves and people outside our walls what Unitarian Universalism is.

(Natalie Briscoe, UUA Southern Region Leadership Development Webinar, 02-11-2020)

should mention, and it should go without saying, that the three truths are the praxis as to how we engage members in service to our overall mission and vision as a congregation.

And although we often discuss different religious traditions in our religious exploration

classes, we do so for two reasons: 1) To illustrate Unitarian Universalist principles in a variety of other religious contexts and 2) To educate ourselves regarding the beliefs of others so that we can better understand the way they see the world in hopes of creating a beloved community together for us all.

It is difficult to track membership engagement in the best of times, and almost impossible to track it during a global pandemic; however, I received a very positive sign recently when soliciting interest in an upcoming UUA Congregational Life Leadership Development Experience. This course involves some out-of-class coursework followed by three interactive zoom sessions. It looks like UUMAN will have eleven people taking this course: Tina Alexander, Amanda Bralley, Canedy Knowles, Jennifer Phillippi, Valerie Rivero, Mandi Winders, Greg Waggoner, Michelle Goldy, Jules Auerbach, Yassine Farhi and John Burkhardt.

I was half-expecting that no one would be interested in participating in this course and in light of their response, I am grateful (and encouraged!) that so many at UUMAN are willing to up their commitment to the congregation and to Unitarian Universalism!

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave



UUMAN COVID Status: Orange

As you know we have been carefully monitoring the risk associated with the pandemic in [COVIDActNow](#). Due to vaccination rates increasing, the counties in which we reside were ORANGE more consistently in October. Assuming this trend continues, UUMAN is cautiously moving to *ORANGEPHASE [V+](#) effective November 15. This means that inside events may be planned again with certain precautions. This is all welcome news! You can read more about the precautions in the [Safety Guidelines for Gathering](#) update on our website.

If you have any questions regarding your event, please contact Tina Alexander (talex73@gmail.com) who is helping with the implementation of our guidelines. We hope to see you around campus real soon!

*The V+ means that when we anonymously surveyed our UUMAN members, we had a vaccination rate of over 90%. This is a relatively high rate of vaccination and means we are somewhat safer than the average Georgia community.

~ Donna Melcher and Elizabeth Rohan

UUMAN Going Solar!



It is my pleasure to announce that the "Raise The Roof" capital campaign was a huge success! We were able to raise over \$40,000!

The money raised will be used to replace the roof on our beautiful sanctuary and portico, paint the portico, install new gutters and install a 10.2 kW solar array.

Your generosity has not only made us good stewards of UUMAN but also allowed us to put UUMAN on a path to be more sustainable. We will become the 8th church in Georgia to install solar panels and the 1st church north of Atlanta.

Our solar array will produce 15,500 kWh/year and reduce our emissions by 18,100 lbs of CO₂. This is the equivalent of 900 gallons of gasoline. In addition, we will save over \$80,000 over the life of the system. Work on the solar array will begin Spring 2022 after the new roof, gutters and painting are completed this fall and winter.

I want to thank everyone that gave to the project! We had over forty households donate to the project. And I want to especially thank Gary Denning, John Burkhardt, Kelly Callen, and Ashok Nagrani for pushing passionately for the project from day 1.

If you still want to give to the project, and haven't done so, you can. Remember, the total cost of the project is \$62,000 of which 15,000 is an interest free loan and \$7,000 is from our infrastructure reserve fund. So, any additional funds we receive will help us retire the interest free loan and replace the money from the infrastructure reserve fund.

Here are the ways you can give:

1. **Givify App** - You'll see a "Raise the Roof" Campaign envelope at the top of the list
2. **Credit Card** - Use this link. At the bottom, enter Raise the Roof in the box labeled "On Behalf Of"
3. **Check** - Mail to UUMAN, 11420 Crabapple Rd, Roswell GA 30075. Make check payable to UUMAN, and be sure to note Raise the Roof in the Memo line

Thank you all for your support and generosity!

