



# Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## **State of the Fellowship**

**February 3, 2019**

Prepared by Lisa M. Fuller  
Member since 1997  
BUUF President 2015-2019

# Welcome!

.Thank you for spending your Sunday afternoon here, in community

.You are the Light and Heart of this Fellowship

.*Get ready for a FAST report on SOTF >*  
jot down your questions and thoughts for the group discussion following the *really fast report*



# SOTF Agenda

- .Opening Words – David Sarra
- .Chalice Lighting Words – Beth LaFleur
- .Agenda review
- .Words we live by
- .Recognitions – BUUF Board
- .Overview of the 2018-2019 Church Year so far
- .Five Year Plan Status / SOTF
- .Current Finances (spoiler alert—they are good!)
- .Where do we go from here?
- .Small group discussion & presentations



# Words We Live By

## **BUUF's Mission, adapted 2016**

For every person searching for spiritual meaning,  
Berrien UU provides a warm & welcoming religious  
community,  
dedicated to diversity of thought,  
social & environmental justice,  
& peace for all.



# Words We Live By

## **Our Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of the this church, and service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

to seek the truth in love,

and to help one another.



# Words We Live By

## **Our Offering Words**

This fellowship is the community of ourselves.

Its resources are our resources.

Its wealth is what we share.

As we contribute to the life of this community,  
we affirm our lives within it.



# Recognitions

.Honoring the love and time our Members and Friends show this Fellowship

*.Introducing . . . Mission (Statement) Beads*

*-Recognition based on participation to BUUF's mission*



# Mission Bead: Fellowship

***For every person searching for spiritual meaning, Berrien UU Fellowship provides a warm and welcoming religious community, dedicated to diversity of thought, social and environmental justice, and peace for all.***

- .Sunday Service Attendance
- .Member: 'Signed the Book'
- .All who bring children
- .Adult Faith Development
- .Musicians Team
- .Building & Grounds Team
- .Membership/Video Team
- .Sanctuary Space Team
- .Choir Organizer
- .Minister





# Mission Bead: Diversity of Thought

*.For every person searching for spiritual meaning, Berrien UU Fellowship provides a warm and welcoming religious community, **dedicated to diversity of thought,** social and environmental justice, and peace for all.*

.State of the Fellowship Attendee

.Voting Member: Signed Pledge & Affirmation form for 2018-2019)



# Mission Bead: Social Justice

*For every person searching for spiritual meaning, Berrien UU Fellowship provides a warm and welcoming religious community, **dedicated to diversity of thought, social and environmental justice, and peace for all.***

.Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen supporter

.Welcoming Congregation Team

.All God's Children Community Choir supporter

.OutCenter supporter

.Voters Not Politicians



# Mission Bead: Environmental Justice

*For every person searching for spiritual meaning, Berrien UU Fellowship provides a warm and welcoming religious community, **dedicated to diversity of thought, social and environmental justice, and peace for all.***

- .Uses BUUF Recycle bin
- .Uses BUUF compost bin
- .Empties BUUF compost bin/Tills compost
- .Environmental Justice Film Series attendance
- .Fresh Start Children's Garden supporter
- .Solar Power Monitoring
- .Ethical & Sustainable Eating (effort to choose fair trade, local, organic, or plant-based meals)



# Mission Bead: Governance & Process

## *Fifth Principle:*

*The right of conscience and  
the use of the democratic  
process within our  
congregations and in society  
at large*

- .Safe Congregation Team
- .Board of Trustees
- .Endowment Committee
- .Nominating Committee
- .Bookkeeper



# Mission Bead: Peace (aka BUUF Heroes)

*For every person searching for spiritual meaning, Berrien UU Fellowship provides a warm and welcoming religious community, **dedicated to diversity of thought, social and environmental justice, and peace for all.***

.Harvey Johnson

.Joanne Krettek

.Rev. Jim McConnell

.Lisa Fuller

.Dorothy Long

.Beth LaFleur

.Candace Onweller



# 2018-2019 Board of Trustees & Rev. Jim McConnell



David Sarra, Trustee\*

Rev. Jim McConnell

Harvey Johnson, Treasurer

Beth LaFleur, Secretary

Lisa Fuller, President\*

Katharine Lion, Trustee\*

*\* Term ends June 30, 2019*

# Congregational Meeting Schedule

## **.State of the Fellowship (February)**

- Review progress on annual goals & strategic plan
- Discuss possible new efforts

## **.Budget Dialogue (March)**

- Choose goals for the budget to accomplish

## **.Annual Meeting (June)**

- Wrap up church year, recognize individuals
- Vote on congregation issues
- Elect officers

## **.Board Planning (Summer)**

- Informed by congregational discussions at the previous 3 meetings
- Board of Trustees establishes goals for the coming church year



# 2018-2019 Board Goals

- .Chalice Lighter grant for enhanced music program w/director
- .Stole project fundraiser
- .Membership video
- .Safe Congregation policy review
- .Sign repair
- .BUUF 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Monthly meeting, displays, pilgrimage, dinner, service
- .Jim's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Monthly meeting, service
- .Windows





# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Year 4 of 5

## Areas of Focus

.Sunday Service

.RE

.Membership

.Green Sanctuary

.Welcoming Congregation



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Sunday Services

- .Goal: average attendance of 30 (up from 20)
- .Status: Goal MET! Current average is 40
- .Accomplishments:
  - Lay speakers
  - Contemplative enhancements (ie worship arts)
  - BUUF Musicians
  - Whole Congregation Worship (being more inclusive of children in worship)
- .New goal?



