



ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

101 Forest Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907
uucgl.org

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
Annual Report 2022-2023**

Board and Committee Reports

Clerk: Annual Meeting June 12, 2022

Vision of Ministry

Board of Trustees

Governance Committee

Treasurer and Finance and Investments Report

Grants Committee

Properties Committee

Staff and Ministry Team Reports

Parish Minister

Minister of Community Life and Learning

Business Administrator

Music Ministry

Church History Ministry Team

Faith Development Ministry Team

Green Sanctuary Ministry Team



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
Annual Parish Meeting
June 12, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the UUCGL was held on Sunday June 12, 2022 as part of the worship service. The meeting was called to order by Parish President, Clare Campbell, who, in turn, asked Jim Olivetti, Clerk for the Board of Trustees, to review the rules of procedure for the meeting. The Clerk determined that a quorum of members was present and the meeting began.

The 2021-2022 Annual Report was introduced by President Campbell. Copies were available for review at the rear of the Sanctuary. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Annual Report, which was approved unanimously.

The next item of business was the election of Trustees and Officers. The Clerk presented the recommendations for 2022-2023 slate as follows:

President:	Mary Gatlin
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer:	Rebecca Greene
Clerk:	Jim Olivetti
Trustees:	Nicki Buscemi (through 2025)
	Jack Butterworth (through 2025)
	Loretta Connolly (through 2023)
	Cathy Cubby (through 2024)
	Mark Shilo (through 2025)

A motion was made to accept the slate of officers and trustees as offered. The vote to accept the slate was unanimous.

President Campbell thanked the Board of Trustees for their dedication to the governance of the church during the past year, and recognized Ruth Griffin and Mark Vander Linden whose terms on the Board have concluded. President Campbell also acknowledged the significant service of Rebecca Greene and Jim Olivetti as Treasurer and Clerk respectively, as well as the Stanley School Task Force. Finally, she gave heartfelt thanks to Rev. Victoria Weinstein for her spiritual leadership at UUCGL.

As a final item of business, President Campbell opened the floor to questions, comments or thoughts at the close of the church year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Olivetti, Clerk

Board and Committee Reports



Vision *of* Ministry

2022-2023

Sustaining Our Church Community

We seek to nourish our Church's sense of unity and community through hospitality, worship, programming, fellowship, and fun.

Partnerships

We are committed to creating meaningful connections and building relationships with groups and organizations who share our values with an emphasis on social and environmental justice in the Greater Lynn Community.

Community Programming

We aim to create a church that members of the larger community connect and engage with by creating a welcoming environment and offering a range of programs in line with our UU values.





Board of Trustees 2022-2023

In preparing to write this section of the Annual Report, I spent a fair amount of time reading through past reports. We have had some inspirational board members and lay leaders over the years, people whose vision and energy have shaped UUCGL's Vision of Ministry and board policies and brought us where we are today. I'm now at the end of my third year on the board and I feel like much of what we have discussed or accomplished this past year builds upon work that was put into motion long before I was involved. So I want to thank each of you, the members and friends of UUCGL, and the remarkable staff members who put up with us and turn our "What-ifs" into programming, music, outreach, partnerships, fellowship, and fun. The highlights and accomplishments we've had over this past year are yours.

If you want to dive into the details of what we've discussed at each board meeting, you can find meeting minutes and more online at <https://www.uucgl.org/memberportal>. Thank you, Mary Kiene-Gualtieri, for making the board's request for a member portal an actual, functional member portal! For a broad overview of the themes that the Board of Trustees focused on in 2022-2023, and some gratitude for what we've seen accomplished, keep on reading:

- The Vision of Ministry: Sustaining our Church Community; Partnerships; Community Programming. This is what guides the board throughout the year and helps us set goals. It shapes how we think about the budget, what we ask to see in the detailed monthly reports from Reverend Vicki, and why we look to social and environmental justice organizations as natural partners in the community. Whenever I feel somewhat adrift at church, I reread our Vision of Ministry and try to do at least one thing that fits into it. You don't need to be on the board to do this. Bring some cookies to Fellowship Hour. Make dinner bags for My Brother's Table. Sing in the choir. Come to a discussion about native plants. This is what nurtures our community.
- Membership has been a big discussion topic at board meetings. Church membership nationwide is declining even as loneliness and lack of community connection are identified as serious health risks. Although the board generally focuses on policy issues, our discussions often circle back to some very fundamental questions: How do we get people in the door? When they come, how do we get them to come back? And in this day and age, what does "membership" even look like? We've really emphasized to Reverend Vicki that we believe community programming to be a key factor in sustaining and growing our church. We're so thankful to her and Reverend Chris for leading the charge with programming that shares our UU values with the larger community, and to Mary Kiene-Gualtieri for organized outreach efforts that bring new people through our doors for the first time. What a joy to see new members joining UUCGL!

- Budgeting: The board owes a huge “thank you” to the members of the Finance and Investment Committee for their work in carefully stewarding the church’s assets and advising the board about financial decisions. Money is a topic that comes up frequently at board meetings, whether it’s in the context of supporting our community partners, setting aside funding for emergency repairs, or trying to determine how an increase in programming will affect staffing and building costs. We are fortunate to have policies and procedures in place that prioritize the long-term financial health of UUCGL. And we’re lucky to have board and committee members who remind us that the numbers on a spreadsheet represent paychecks, programs, and people we care deeply about. A big “thank you” to Elizabeth Muller and Rebecca Greene for their thorough knowledge of the budget and their willingness to answer my questions over and over again.

I hope if you’ve read about anything above that sparks your interest you’ll chat with me or other board members about it. Keep reading through the Annual Report – when you see something that you’re curious about, ask someone how to get involved with it. Talk to the new person. Be brave enough to BE the new person. The friendships we build here, this physical space, this wonderful sense of community doesn’t happen without effort. Keep showing up, keep fostering those connections, keep asking “What if?”

Finally, one change we made this year was to discuss and recruit new board members as a full board, rather than a Governance Committee. We are pleased to present the following members as our proposed Board of Trustees for 2022-2023:

Board of Trustees

President: Mary Gatlin

Clerk: Jack Butterworth

Treasurer: Sarah Cecil

At Large: Francene Amari-Faulkner

At Large: Nicki Buscemi

At Large: Loretta Connolly

At Large: Cathy Cubby

At Large: Linda Jones

At Large: Evan Katz

At Large: Mark Shilo

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gatlin

President, Board of Trustees

Governance Committee 2022-2023

The role of the Governance Committee has historically been to help the board president set meeting agendas, discuss urgent priorities, develop and revise board policies, and recruit new board members. In recent years this committee was comprised of executive board members (president, vice president and treasurer), the minister, and an at-large board member. This year, like last year, the board was without a vice president and we found that most of our board members were already contributing as much time to board matters as they could. Tacking on a Governance Committee meeting simply didn't sound feasible. In addition, we wondered if shifting most of these conversations to the full board would lead to more transparency. With this in mind we made the decision to see if the board could function effectively without a Governance Committee.

