

KEWEENAW UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL REPORTS
June 6, 2021

KUUF Strategic Plan Report and Update

The KUUF Strategic Plan has been reviewed after six months and a yearly review was completed in December 2020. Conducting the reviews and developing updates was the task of the Strategic Plan Review Committee: Lora Repp, Horst Schmidt, Miriam Pickens, Paul Mitchell – ex officio. A written report was presented to the Board after each review for approval. Several action plans were updated after the annual review to reflect changes and new opportunities happening in the Fellowship. A document outlining those updates is attached. The complete Strategic Plan is available on the KUUF Website.

**Strategic Plan Updates
Annual Review – 12/20**

Review Committee: Lora Repp, Miriam Pickens, Horst Schmidt, Paul Mitchell

Goal 1. KUUF will maintain consistent and effective ministerial services.

New Measurement of Success: Ministerial services in place within three months of the present minister's contract ending.

New Action Plans:

Determine what the nature of ministerial service should look like for KUUF after current minister's contract ends.

Assigned to MTTF

Implement search for minister/ministerial services

Assigned to Board

Goal 2. KUUF will increase membership size and diversity

New Action Plan:

Implement procedures to ensure that the fellowship is welcoming to visitors and potential members while in person gatherings are prohibited due to COVID

Assigned to Membership Committee

Goal 3. KUUF will enhance management and administrative systems

New Action Plans:

Implement procedure to update and maintain the Committee and Contacts List

Assigned to board subcommittee (Elen Maurer, Dave Watkins, Miriam Pickens)

Develop plan for resuming in person services
Assigned to Worship Committee, Board, Minister

Respond to Susan Hooker's generosity.

Establish ongoing management of Susan's contribution to KUUF
Assigned to Board appointed ad hoc committee and Board
Explore ideas and make decisions regarding the possibilities
Susan's contribution offers KUUF
Board, Minister, Committees designated by the Board

Goal 4. KUUF members will continue and expand caring for each other

New action Plan:

Determine ways to use KUUF's newly adopted Covenant
Assigned to Minister in concert with appropriate committees

Goal 5. KUUF members individually and collectively will express through action UU values in the broader community

New action plan:

Establish a group that would encourage the inclusion of the Widening the Circle actions within the Fellowship
Assigned to Eight Principle Group

Goal 6. KUUF will create space for personal and collective search for meaning

No updates at this time

Membership Committee Annual Report 6/21

Membership Committee Members: Lora Repp, Jenn Donovan, Bob Drake, Grace Parikh, Martha Cunnings (Linda Belote retired from the committee in January after serving as chair for many years – her service was much appreciated and is greatly missed.)

Though more challenging via ZOOM, the Membership Committee has remained committed to welcoming visitors to Sunday services. The first Sunday of every month visitors and newcomers were invited to join the minister and committee members in the “Welcome to KUUF Breakout Room “after the service. Joining the breakout room provided an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about KUUF in a small group setting.

The Committee continues to send Visitors Packets to newcomers showing an interest in the Fellowship as well as New Member Information to those who decide to become KUUF members. Signing the membership book outside on the hood of a car has become standard practice during COVID.

On February 15th the Membership Committee held its first ever virtual New to UU session

At the time of this report KUUF has 86 Active Members and 27 Friends.
Lora Repp, Chair

Publicity

This has been an active year for publicity. We have had regular postings on our Facebook site, and have worked hard to keep the website up to date. Regular promotional spots as program sponsors on Public Radio and Public Television were garnered through a program of funneling donations through KUUF. This year we had over \$2500.00 in these donations, resulting in consistent sponsorship of “Speaking of Faith” and “Washington Week in Review,” plus a few more, like a whole day of underwriting on Public TV for Earth Day. We make a push for these in November but would be happy to accept them all year. The stations love this program and are very easy to work with. We have regularly posted forums in the Gazette, Keweenaw Report, Keweenaw Now and when appropriate, Tech Today. Our Social Justice efforts, like the R. B. Ginsburg vigil, the IRA Campaign, and the forum on the petition at the Houghton Portage Township Schools have been reported on by the Gazette and Keweenaw Now. We have an updated consistent presence on the Religion page of the Gazette, but we did not promote the Holiday service in December as it was more of an in-gathering event.

This year we saw the last of the yUUPER Newsletter. It has been sad to lose that, but we have an active presence with the Digest, which, thanks to Martha, reaches 171 email addresses each week.

Children's RE

Kid's Zoom room, conducted by members of the Children's RE Committee started in June 2020, and now we have a regular crew of four children. Two sets of gift packages were delivered to children in our Fellowship, which included treats, toys and books. When we are heading in the direction of being back in person, we will explore Religious Education and Childcare options.

