

Tapestry, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Annual Committee Reports
FY July 1, 2008 – June 5, 2009
Prepared June 5, 2009

Adult Forum

Co-Chairs Anne Farrell and Jim Semelroth

Purpose: To provide thought provoking issues and a forum for discussion on current subjects, in-depth travel experiences and other issues of interest.

Ongoing Activities: Meetings are held during the second service, usually on the second and fourth Sundays, from September through June. Speakers are from the church and the community.

Sept. 2007-June 2008 Accomplishments

- We began a DVD science series on a variety of topics to fill in when there is no speaker.
- Many of our members have presented challenging subjects of importance and enjoyment, including:
 - Jan Meslin speaking on lobbying for healthcare
 - Perry Dictos speaking on “The Origins and Evolution of the Judeo-Christian Beliefs From 2000 BCE to 400 CE”
 - An outside speaker presented issues of interest regarding affordable housing.

Adult Religious Education

Chair: Sheryl Hagen

Members: Dick Huddleston, Katelyn Riva, Cheryl Fennick

Purpose:

- To plan, develop, and implement a Religious Education Program to meet the needs and diverse interests of the congregation.
- To explore issues of conscience, spirituality, family and faith
- To provide opportunities in community to examine, discover, and reaffirm individual beliefs and values through supportive, nurturing courses, workshops and covenant groups.

Ongoing Activities:

The committee developed, organized and implemented the following a number of courses and groups.

Sept. 2008-June 2009 Accomplishments:

- Three covenant groups
- A Spiritual Practice course
- Articulating Your Unitarian Universalism Faith course
- A five week Understanding Grief Workshop
- A Simplicity Circle Group

Beginning after summer '09, there is course work in place for:

- Four Covenant Groups
- A Science and Philosophy Forum
- Addiction to Perfection Course
- Understanding Grief Course

- Yoga and Spirituality Course

Aesthetics Committee

Chair: Marie Ferguson

Committee Members: Ruth McCoy

Purpose: To maintain an aesthetically pleasing ambiance in our church facility.

Ongoing activities and tasks:

- Select capital investments of furnishings, decorative art and arrangement of same.
- Decide on acceptance and placement of donated items.
- Work with committees on their needs as to placement of bulletin boards and containers for additional materials
- Coordinate decorating for Christmas and Easter, always considering the opinions of the Minister and the Worship committee.
- On occasion, if the job is too large for the Worship committee, participate in the creation of a special display for a service topic.
- To be consulted on any proposed structural changes to the building.

Accomplishments, July 1, 2008 to June 1, 2009

- We had one cleaning day in the fall where many participated drawing selected tasks. All was accomplished in little more than an hour. However, we were not able to have the carpet cleaned.
- We decorated for Christmas and Easter with the help of Bill Ferguson and Carole Shannon. We also provided flowers for the sanctuary on a regular basis and changed tablecloths in the social hall according to the season.
- We worked with Rev. Mitra making changes in the placement of furniture and candles in the sanctuary to accommodate the new way of doing Joys and Concerns.

Building Maintenance & Janitorial Committee

Chair: Free Clarke

Names of committee members, and number of openings, if any:

The Janitorial Committee has 12 members, divided into 5 teams made up of 2 people with 2 alternates.

Team 1: Gary Livesey and Free Clarke

Team 2: Charlotte Clarke, Gail Hunt, Susan Jagielko

Team 3: Jan Meslin, Chris Smith

Team 4: Jack Hall, Bob Fischer, Free Clarke

Team 5: Alison Holt, Karen Nichols, Rosy Pacilli, Terry Parker.

Alternates: Richard Lappin, Paul McCarter

Purpose: To clean the church on a weekly basis, with responsibility rotating amongst the 5 teams. The Maintenance Committee oversees the workings of the church physical plant, to see that all facilities are working and to check on outside contractor work operations if necessary.

On-going activities and tasks:

- unplug toilets
- repair furniture
- clean facility
- repair/replace light fixtures and bulbs
- general handyman activities

July 200-June 2009 Accomplishments:

- Received some mulch that was placed in front of 2 units
- Received and installed some new file cabinets for our office staff.
- Worked with landlord John on some air conditioning filter problems.
- Replaced some of our old time team members with some new blood.

New activities undertaken: on hold

Challenges faced in the past year: Getting enough people to clean.

Challenges the committee faces in the coming year: Replacement of some volunteers, some have been doing it for more than three years.