I'd say that we had mixed results. The setting of each board meeting agenda fell squarely on our Clerk, Jim Olivetti, who deserves a thousand "thank-yous" for his attention to detail, timeliness, and follow-through skills. Dealing with urgent priorities happened on an as-needed basis, generally as a conversation between me and the minister. As for developing and revising board policies, these discussions happened during board meetings in response to specific needs. We also discussed recruiting new board members as a group. In short, everything that needed to get done generally got done, although it felt like we didn't necessarily have enough time to dive into the level of detail that some of the conversations warranted. In looking toward the 2023-2024 program year, I'd like to see the executive members of the board try to carve out time for a Governance Committee again. I think at the very least it can ease the Clerk's burden regarding agenda setting, and it may help us find more time for big-picture thinking in our board meetings. I'm confident that we'll find the right balance and I look forward to serving as President again for my final year on the board.

Respectfully,
Mary Gatlin
President, Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn FY 2023 Financial & Investments Report

Members of the Finance & Investments Committee are Sarah Cecil, Cliff Charney, Bob D'Addario, Rebecca Greene, Jim Peterson, and Tim Zimmer.

2021/22 Fiscal Year Overview. The fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 was impacted significantly by a very challenging stock and bond market. As confirmed by a review conducted by Burke and Company LLC, UUCGL ended the fiscal year with approximately \$21.7 million in net assets at June 30, 2022, made up primarily of investments. This represents a decrease of approximately \$2.9 million when compared to the June 30, 2021 amount of \$24.6 million. (The overall market performance is discussed later in the "UUCGL Investments" section).

Our budget for 2021/22 church operations, including grants and scholarships, was projected to result in a balanced budget. However UUCGL had a *surplus* of revenues over expenses of approximately \$55,000. Of this amount, approximately \$34,500 is restricted/designated for use for Social Concerns and Faith Development. As described in further detail below, revenues were basically on target, but expenses were approximately \$79,000 over budget. However, the excess expenses were funded by monies from 1) board-approved funds to cover eminent domain expenses, 2) proceeds from an SBA PPP loan, and 3) unspent Social Concerns and Scholarship monies accumulated in prior years, resulting in the \$55,000 operating surplus.

Our 2021/22 financial results are summarized in the chart at the end of this report. Full detailed reports are available upon request. This summary does not include the Spinney Mudge funds, which are restricted for purposes of grants and scholarships and accounted for separately. Investment fees (\$82,000, or 0.55%, in 2021/22) are shown as a separate line item since they are deducted directly from our endowment investments and are not part of the operating budget.

Cash Received: Total cash received during 2021/22 was approximately \$1,310,000. However, it should be noted that approximately \$500,000 of this amount was from an initial eminent domain payment from the Town of Swampscott related to the Stanley School project. Without this one-time \$500,000 payment, cash received would have been about \$810,000. Of this amount, approximately \$721,000 (or 89.0%) came from our endowment. As is our current practice, we withdrew an amount equal to 3.75% of the 3-year rolling average market value of the endowment and used that amount to fund our operations and outreach.

Pledges for the 2021/22 fiscal year were received from 59 pledgers, for a total amount of \$70,320, and an average amount per pledge of \$1,192. However, the amount of pledge money actually *collected* was greater than this amount. During 2021/22 we received approximately \$78,000 (or 6% of total receipts) from pledges and plate collections. Plate collections and gifts from outside groups did increase from the previous fiscal year as, post-pandemic, UUCGL re-started on-site worship services and outside groups once again began to use our facilities for programs and activities.

Expenses: During the 2021/22 church fiscal year, we spent a total of about \$890,200. This was approximately \$80,000 over the budgeted amount. This was caused to a large extent by

spending associated with the Stanley School project and Social Concerns grants. However, these overages were offset by board-approved funds to cover eminent domain expenses as well as proceeds from the previous SBA PPP loan and unspent Social Concerns and Scholarship monies.

Balance Sheet: At 6/30/22 we had approximately \$21.7 million of assets (excluding Spinney endowment funds and funds held for the UU Women of Greater Lynn), primarily made up of approximately:

Cash and equivalents	\$ 0.8 million
Investments	18.8 million
Fixed Assets (at cost)	2.1 million

This represents a significant decrease of \$2.9 million compared to the previous year amount of \$24.6 million, even with the receipt of the \$500,000 eminent domain payment. As described further below in the UUCGL Investments section, this was primarily due to a very challenging year in the stock and bond markets.

2022/23 Fiscal Year

Our financial results for the first 9 months of the 2022/23 fiscal year (through March 31, 2023) have resulted in an operating surplus of approximately \$54,000. Projected income is down about \$26,000 primarily due to less pledge money coming in than expected so far. However, expenses are about \$80,000 less than projected due to underspending in almost all cost centers. It should be noted however, that expenses rarely are incurred in a “straight line” throughout the year, and that some expenses are not anticipated to be spent until near the end of the fiscal year.

2023/24 Fiscal Year

The Board of Trustees has approved the Finance & Investments Committee recommended balanced budget for 2023/2024. Projected revenues and expenses for FY 2024 are \$939,204.

UUCGL Investments

The UUCGL investment objectives are:

- Preserve the real purchasing power of the principal;
- Provide a stable source of perpetual financial support to UUCGL’s annual 3.75% withdrawals of the rolling 3-year average of its invested funds; and
- Incorporate the values of the UUCGL into the investment process.

Our portfolio manager is CI Eaton Wealth Management, and they continue to recommend a conservative, well-diversified portfolio. The allocation mix as of April 21, 2023 is 57.7% stocks, 38% fixed income, and 4.4% cash. It should also be noted that all of UUCGL’s stock holdings meet our Environmental, Social, and Governance (“ESG”) screening thresholds.

A brief summary of the UUCGL investments performance as of April 21, 2023 follows:

The aggregate market value of the UUCGL portfolio (“Church” fund, Sargent fund and Spinney fund) at 4/21/23 was \$21,708,815. This is a decrease of \$1,211,374 when compared to the total of \$22,920,189 approximately 12 months earlier on 4/29/22. More positively, this is an increase of \$528,957 when compared to the 12/31/22 amount of \$21,179,858.

