



Vancouver
Unitarians

Annual Report
2010-2011

Unitarian Church of Vancouver
949 West 49th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2T1
Phone: 604-261-7204
Fax: 604-261-7205
Email: info@vancouverunitarians.ca
www.vancouverunitarians.ca

Our Staff and Board Members

Ministers

Rev. Dr. Steven F. Epperson, Parish Minister
Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett, Minister Emeritus
Rev. Laura Friedman, Community Minister

Lay Chaplains

Danny Enright, Sherry King
Wayne Ulian, Phylis Basset

Board of Trustees

Executive

Keith Wilkinson, President
Vice President (Vacant)
Michael Bradshaw, Treasurer
Tim McCormick, Secretary

Members At Large

Galen Elfert, Bennett Mitten
Don Eadie, Carolyn Grant, Judith Holmes, Patti Turner

Kathryn Aberle, Past President

Program Staff

Donna Brown, Choir Director
Elliot Dainow, Music Assistant
Cristin Lee, Director, Religious Education

Administrative Staff

Tamara Shoup, Administrative Manager
Tara-Lee MacNiven, Office Assistant/Bookings
Ravina Sangara, Bookkeeper
Stan Clarke, Custodian

Contents

- REPORTS ON MINISTRY - 5 -**
 - PARISH MINISTRY - 5 -
 - COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY - 6 -
 - COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY MINISTRY - 6 -
- REPORTS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 8 -**
 - PRESIDENT’S REPORT - 8 -
- REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER - 9 -**
- REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES - 10 -**
 - ARCHIVES - 10 -
 - ART COMMITTEE - 11 -
 - AUDIO VISUAL COMMITTEE - 12 -
 - BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - 12 -
 - CANVASS - 15 -
 - CHALICE CHOIR..... - 18 -
 - COMMUNICATIONS - 18 -
 - CYRE - 19 -
 - DAY TIMERS..... - 20 -
 - DRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 20 -
 - ENVIRONMENT..... - 21 -
 - FIRST FRIDAY CAFE..... - 22 -
 - LAY CHAPLAINCY..... - 23 -
 - LEGACY COMMITTEE..... - 25 -
 - LIBRARY..... - 25 -
 - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (NEW U)..... - 26 -
 - MUSIC CLUB - 27 -
 - OAK STREET FARMERS’ MARKET COMMITTEE..... - 27 -
 - OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND COMMITTEE..... - 29 -
 - REFUGEE - 30 -
 - THE ROBERT KOERNER FUND..... - 31 -
 - SERVICES AUCTION - 31 -
 - SOCIAL JUSTICE - 32 -
 - WORSHIP SERVICES - 32 -
 - REPORTS NOT SUBMITTED - 33 -
- COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORTS - 34 -**
 - OAK COUNSELLING..... - 34 -

Reports on Ministry

Parish Ministry

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson, Parrish Minister

At the beginning of my tenth year as UCV's parish minister, I look back at this past year with gratitude for the opportunity to serve this congregation.

My professional ministry is devoted primarily to worship services, pastoral care, religious education, congregational support on various committees and working groups, social justice activism, and service to our wider Unitarian denomination.

A brief tour of some significant events from the past year:

Religious Education: Bright and Promising

1. ***Children and Youth.*** Our Director of Religious Education, Cristin Lee Schieder, has been with us now for over a year. She has strengthened our Children and Youth RE Program (CYRE) with programming depth; she has been ably assisted with excellent volunteer help. It is a pleasure for me to work with her. We meet weekly to review and assess the needs and achievements of our RE program. Our CYRE Program is crucial to the well-being and viability of our congregation. I encourage UCV members to enthusiastically support Cristin, our children and their parents by volunteering your support, time and talents.

2. ***Adult RE.*** I am directly responsible for our Adult RE program. In 2010-11, ARE focused on UU history and identity. We offered classes in UU history, Building Your Own Theology, Meditation/Spiritual Practice, and Singing as Worship. This year, the ARE program is focusing on programming classes, seminars and workshops in order to enhance the mental, emotional and physical well-being of UCV members and the wider community. As well, in May and June 2010, UCV hosted two path-breaking public events on mental health by medical journalist Robert Whitaker and Will Hall, a mental health activist and therapist.

National Affordable Housing Initiative: Social Justice 101 and Fellowship Building Based on what I've learned from social justice activists and elected officials, Canada's overriding priority to overcome poverty and promote our common good as a nation is achieving a national affordable housing policy. UCV's members have been doing their part in this effort on the third Thursday of each month with our "Meet, Eat and Write" potluck, community building, and affordable housing letter writing campaign—it's fun! There's good food, fellowship, and some nuts and bolts social activism. *Join us this year, every month!* You'll feel recharged by being with others, and refreshed that you're doing some good.

Intern Ministry: A Learning Experience Rev. Joe Cherry served UCV as our Intern Minister. We enjoyed Joe's warm, humorous and down-to-earth personality and approach to ministry. After years of not hosting a ministerial intern, we learned a great deal about being a "teaching church" again. Many thanks to Joe's fine Internship Committee!

Future Site Development: Significant Opportunities In June, after months of meetings, research and collaborative thinking, the Site Development working group presented its report to the congregation. Our recommendations focused on buildings and grounds up-keep and renovation, on our rentals and programming potential/capacity as realistic means to better

enable our congregation to realize its mission and vision, and help secure its financial well-being. Since then, we have secured the Jewish Seniors Alliance and the Vancouver InterSpiritual Centre Society as long-term renters. As well, the Vancouver Academy of Music has expressed interest in using our Sanctuary for rehearsal and performances. Other joint-use opportunities for groups and religious communities to share our campus will continue. I thank you for your support, your service to this congregation, and for the ministry we share!

Committee on Ministry

Chairs

Gavin Grandish and Mary Lage

Members:

Danny Enright, Steven Epperson, Marg Fletcher, John Taylor.

Statement of Purpose:

To strengthen the quality of ministry in the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. The COM serves a dual purpose - as a support group for the Parish Minister and as a channel between the Parish Minister and the congregation, including the Board.

Activities and Accomplishments

The Committee on Ministry met several times over the year, working to strengthen parish ministry at UCV. We worked with Steven to recommend a salary and compensation package and an annual performance review to the Board, passed commendations and concerns about ministry from UCV members to Steven, and provided support to Steven as he discussed his projects and challenges. Recurring topics of discussion were Steven's involvement with the ministerial intern; religious education programs for children, youth, and adults; future site development; and Unitarian young adult activity in and around UCV.

Future Plans

The Committee on Ministry will continue to endeavor to fulfill its mandate as described in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Committee on Community Ministry

Community Minister

Rev Laura Imayoshi

Committee Members

Maggie deVries, Michael Clague, Katherine Roback (Secretary), Michael Scales, Judy Villett

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Committee on Community Ministry is to strengthen the quality of the community ministry, support the building of a relationship between UCV and the Downtown

Eastside community ministry, and facilitate the UUA credentialing of the community minister Rev. Laura through its successful conclusion.

Goals: To achieve its purpose the COCM will:

1. Educate itself and the UCV community about community ministry.
2. Support the formation and development of a professional community ministry.
3. Communicate to the congregation the nature and scope of the community ministry.
4. Provide advice and information to the community minister regarding the shared ministry.
5. Complete UUA annual renewal evaluations.