Choir

Chair: Bill Hunker, Choir Director

Purpose:

Ongoing Activities:

The choir sang once per month in the first part of the year. Bill plans to organize small groups of musical events.

Coordinating Council

Chair: Connie Pursell, VP Operations

Purpose: This group is composed of all committee chairpersons from all of the operational committees. The Coordinating Council meets under the direction of the VP Operations. Based on the bylaws, broad general guidelines and direction from the Board, the committee chairs elevate Tapestry church life experiences by providing and coordinating various programs and activities. Together with the Board, the committees develop and maintain policies and procedures and guidelines for achieving the mission of the individual committee(s). The committees actually see to the day-to-day logistics and operations of the congregation, i.e. the nitty gritty work of the church. A democratically organized and operated church, which Tapestry is, depends on a variety of committees to carry out many of the institutional functions of the organization.

Committee Chairs meet together as "the coordinating council" bi-monthly (every other month) to report on their own activities, challenges and successes and learn of the activities, challenges and successes of the other committees. In this way, all chairs are reminded that they are a part of the whole, but not necessarily "more important than" any other part and learn to appreciate that the congregation flourishes when *all* committees work for the good and betterment of the community at large. This helps avoid a type of "tunnel vision" that could develop from focusing just on one activity or area (e.g. Ways and Means or Social Action). One might lose sight of, or be unaware of, other efforts taking place in other areas (e.g. Finance, Membership, RECY).

Accomplishments: Held three meetings since October 2008: 10/23/08, 1/15/09, 3/26/09

Challenges: Finding a best time to schedule meetings so that the most numbers of people can attend.

Directory

Key Contact: Jim Semelroth

Purpose:

Ongoing Activities:

We printed 100 copies of a new congregational directory. We asked for \$2 donations for the directory. Most people donated at least \$2 – some several times that amount. A new directory is being planned for late summer or early fall when Rev. Owen-Towle arrives.

Finance Committee

Chair: Julia Rampone, VP Finance

Committee members:

Members and Associated Committees:

- Carol Wheeler – Treasurer
- Open - Annual Campaign and Capital Campaign
- Open – Annual Campaign 2009-2010
- Laura Mazzulo - Ways and Means

Purpose: “The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the annual canvass, preparation of the church budget, supervision of the on-going canvass and other financial matters as needed or directed by the Board.” (Tapestry By-Laws)

On-going activities and tasks:

1. Safeguarding the financial assets of Tapestry
2. Establishing financial policies and ensuring compliance
3. Managing day to day business activities
4. Providing regular reporting of financial status to congregation
5. Coordinating the submittal of statutory filings
6. Working with committee chairs to manage committee budgets
7. Developing accurate income and expense forecasts to ensure adequate cash for operations
8. Being aware of and actively participating in actions that reduce expenses and/or increase income
9. Managing bequests and ensuring funds are used as specified
10. Providing acknowledgement of significant contributions and bequests

July 2008 – June 2009 Accomplishments:

1. Established relationship with new UBS financial representative when former representative changed firms
2. Participated in the Merger Task Force to determine financial feasibility of potential merger
3. Developed and presented joint pro forma financial information to Tapestry congregation to assist in decisions regarding merger
4. Developed Cash Flow Projection process for managing cash flow and prioritizing bills
5. Informed congregation of options for donations to Tapestry
6. Coordinated with various committees to ensure the financial health of Tapestry

Challenges faced in the past year: The year has been a very challenging one financially for Tapestry. General economic conditions left some members unable to fulfill their pledge commitments. Tapestry's income will be more than 13% down from budget, and over 6% lower than last year. Through vigorous cost cutting, expenses were reduced by \$12 thousand, but unfortunately not enough to offset the lower income. With very careful cash management, the unrestricted reserve account was not accessed through May, but it is likely that reserves will need to be used before the fiscal year ends.

Challenges the committee faces in the coming year: Pledges are down nearly 20% from last year as a result of a variety factors, including the uncertain economy. A number of cost management actions are in process, including looking at moving to a less expensive location. Until the economy recovers, or membership increases significantly, Tapestry will continue will continue to experience tight financial conditions.

Membership Committee

Chair: Rosy Pacilli (include name of co-chair if applicable)

Members: Rosy Pacilli, Terry Parker, Alison Holt, Karen Nichols, Retha Roberts and Carol Semelroth

Openings: 2 greeters

Purpose: To promote, encourage and sustain membership growth at Tapestry.

