

## **Music Co-Directors Annual Report 2020-2021**

When COVID hit resulting in the BUUF building being shut down, many more volunteer hours than pre-pandemic were needed, especially for Gretchen, to do the necessary computer work so that virtual services ran smoothly and cohesively. In December 2020, the board hired a video editor and tech assistant. He was able to take over a lot of our excess technical workload.

Our efforts to expand the circle of BUUF musicians to provide special music were successful. Several musicians produced quality videos with the video editor's assistance, and some were made by families with their children. Some musicians performed live. We are grateful for interest and cooperation in music among the BUUF community.

Our choir produced at least two dozen videos working in vocal layers with Candace's accompaniment as the base, which will provide a useful archive. We used pre-produced music videos from numerous sources with an emphasis on UU music and musicians. In several instances, we used videos suggested by BUUF members.

Keeping with the past year's efforts to include children, we attempted to make the gathering music kid-friendly and to include them in special music performances.

Going forward, we request that every effort be made to give more lead time so that we can plan. The reason: We need time to review and make videos, which involves many production steps. When we create videos with multiple musicians involved, it takes time for Candace to put down the piano track and send it around so that everyone can lay down a vocal. They then go to the video editor to be completed. We need more than four days lead time, preferably two to three weeks.

Planning and ample lead time will be even more important when we begin hybrid and/or in-person services. When possible, it's very helpful to have specific topics, not only the general theme of the month. If we continue using music videos when meeting in-person, an in-house AV technician will be needed.

The piano should be tuned twice annually. The budget should include \$270 for that purpose each year.

The three of us have enjoyed working together and happily found that our skills complemented one another. As mentioned in our five-year plan comments, we will be ending our service to BUUF as Music Co-Directors December 31, 2021. Candace is looking forward to working with the new Music Director in her ongoing separate position as accompanist.

We hope the congregation has enjoyed the communal worship experience that we have strived to provide.

Best regards,  
BUUF Music Co-Directors  
Candace Onweller, Gretchen Ohmann and Nan Lundeen  
5/29/21