Statement of activities and accomplishments:

1. The Committee on Community Ministry continued to meet about once a month throughout the year.
2. Michael Bradshaw stepped down as Board Liaison. The Committee on Ministry asked another Board Member to join and become the new Board Liaison. Thus far, the Board Liaison position remains vacant.
3. The Committee on Community Ministry welcomed Maggie DeVries as a new member.
4. Rev Laura Imayoshi presented a *Portfolio Conference* to the Committee on Community Ministry in April, 2011. A *Portfolio Conference* is a review of the year, given in the form of sharing the minister's "portfolio" with the Committee. Laura brought in brochures, pamphlets, stats sheets, etc and talked about her work over the year.
5. Based on this review the Committee has written its annual evaluations of Laura's work while she was in preliminary fellowship.
6. The committee went through an intensive process to complete the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's annual renewal evaluations between April and May 2011. It was submitted in June, 2011.
7. Rev. Laura Imayoshi was granted her second preliminary fellowship renewal in October, 2010.

Future Plans

Continue to explore ways of increasing Laura's ministry with UCV.

Thanksgiving Dinner at DAMS at the Lifeskills Centre on Cordova Street.

Increase visibility with UCV through Worship, Forum, etc.

Establish a stronger link with the Board, perhaps with a new Board Liaison member on the COCM.

Reports from the Board of Trustees

President's Report

Every year, much of UCV's work is accomplished by congregants following interests related to Unitarian principles for which they have a particular passion, and coordinating their efforts with those of other groups and individuals. To the 60 or so committees, clubs, groups and individuals who have taken on important value-based tasks for our community over the past year, *thank-you for doing it so well!*

Sunday morning services are a prime example of a collection of loosely coordinated efforts that have a positive outcome. The Worship Services Committee, minister, music staff, choir, Flower Committee, Art Committee, childcare providers, welcome table volunteers, greeters, ushers, children's religious education staff and volunteers, lunch providers, board members, order of service preparers, office staff, custodial staff, forum providers, etc. do their work well, week after week – and the quality of their combined efforts shows! What a vibrant community we are each Sunday morning. It strikes me as a small miracle that so much good work gets done so well, so often, with such a loose structure! Thanks to all of you who make Sunday morning services happen every week, year-round, with balance and harmony.

Our church has also been well-served in the 2010-11 year by strong leadership and hard work in a range of key committees including (but not limited to!) Human Resources, Buildings & Grounds, Canvass, Budget, Site Development, Refugees, Community Kitchen, Oak Street Farmers' Market, and Environment. As a result of efforts by these (and other!) committees and task forces, the board has been able to endorse new programs for the church, approve a budget that is getting closer each year to being balanced, and put into practice sound policies and procedures for our operations.

The work of the HR Committee over the past several years toward developing a thoughtfully designed salary grid has been particularly important for ensuring that we have a fair and reasonable structure for compensating our employees – including ministerial, religious education, music, office and custodial employees. Our Buildings & Grounds Committee started with site studies that had been completed several years ago, added extensive new investigations, and recommended a prioritized list of capital improvements for the board to consider for the coming years. The excellent work of this committee made possible quick decision-making by the board to begin this work, and we are pleased that we now have a new, energy-efficient furnace and domestic hot water system in Hewett Centre.

New programs like the *Oak Street Farmers' Market* and the *Family Cooks - Community Kitchen* project underway in cooperation with the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House were thoughtfully conceived and implemented in their first year. Once again, the board's ability to make decisions in support of these initiatives was enhanced by the high quality of the preparation done by the groups and individuals who planned them.

Probably the biggest initiative awaiting board (and congregational) review are the next steps to consider in development of the Oak and 49th Street site. A site development committee made recommendations at the June 2011 EGM for further investigation into transforming our site into an “inter-spiritual centre” with a possible focus on the arts. Since then a UCV task force has begun to explore alternatives for articulating that vision and bringing it to fruition.

Threaded through all UCV tasks is the support of our staff. We simply wouldn't be the organization we are without the steady, flexible, responsive service that our small staff provides. Staff do things well that simply can't be done well by volunteers. And when volunteer energies ebb, as they often do, we rely upon our staff to help provide the continuity we need. The board is grateful to our regular and casual staff for working so well with us as partners in this enterprise we all value. We are deeply appreciative of staff commitment, growing skills and flexibility in working with us.

All told, from visionary actions to practical matters, UCV has been a stimulating and rewarding community of which to be a part this year. As President, and on behalf of the Board, I thank all of you for contributing to our community in such generous, capable and thoughtful ways.

Respectfully,

Keith Wilkinson

Report from the Administrative Manager

Tamara Shoup

As Administrative Manager, I manage the operational side of UCV including supervising administration and custodial staff, property management and administration budgets. We have a fantastic compliment of staff working hard to ensure smooth operation of UCV. One of the projects I completed this year with input and counsel from congregants Geoff Gomery and Connie Wigmore was the privacy policy. If you have any questions regarding the storing and use of your personal information, I would encourage you to speak with me.

Much of the last fiscal year has been focused on increasing rental and special services revenues; developing a salary grid for all employees and addressing the mounting building and ground issues that have arisen.

There has been a challenge in the last year meeting the Use of Premise Revenue budget. With the addition of new long term rental agreements, UCV is poised to meet or exceed budget figures for the new fiscal year. The Lay Chaplain Committee has been diligently working at increasing the Special Services Revenue with new partnerships with funeral directors and a potential working relationship with the Memorial Society of BC.

We are pleased to welcome the Jewish Seniors Alliance as long term tenants renting Budny. I encourage you to take some time to check out their workshops, peer support and other programming.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been incredibly active in the past year. Many thanks to Elaine Spilos for leading the reinvigoration of the committee and working so hard at pulling together the capital plan that will take us into the new fiscal year. The office and hall received a beautiful gift of mid-century furniture. A big thank you to Bennett Mitten for his dedication to this project and the donation and restoration of all of the new furniture. Hans Elfert and Rob Taylor are unsung heroes who have dedicated hours addressing many of the small and not so small “fixes” around the church, thereby reducing the cost of outside contractors.

Working side by side with committees, volunteers and the staff is very rewarding to me. All of the hard work by these people makes my job easier and more exciting. Specifically, I would like to acknowledge the staff –Tara Lee MacNiven, Stan Clarke, Ravina Sangara, Cristin Lee, Gerald Hermansaa, Wentu Tu’ume and Bruce Murray. Thank you to you all for contributing to the UCV family.

Reports from Committees

Archives

Purpose

To ensure the keeping of a proper historical record of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Specifically to oversee the process of ensuring appropriate UCV documents are consistently gathered and sent to the archives; to oversee the sorting of received UCV documents into the existing archives and to oversee the housing, conservation of, and access to, the UCV archives.

Members

Chair: Diana Ellis, with Patience Towler, Rev Phillip Hewett (Consultant)

Activities and Accomplishments

While “recovering” from the 2009 UCV Centenary year work, the committee continued to gather, sort and house ongoing UCV documents from committees, the Board, Orders of Service and the Bulletin. Work also continues on assessing appropriate uses of the Oral History interviews completed in 2009 and on best storage for the (ongoing) collection of UCV historical photographs.

Future Plans

To continue promotion of appropriate conservation of UCV documents, and to expand archive storage.

Art Committee

Chair

Caede Pungente and Chris Pearce

Members

Don Slade, Pat McBain, Lorraine Calame, Julie Cowie, Catherine Stewart, Gail Stephan

Statement of Purpose

To promote creativity and art forms of UCV members and community adherents.

Activities and Accomplishments

One of the highlights of exhibiting local artists from the Developmental Disabilities Association was a show of raku masks with sales and a successful reception. Haisla Collins, a first nations artist, held a reception and sang, accompanied by her band. Sandra Yuen MacKay, an artist from Vancouver Coastal Health group, gave an enlightening talk about her book *My Schizophrenic Life - The Road to Recovery from Mental Illness*.

Two of our UCV members gave a demonstration on how they do their art form which was very well received by our congregation. We received a substantial commission from the sale of Judy Villet's quilts that we exhibited.