On-going activities and tasks:

1. Greet visitors at each service
2. Input visitors' info on spreadsheet and send letters to each visitor
3. Record attendance of each service
4. Conduct New Member Orientations each quarter
5. Present New Member Recognition approximately three times a year
6. Promote membership growth
7. Call new visitors

July 2008 – June 2009 Accomplishments:

1. 3 new member orientations
2. 3 new member recognitions
3. Addition of 15 new members

Challenges faced in the past year: lack of resources

Challenges the committee faces in the coming year: lack of resources

Newsletter

Key Contact: Jim Semelroth

Purpose: to publish and disseminate a monthly newsletter for Tapestry members (CommUUnique)

Ongoing Activities:

A newsletter was produced on time each month.

Sept. 2008-June 2009 Accomplishments:

We produced 220 paper versions of the monthly newsletter, CommUUnique, and mailed them to members and friends. We hover around 200 mailed copies to maintain our Bulk Rate privileges.

The extra copies are used in visitor packets. We also send a PDF version of the newsletter to approximately 200 individuals.

In May the Board approved the elimination of the mailing of paper copies except for those who subscribe for \$12 per year. The change takes place with the July '09 newsletter. In June we printed 220 copies of an 18 page newsletter and mailed it. We also sent a PDF to approximately 300 individuals electronically. In future, we anticipate copying no more than 50 copies of the newsletter for subscribers and for visitor packets, thus saving paper, ink, volunteer time and labor, not to mention postage at \$0.15 per copy under one ounce.

We are exploring putting the newsletter in one designated place on the congregation website.

Nominating Committee

Chair: Carol Semelroth

Members: Christine Krueger, Jay Keithahn, and Terry Parker

Purpose: to prepare a slate for the Tapestry Board of Directors for the annual Congregation Meeting. Assist the Vice President of Operations with filling committee chair positions and committee member openings with volunteers as requested.

TAPESTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE FY 2009-10

Officers

Connie Pursell, President (1 year)

Mark Fox, Vice President of Operations (1 year)

Bev Huff, Vice President of Finance (2 years)

Jacqueline Jenkins, Treasurer (3 years)

Laura Jackson, Secretary (1 year)

Directors

Julia Rampone (1 year) - finishing Mark's 2nd year

Keith Tuomenin-Lenny (2 years)

Scott Ramirez (2 years)

Nominating Committee 09-10

Christine Krueger, Chair (1 year)

Terry Parker (2 years)

Jay Keithahn (1 year)

Marcia Meyer (2 years)

Summary and Challenges:

We want to thank all the people throughout this year who have kindly accepted our requests to serve as Board Officers and Directors, committee chairs, and members of committees. In addition, especially want to thank of those people who graciously accepted our invitation to serve as members of the Board of Trustees for the next one and two years. This year has been challenging to maintain the many volunteer positions, but we wish to recognize the valuable contributions by each member of Tapestry.

Publicity Committee

Chair: Gary Glass

Members:

Ongoing Activities:

2008-09 Accomplishments:

1. Updated all media contacts
2. Created a new location and events account in OC Register's online website, www.ocregister.com
3. Published news stories regarding upcoming Tapestry events such as: education classes, guest speakers, social action work and sermon announcements.
4. Successful in publishing online articles in the Mission Viejo dispatch and Aliso Laguna News.

Challenges: Still trying to get published in the OC Register and LA Times.

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

Co-Chairs: Christine Krueger and Kathy Tuominen-Lenney

Committee Members: Jordan Ashbach, Jocelyn Cooper, Mehrdad Haghi, and Geoffrey Gothard

Purpose: To create and maintain a welcoming, safe environment for children, youth, and families; one that encourages connection, learning, and spiritual growth based on Unitarian Universalist tradition, history, and purpose.

Ongoing Activities and Tasks:

- social action activities
- weekly emails to parents covering events and issues
- holding weekly classes (PreK - grade 12)
- supervise nursery
- evaluating and choosing curricula
- visioning
- creating intergenerational community
- publicity
- welcoming new families and following-up to encourage their return
- filling teaching calendar
- Our Whole Lives (OWL)
- budget

Challenges: getting sufficient volunteers to sign up to teach and parent participation, increase in Sunday morning Committee responsibility in absence of DRE

July 2008 – May 2009 Accomplishments:

- had a guest speaker from Project Linus and made blankets to donate to children in need of emotional support
- gleaned vegetables for Second Harvest
- Field Trip to Starr Ranch
- Summer Fun Activities, movies and concerts in the park, movies in the sanctuary
- offered Our Whole Lives for Kindergarten and for Grades 8/9
- hired new nursery attendants