The overall decrease is a direct reflection of the recent stock and bond market performance which has been quite challenging. While any decline in the UUCGL investment portfolio is less than ideal, CI Eaton Private Wealth representatives believe the current allocation and diversification approach remains appropriate for the church and they do not recommend any significant changes at this point.

CI Eaton Private Wealth expects the markets to continue to be volatile going forward in light of continued inflation and rising prices, actions of the Federal Reserve to attempt to reduce inflation, the war in Ukraine, recent struggles of regional banks, etc. They believe a recession is in fact a very real possibility. However, CI Eaton Private Wealth representatives remind us that market corrections are quite common, and their advice is to stay the course.

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the work and support of the Finance & Investments Committee and the Board of Trustees. We say it every year, but once again want to acknowledge the fantastic work done by our Business Administrator, Elizabeth Muller, and to thank her for her long hours, diligence, dedication, commitment to accuracy and excellence, and hard work that is conducted with humor, grace, and humility. Not to mention her ability to keep us all on task in a tactful manner!

As always, we welcome any questions, comments, and suggestions from the congregation.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rebecca Greene
Treasurer

Cliff Charney
Finance and Investments Committee Chair

June 2023

Acct # and description	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget
Sources of Cash						
6111-6113 Pledges	\$75,600	\$63,244	\$72,500	\$77,386	\$64,750	\$63,250
6121 Plate Collections	6,800	0	3,000	809	2,000	2,800
6131 Gifts from Outside Groups	8,000	680	4,000	2,050	6,600	6,100
6141 Investments- Church Fd.	473,767	473,767	491,977	491,977	533,948	521,397
6142 Investments- Barney Fd.	2,750	2,845	2,800	2,992	3,000	3,100
6143 Investments- Soc. Concerns Fd.	40,082	40,082	41,622	41,622	45,173	44,111
6144 Investments- Scholarships	25,579	25,759	26,749	26,749	29,031	28,349
6150-6151 Interest	250	344	325	227	310	2,835
6160 Fundraising	200	4,471	0	0	0	0
6161 UU Affairs Fundraising	1,800	0	1,200	0	1,500	1,350
6162 Other Income	0	85,349	0	500,369	0	0
6241 Investments- Sargent Fund	151,971	151,972	157,462	157,462	170,418	166,338
6242 Spinney admin. reimbursemt	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,386	9,574
SUBTOTAL Received	\$795,799	\$857,513	\$810,635	\$1,310,643	\$866,116	\$849,204
6xxx Eminent Domain settlement draw						50,000
6xxx Sinking Fund draw						40,000
						\$339,204
Investments- Withdrawn for Inv. Fees	78,081	80,106	78,660	81,983	81,000	82,000
TOTAL Received	\$873,880	\$937,619	\$889,295	\$1,392,626	\$947,116	\$1,021,204
Expenditures						
7100 Ministry	\$145,063	\$140,117	\$144,763	\$141,459	\$151,797	\$153,284
7200 Activities	4,450	1,431	3,650	2,536	5,458	5,100
7300 Music	57,880	57,064	61,396	57,982	69,675	69,318
7400 Denominational Connections	18,600	12,454	17,800	12,320	19,000	14,350
7500 Scholarships & Social Concerns Grants	68,841	40,796	69,371	125,610	74,204	72,459
7600 Faith Dev.	151,971	47,230	122,462	110,986	137,410	140,697
7800 Administration	231,218	288,364	254,351	294,785	258,510	300,078
7900 Properties	117,776	109,349	136,823	144,547	150,062	183,918
SUBTOTAL Expenditures	\$795,799	\$696,805	\$810,616	\$890,225	\$866,116	\$939,204
Investment Fees Paid	78,081	80,106	78,660	81,983	81,000	82,000
TOTAL Expenditures	\$873,880	\$776,911	\$889,276	\$972,208	\$947,116	\$1,021,204
TOTAL Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$160,708	\$19	\$420,418	\$0	\$0
Remove \$500 eminent domain settlement				(500,000)		
				(79,582)		
Add back \$45K grant from PPP, \$51.9 approved for eminent domain legal services, and \$37.5 grant for ECCO position from unspent Social Concerns funds				134,400		
Surplus from regular operations, grants, & scholarships (\$34,500 of this is restricted/designated for RE and Social Concerns)				54,818		

Notes:

Does not include Spinney, Mudge, Memorial, Tumulty or UUWGL receipts and expenditures.
Cash basis. Investment income consists of income and principal withdrawn from the investment portfolio.

Spinney-Mudge and Social Concerns Grants Annual Report 2022-2023

SPINNEY – MUDGE: The Spinney-Mudge Grants Committee oversees distribution of income from trusts left by the Spinney and Mudge families of Lynn, the Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Tumulty Fund, and as of the last two years, the Social Justice Ministry Team Funds. The coordinator is also working with a team overseeing the scholarship applications to the Lynn and Swampscott High School Senior Scholars.

Grants Committee members: Claudia Luck (chair), Mindy Celona, Cliff Charney, Elizabeth Dunnigan. Bruce Campbell was also a grants member until January. Ex-officio members include the Minister, the Board of Trustees President, and the Treasurer. Christina Hansen is the Grants Coordinator.

Due to the continuing fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, this past year has been another challenging time for the people of the greater Lynn Community, our church parishioners, and especially for those who are most vulnerable and in need. The Grants Committee tried to meet the challenges of this extraordinary time and the increased needs of our community. Larger grants to families for utility bills and other emergency funds as well as scholarships were administered. [In the fall of 2020 the Grants Committee voted to dedicate **\$40,000.00** of our SS Spinney funds to rental assistance and to date we have allocated over **\$36,000.00** specifically to rents.]

The committee distributed **63** Spinney-Mudge grants totaling **\$107,991.23** to families, individuals, and organizations within the guidelines set down by the wills of those who left this money in the care of the church.

Emergency grants totaling **\$19,791.23** were administered **to thirty-five families, thus far in** this fiscal year. Emergency grants help fund rent, utility bills, and other emergency situations.

Fourteen scholarships totaling **\$40,000.00** were granted **to students**. A major part of our focus in scholarships has been to provide support for students from low-income families. Almost all our student scholars this year are full-time students in career fields.