By inviting local artists to show their artwork in our space we as a committee are indirectly promoting Unitarianism. Inevitably, every time we offer or promote what we do as a committee we, as Chairs, typically hear "I've been there - my friend . . . , or my son's . . ." We feel by opening up our space to non-members we are exposing people to what goes on in and around the church.

Future Plans

Entertain proposals for the fabric panels in Hewett Centre. As a group project Judy Villet has offered to do a fabric art workshop to make new hangings to replace the aging fabric panels in Hewett Centre. It has been suggested that UV protection be used in the skylights above these panels. The commission money we have in the arts committee budget could be used for Judy's workshop and material supplies.

A separate proposal from Julie Cowie is an art show featuring UCV artists demonstrating their work process. With an auction component to raise money.

To actively continue the cross-pollination of UCV members with local artists.

Audio Visual Committee

Chair

Galen Elfert

Members

Gerry Hayle, Rob Taylor, Rob Grieg, Roger Brant, Hans Elfert, Owen Marmorek

Statement of Purpose

To service and operate the church's audio/visual resources

Activities & Accomplishments

The Sound Committee has been largely dormant for the past year. There have been a few minor but necessary equipment acquisitions, such as new microphone stands. Most notably, we've welcomed a talented new member, Owen Marmorek, a student of audio.

Future Plans

While the sound committee is not likely to begin holding monthly meetings, I intend to convene a meeting this fall to establish some type of more formal structure, to facilitate our interface with church administration, as well as taking stock of the status of our current resources and future needs.

Buildings and Grounds

Chair

Elaine Spilos

Current Members

Dianne Crosbie, Hans Elfert, Erika Gerson, Kate Gerson, Bennett Mitten (Board Liaison), Gary Smook, Rob Taylor, Patti Turner (Vice Chair), and Connie Wigmore.

Connie Wigmore resigned from the Committee in February after many years of dedicated service to Buildings and Grounds. Thank you to Connie for staying on to ensure a smooth transition.

Goals of the Building and Grounds Committee

1. Ensure that the buildings and grounds of the UCV are maintained at a standard
 - to protect and enhance their value,
 - to maximize their utility for the congregation and the broader community, and
 - to generate optimum revenue
2. Manage the implementation of capital fund projects in a timely manner and on budget.
3. Manage and optimize rental revenue for the buildings and grounds of the UCV.

Chairperson's Report

2010-2011 was an exciting and productive year for the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The Committee met monthly, generally on the third Wednesday of the month. We organized ourselves into 3 working groups: aesthetics, business and structural. One of our first tasks was to review and update our Terms of Reference which were approved by the in January 2011. In addition to full committee meetings, there was frequent conferencing by email and by phone.

In February 2011, Karl Perrin attended as a guest and provided us with *An Environmental Perspective on Buildings and Grounds*. We are pleased for our partnership with the Environment Committee which to date has resulted in the replacement of the jalousie window in the office reception area, and the supply and installation of programmable thermostats through the Green Fund. We look forward to more joint undertakings.

Our accomplishments include the following. Volunteer labour was provided for many of the jobs undertaken in 2010-2011 which greatly reduced our costs:

- Sanding and weatherproofing of the exterior of the Fremlin Street door
- Replacement of failing closers on the Sanctuary doors
- Repair of the washing machine
- Major cleanout of the service room and crawl space storage areas - compliance with city by laws
- Replacement of taps in the Hewett Centre kitchen
- Replacement of taps in Hewett Centre bathrooms
- Repair of ceiling tiles in the Hewett Centre kitchen damaged by a leak stemming from a roof drain
- Replacement of the light fixture in the men's washroom in Hewett Centre
- Thorough analysis of Hewett Centre heating system and cleaning of all ducts. In progress – installation of programmable thermostats, paid for by the Green Fund
- Installation of locks to basement crawl spaces
- Installation of a bell in the office
- Changeover to environmentally friendly products
- Upgrades to office: electrical work, venetian blinds, light fixtures, painting, moldings, furniture
- Professional gutter cleaning and temporary repair of the drainpipe by the Fremlin St. exit
- Fixing the lighting in and additional maintenance of the church sign at 49th and Oak
- Repair of the super heater (vs. replacement)
- Plumbing repairs to the urinal and kitchen sink drain
- Checking out of slow leak in admin building crawl space
- Installation of a carpet strip at entrance to Castello
- Major pruning
- Removal of dead trees and shrubs
- Repair of a short circuit in the furnace in the admin building
- Installation of a new window in the office reception area
- Replacement of a faulty timer that operates exterior lighting
- Review of the Landscape Master Plan

- Holding the first annual Grounds Day on May 15
- Facilitating the purchase of Optional Accident Benefits Protection insurance to cover church volunteers
- Beginning the upgrading of the Maple Bosque area by the planting of 4 new trees and a laurel hedge (thanks to a generous donation)
- Providing advice and support to the Administrative Manager regarding leases and rentals
- Major clean out and reorganization of Fireside North and South Closets and the A/V closet
- Clean out of the cupboards in Lindsey Priestley
- Compiling a list of all renovations and other capital projects since 1993
- Review of the 2003 “Mechanical, Electrical and Life Safety Audit” commissioned by UCV from Team Engineering
- Initiating and implementing an emergency repair of the deteriorating east office wall that was suffering from deterioration
- Addition of two new lights for the 49th Avenue stairwell to provide safety at night
- Replacing the Hewett Centre boiler.

In addition, we developed two new policies and procedures:

- Building and Grounds Storage Area Clean up Planning Procedures and Storage Area Guidelines
- Guidelines for Providing Part-time Custodian Services.

As well, one of our committee members, Gary Smook, is writing and compiling a much needed Operational Procedures and Practices Manual.

In June, July and August, we embarked on an ambitious undertaking: creating a comprehensive 2011 Capital Plan. This involved brainstorming, establishing priorities, consultations, a review of the Audit (see above), obtaining estimates, and meetings with the Executive, Board, Worship Services Committee Chair, the Minister, and others.

As we said in our covering memo to the Board,

“As we see it, our task is to provide loving and responsible stewardship to our remarkable facility...

Now nearing 50 years, our building is showing her age. During the past year, our investigation and study has revealed the following. Major infrastructure upgrades are past due. Safety issues have developed and are of serious concern. Rental revenue, on which we depend more and more, is hindered by the shabbiness and poor functionality of some of our spaces....

Buildings and Grounds is providing a comprehensive capital plan.... an action plan for UCV.”

We also urged the Board to develop a financial strategy to implement the plan and provide for future capital requirements.

We were heartened by the Board's first response to our report, to initiate the plan by replacing the boiler in Hewett Centre. Wow! Fantastic! This replacement became the focus of our efforts in September and October.

Thank you to an extraordinary committee for an amazing year:

- Dianne Crosbie – our clean up and details person and liaison with the Environment Committee
- Hans Elfert – for hours and hours of work and effort on our heating and plumbing systems
- Kate and Erika – for their deep understanding of the building and its history, and for their advice, guidance and provision of resources and suppliers
- Bennett Mitten – our in house decorator
- Gary Smook – for revision of the Terms of Reference and developing the Operational Procedures Manual
- Rob Taylor – our uncanny problem solver and troubleshooter
- Patti Turner – for her continuously amazing work on our grounds on a teeny budget.

Canvass

Members

David Marmorek (DM) and Eleanor Dunn (ED) [co-chairs], Barbara Beach (BB), Nancy and Bob Woodham (NW/BW), Patricia Starton (PS), Shirley and Mark Brunke (SB/MB), Patience Towler (PT) and Michael Bradshaw (MB; Board liaison). Steven Epperson (SE) is not a member of committee but is critical to canvass success!

Helpers: Owen Marmorek (OM)

Purpose

Sustain UCV's financial health by providing 70% of our revenues.