UUMAN Capital Campaign Team

Bob Popp
Miriam Patanian
Bev Jordan
Ashok Nagrani

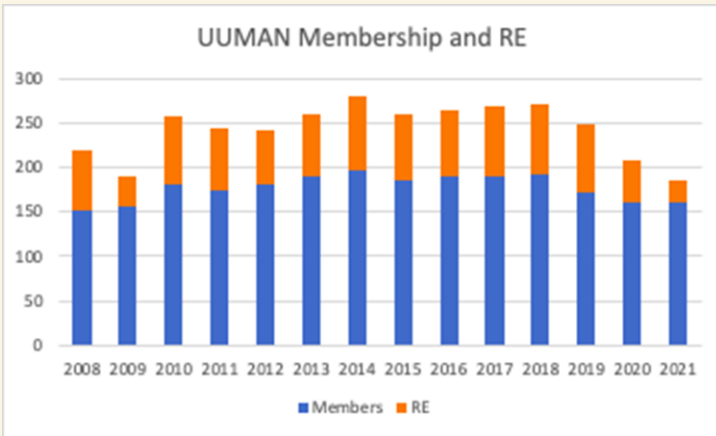
UUMAN Membership Drive

Hello UUMAN!

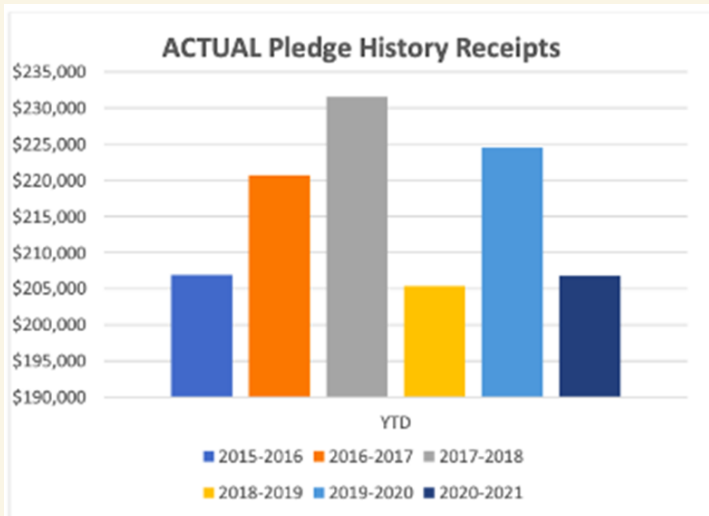
I joined the board in August and have been working on a new project, we are calling it - for now - "Membership Drive".

The appeal of organized churches has been dropping substantially in the US for decades.

Although our membership has not dropped as drastically as other Christian denominations, it has also dropped along the years (see graph).