Spinney Grants totaling **\$48,200.00** were made to support **fourteen nonprofit organizations**. Most of the organizations are either UU organizations, are in the Greater Lynn area, or service the Greater Lynn area. The following organizations received support this year:

- Raw Art Works
- Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
- Life Scene/Family and Children's Serv.
- Girls, Inc. of Lynn
- The Lynn Shelter Association
- The Food Project
- College Application Educ. Project, Inc.
- Lynn Home for Young Women
- Pathways Adult Ed & Training
- The Haven Project
- The Senior Action Center
- UU Mass Action
- Newhall Fields Community Farm
- First Universalist Church of West Paris, Maine

***Please note the two letters of thanks** at the end of the report, one is from the Lynn Shelter Association (one of the many non-profit organizations that receive Spinney grants), and one from a student scholarship recipient.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Social Justice Funds totaling **\$31,208.00** have been disbursed thus far. The funds have been used to support the following organizations:

- St. Stephen's Church Food Pantry
- Kids In Community (KIC) summer program
- My Brother's Table
- ECCO – dues
- Matching grants to organizations

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Hansen

UUCGL Grants Coordinator

**Dear Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn,*

It is an honor to be chosen for the scholarship. I am currently a sophomore at Stonehill College in Easton, MA. I am majoring in Health Science with a minor in Speech Language Pathology. I am aspiring to become an Occupational Therapist after I finish with school and hopefully, one day, own my own practice. At school, I not only fill my days with classes and homework, I am also involved in clubs such as Best Buddies. This program has paired me with an adult who is living with disabilities. We meet once a week and do activities that he is interested in. Another club is the Pinky Swear Foundation. In this club

we participate in events that help raise money for children with cancer. Both clubs have been very rewarding for me, and I am so thankful that I have been able to be a part of them.

I am truly grateful for the scholarship support. It has allowed me to have some lenience in finding a job for this semester, as my course load is a lot to handle, and it would be very difficult for me to have a job at this time. I am now able to focus on my studies and future goals in life. I will consistently be thinking of you all and the gift you have provided me when I am participating in a new church family and community in my new, but not forever, home. I can't thank you enough for your support.

Sincerely,

R. McC

Class of 2025



EVERY PERSON DESERVES A PLACE TO CALL HOME

December 15, 2022

Unitarian Universalist Church
Trustees of Spinney Mudge
Christina Hansen
101 Forest Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907

Dear Christina,

On behalf of the staff and clients at the Lynn Shelter Association, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$4,200.00 to provide lockers for a family shelter. Your generosity helps us continue our important work and will be of great use in our shelters. We believe that *"every person deserves a place to call home"* and are extremely grateful for your support, which is critical to helping make that a reality for those we serve.

Donations from supporters like you ensure that clients get the help they need in order to live and thrive as independent and self-sufficient adults. Our shelters provide housing and job search assistance, childcare, medical and mental health care assessments, parenting skills training, on-site case management, mental health and medical triage, and a starting point on the path to permanent housing.

Your support allows us to continue serving the more than 800 individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Greater Lynn area.

Your support is meaningful and appreciated. Your gift sends a message of hope.

Sincerely,

Mark Evans, LICSW
Chief Executive Officer

PS As a 501c3 charity tax laws require us to notify you that this letter is the official acknowledgment of your gift. Also, we are required to certify that you received no goods or services in consideration of this contribution; therefore, the full amount of your gift is tax-deductible. Thank you!

Properties Committee 2022-2023

Membership: Bruce Campbell, Loretta Connolly (Board liaison), Doreen Hodgkin (chair), Elizabeth Muller (Business Administrator), and Dawn Stewart.

The committee met several times throughout the year and oversaw the following projects/issues:

- The committee met during the fall to discuss purchasing needs, such as a new refrigerator and freezer for the kitchen. Since the refrigerator was the original and styles change, we had to hire a carpenter to re-design several of the kitchen cabinets for the new appliances to fit. The new refrigerator has been installed and the new freezer is due this week.
- Due to the changes at Stanley School (tree removal bordering UUCGL property), we received several complaints from neighbors about our night lights in the back parking lot. We were able to respond with a change in schedule and direction of several lights. We were complimented for our quick response!
- Church History Ministry Team: We worked with the group to find safe and locked space for Lydia Breed's prints on the main floor of the building.
- Green Sanctuary Ministry Team: We reviewed recommended design and location of new pollinator garden to be planted this spring.

Last month it was pointed out that three of our largest pine trees posed a danger to walkers and cars. Lopez Tree Service was available to perform the necessary removal.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Bruce Campbell for his many years of service, guidance, and support. I think of Bruce every time I look out on our courtyard as he spearheaded the purchase of the benches, installation of new pavers, etc. THANK YOU, BRUCE!!!!

Thanks again to the members of the committee for always being available for a quick phone call and/or walk around the property! And of course, to Elizabeth for her due diligence and dedication to the UUCGL property!



Staff and Ministry Team Reports



**Parish Minister's Annual Report to the Congregation
Program Year 2022-2023**

I am filled with gratitude for the vitality and good spirits of our congregation as we conclude the tenth year of ministry together, which we celebrated with joy and mutual appreciation earlier this year. We have come through what I ardently pray is the worst of the pandemic with a sense of continued commitment, and a shared sense of urgency about promoting progressive values and connecting people in community. Every day provides some new evidence that spiritual practice in community – and foremost the spiritual practice of *being in community* – is essential for resisting the inclination toward interpersonal violence, defensiveness, scarcity-mentality and exploitation.

My responsibility is to encourage and support the congregation in creating and sustaining opportunities for us to be who we say we want to be. Every week in worship, I try to give a spiritual teaching in sermonic form that makes clearer our individual and collective moral responsibilities and connects us to the Unitarian Universalist tradition. In this task I am incredibly lucky to work with Kenneth Griffith, David Collins, our dedicated choir members and soloists, and a team of ushers (led by Mike Martel) and worship associates who all take very seriously the artistic, emotional, and spiritual environment we wish to create for the worshipping community. Jason Gatlin has been our faithful live streamer most Sundays, bringing our service to folks attending virtually. Misha Gerson has added to the aesthetic experience by providing beautiful floral arrangements.

If you attended or supported the sacrament known as Coffee Hour with your friendly presence and snacks, please know that this time of fellowship means a lot to many of us, and to our children. Hospitality is the key to making new and newer-comers feel welcome. Sitting around the table with a cup of coffee and chatting is more important than we know.

Contained within this Annual Report packet you will find the reports of the ministry teams that focus on diverse concerns of the church: equipping and activating our members toward social justice and service; educating our children and youth in faith development; connecting the community with opportunities to learn about and care for our precious Earth; archiving, preserving, and sharing our church history. The Pastoral Caregivers continue to share the ministry of outreach and connection by making phone calls, writing cards, and visiting with our members, while I attend to crisis response, rites of passage, and the spiritual queries of newcomers to our faith tradition.

This year I instituted Connecting Conversations, a monthly after-church opportunity for folks to gather in conversation about current events, the sermon, the history and heritage of Unitarian Universalism, and to pursue a Path to Membership.