Background

Pledges at UCV steadily improved over 2006-09: \$280,000 in 2006; \$350,000 in 2007 and 2008; and \$376,000 in 2009, and the deficit shrank from \$140,000 to \$28,000 (due to both increased pledges and decreased expenditures). In 2010, we aimed to eliminate the operating budget deficit, and set an ambitious goal of \$400,000, with the theme *Sustaining UCV in our 2nd century*. We only got up to \$362,000, largely because some major donors were forced by difficult circumstances to significantly reduce their annual pledges. The 2010-11 budget has a deficit of \$42,000.

2011 goal

\$380K (cut the deficit in half)

Theme: Renewing UCV. The canvass this year (April 10-24), overlapped with Earth Day and Easter. The theme of renewal offered many possibilities: passing the torch from older to younger members; planting seeds; spring (*e.g. renew our commitment to UCV, each other, Earth*). We used a chalice flame to mark progress during the campaign. We adjusted the guidelines for pledging, consistent with other Unitarian congregations, as shown in the following table.

Gross Income	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$70,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
Suggested Pledge	\$400	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$2450	\$4000	\$6750	\$10,000

Amount raised: \$374,467, (98.5% of our goal). This was an excellent outcome in a difficult year economically for many of our community. The time course of pledges is shown at the end of the report.

Activities in 2011: The canvass campaign involved many different activities, all of which were important to our success:

1. a well-designed canvass brochure “Renewing UCV” (**DM** and **OM**), letter (**DM**) and pledge card (**BB**); we saved \$650 by using UCV stock rather than an outside printer
2. **DM:** put canvass alerts in the UCV Bulletin in March and April;
3. **DM:** order of service announcements in **March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24 OOS**;
4. **BB:** maintain the ability to [pledge online](#) (though few people utilized this);
5. **DM:** a [question and answer sheet on pledging](#), distributed to all new members and posted on our website (updated and put on back of canvass letter);
6. **MB:** board approved Canvass plan in January, and sent a letter on our deficit and the options to deal with it to all members on **March 4**, one week before canvass package was mailed out.
7. **ED:** organized people for mail out of canvass letter and brochure on **March 15**
8. **SB/MB:** Organized generous donor wine and cheese, at which Steven Epperson spoke very movingly. **Thursday April 7**
9. **April 10 Canvass Launch:** “The Power of Commitment and Renewal”. We passed a candle from older members to younger ones, with each one speaking for about a minute or so (up to 90 seconds) about what UCV has meant to them. Speakers included: Joan Armstrong, Rainer Borkenhagen, Nancy Woodham, Gavin Grandish, Alex Winstanley, and Rupert Gomery. After each person spoke, the congregation said: "We've been blessed with a rich legacy of committed and courageous men and women. Now, it's OUR turn to carry and renew the flame." It all worked very well!
10. **DM:** we celebrated the Canvass launch with delicious strudel and ice cream (**April 10**, same day as refugee committee lunch, but cleared with Doris);
11. **ED:** maintained pledge tables after the services on **April 10, 17, 24**; there was a surprising surge of pledges on the third week
12. **DM:** several canvass updates in April (in services and by email) to break through the dreaded UPPS (Unitarian Pledging Procrastination Syndrome);
13. **ED:** Work w Ravina on sorting through the names for the mop up in early May
14. **Ravina:** tracked pledges throughout campaign

15. Mop-up Phoning: Everyone on the Committee helped on May 10 to make phone calls to those who still had not pledged by May 1, and then followed up over the next 3 weeks. This was extremely important.

Time Course of Pledges in 2011 and Within-Campaign Forecasts							
Date	# weeks since launch	# pledges made	# of units pledged	% of units pledged	% of ultimate total	% increase over prev yr in total pledges	Forecasts of total during pledge campaign
		Total units=	381				
2011							
17-Mar-11		Canvass material sent out					
07-Apr-11		Generous donors wine and cheese April 7; Launch was April 10 - service & strudel					
07-Apr-11	-	\$144,688	82	22%	39%	3%	
14-Apr-11	1.00	\$201,123	126	33%	54%	3%	
18-Apr-11	1.57	\$241,203	169	44%	64%	4%	\$344,576
21-Apr-11	2.00	\$285,043	197	52%	76%	6%	\$365,440
05-May-11	4.00	\$295,298	211	55%	79%	6%	\$364,565
19-May-11	6.00	\$362,757	302	79%	97%	7%	\$370,160
30-Jun-11	12.00				100%	3%	
		\$374,467					
April 18 forecast: Based on 2009 and 2010 we get about 70% of our eventual total from first 44% of pledges Therefore \$241,203 / 0.7 will yield \$344,576							
April 21 forecast: Based on 2009 and 2010 we get about 78% of our eventual total from first 52% of pledges Therefore \$285,043/0.78 will yield \$365,440							
May 5 forecast: Based on 2009 and 2010 we get 81% of our eventual total from first 55% of pledges Therefore \$295,298/0.81 will yield \$364,565							
May 19 forecast: Based on 2009 and 2010 we get 98% of our eventual total from first 79% of pledges Therefore \$362,757/0.98 will yield \$370,160							

Chalice Choir

Director

Donna Brown

Accompanist

Elliot Dainow

Leads

Leanne Page, Lucy Smith (for concerts), Beth Breisnes, Gavin Grandish, Dheni Walsh

Members

Kathryn Aberle, Karen Bartlett, Tara Bonham, Michael Bradshaw, Shirley Brunke, Lorraine Calame, Phil Campbell, Dave Cook, Donna Cook, Julie Cowie, Diane Crosbie, Diane Donaldson, Hans Elfert, Janet Ericksen, Don Fox, Bryan Gick, Thora Gislason, Gerry Hayle, Leslie Hill, Philomene Jahnke, Judith Klang, Jean Lewandowski, Luke Lewandowski, Errol McKinstry, Fritz Muntean, Mary Murray, Helen Osoba, Alison Pearson, Winn Peters, Aidan Pitt-Brooke, Katherine Roback, Elaine Spilos, Alex Startin, Phillippa Syme, Rob Taylor, Patti Turner, Cathy West, Connie Wigmore.

Purpose

To provide inspiring music for worship services twice a month and to provide an enriching musical experience for the members with a wide variety of musical challenges through service music, special events and concerts.

Activities and Accomplishments

This was the choir's most ambitious year yet. Our December concert featured Schubert's *Mass #6 in Eb*, the longest piece the choir has performed. Our April concert featured Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* with a huge (for us) orchestra of over 30 members, all volunteers. Both concerts challenged the choir to reach new heights and they did a beautiful job.

Future Plans

The 2011/2012 choir year will be a little less challenging musically but just as beautiful as last year. We are performing Vivaldi's *Magnificat* on Dec. 4 and will produce a cabaret in April, 2012.

Communications

Chair

Judy Holmes, acting chair

Members

Tamara Shoup, Connie Wigmore, John Smith, Randall McKinnon, George Atherton
George Myers, website consultant

Statement of Purpose

To oversee a consistent, appropriate, and proactive UCV communications strategy.

Activities & Accomplishments

Our principal activities have been to publish the monthly Bulletin and to maintain the UCV website. Connie Wigmore volunteered to continue editing the Bulletin and we acquired three excellent new web editors. We continued to offer help to committees and groups with resources for news releases, brochure templates, and to provide advice on congregational communication standards.

Future Plans

We are in the process of updating preprinted brochures and templates, and are making plans to upgrade the website by moving to a later version of the software. If plans go well, the website will acquire a new look in the coming year.

CYRE

Chair Vacant

Members

Betsy Neily, Theresa Marion, Nan Gregory, Jenny Ivany, Corina Bye, Cristin Lee

Activities & Accomplishments

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver promotes spiritual growth, social justice and environmental sustainability and over the course of the year, this was accomplished in our CYRE programs through children's worship services, ethical education and artistic exploration. Each Sunday, children and youth attended classes that invited them to explore moral and ethical issues related to the individual, the community and the global village.