- developed and presented two intergenerational service
- improved resource library by adding new books, games, and curriculum
- co-hosted multiple youth social event and joint service/RE with OCUUC
- increased youth presence in congregation hosting a New Year's potluck
- added more music and worship elements to curricula
- Two successful Explorer auctions
- Created Sunday Supervisor position in response to fewer DRE hour
- Added two committee members
- Increased youth, 7-12 graders, attendance

Social Action Committee **2008-2009 Annual Report**

Mission: to organize and promote education, advocacy, witness, and community action by Tapestry, its members, and members of the larger community on issues calling for the application of Unitarian Universalist principles. We represent the aspects of Unitarian Universalism dedicated to making our world a better place in which to live.

Chair: Jan Meslin

Steering Committee members: Beverly Huff, Shirley McGovern, Jocelyn Cooper, Janet Quillian, Carol Wheeler

Accomplishments: We celebrated both Green Sanctuary and Welcoming Congregation certifications! We were awarded a \$2500 matching grant from the UU Funding Program for membership in a faith-based community organizing group, in our case OCCCO (Orange County Congregation Community Organization).

Welcoming Committee:

- Many Tapestry members worked unsuccessfully to defeat California's Proposition 8 which removed marriage rights for LGBTQ couples. Once defeated, many continue to work to overturn Prop 8 and also to work on other options to get this right back.
- Showed "Milk" movie and had a discussion with about 30 people
- Involved with several like-minded groups in Orange County
- Several Tapestry members walked with PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) in the annual Long Beach Gay Pride Parade
- Two Sunday morning services centered around gay rights

Green Sanctuary, Beverly Huff

- **Worship Group** – Gary Livesey.
 - Had 3 Sunday morning services dealing with green issues.
- **Sustainable Living** – Carol Semelroth
 - Earth Day celebration on April 22 at Tapestry
 - June is "use your own mug" month at Tapestry
 - Quarterly computer and other toxic waste pickups at Tapestry

- **Environmental Justice** – Marilyn Schroeder. The ongoing project is now “Ethical Eating” and all that goes with it.
 - Volunteers work monthly at the Second Harvest Food Bank sorting food.
 - Every other month, adult and youth volunteers glean (pick crops in a field that has already been picked some).
 - We encourage people to bring weekly nonperishable food and good used clothing to bins in the social hall.
 - We have quarterly
 - More projects to come
- **RE** – Janet Quillian
 - Planted trees
 - Gleaned (picked already-picked crops) with adults on several occasions

December: Giving Tree. This year we gave Christmas gifts to several single mothers with families. Our adopted family was from the EOPS program at Saddleback College, which helps single parent or otherwise disadvantaged college students to succeed in achieving their dreams of an education

Advocacy:

- We continue to have a letter-writing table on the second Sunday of each month in the social hall after each service. We want to make it easy for congregants to send pertinent letters to their elected officials. The letter usually centers around the particular film that is also shown that Sunday. In addition, we select one letter each month about an environmental concern.

Other:

- Jocelyn Cooper joined the Social Action Steering Committee as a liaison to the Welcoming Congregation Committee.
- Big election this year. Many Tapestry members were involved helping to get local candidates elected. Some were involved at the national level.
- Candidate forum: Orange County leaders in both Republican and Democratic parties represented the two presidential candidates and answered questions
- Beyond Our Borders: 9 Tapestry members volunteered at the Orange County Fair to educate people about Heifer International, a non-profit agency which helps to end world hunger
- Bi-monthly social action offerings: ½ of offering goes to a needy non-profit selected by the social action committee
- Darfur traveling play “In Darfur” shown at Tapestry in April to a big crowd.
- Continued working with Orange Coast UUs social action committee (Faith in Action)
- Worked with UU Service Committee to sell fair-trade coffee in social hall
- Worked with RECY to promote UUSC’s Guest at Your Table project
- CREER community group in San Juan Capistrano
- Continued taking about 20 youth on monthly hikes
- About 6 Tapestry members tutor CREER youth each Saturday in especially math and science
- Started English/Spanish 2-way immersion program
- OCCCO, Orange County Congregation Community Organization: Jan went to Washington for the “Faith and Families Summit” to bring the need for urgent healthcare and bankruptcy reform to legislators. She’s on the statewide PICO California Healthcare committee.