I also offered a multi-session series called Aging Bravely and worked on the Medical Aid in Dying Bill currently in legislative process in Massachusetts, speaking on a panel and testifying at a briefing for our state legislators. I represented the church at an anti-hate rally in Swampscott and attended the first mental health response team summit at the Swampscott Police Department. I will be representing the UU community at the Interfaith Pride Celebration in Salem later in June, and have attended events at LifeScene in Lynn, with our ECCO partners, volunteered at Girls, Inc., and met with local clergy and other organizational leaders to strengthen our connections in service of our Vision of Ministry.

Our staff team and Board of Trustees are constantly working to discuss, oversee, advise, and guide every aspect of life at UUCGL. Sometimes it is the littlest details that take the most time to figure out – and we do all things “at the pace of relationships.” I am so grateful for the wisdom and care of Mary Gatlin, Board President, and for all the other board members who show up at meetings, take the agenda items seriously, and offer laughter, love, and encouragement to each other as they steward this historic institution in an era of dramatic change.

And to the church staff, Rev. Chris Scheller, Elizabeth Muller, Chris Hansen, Angie Kern, Mike Michaud (& Family!), and our marvelous new Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Mary Kiene-Gualtieri, you are a delight to work with and the church and I are eminently grateful for your smarts, heart, and dedication to UUCGL.

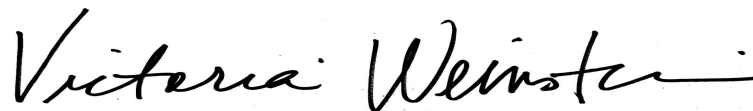
While you may “belong to” UUCGL, remember always that you ARE the church. Blessings.

Rites of Passage

Private Baby Dedication Paige Bonzcar
November 13, 2022
UUCGL Sanctuary

Wedding Amanda Shiloh and Kyle Mack
May 27, 2023
UUCGL Sanctuary

Memorial Service Eleanor Carlson
June 12, 2023
Parker Funeral Home, Lynn



Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

**Minister of Community Life and Learning
Annual Report to the Congregation -- 2022-2023**

As program planning for this past year began, many questions remained as to how Covid might impact us. But while Covid is still a concern, with both short-term and long-term consequences, the ways in which Covid affects how we gather diminished this past year. Most children and youth returned to being unmasked at school, and we largely followed that trend for children and youth programming at church – with some exceptions, including when there was increased risk of illness, and when we visited other churches and houses of worship as part of our Neighboring Faith program. Colds and other viruses returned with a vengeance to the unmasked school populations, which did impact Sunday morning attendance for children’s programs, as well.

That said, an important part of the story of this past year is one of a return and even an increase in our program offerings for all ages! We made new progress in implementing our Vision of Ministry, which you can see at the front of the Annual Report, particularly on the second and third points. We further developed our relationships and partnerships with groups and organizations who share our values, and we offered a great deal of community programming this year, or programming for the larger community on the North Shore. We also continued to nourish and sustain our own church community, which is the first goal of our Vision of Ministry. Some folks who had been away during Covid chose to return, and we saw a number of new individuals and families visiting and even joining us this year. All this success was the result of many minds, hearts, and bodies working together. Let’s keep up the good work next year!

Thanks to our wonderful Faith Development Ministry Team (FDMT) for their great visioning and volunteer work, which makes our programs for children and youth possible: Megan White (chair), Nicki Buscemi, Mary Gatlin, and Gwen McKinney. With the support of so many others, our team did a wonderful job of welcoming new and visiting families and creating an inclusive program, and celebrating the joy in being together with a shared vision. Thanks and gratitude, as well, to those beyond the FDMT leadership who volunteered to teach and assist with our Sunday morning program for children and youth. Trinidad Martinez served again this year as our artistic director for our winter video pageant, and she led sand mandala-making for adults in the fall and at Ferry Beach in the spring, and helped out with our Christmas cookie-decorating event. Eileen Cummings led a number of baking and crafty programs, as well, such as making cookies for Lifebridge in Salem, the Christmas cookies, our Mother’s Day craft project, and planning for Field Day and Salem Pride. Suzanne Chapman led our Easter Egg Hunt again this year, and led a craft for kids at Ferry Beach, too. Michael Celona helped us coordinate the children and youth program’s Sunday morning meal-making for My Brother’s Table with the weekday evening meal-making group, and Suzanne Forgione co-led our cookie-baking for Lifebridge in Salem, as well. Thanks to Steve Young, Martha Curry, and Whisky Wolinski for leading our Neighboring Faith program this year, and the parents that assisted by driving and accompanying the youth on some of their visits. The group had the opportunity to visit seven different houses of worship this year, as detailed in the Faith Development Ministry section above. It is so wonderful to have

opportunities for the adults in the congregation to share some of their gifts and passions with the children and youth in our program. Please reach out to me if you have ways you might want to share your gifts and passions next year.

Pivoting to our adult and community programming, this past year we co-hosted two events with ECCO at UUCGL, and we co-hosted four events with the Swampscott Conservancy: Vernal Ponds, Native Plant Gardening Workshop, How to Rid Yourself of Plastic Pollution, and the Impact of Climate Change. We also organized a panel discussion entitled “Innovation in Addressing Hunger: A Discussion About Advances in Food Security,” featuring Brendan Crighton, Senator, 3rd Essex District; Jason Etheridge, Executive Director, Lifebridge North Shore; Laura Spathanas, Anchor Food Pantry; and Norris Guscott, Public Health Coordinator, Health Division & Food Security Task Force Leader, City of Lynn. It was a big success, thanks to the leadership and great work of Michael Celona, Martha Curry, and Suzanne Forgione. As well, we hosted a Medical Aid in Dying Forum, and a well-attended series led by Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein entitled “Aging Bravely,” which we were able to offer to both those who wanted to attend in person and virtually (our first truly hybrid program offering!), and to which we invited members of Seaglass Village. We discussed and planned partnering possibilities with Seaglass Village and the SilverWood Coven and Grove. Our ongoing partnerships with My Brother’s Table and St. Stephen’s Food Pantry continued, as well.

Our ongoing adult programs, which are certainly open to the greater community, continued to be well-attended, including: The Dialogue Group, facilitated by Ron and Bonnie Fishman, which remained virtual and moved to Wednesday evenings as Ron and Bonnie moved to the West Coast; our Mindful-Based Meditation Practice Group, facilitated by Anne Principe; and our Wisdom Circle, facilitated by Gloria Kozlosky and Ruth Griffin, with important leadership from Mary-Ann Hayes, as well. We added back in our Community Drum Circle, initially formed over 14 years ago by the (late) Pearl Brown along with Regina Millis, Ricia Fleming and led by Don Goldman, and increased the number of our Sunday evening meditations led by me this year. Our Poetry Writing Workshops began meeting with some regularity this year, led by Clem Schoenebeck, and Trinidad Martinez offered sand mandala-making both in the fall and at Ferry Beach in the spring.