Music Committee Report 2020-2021

Committee Chair: Sandra Loy (de facto) Committee Members: Chuck Young, Nanno Rose
Music Staff: Sandra Loy, Alex Frazier

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, music committee meetings have been suspended indefinitely since March 2020. Over the past year, the music staff has developed a playlist of songs, hymns, and instrumental selections for online services, drawing from public domain sources and material licensed for online use via the UUA. The staff has made use of multi-track recording, synthesizer, and editing software for the best possible audio quality. Alex has generously provided his vocal talents to record several hymns in addition to providing piano music each Sunday. Committee members Chuck and Sandra are researching streaming licenses that will allow us to legally broadcast an expanded selection of music for our return to in-person/online services. All decisions re congregational/group singing will follow current UUA guidance, with potential group musical activities for this summer now in development.

Library Annual Report 2020-2021

The mission of our library follows: "To increase religious literacy among patrons, to make a positive difference in the lives of our members, and to help them on their journey." To implement this, I hope to use my education and experience to operate the library in a more professional manner.

I last saw the library in March 2020, when we shifted to online services. Since that time there has been no library activity.

However, I would like to remind everyone about what we were doing prior to the BHK closure.

One of our members purchased a library cart and donated it to our library. I am excited about this new acquisition. With this new cart, I am implementing fundamental changes to library operation. Instead of getting patrons to go to the library, the cart will allow me to take materials, and bring them to the patrons. People can browse the items similar to the book sales that we used to have. The cart will function similar to a bookmobile. I think that this new system will be much more user-friendly.

Goals for 2021-2022

We should establish goals for the upcoming year. We should be mindful of our mission statement. An ongoing goal remains unchanged—to use the online bibliography to help increase our circulation, and “increase religious literacy among patrons.” Hopefully, people that used the document and checked-out materials would experience a “positive difference” in their lives, and “help them on their journey.”

I will now state two other goals for the upcoming year. These goals are identical to those already stated in my 2019-2020 annual report.

My first goal--to provide the Fellowship with the best library service possible in these difficult times. We can take advantage of our online catalog. To find the catalog, go to keweenawuu.org and click on “Connection.” People can browse our catalog to see what may be available.

If someone wants to obtain a particular item, they have a couple of options: (1) order the item from our UU bookstore (uuabookstore.org), or purchase from Amazon or another retailer; (2) go to a local public library, such as the Portage Lake District Library, and place an order using interlibrary loan.

My second goal--to get our KUUF library up and running after we return to in-person services at BHK. The future timeline for that remains unknown.

We should get more feedback about the library, so that we can determine how to proceed. Have we overlooked anything that the congregation needs or wants? We need to do some brainstorming to determine ways to generate additional feedback.

I am looking for an assistant to fill in when I am gone. If interested, please talk to me.

Thank you to all who have provided feedback or made other contributions and helped me on my journey. I appreciate it. My email: library@keweenawuu.org

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee was able to help our lay minister, Paul Mitchell, during the course of the past year as we remained in lock down, holding virtual services to protect our members from infection by the coronavirus. Service attendance on Sundays remained higher vis a vis our previous in person services. Paul's initial arrangement of virtual services continued with help from Miriam Pickens doing Moments for All Ages each Sunday. The arrangement of technical services primarily by Leonard Bohmann and Janeen Stephenson along with help from Bill Fink, Dave Watkins and Mariam Pickens went smoothly most Sundays. Sandra Loy, music director, changed from live hymns to recorded ones due to the limitations of Zoom audio. Sandra agreed to join the Worship Committee as it takes on an active role in running the services upon the departure of our minister. Alex Frazier did excellent piano performances.

Since there are 5th Sundays during the year, we brought in Amy Howard of MTU Diversity and Inclusion and Carol Grafford to do sermons. Paul worked with members of the congregation for lay-led services, including Rachel McDonald, Wayne Gersie, Miriam Pickens, and Ana Dyreson. We had an international Zoom service from Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons with assistance from Amlan for the contact. We also hosted visiting minister Rev. Mark Richards for a virtual return visit.

We will work with the Board of Trustees on resumption of in person services. We will work with the Board as well about continuation of virtual services when we transition to live ones.

We express our gratitude to Paul Mitchell for the high quality of his Sunday Services throughout the year as well as his willingness to assist us. They have drawn in many members on a regular basis, expressing great satisfaction.

Personnel Committee Annual Report 6/2021

Personnel Committee had little work during the past year. The Committee provided support to the Fill the Gap efforts with background checks on potential hires and made compensation recommendations to the Board. The committee will review job descriptions and procedures to support the Search Committee's work in the coming year.

Boyce Scholarship

There was one distribution of Scholarship Funds this year, to support a member to attend the UUA General Assembly. Funds remain available to enable members to attend trainings, workshops, and other educational opportunities.