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# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Sunday Services Initiatives

- .Music Director position > Chalice Lighter grant (CLG)
- .Choir practice w/accompanist > CLG
- .FT SS accompanist @ UU fair wage > CLG
- .Publicity > Weekly Announce, HP Church notes, fb, SJ Today, HP Insights, website updates, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Religious Education

- .Goal: increase average RE attendance from 3 to 6
- .Goal MET! Average attendance 6
- .Accomplishments
  - Summer Camp
  - World of Wonder curriculum
  - Change for Change program
- .New goal?



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- .Goal MET! Average attendance 6
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  - Summer Camp
  - World of Wonder curriculum
  - Change for Change program
- .New goal?



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: RE Initiatives

- .Adult Faith Development: Small Group Ministry, Creative Conversations, Mindfulness, Soup Kitchen ministry, MWLS attendance > in place
- .Teen group > in discussion (? youth con attendance, LRY?)
- .Publicity > Church Notes, fb, SJ Today, Insights, website updates, 60<sup>th</sup> PR
- .Safe Congregation policy review > team formed



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Membership

.Goal: 40 voting members

.Status:

-2014 Annual Meeting (June) 16 voting members

-2019 Annual Meeting (projected) 37 voting members

. Accomplishments

-Monthly Membership meetings (Jim, Joanne, Lisa F)

-Potlucks, Joys & Concerns in Announce, PNO, New member ingatherings

-60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner, Rev Jim's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recognition

-Pledge Celebration & Cabaret, enhanced member directory

-Membership video, new logo wear, informal Circle Suppers

-Visitors—Visitor follow up letters revised, UU Allcomers

.New Goal?





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# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Membership Initiatives

- .BUUF Breakfast > in discussion
- .Other ideas?



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Green Sanctuary

.Intent submitted

.Accomplishments

-Solar panels

-Environmental Justice Film Series

-Fresh Start Children's Garden

-Sustainability efforts: composting, fair trade coffee, ethical eating focus (new)

-Order of Service Green Tips

-Occasional Green Sanctuary themed Sunday Service



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Green Sanctuary Ideas

- .Wildlife sanctuary/Conservancy
- .Pollinator landscaping
- .Green burial
- .Air dryers vs paper towels
- .Rainwater collection
- .Solar array info posted
- .Solar energy monitoring w/report
- .at Earth Day service



# 2016-2020 Five Year Plan Status: Welcoming Congregation Recertification

- .Team formed, meetings in progress
- .Accomplishments
  - Presentation from Charles Long on BUUF history of Welcoming Congregation process
  - Other?



# Other Awesomeness

- .Roadside sign repair
- .Window replacement planned
- .Sanctuary Space team formed, recommendations received
- .HVAC staged replacement plan per Jim F
- .60<sup>th</sup> logo created by Gretchen Ohmann
- .New Logo wear coming!



# Finances

## .Monthly Income & Expense

-Staff: Minister, DRE, Office Admin, Sunday Services accompanist, Childcare

## .Assets & Liabilities Balance sheet

## .Endowment Fund changes

.Stewardship Team – better communicating the value of our fellowship

.2019 Annual Canvass – firm start and stop dates this year!

-Earth Day Sunday (April 21) – Saturday May 18 (Cabaret)

## .External Fundraising

-Stole project > not yet launched



# Mission Centered Discussion

- 1) Fellowship How are we building community within?  
What else could we be doing?
- 2) Dedicated to Diversity of Thought How do we demonstrate this dedication? What else could we be doing?
- 3) Social & Environmental Justice How are we serving others? What else could we be doing?
- 4) Peace for all How are we building external relationships?  
What else could we be doing?
- 5) Looking ahead What is wanted/needed?  
What is realistic?





# Collecting Our Thoughts

## 1) Fellowship

How are we building community within?  
What else could we be doing?

## 2) Dedicated to Diversity of Thought

How do we demonstrate this dedication?  
What else could we be doing?

## 3) Social & Environmental Justice

How are we serving others?  
What else could we be doing?

## 4) Peace for all

How are we building external relationships?  
What else could we be doing?

## 5) Looking ahead

What is wanted/needed?  
What is realistic?



# Stay in Dialogue

- .Read the weekly Announce
- .Attend Budget Dialogue meeting (1:00 pm Sunday, March 3)
- .Attend Annual meeting (10:30 am Sunday, June 2)
- .All are welcome to attend the monthly Board meeting, 8:30 am, second Sundays



# Chalice Lighter Program

.Individual UUs contribute to a common  
Chalice Lighter program to support  
congregational growth efforts



# Chalice Lighter Program

.BUUF is applying for a MidAmerica  
Region Chalice Lighter Grant to support  
the hiring of a part-time (5 hrs/week)

Music Director



# Chalice Lighter Program

- .Grant preference is given to congregations making their fair share UUA contribution (which BUUF does, thanks to you)
- .Preference is further given to congregations with a greater percentage of Chalice Lighter program participants



# Chalice Lighter Program

- .Consider signing up to be a regional Chalice Lighter
  - with a monthly donation of \$5 or more
  - or support calls for support annually with a donation of \$20 or more (3 times each year)



*Go Now in Peace :)*

.Thank you for spending your  
Sunday afternoon here,  
in community