We began offering some new and ongoing programming as well, including the very popular Tai Chi classes led by Rosie Tan Segil, a Wudang-certified teacher with more than eight years of practice experience; Cooks in the Kitchen, formed by Anne Principe and with important leadership from Megan White; and a Saturday Craft Group, organized by Rebecca Greene. Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein led a series of Connecting Conversations, including UU Foundations and Path to Membership. Check out our website, which Mary Kiene-Gualtieri has been doing a phenomenal job on, for more details. Mary, now as our Program and Outreach Coordinator, has been essential to the success in promoting and coordinating the many wonderful programs we have been able to offer this year. She also designed two postcard campaigns, which we sent to families with school-aged children around the church, to invite them to check out our programs for children and youth, in particular.

This past November, we had a special celebration to mark Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein's ten years of ministry at UUCGL. Now just two years into my own ministry here at UUCGL, I hope I am also honoring, participating in, and contributing to the wonderful history of shared ministry that we held up at that event. Thank you to all involved in the shared ministry of our church this year, and every year. Let us continue with that virtuous circle of ministry together – to share our gifts and passions within and beyond our church, and across generations. It has been a joy to serve and participate in the many offerings and programs, listed above, that are part of our shared ministry. Please reach out to me if you have ways you might want to share your gifts and passions next year, or if you have ideas about organizations on the North Shore that share our values, with whom we may want to explore the possibilities of partnerships this coming year. We did a good job centering our ministry in offering our gifts to one another, and in creating opportunities to make and discover meaning, to learn, to serve, and to share joy together this year. Let us continue to create together.

Abundant Blessings,

Rev. Chris Scheller
Minister of Community Life and Learning



Business Administrator 2022-23

Celebrate Community is the name of this year's pledge campaign and in reviewing the year it is an apt description of what we have been doing and will continue to do. It is the sum of our collective efforts. We have re-opened, re-turned, re-viewed, re-imagined—all words we used in last year's annual report. We are in the process of re-kindling relationships and re-discovering what sparked joy in our hearts and souls, not to mention in our closets and cabinets. As we continue to do all of the former, being nourished by our sense of unity of purpose in worship and fellowship, we are ready to explore new associations, forge new partnerships, and celebrate all that is dear to us in community.

Who knew that having a dry ceiling over one's head during worship would be one of those dear things? No one, prior to February 5. Thirteen minutes into the service, streams of living water began flowing from the ceiling of the sanctuary and copy room from the sprinkler system. This was not what we intended for our live stream. The building was evacuated and a fantastic team immediately sprang into action with wet vacs, mops, fans, and muscle, and worked tirelessly for hours, and in some cases days, with the result's being almost no damage. Our near-resident MacGyver took off with miner's headlamp affixed to his forehead and literally crawled the spaces and forded the insulation batts to stop the leaks. Another terrific group set up a delicious fellowship hour on the brick entrance area. There was much evidence of community to celebrate. We replaced the compressor, installed a new pipe or two, and sealed areas as needed to minimize future damage. The upside for me was to re-establish relationships with contractors with whom we have dealt for years and I cannot say enough about the camaraderie, cooperative effort, and good humor that was evident as the hours ticked by on three weekends in a row.

We joyously welcomed a new stainless steel commercial refrigerator and a new standalone freezer. Pandemic-caused factory shutdowns and international supply-chain issues had caused large appliances to be back-ordered since early COVID days. Our old ones had served us well for a very long time, during which time the industry standards for dimensions had changed a bit. Our creative contractor devised a way to accommodate the new appliances while minimizing loss of cabinetry in the kitchen.

We sang a few choruses of Mr. Rogers' "Tree, tree, tree . . . We love you, yes we do," as we had to take down a few beloved pines that had become potential dangers in their senescence. For years I had been parking my car beneath two of them, and while I do not miss picking pine needles out from the windshield wipers or scrubbing pitch from the glass, I dearly miss the stately pines.

Other property issues included the much-less-glamorous replacement of the original sewage pump many feet below the basement floor, general plumbing repairs, and an attic air-handler

repair. Fifteen minutes before a tai chi class I heard a loud banging in the Parish Hall, called for help, and by the time the class began it had been replaced. Talk about friends in high places! The above are examples of the unexpected with which administration deals routinely. A functioning infrastructure is something one never notices or thinks about—until it malfunctions, usually at the worst time. We are ever so grateful for our contractors; for the wise counsel and hands-on assistance of our Properties chair, Doreen Hodgkin; and for our sexton, Michael Michaud, who cares deeply for the church and its people and who burns the oil many midnight and pre-dawn hours to allow us to enter a peaceful sacred space in the morning.

The Stanley School blasting is in its waning days and some of you may have noticed a seismograph that has been attached to our building during working hours to monitor the blasts. Work is now accompanied by the thrum of construction machines and the staccato of the jackhammers. The pollinator garden was planted last week and a fence was put up to discourage our resident foraging fauna, with particular attention to the discerning palate of Peter Rabbit. Special thanks to Bruce Campbell, Trish Aldrich, Mike Michaud, and the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team gardening angels for their work on this project.

On the financial front, our investments went up the first half of the year and have remained fairly steady; however, the potential for volatility is high and we cannot predict how the calendar year will end. It is that figure that is used to calculate our next year's budget. Both payments on pledges and number of pledges have decreased this year, and to date the number of pledges for the next fiscal year is down approximately 20%. The good news is that we are welcoming many new members into our congregation at this annual meeting and our plate and room-use collections are seeing an uptick. Working with the Finance and Investment Committee and Rev. Vicki, we were able to present a balanced budget for next year's operations to the board. We thank our treasurer, Rebecca Greene, for being a stalwart member of our Finance and Investments Committee the past couple of years. Rebecca is moving on and we shall miss her. I have appreciated her support and that of committee chair Cliff Charney, and past treasurer Sarah Cecil. This triumvirate of past, present, and future treasurers is a joy with whom to work; they offer wise and open-minded reasoning with patience and humor. We welcome Sarah back as treasurer. Everyone on the committee is dedicated to furthering UU values in our financial decisions and always has the best interests of the church in mind.