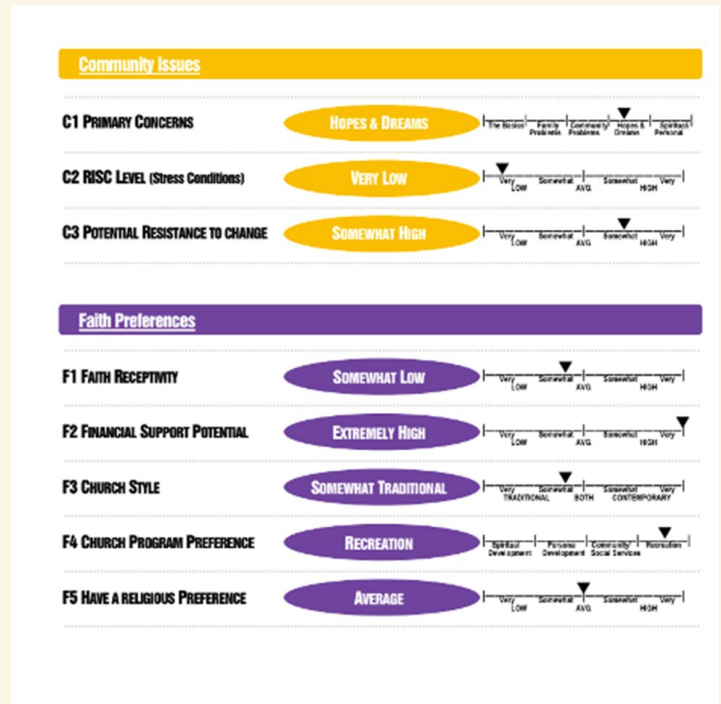


A membership drop has multiple implications: we lose unique talent and volunteers; and it impacts our financial ability to execute on our vision and mission. See below our "Actual Pledge History Receipts".



A 2020 Ministry Area report , offers some insights on what families'

Look for in organized religion in our geographical area, as shown in the following graph (this is a snapshot more info is available):



We want to be a place where like-minded families and others in our community choose to congregate. The infusion of new members will not only increase our financial stability, but it will also bring new talent and new volunteers.

We are looking mainly at exploring our social media presence at this point, but our website, membership database app and other tools might use some updating down the road.

UUMAN produces an incredible number of relevant content and spaces for people to meet with a vast array of areas of interest such as: Circle of Women, Adult RE, Youth RE, children's events, classes, Coffee and Conversation, Cancer Support Group, Happy Hour, painting classes, Care Circles, Bridge Group, book discussions, a variety of themed services and more.

Historically we have not looked at this rich variety of opportunities as a way to attract potential members. But that is what we are doing now.

Before we can get to that point, we need to have the proper tools to capture new contact information, register to events, customize that information so we can use it accordingly in our promotion efforts. We also need a system that allows us to register members and non-members to events, so we understand individual interests, what motivates people and improve our Minister's ability to do exactly that, "minister" to our congregation.

The work has just begun. A small group of talented and committed members are involved in this effort and we will do our best to keep you updated along the way.

For questions and feedback please email special-projects@uuman.org

Carla Kapeskas

Special Projects Trustee

Sunday Worship Service and many other activities are available online for the health and safety of all our members and guests.

UUMAN responds to the Delta variant and our vaccination rate. Read [this update](#) for further information.

November 2021: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
11/7	TransParent Day According to the Transgender Law Center, "First established in 2009, TransParent Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday in November as a day to celebrate life and the love between transgender parents and their children and transgender children and their parents." Let's explore the significance of this day.	Rev. Dave Dunn
11/14	TBA	Lay Led
11/21	Bread Communion Bread is a symbol of life-giving sustenance and today we will share a bread communion together. Please bring a bread (homemade if possible) that elicits memories of childhood sustenance. You will have the opportunity to share this memory with us. We will then collect bread for donation to NFCC. CONGREGATION MEETING	Rev. Dave Dunn
11/28	America's Native Stories The story of Thanksgiving goes back to the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock. Yet before they were here there were already people here – loving their loved ones and living their lives. Let's hear some of their stories – stories of creation, stories of love and the ubiquitous trickster tales.	Rev. Dave Dunn



Life Celebrations

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-tech@uuman.org

Date	Celebration
11/1	Susan W. is celebrating a birthday
11/6	Shelly N. is celebrating a birthday
11/10	Linda E. is celebrating a birthday
11/11	Kendall L. (she/her/hers) of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
11/12	Merri Beth S. is celebrating a birthday
11/13	Steve A. is celebrating a birthday
11/14	Doug W. is celebrating a birthday Ilona Walker and Randy Jue's children, Alexander and Arianna, are celebrating a birthday
11/18	Joss H. is celebrating a birthday
11/20	Carolyn L. is celebrating a birthday
11/21	Joe C. is celebrating a birthday
11/22	Sasha G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
11/27	Autumn C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
11/30	Becky N.'s son, Nick, is celebrating a birthday

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