In the fall of 2010, there were 14 children registered in the program and by spring of 2011 there were 33. This was a substantial increase from the previous year which recorded 10 children registered in the fall of 2009 and 13 in the spring of 2010.

We also implemented a Friday Night Family & Friends Film Social which was well attended by 35 – 45 family members and other church members to further promote cross socialization in the church community.

We successfully produced two pageants and were able to raise enough funds to send five members of the youth group to represent us at CanUUdle during the ACM in Toronto.

We were able to accomplish these endeavours within budget due to the generous amount of volunteer efforts from the church community as well as congregant donations.

We are in deep gratitude to the many blessings that these members have bestowed on us allowing us to provide challenging and engaging education to our young congregants.

Future Plans

While the committee dissolved in the last half of this year, it is of vital importance that we reinstate the committee and its function in the upcoming year. It will be the task of past CYRE members, the DRE and CYRE families to scout for at least three individuals devoted to the cause of CYRE and its delivery as well as a passionate individual willing to chair the committee.

In order for the DRE to continue to provide meaningful programming to our families and increase numbers by publicizing to the outreaching community, it is crucial that a committee be formed to support and help in the facilitation of child and youth religious education.

Day Timers

Daytimers meet on the second and fourth Thursday from September through June, with an average attendance of 12 members, all of whom participate either in presentations or discussions. Subjects researched for the meetings included politics, climate change, seasons of life, new research on the functions of the brain, the relative dangers of drugs and legislation, religion and the high tech society, literature of Unitarian transcendentalists, listening to the land, imagination God, plus celebratory meetings with food and help from the talented Women's Group.

Meetings, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, take place in the Fireside Room, and have always been open to old and new members and visitors.

DRE Management Committee

Co-chairs

Tim McCormick, Diana Ellis

Members

Betsy Neily, Tamara Shoup, Steven Epperson, Cristin Scheider.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Director of Religious Education Management Committee (DREMC) is to provide support and human resources management to the Director, Religious Education, Children and Youth, as described in the DRE job description.

Activities and Accomplishments

The DREMC first convened in early 2010 and meets monthly throughout the church year. The committee continued to act as a confidential non-judgmental sounding board (a "listening year") for the DRE and provided human resources management as per our terms of reference responsibilities. DREMC conducted Cristin's probationary evaluation in November 2010, her annual performance evaluation in June 2011, and monitored hours worked per month since her start date. This information was used to develop the 2011/12 DRE salary budget recommendations.

Future Plans

To continue to support UCV's DRE in her work.

Environment

Chair

Karl Perrin

Members

Noel Armstrong, Mary Bennett, Tara Bonham, Diane Brown, Dianne Crosby, Rob Dainow, Margo Elfert, Diana Ellis, Mary Etey, Lily Ha, Mary Lage, Dave Macdonald, Jim Ronback, David Steele, Grant Watson

Statement of Purpose

Implementing the 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

Adherents and Supporters

Joan Armstrong, Marcia Braundy, Shirley Brunke, Steven Epperson, Phillip Hewett, Leslie Kemp, Shelagh Lindsey, David Marmorek, Bennett Mitten, Dale Norman, Huguette Sansonet, Robert Schultz, Denise Swanson, Philippa Syme, Barb and John Taylor, Keith Wilkinson

Activities and Accomplishment

This year continues the trend to more and more activity. Our Green Fund surpassed \$10,000 allowing us to loan \$1000 to the Oak Street Farmers' Market, and to pay for the materials for a double pane window replacing the leaky jalousie window in the office reception area. We supply UCV's fair-trade sugar. We liaise with two other active committees: Oak Street Farmers' Market and Building and Grounds. In the spring we cleaned the pedestrian entrances to the Alex Fraser Bridge in preparation for the fourth Pilgrimage to Burns Bog (witnessing and opposing the South Fraser Perimeter Road being built on the edge of Burns Bog, sensitive habitat for endangered species). Some of us volunteer to build handmade dams in Burns Bog. We actively participated in the 350.org fall event, this year, "Moving Planet" biking through downtown. Educational forums and Bulletin articles have focused on Burns Bog, Climate Change (Biochar), proposed Enbridge Pipeline (Tar Sands to Kitimat). We marched to protest the expanded use of the Kinder-Morgan Pipeline (Tar Sands to Burnaby, doubling oil tanker traffic in Burrard Inlet). As Kumi Naidoo, E.D. of Greenpeace Int'l said at Greenpeace's 40th birthday (Greenpeace was born at UCV), "We're winning some battles, but losing the war." We liaise with the Wilderness Committee, David Suzuki Foundation Elders Council, Greenpeace, Burns Bog Conservation Society, Earthsave Canada (vegetarian/vegan) etc. We sell organic fair-trade chocolate, coffee, dried fruit, and recycled paper. We publish a quarterly newsletter: *The Seventh Principle*.

Future Plans

Support the Oak Street Farmers Market and energy efficiency at UCV. Both fight climate change. Find more ways to support and promote government and NGO “green” initiatives. Teach organic gardening. Explore eco-spirituality.

First Friday Cafe

Purpose

First Friday Cafe was started three years ago as an offshoot of Forum and Philosophers' Cafe to provide an opportunity for a diversity of adults to socialize, communicate and learn in a warm friendly atmosphere and with respect and good humour.

Activities and Accomplishments

We dialogue and exchange ideas, stories and perspectives about social, economic and popular culture issues. As the name implies, the Cafe is offered on a monthly basis, (except for July and August) on the first Friday of the month from 7-9pm.

in the Fireside Room at Hewett Centre. Sometimes called “Playtonics” - the Cafe evokes the enjoyment of “play” and refreshment of a “tonic” and the philosophical participation of “Plato”. This is all done with thought to, and in keeping with, Unitarian values and principles.

A range of games, topics and processes have been covered over the past while, including: Dialogue - Some Socratic Evening (Mike Sands), Lecture, Performance, Philosophers' Cafe, Words (Bennett Mitten); Social Media (Carla McNeil) for Communication; Appreciative Inquiry for Planning; Meaningful Music; 15 Minutes of Fame, Philosophy Slam (Mark Kyren), Bucket List, Quintessential Questions, Quotations Slam and Humour.

I'd like to thank the presenters for their excellent offerings, so generously provided and positively received. The participants have included Unitarians and friends, and community members. We are extending our net more broadly to attract other like-minded people from the community. A recent accomplishment: our now more extensive publicity has recently meant regular inclusion in the SFU Philosophers' Cafe brochure and website. As a result, we are introducing some new people to Hewett Centre and the church, as well as First Friday Cafe.

Future Plans

As well as continuing the positive features of the program we hope to:

- further increase two-way communication and consultation within the church
- improve the publicity for the program events in the community
- get more suggestions on programs and topics people desire, and receive offers of sessions people are willing to host and deliver.

Human Resources

Chair

Catherine Ponsford

Members David Donaldson, Jane Kinegal, Kathryn Aberle, Janet Erickson, Tamara Shoup

** the HR Committee has need of new members who have experience and/or an interest in advising on HR matters - common sense, confidentiality and compassion are all that's required
**

Statement of Purpose

To advise on and develop the human resource policies and procedures of the church.

Activities and Accomplishments

The major project for the HR Committee this year has been the development of a proposal for a salary grid system for employees of the church, replacing the current ad hoc approach to setting salaries and initiating pay raises. Additional work has included advising the Administrative Manager on the duties and reporting mechanisms for custodians, changing the schedules of the custodians, advising the board on issues pertaining to the HR oversight for music staff, and working with the President and Administrative Manager to address staff issues on an as needed basis. The HR committee submitted an updated Staff Handbook in March of 2011, capturing the policy changes and updates of the previous year.