It was a dynamic year administratively. Angie Kern, administrative assistant now in her 30th year at UUCGL, cut back her hours this year to ease into retirement. We are fortunate that she remains on staff to share her wealth of knowledge. Mary Kiene-Gualtieri, webmaster extraordinaire and guru of all things social media, came on board in the fall as Program and Outreach Coordinator. She has increased our social media and print presence, has created beautifully designed PR materials, and has been instrumental in planning marketing initiatives. Our technology expanded this year with a new laptop that enabled our live streams to connect our good camera and the church sound system. We are grateful to Jason Gatlin for his steadfast Sunday videography, with occasional help from Scott Nowka and Felix Kiene-Gualtieri. The live streams have also been used for presentations, such as those co-sponsored with the Swampscott

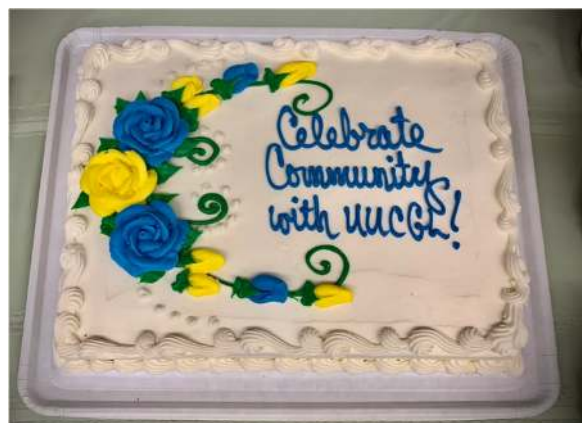
Conservancy, and the Innovation in Addressing Hunger panel discussion, for example. We also purchased a conference camera for Zoom meetings.

Human resources was a major focus this winter and spring as the UUA had to affiliate with a new pension company. It is a more robust company with more personal attention to help individuals maximize their earnings, but it came with a steep learning curve. The UUA provided wonderful support and patience in this effort and held as many as five webinars a week, including nights and weekends. Like Jello, there was always room for a webinar, and, like Jello, every time we grasped a concept, it seemed to slip through our fingers. It seems to be working well now.

Increased programming efforts have been successful with several new events being held here. Tai Chi struck a responsive chord with many who, after months in beginners classes, graduated with a little uncertainty and yet a lot of grace to the intermediate level in the second series of offerings. The events with the Swampscott Conservancy have been informative and very popular, especially Ranger Rick and his traveling menagerie of vernal pool critters. The Parish Hall has never hosted so many snakes! This event had the added benefit of being popular with children and at least one Cub Scout troop was in attendance. Our venue is particularly well-suited to recitals and we have added two new teachers to our roster. This has been an important year in gathering data on what the building and personnel needs are as we expand our offerings in our community programming. It continues to be an opportunity to improve systems and deepen relationships.

It is wonderful to have groups in the building again and the beautiful wedding this past weekend seemed the culmination of celebrating community. Guests tell me that there is a special ambience, a reverence, they feel when they enter the church. It seems to resonate with everyone in individual ways, whether we come seeking fulfillment and wholeness, or come to listen to a recital or learn about native plants. We leave more complete; there is a connectedness in these holy places. We will do everything we can in the coming year to make it even more accessible and enriching for the communities we celebrate.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Muller



Music Ministry Annual Report 2022-23

This choral season is the second season since the start of the pandemic during which the choir has been able to rehearse and sing together and in-person. It has been lovely to be together and to explore new repertoire over the season, while also finding ways to make musical experiences that feel familiar and welcoming to the congregation.

In Rehearsal and In the Sanctuary:

We remained masked for most of the year, even as other places relaxed requirements, to maintain safety and comfort as there were spikes of illness in other places around the Commonwealth. In the spring, our choir moved to mask-optional rehearsals and this mirrored what other choral organizations had done in the fall. I am pleased to say that the choir has been generally healthy in that regard and has enjoyed healthy attendance at most Thursday night rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services. Our Thursday night rehearsals have lengthened over the course of the season closer to 1.5 hours after reducing rehearsal time last season to 1 hour per week.

Last season, we were very attentive to the length of services and opportunities for congregational singing as we tried to balance the health risks of singing and congregating with our desire to have what feels like a “normal” Sunday morning experience. This season, with general improvements in health indicators as it pertains to the pandemic, we’ve returned to more robust congregational singing and full-length anthems each week.

Most of the choral music this season has been new to the singers and the congregation. We have balanced familiar music with “challenge” pieces and have explored new genres of music, including gospel and music with Latin and Arabic lyrics.

David Collins has yet again been the bedrock of choral rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services, providing exquisite musical selections and a firm foundation for rehearsals and music learning resources.

Staffing Updates:

We welcomed **Joshua Shilo** and **Krystal Morin** as section leaders in services this season. Krystal joined occasionally in the fall and has been at most services since January. She has provided beautiful solo music, led hymns, and even conducted services. She’s been a wonderful addition to the Soprano section. Joshua Shilo is not unfamiliar to UUCGL and we were so fortunate that he joined the choir as a Bass section leader. He, too, has been a great asset and comfort to our Lower Voices and we are glad to have made music with him on many Sundays this season.

We have also welcomed **Destiny Cooper** and **Johnny Nichols** as guest section leaders (alto and tenor, respectively) on various weeks during the season. They both offer additional support and confidence to our strong choir on challenge pieces during the season.

Closing:

The choir has continued to be a strong community in church, supporting each other and the congregation through hard times and times of abundant joy. This season they have been particularly resilient and flexible as they learn new music and have engaged in wonderful dialogue about music, accessibility, and our place and responsibilities in the church. We concluded the season on June 4 with a Music Sunday, the first since the pandemic! Thank you to the choir for a beautiful season!

In gratitude,
Kenneth Griffith, *Director of Music*





Church History Ministry Team Annual Report for 2022-2023

The Church History Ministry Team works to acquire, catalog, and preserve documents and other artifacts related to the history of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn and its predecessor congregations. The team also makes relevant items available to support current church programs and activities.

The chairman of the team is Dean McKennon. Other members include John Benson, Jack Butterworth, Gloria Kozlosky, Janet Osborne, Kelly Slater, and Tracy Slater. The team meets once a month, usually on the second Sunday of the month.

Recent team activities include:

1. Lydia Breed artwork: Acceptance on behalf of the church of approximately 100 prints by longtime church member Lydia Breed. We have begun cataloging the prints and we are exploring options for their storage and preservation, and the renovation of Lydia's magnificent wood sculpture in the sanctuary.
2. Archives Policy: Proposed a policy requiring official review before the disposal of church property, to protect historically relevant items. This policy was approved and is in use.
3. Building dedication anniversary observance (March 12): Created a display of materials depicting the planning and construction of our church building, which was dedicated March 22.
4. Fair Trade product sales: Team members sell coffee, tea, chocolate bars and olive oil after Sunday services; proceeds are being used to preserve Lydia Breed prints and other artwork.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean McKennon



Faith Development Ministry Team

Members: Megan White (Chair), Nicki Buscemi, Mary Gatlin, and Gwen McKinney.

