



yUuper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

"We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 October 2017; Vol. 32, #10

BHK Building (700 Park Ave., Houghton). Enter on North Side, off Waterworks Drive

October's Theme: Third Principle, Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

Sunday Schedule for October 2017

Oct. 1: "Who Are We, and How Do We Fit in the Larger UU Movement?" with Rev. Chris and Will Cantrell. In this service our speakers will examine our identity, both historically and currently, and ask, "Who does KUUF want to be?"

Oct. 8, a Forum: "A Safe Congregation and Children's Religious Education Volunteer Training," with Anne Newcombe. All Fellowships must undergo SAFE Congregation Policy Trainings, like this. The RE Committee will also conduct a safe adult volunteer training for members who assist with RE when needed. All members are encouraged to attend.

Oct. 15: Guest Minister Karen McFarland will speak on the different spheres of fellowship growth.

Oct. 22: "Acceptance of One Another," or "Why I Don't Like the Doctrine of 'Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin'" Speaker: Rev. Chris . In some religious circles, one hears constant refrains that they love people but hate their sins. In this service, Rev. Chris will examine why this doctrine misses the point when it comes to love, compassion, and acceptance.

Oct. 29: "A Quaker Experience," with Rich Featherly, Cynthia Drake, and Worship Associate, Rev. Chris. Members of the local Quaker

community return to lead us in another Quaker experience and give context on just who and what the Quaker faith is.

October Book Club Info

The October selection is *Log Phase Man* by Betzi Praeger.

Four photocopies are available via a sign-up system that should allow everyone to read the book before the meeting in late October.

The book is only 107 pages, so it is a quick read. Contact Linda Belote to have your name placed on the list.

Betzi is seeking feedback; please write your comments on a separate sheet, indicating page and paragraph number.

New KUUF Members



Jerry Cuffe and Bob Lane sign the membership book as Board Member, Lora Rupp, looks on.

Minister's Musings:



“Spiritual Growth and the Third Principle”

This month, we'll be focusing on the third principle at KUUF: “Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.”

In my experience, I've found this to be simultaneously one of our most important values and, at the same time, one of the most difficult to implement.

After all, how far does this acceptance go? As someone asked during congregational conversation last month, what would we do if a white nationalist wanted to join our congregation and even speak on the person's views from our pulpit? Would the third principle compel us to allow equal time with other views?

I don't believe that, just because we accept one another, we have to accept all views or behaviors, and I do think certain beliefs are contradictory to our way of being religious.

When a person believes in something that violates our core values, such as the principles, it becomes difficult to embrace that belief.

White nationalism definitely violates the first principle in that it denies the humanity of people of color. That being said, I struggle with the thought that many people could have their minds changed if they were only able to have a transformational experience. How do we do this and honor the inherent worth and dignity of all people?

The solution is found in the second part of the principle: “encouragement to spiritual growth.”

Yes, we accept one another, but we also don't allow one another to remain static.

Unitarian Universalist congregations each week challenge their members and friends to transformation, to growth of the spirit that affirms our path never comes to an end.

Most major faith traditions have affirmed this, recognizing that, though there's a theoretical end to our journey, whether Heaven, enlightenment, or moksha (emancipation from the life/death cycle), very few people will ever actually reach this perfect spiritual endpoint.

We may hold it in mind as our ultimate goal because it reminds us that there's always a bit more to do.

While we may not agree with others on belief, we can accept them as human beings with inherent worth and dignity, and encourage them to grow spiritually. Of course, only the person involved can ultimately make the choice whether to expand during life's travels, but, nevertheless, I believe Unitarian Universalism can be a place that allows the possibility of transformation in the best possible ways.

I want people to be able to come to our congregation and hear the good news that we are one human community.

Maybe, just maybe, if more churches were like this, we'd have a little less conflict in the world.

—Rev. Chris

Rev. Chris's Office Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm;
Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, and by appointment

Tea with the Minister:

Thursday: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Rev. Chris's Blog: <http://www.radicalrev.com>
Listen to Rev. Chris's Sermons on SoundCloud:
<https://soundcloud.com/chrisrothbauer>

Home Page:

<http://www.keweenawuu.org/>

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/keweenawuu/>

Koffee Klatsch: Every 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10 AM. See the weekly Bulletin for location, which changes.



Letters to the Editor

The editor encourages letters to the yUuper Newsletter on UU or KUUF topics. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and clarity.

Editor:

I have recently studied the draft Covenant. Do we need a document like this?

Every person has different interests, abilities and desires to participate in the KUUF activities, and these change over time. We all have different communication skills and abilities to interact with others and time to participate in KUUF. We are all individuals.

Putting down on paper all the things that we should do and not do takes away from our adult learned behavior to do what we judge is right and to do them within our ability and in the time we want to commit to UU.

KUUF is great. Get to know the people in it, go to services, participate in their functions, learn about the seven principles, find out about the history of UU and if you like what you see, you sign the book and become a member.

I don't think we want to tell the present members and potential new members "Sign the Covenant so you know the expectations of KUUF on how to function as a member.

The Board President, Minister and the Trustees should be focusing on leading the Congregation in setting strategic goals to improve what we do as a congregation and what and how we can contribute to the community.

Focus on how we can grow to be stronger financially, offer better music in our services, attract more members, especially younger members with children, enjoy an improved RE program, develop well-functioning committees, learn why members leave KUUF, and make improvements that will be good for members.

This to me is more important than writing and debating a document that says what we should and should not do in dealing with members, the minister, the staff and the Board.

I don't think a KUUF Covenant is something to have individual members commit to; it might

be a good discussion document for the Congregation: Asking members to commit to the Covenant shows a lack of trust that they will do the right thing.

How does the Board expect to get people that are successful and that have the leadership ability and the financial capability to put the Fellowship on a better foundation by asking them to commit to the Covenant? This is in effect a put down.

—John Johnson

Library Briefs, with Bob Fiandt



Listed below are some of the items in the "Miscellaneous" section of the KUUF library. These are all related in some way to social justice. The words in quotation marks indicate the themes of the book, and the title

then follows.

- (1) "Affirmative Action," *Who's Qualified?*
- (2) "Human Rights," *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All.*
- (3) "Lifestyles Social Justice," *Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the Twenty-first Century.*
- (4) "Social Action and Change," *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear.*
- (5) "Social Values and Justice," *Global Values 101.*
- (6) "US Civil Rights," *Free for All: Defending Liberty in America Today.*

All of these items can be found in the bottom cabinet of our KUUF library.

—Bob Fiandt



***Keweenaw Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
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