Future Plans

The HR Committee plans to finalize the salary grid proposal for the Board in 2011/2012, and play a support role in any revisions or implementation of the proposal. The HR committee members plan to continue maintaining our one-on-one contact with UCV staff, and ensure periodic updates of the Staff Handbook to maintain this living document.

Lay Chaplaincy

Co Chairs

Marilyn McVicar and Mary Murray

Members

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson, Marilyn McVicar, Mary Murray, and our monthly meetings include all four lay chaplains.

Lay Chaplains

Phyllis Bassett, Danny Enright, and Wayne Ulian and Sherry King.

Statement of Purpose

The Lay Chaplaincy Committee goal is to oversee the lay chaplaincy program of UCV to ensure the program functions within the framework of the Canadian Unitarian Council guidelines. Lay Chaplaincy services are offered to those who are not members of our congregation but who

wish to have weddings and memorials that are meaningful and sensitive. It is therefore a valuable outreach to the community and brings in income for the church.

Our lay chaplains for the past year were Phyllis Bassett, Danny Enright, Sherry King and Wayne Ulian. As of September 1st 2011, Danny Enright has retired from the lay chaplaincy program after completing six years as a lay chaplain. On September 29th we interviewed and recommended Nan Gregory to be our new lay chaplain. Nan will be completing the basic training in November, and her appointment will follow.

From July 1, 2010 to June 30th 2011, UCV lay chaplains have conducted 34 special services, including one child dedication, 20 weddings and 13 memorials.

The committee meets monthly to administer the program, staying in touch with lay chaplains and their services and to problem-solve issues that might emerge. We hold an annual potluck dinner to give us some social time together. We undertake an evaluation process to give us the feedback needed to continue to recommend the lay chaplains and their work and to continue their contracts for the subsequent year. The lay chaplains presented a worship service on January 23rd 2011, which offered the congregation a look at some of the lay chaplaincy work. Danny Enright reported regularly on the number of contacts that had been made through our wedding website that we set up to promote our weddings in a competitive manner. We are in the process of deciding if we should have a memorial website as well. Committee members met with Glen Hodges at Mountain View Cemetery to discuss home funerals.

We met with Barbara Beach of the Memorial Society to discuss their services, and to find out if we could be involved in having some of their memorial services at our church. We sponsored a one day workshop on 'embodied speaking' given by Debra Thorne. We assisted in the organization of the Organ Donors Memorial, annual event that is sponsored jointly with hospital chaplains. We recommended an increase in the fees paid to musicians who perform at our services. We are in the process of sponsoring a lay chaplain's basic training in November.

Present committee members are: Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson, Marilyn McVicar, Mary Murray, and our monthly meetings included all four lay chaplains. We have recently recruited new committee members, Catherine Stewart, Geoff Rempel, and Gay Kuchta, who have begun attending meetings, and who will be taking the basic training for lay chaplains in November. Their names will then be submitted to the board for approval.

We worked closely with Tara MacNiven who handled all the lay chaplaincy bookings for both weddings and memorials. We appreciate her competence and her willingness to cooperate with our needs. We are grateful to Ravina Sangara for taking care of our financial records, and to Tamara Shoup for ongoing insights, suggestions and support in administrative matters. We are also grateful to the custodians, sound technicians and musicians who make themselves available when needed to make our special services run smoothly and with dignity. All of these people have made our year a success.

Legacy Committee

Chair

Rainer Borkehagen

Members

Geoff Gomery (as legal resource), Keith Wilkinson (policy), Connie Wigmore

Purpose: The Legacy Committee is the church's contact for estate planning, wills and endowments. It has, in the past run bi-annual workshops regarding estate planning. The focus of activity this year was to continue the reminders of planned giving options in the monthly church bulletin. A subcommittee of Legacy is the **Memorial Walls Committee**, whose purpose is facilitating the purchase and placement of memorial plaques in the Memorial Garden in recognition of deceased members. Currently, the family of one deceased member is arranging for a plaque placement. In 2009 the opportunity to reserve a memorial plaque location was developed and the relevant policy and procedures approved by the church board. One church member is currently pursuing this. Future plans will be to consider designation of a donor recognition wall.

Library

Chair

Aphrodite Harris

Committee Members

Frances Anderson, Maggie de Vries, Ann Foster, Leslie Hill, Karen Hobbs, Errol McKinstry, Elizabeth Murdoch, Susan Nath, John Omielan, Jean Stanton, Olive Stewart, Barb Taylor, Lindsay Udem & Hilda Wiebe.

Purpose & Activities

Running the Literature Stall and Selling Sermons

- The selling of sermons continues to be very popular after each Sunday service.

Running the Library, Serving the Congregation and Cataloguing the Collection

This year, we were approached by Langara to take on another graduating practicum student. Rory Brewster supported our ongoing cataloguing project, working gratis and with much expertise for two weeks cataloguing, perfecting our procedures, and teaching our members to catalogue electronically.

In February, 2011, the UCV Executive Committee approved a motion to allow UCV Library to use up to \$2,000 from the Library Fund to pay an honourarium to a student(s) to catalogue church materials. This long-standing fund will be used exclusively to forward the electronic cataloguing of more library materials, so that our collection will be accessible with up-to-date cataloguing with full title, author, and subject access.

Rory has moved onto professional employment, recommending Andrew Grosvenor to us, another talented graduate, who is receiving honouraria to continue cataloguing and updating our manual. Barbara Taylor, Elizabeth Murdoch, Susan Nath and Aphrodite continue to work with Andrew.

Book Sales - Bashes

For this last fiscal year, the Library Committee had an extensive book sale over the summer of 2010 as well as a Bash in January 2011, providing good revenue for UCV for a total of \$3563. The sales were very busy for us and for our many helpers, all very ably directed by our Bash chairs, Hilda Wiebe and Leslie Hill who have put countless hours into these endeavours. As the Thrift Sale is no longer, the Library Committee has decided we will concentrate on three Bashes for each calendar year, regularly in the early fall, early winter and later in the spring. Many of our buyers mention how well our books are organized, so that purchasers can zero in on their favourite genres.

Monthly Bulletin.

Elizabeth Murdoch continues to provide an informative monthly Library column for The Bulletin, listing new titles in the library and their donors.

Membership Committee (New U)

The New U Committee is responsible for welcoming individuals and families to the church and introducing them to the church programs and the church community. In 2010/11 we fulfilled these responsibilities in the following ways:

1. Scheduled three volunteers each Sunday to answer questions and provide information to visitors and church members from the Welcome Table, during coffee hour.
2. The Welcome Table volunteers were responsible for replenishing the church pew racks with UCV information pamphlets, bookmarks (Principles and Sources of Our Religious Faith) and donation envelopes, every Sunday after the church service.
3. Hosted and participated in two "New U in a Day" sessions in the fall and spring. The Committee facilitated the sessions and prepared handouts for the attendees. Coffee breaks and a light lunch were provided by the Committee.
4. Hosted two "signing breakfast" meetings approximately one month after the New U in a Day. This was another information session. Participants were introduced to a number of committee chairs and learned about the activities of these committees, the Board and the Lay Chaplains. The participants were given the opportunity to become a member of UCV by signing the Membership book.
5. Introduced new Unitarian Church members to the Congregation during the Sunday morning service, twice during the year.
6. Hosted a Bumbleberry social for the congregation in January. The New U committee and friends had a great time picking the berries during the summer.

The New U Committee will continue performing all of the above and assist committees with linking new members with church activities and with other congregants.

Music Club

Coordinators

Jeannie Corsi, David Donaldson

Committee Members

Jeannie Corsi, Elliott Dainow, David Donaldson

The Unitarian Music Club holds monthly meetings at which musicians in the church perform for club members. Membership is open to everyone who is interested in music. There is no fee although participants who do not make regular donations are asked to give something to the church. The club welcomes all styles of acoustic music and performances are arranged in advance.