Challenges faced this past year:

- Lack of budget to recruit known speakers, publicity, etc.
- Need to work better with Orange Coast's social action committee

Challenges in coming year:

- Need to work better with Orange Coast's social action committee
- Lack of budget to recruit known speakers, publicity, etc.

Social Gatherings/Circle Supper Committee

Co-Chairs: Carol Semelroth and Sheryl Hagen

Purpose of the Committee: To organize social gatherings which will provide opportunities for new members and friends to become better acquainted and thereby strengthen the Tapestry Community.

On-going activities and tasks:

- Publicize Social Gatherings among the members and especially with new visitors and members.
- Sign up hosts and hostesses to provide Social Gathering events.
- Assist hosts and hostesses with setting dates and inviting attendees for their events.

July 2008 – June 2009 Accomplishments:

- Liz Rickett resigned as Chair of the Circle Supper Committee in order to participate on the Ways and Means Committee. Carol Semelroth and Sheryl Hagen assumed the role of co-chairs in January of 2009.
- From January 2009 through June 1, 2009, there were 75 people in attendance at 7 Social Gatherings. A couple of these events included an Ice Cream Social, where each attendee brought a container of ice cream or toppings for sundaes. There was, also, an Academy Awards Party/Social Gathering.

New activities undertaken: Attempted to spark new interest in Social Gatherings/Circle Suppers by suggesting hostesses/hosts think "out of the box," and try something new. We suggested that instead of as supper, people might have a brunch, ice cream social, appetizer and wine event, or a salad night or lunch, or a picnic in the park. The main object was to gather together in the spirit of friendship.

Challenges faced in the past year: It is difficult to get people to commit to hosting with their busy schedules. This is why we have suggested simplifying the events by offering a variety of ideas besides potluck suppers.

Challenges the committee faces in the coming year:

We will continue organizing these Social Gatherings-- both traditional suppers and alternative events -- through the summer months. In addition, there are plans to include some events jointly with Orange Coast UU congregation

Transition Team

Chair: Charlotte Clarke

Members: Susan Jagielko, Retha Roberts, Jay Keithahn, Karen Nichols, Rosy Pacilli

Purpose: To help our Interim Minister, Rev. Mitra Rahnema, get to know the congregation and settle into the church, as well as, to offer feedback and reflection on the ministry.

Ongoing activities and tasks:

- Meet monthly.
- Provide insight and reaction to ideas for change.
- Reflect and evaluate on ministry in connection with the ministry of the church.
- Plan suitable finale for ministry

Accomplishments:

Arranged for small groups and individual introductions at the beginning of ministry.

Submitted to UUA an Interim progress appraisal.

Two members of committee attended a district leadership training held at OCUU.

Submit Evaluation for the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

Challenges faced in the last year:

The biggest challenge has been the merger issue which has kept our congregation in an unsettling "limbo".

Challenges to be faced in the coming year:

Not applicable for this committee

Worship Committee

Chair: Susan Jagielko

Members: David Dearing, Bill Hunker, Susan Jagielko, Melanie McCullough, Kristin Potter Ramirez, Lauren Schmid, along with Rev. Mitra

Purpose:

1. To provide high quality worship services which speak to our liberal spirituality.
2. To collaborate with our minister and to fill open pulpits when the minister is away (usually once a month and the summer months of July and August).

Accomplishments:

1. Included new people in the role of worship associate.
2. Re-wrote the worship associate script and order of service.
3. Filled the monthly open pulpits with interesting speakers, often including representatives from Tapestry's committees (green sanctuary, welcoming, worship) and congregants.
4. Presented several special presentations including the music and activism of "Peter, Paul and Mary," and reader's theater, "Justice for the Other."
5. Have filled the upcoming summer open pulpits with diversity and creativity, while being very economical (spending only \$350 for speakers for nine Sundays)
6. Introduced new practices more in line with becoming a larger congregation, such as eliminating old way of Joys and Concerns.
7. Held several joint worship committee meetings with OCUUC and came to agreeable compromises.

Prior Challenges:

1. Making changes to the order of service in preparation for merger and becoming larger congregation.
2. Keeping interest high in the midst of change last summer between Rev. John leaving and Rev. Mitra coming.

3. Finding ways for our committee to function and be cohesive amidst diverse opinions.....and succeeding!

Future Challenges:

1. Continuing challenge is the same as last summer: to provide intellectually and spiritually stimulating worship services as we say goodbye to Rev. Mitra and await Rev. Tom.
2. We will be adding additional worship committee members to keep ideas fresh and flowing.