This year, we tried a new model of grouping our Sunday morning offerings for children and youth, and are happy to report it worked well. Roughly twice a month the PreK - 5th graders met on their own in the fall and early spring, for a story and a fun activity. On other Sundays, they often joined the older youth to honor and celebrate favorite holidays, make meals for My Brother's Table (MBT), and create together two video productions by choosing a favorite story, making the scenery, and starring in the videos themselves. In the fall this was our Winter Video Pageant, "Ocean's Children," which you can see and share on our Youtube channel [here](#). This spring they have been working on "Hide-and-Seek with God", which will debut June 4th. They also enjoyed a multigenerational Game Night with the youth program. During the spring, the group returned outside to decorate plants as gifts for Mother's Day, and then to help plant our pollinator garden, and spent some more time learning about and painting bat and owl houses. Suzanne Chapman graciously organized and led our Easter Egg Hunt again this year, and offered a fun craft project to the children that attended our annual Ferry Beach retreat in April, as well! Other special events this year included our Halloween Party, Christmas Cookie Decorating, and the end-of-year Field Day and BBQ picnic. Our service opportunities included our above-mentioned ongoing efforts to make meals for MBT, planting the pollinator garden, baking hot cross buns for the congregation on Palm Sunday, and an opportunity to bake cookies for LifeBridge guests in Salem, as well.

We were delighted to be able to offer again this year our Neighboring Faith class. They learned about and visited the First Church in Swampscott, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lynn, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church, Swampscott Church of Spiritualism, Christian Science Church in Lynn, Islamic Society of the North Shore, and the Sanghikaram Wat Khmer Buddhist Temple in Lynn. The class also was invited to help with the My Brother's Table meals, the two video productions, and special events such as cookie decorating, Mother's Day crafts, and pollinator garden planting. We planned four successful events for the purpose of building the community of the group: Game Night, Movie Night, a Boda Borg trip, and of course our Ferry Beach weekend.

We continue to be blessed to have Susan Kelley as a Religious Education Teacher for this program – this was her tenth year at UUCGL, and as I write this report we are preparing to celebrate this anniversary on Sunday June 4th during the end-of-year picnic. After a long search for a Childcare Provider & Sunday School Teacher's Aide, we are now blessed to have Ruby Michaud on our team!

It has been wonderful to welcome some new children and families into the congregation and to get reacquainted with others. Seeing the young adults venture out into other congregations during Neighboring Faiths was such a positive experience and we are so grateful to the volunteers who made those trips possible. We are looking forward to continuing to grow our youth program. We are blessed to have Susan and Ruby as teachers for the program, but are always open to having other adults in the congregation come and share expertise and enthusiasm. If you have a skill or interest that you would like to share, please don't hesitate to contact Chris.



GREEN SANCTUARY MINISTRY TEAM

2022-2023



Green Sanctuary Ministry Team is all about connecting with nature, having fun together, and building a beloved community committed to caring for the natural world. Members Trish Aldrich, John Benson, Bruce Campbell, Clare Campbell, Tara Gallagher, Christine Hansen, Mike Martel, Jeannette McGinn, Anne Principe, and Jim Peterson were joined by new members Catherine Amidon, Janet Bendowitz, and Dawn Stewart. Others join in from time to time and new members are always most welcome.

Animal Blessing. The GSMT served as worship team members for the October 2 Animal Blessing, led by Rev. Vicki.

Bird walks, led by John Benson, were held in March (Nahant) and May (Marblehead) giving people an opportunity to get outside, connect with nature, refresh the spirit, and have fun together.

Community-Building Event. Swampscott Conservancy, in partnership with the UU church (Chris Scheller), held a **climate change** presentation by Steve Young. He discussed the science of why our climate is changing, and what to expect in the future. Professor Young also discussed how New England's climate is changing and the impacts that our coastal communities will face in the future. Wednesday October 12, 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the UUCGL sanctuary and live on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UUCGL>) the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team co-hosted the popular and well-attended April Vernal Pools presentation.

Cooks in the UUCGL Kitchen. Anne Principe launched a Cooks in the UUCGL Kitchen group, rooted in the mission of Green Sanctuary values. The basic concept is to create a place to hold and advance food equity issues, which includes preparing good food and eating it together, tangible and joyful work.

Earth Day Service. Members of the GSMT served as worship team members for the Earth Day Service, led by Rev. Vicki.

Meetings are held 5 times each year, usually the 2nd Friday every other month and in Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., and May. Although we are still without a chair, to keep things moving Trish Aldrich again served as acting chair, preparing agendas, sending meeting reminders, securing meeting locations, often writing meeting notes (assisted by others) and so on.

Native Plant Gardening Workshop. UUCGL, Green Sanctuary, and the Swampscott Conservancy collaborated to hold a free, hands-on workshop to learn the basics of native plant gardening and winter sowing. Participants learned about native plants, prepared seeds for overwintering, and helped the Swampscott Conservancy sow seeds for their spring plant sale. Participants explored the relationship between native plants and wildlife. This is the 3rd Annual Native Plant Gardening Workshop. Each volunteer could take home a few native plants.

Native Plant Pollinator Garden. The Green Sanctuary team (with particularly big thanks to Bruce Campbell and Clare Campbell) is leading an effort to create a pollinator garden on our church grounds, based on a plan developed by Suzanna Hale from the Swampscott Conservancy. Eventually, you will see beautiful native plants that benefit a diversity of butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. First, we have some work to do. Seedlings will arrive from Prairie Moon Nursery, grass will be removed to the left of the front door and the planting site prepared, members of the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team will do some prep work and planting on Saturday 5/20 and the youth will do some additional supervised planting on Sunday 5/21. Keep an eye on the Pollinator Garden as the project progresses and visit <https://swampscottconservancy.org/native-plants/> for more info and maybe get inspired to plant your own pollinator garden. With invaluable help from Elizabeth Muller, the following plant species were ordered from Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, MN:

- *Agastache foeniculum* (Anise Hyssop)
- *Asclepias incarnata* (Rose Milkweed)
- *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed)
- *Baptisia australis* (Blue Wild Indigo)
- *Eutrochium purpureum* (Sweet Joe Pye Weed)
- *Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie Blazing Star)
- *Monarda fistulosa* (Wild Bergamot)
- *Penstemon hirsutus* (Hairy Beardtongue)
- *Ratibida pinnata* (Yellow Coneflower)
- *Rudbeckia fulgida* (Orange Coneflower)
- *Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod)
- *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* (Aromatic Aster)

Prepared by Trish Livingston Aldrich
Acting Chair