Ten meetings were held in 2010/11. Although the group is small, the music and social periods have been enjoyed by all participants.

The club has no budget.

Oak Street Farmers' Market Committee

Chair

Grant Watson

Summary

The Oak Street Farmers' Market (OSFM) received approval for a trial season, and release of startup funds from a number of church sources in Feb, 2011. We completed the various permit processes and prepared our advertising and organizing for a June 1 Grand Opening. Since then the market has steadily grown in popularity and now has a consistent vendor attendance of 12 to 14 each week. We also have a number of vendors who set up in the courtyard who are not officially part of the farmers market, but are also generating a bit of revenue for UCV. At 31-Aug-2011 the market had an operating surplus of \$1700.

Market Operations

The market is operated as a joint effort among the hired Market Coordinator, Julia Hilton, members of the OSFM Committee and other dedicated volunteers, all of whom have thus far been drawn from the UCV membership. We started the season with a considerable variation in vendor attendance. But thanks to a core group of committed farms who have stuck with us, and new farms and prepared food vendors coming aboard, we now have a largely stable, reliable group. The most unpredictability has been in the ready-to-eat category, and this continues.

Mary Forstbauer, a veteran farmer and farmers' market vendor, now sits on the OSFM Committee as vendor representative. Her wealth of knowledge and marketing ideas have been a significant benefit to us.

Due to the growing popularity of the market and the enthusiasm expressed by a number of vendors, we have extended the market through Nov. and Dec, on a bi-weekly basis. The market will move into the hall for these 4 dates (Nov 9, Nov 23, Dec 7, Dec 21). We will have room for

12 vendors indoors and some may choose to operate outside. Mary Forstbauer has already indicated she would prefer the parking lot. Any prepared-food carts would remain outside as well.

Due to the length and complexity of the process of obtaining the necessary permits from the City of Vancouver, we intend to start the process of applying for a market for 2012 shortly. In collaboration with Vancouver Farmers Markets, we will meet with city staff in early October. The purpose of the meeting was to review issues with the current permitting process and make recommendations for improvement.

Marketing and Promotion

A marketing consultant, Natasha Raey, was hired from March to the end of May, 2011 to assist with our initial strategy, to create marketing material for the Grand Opening, to set up a website and to implement other aspects of the strategy. We formed a marketing sub-committee to work with Natasha on this. There was also a sub-committee dedicated to organizing the Grand Opening itself.

Since the opening, additional marketing efforts have been implemented as it became clear that more was needed to get the numbers we needed to keep our vendors.

Marketing efforts to date include:

- Distributing flyers, coupons and posters, with repeated door-to-door distribution in the neighbourhood surrounding UCV,
- Listing on a broad range of websites,
- A wonderful article on us in the 2011 Summer issue of Edible Vancouver as well as several other spots in print and broadcast media,
- Mentions in a number of food and community email lists,
- A weekly newsletter through mymarketsnews.com,
- Creating our own website: oakstreetmarket.ca which had 1100 visits in Sep,
- Paid ads in Edible Vancouver,
- A Facebook page,
- A Twitter account,
- Street and lawn signs, both temporary and permanent,
- Promotional events, the first of which was our Harvest Celebration on Oct 5.

Attendance: From a slow start, attendance has grown steadily to the present level of about 300-400 customers per week.

Finances

Aside from the startup funds provided by various UCV sources, we succeeded in securing a \$2000 grant from VanCity to put towards advertising costs. We also received donations from market supporters for some advertising costs. The main on-going source of revenue is vendor rent, which was up-to-date at the time of this report.

Below is the OSFM income statement as of 30-Sep-2011.

Income

Koerner Fund	\$	1,000.00
Catharina Fortune fund	\$	1,650.00
Green Fund	\$	1,000.00
VanCity Grant	\$	2,000.00
Vendor Rents	\$	6,498.30
Donations	\$	325.00

Total Income		<u>\$ 12,473.30</u>
---------------------	--	---------------------

Expenses

Advertising	\$	2,525.38
Administration	\$	106.95
Contractors	\$	6,938.60
Loan Payment	\$	-
Market Equipment/ Supplies	\$	199.03
Membership Dues	\$	310.79
Permits	\$	519.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	-

Total Expenses		<u>\$ 10,599.75</u>
-----------------------	--	---------------------

Net Income (Deficit)		<u>\$ 1,873.55</u>
-----------------------------	--	--------------------

Planning for 2012

A delegation from the OSFM Committee met with city staff about making improvements to the permit process, which was somewhat chaotic this year, largely due to regulation changes. We had an excellent meeting and the city committed to adopting most of our recommendations. We were also advised that if we were to apply for up to 30 stalls next year (a doubling of our current size) we have a very good chance of being accepted. One of the main concerns for any farmers market is traffic management, and staff indicated that we have a sufficient street parking for an expansion.

Our committee will be reviewing the success of our first year in November, and at that time will present a formal plan to the UCV board for 2012.

Outreach Opportunities Fund Committee**Chair**

Elisabeth Geller

Members

Steven Epperson, Jack Jefferson, David McDonald, Dave Steele

Statement of Purpose

To distribute funds collected for the Outreach Opportunities Fund to organizations engaged in social justice, environmental sustainability and refugee support and settlement in the wider community. To provide reports and updates to the congregation on these distributions and their impact.

Activities & Accomplishments

In 2011, the Outreach Opportunities Fund distributed a total of \$10,000 in funds to the following organizations:

Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver
Salsbury Community Society
Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture
Pedal Energy Development Alternatives
Presentations were made to each of these groups and information was posted on our website and in our bulletin for the congregations.

Future Plans

This year, the OOF Committee will again be distributing funds to support the work of the broader community to build an inclusive, just and sustainable world.

Refugee

Co-Chairs

Virginia Crabill, Julia Myers

Members

Virginia Crabill, Maimuna Emam; Don Fox, John McVicar, Julia Myers, Nermeen Nammari; Carol Pearlstone, Vi Pilar; Huguette Sansonnet Anne Stuart, Gail Thomson

Statement of Purpose

To educate about, and advocate for, issues concerning refugees.

Activities and Accomplishments for 2011

We have been very actively involved in sponsoring several Palestinian families from the el-Hol refugee camp in Syria. The abhorrent conditions of this camp have shocked even hardened refugee workers. We process the levels of paperwork, acquire translators, lawyers and counsellors as needed, seek accommodations and household furnishings in the Vancouver area for these families, help get them settled, and assist them in acquiring language, computer, and job search skills, as well as addressing their health issues. Through our monthly lunches at UCV, we have enabled some of them to pay back their government travel loans. We have kept a constantly updated list on the bulletin board in Hewett Centre of items most urgently needed. Our work with the Palestinians has been an incredible, invaluable multifaith undertaking, involving UCV, Muslims, Quakers, Mennonites, United and Baptist churches and the Ismaili community. There have been many inflammatory, xenophobic fabrications and rumours about immigrants and refugees circulating in the media, and we have provided information to counter and refute these myths and misconceptions.

We aim to be financially self-supporting, fundraising through our twice-monthly lunches, raffles, sales of Entertainment books and cookbooks, our annual Metro Theatre evening, and our Thrift Sale table in Hewett on Sundays.

Our future plans involve continuing the work mentioned above, and increasing our volunteer support base. We would like more of us to learn about the sponsorship process, and online media PR skills.

The Robert Koerner Fund

Chair

Patience Towler

Members

Barbara Clague, Jane Sutherland, Patience Towler and Bob Woodham.

This fund is based on the conditions of the late Anna Jetter's bequest to the church which requires that the principal amount is maintained. The annual interest earned is available to be used for grants to committees, groups and/or individuals for special projects. These projects are expected to enhance the life of the church and the wider community.

A brochure describing the fund and guidelines/criteria for the type of projects which may be considered for financial support is available from the church office and also from the chair of the committee.

In January 2011 a grant of \$1000.00 was made available to the Oak Street Farmers Market Committee (requested by Grant Watson) towards the cost of marketing and promotion of the Oak Street Farmers Market.

Services Auction

Coordinators

John Smith and Rae Smith

No Services Auction was held this past year. After three consecutive years of auctions, we purposely missed a year. Having a periodic break tends to rejuvenate enthusiasm. Our next auction is planned for Saturday, March 10, 2012 and we look forward to another successful one.

Past auctions have not only generated revenue for the church, but also have created opportunities for congregants to get together and become better acquainted with one another in enjoyable settings. Such offers as ethnic dinners, barbecues, garden parties, hikes, evenings of dancing and music, food (cakes, pies, cookies, casseroles, granola, etc.), boat rides, tours of museums, evenings of bridge or storytelling, baby sitting, massage, electrical consulting, garden work, rides to the airport to catch a plane and help with computers create opportunities to develop friendships, have fun, provide help to others and learn new skills.

Social Justice

Chair

David Steel

Members

Leslie Kemp, Jenny Podlecki, Virginia Crabill, Hanno Pinder, Gerry Hayle,

Statement of Purpose

To educate and inform about social justice issues

Activities & Accomplishments

Over the past year, we held many after-Service forums on topics ranging from access to housing, to food security, to dying with dignity. We sponsored or co-sponsored a number of evening events at the church, as well, including a very successful fundraiser for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, a concert by socially-concerned folk singer Roy Zimmerman and a summer-long film festival on the effects of our food choices, run in conjunction with the new Oak Street Farmers' Market.

Future Plans

This year we will be focusing on inequality in our society as a root cause of social ills. We will continue to run Sunday forums after the Sunday Service twice monthly and to sponsor events important to the social justice cause. We plan to cover such issues as poverty, social unrest, and the decline of unionization, access to health care and the influence of corporations on government.

Worship Services

Chair

Dwight Ivany

Members

Alex Macqueen, Dave McDonald, Elliott Dainow, Karen Bartlett, Louise Bunn, Steven Epperson, Joyce Poley and Way Kent, Galen Elfert, Naz Gurbuz, Joe Cherry

Statement of Purpose

The Worship Services Committee collectively works with our parish minister, Rev. Steven Epperson, to provide worship services that reflect our pluralistic and creative living tradition.

Activities & Accomplishments

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver celebrates our diversity by sharing the pulpit with guests within and outside our church community. Over the course of the year, our committee solicited speakers, and acted as liaison, for all lay-led and summer services - a total of about 20 Sundays.

Our committee accomplished this on a most modest budget in an effort to allow the charity of our community to flow to other endeavors. Deepest thanks are due to the generous volunteer efforts of those that have made so many services a success in showcasing our diversity. We had the pleasure of working with Ministerial Intern Joe Cherry who, after being ordained, moved on to a residency in San Francisco. Joe brought a fascinating set of skills and perspective to our congregation and we are thankful for our time with him.

In order to assist some of our newer members, as well as develop more consistency overall, we compiled a collection of resources to make this job easier, and posted to the web <http://www.themelodydream.com/wsc> which most members seemed to find quite useful.

Future Plans

We plan to evolve the monthly service review to reflect a deeper search for truth and meaning. At the same time to bring the stage management elements from the review stage into training. It is also our intention to work with members of the church to lead a small number of worship services that do not occur on Sunday, including Solstice. For that we are delighted to have Mary Bennett's assistance.

Reports Not Submitted

Program Coordinating Council
Intern Minister Committee
Finance Report
Partner Church

Community Partner Reports

Oak Counselling

Executive Director

Susan Giles

Counsellors

Akhila Blaise, Alan Le Fevre, Ali-reza Sedghi Taromi, Amy Lai, Carol Swan, Daphne Gelbart, David Brown, Delea Hennenfent, Dianne Westwood, Eleanor Rogers, Hortensia Polanco, Jill Koehler, Lucy Scott, Mary Chiasson, Neha Jobanputra, Pamela Bromley, Patrick McKernan, Patrycja Nieschlukowska, Ron Bahrey, Royce Dueck, Sidney Blaise, Susan Krug, Susan Vincent, and Waltraud Custer.

Supervisors

Alison Beaumont, Gwen Bevan, Audrey Cook, Kathleen Whipp, Nonie Lyon.

Board of Directors

Ricky Pang – Treasurer; Heidi Nucklaus – Secretary; John Westwood – Member at Large; Cindy Weisbart – Member at Large

Purpose

To promote the health and stability of individuals and families by providing quality, affordable counselling and related education to residents of Greater Vancouver.

Activities

Oak Counselling Services Society is now in its 38th year of operation. We continue to enjoy a solid reputation in the community, as evidenced by the increase in the number of clients who seek our services, the wider and wider variety of community agencies who refer their clients to us and the number of qualified counsellors who seek an opportunity to volunteer with us.

Oak is unique among low cost agencies in the city in that all of the counselling services we offer are provided by unpaid volunteers. This allows us then to offer an incredibly reasonable sliding fee scale to our clients (\$10 - \$65/hr.) Oak currently has 25 qualified Master's level counsellors and 5 supervisors (seasoned counsellors with 15 years+ in the field) who generously donate their time and skills to us on a weekly basis. In addition, we are lucky to have a dedicated Board of Directors who is also volunteers.

We provide one-on-one counselling to individuals and couples struggling with a variety of issues including anxiety and depression, stress, life transition, grief, interpersonal and family concerns to name but a few. We do not do take on clients with serious psychiatric illness (such as schizophrenia) nor do we do addiction work or court-mandated counselling. We see adults only at Oak as we do not have the physical set-up to provide play therapy for children. In this past year (Mar. 31/10 – Apr. 1/11), 148 new client intakes were completed, with 95 new clients

beginning counselling at Oak. With the addition of those existing clients continuing therapy, the total number of clients seen is somewhat higher.

We were honoured in June of 2010 with a plaque dedicated to the Unitarian Family Life Centre, unveiled on the newly designated UCV "Recognition Wall". This plaque recognizes the unique contribution that Oak (formerly UFLC) has made to the greater community.

We are grateful to UCV for furnishing us with such a welcoming space in which to do our work with clients. The library, Meditation room and Vestry are our three principal counselling spaces. While there were some challenges over the past year for counsellors to book rooms due to a lengthy painting project in the Meditation Room and a Library cataloguing project, we were in the end able to juggle space as needed. Thanks to secretary, Tara Lee MacNiven and UCV Administrative Manager, Tamara Shoup, for their assistance in this. Thanks as well to Tamara and the Building & Grounds Committee for tidying up the Vestry, as it is now a more suitable space in which to see clients.

Oak Counselling raised its counselling rates for the first time in more than a dozen years, effective November 1, 2010. We did not raise fees for our lowest paying clients (\$10-\$15 fees remained unchanged) but rather incrementally shifted all higher fees, with the biggest hike for clients paying at the upper end of our fee scale.

The UCV Board of Trustees has indicated a desire to see Oak Counselling have more involvement in the Church community. To this end, I am working on developing a workshop series on various psycho-educational topics that would be open to both Oak clients and UCV members. As always, it is a tremendous challenge – time and resource-wise (particularly within the confines of my 10 hour per week job as Executive Director – to expand our services when we are already so very busy.

Lastly, at the time of writing this summary for our July 26th AGM, I can report that Oak Counselling has reached a new high in terms of waitlisted clients – 66 people! The challenge looking forward will be how we can meet this ever-increasing demand for low-cost counselling in a more timely and effective manner. Given Oak's very modest budget, we will have to look to additional funding sources, particularly in light of our goal of having more to offer the UCV community in terms of support and programming.