

Framing Statement for UUFD Summit March 3-4 2017

As the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango approaches its 50th anniversary, there is much to celebrate. We acknowledge all the ways that we have made “breakthroughs” in what we are as a community to one another and what we have come to mean to more people in our greater community. Our decision to call our first minister has contributed to the quality of our worship and programming, our membership growth and our presence in the community. At the same time, we as members have stepped up in various ways to provide care and support to one another, help new members find a place in our congregation, and become a significant presence for social justice and prophetic witness in our broader community.

We are at a significant threshold in our life together and our role in the broader community as we approach this 50th anniversary. With some of the social uncertainties and perceived threats to our liberal values on the horizon, the UU Fellowship of Durango is called to be engaged as a refuge, a support and advocate in new pronounced ways. In what ways will we respond to that call?

The active membership of our fellowship has grown significantly, by approximately 30% in the last three years. At the same time our attendance at worship on Sunday morning has increased as more visitors are discovering UUFD and exploring Unitarian Universalism. This provides both celebration and challenge as we consider options for our space, worship services and other ways to respond to those who want to be part of what our fellowship has to offer to them in their lives.

Our members seek to engage with one another in support, learning and community and in service to the broader community. A growing congregation means that we have to be more intentional about coordinating with one another and more deliberate about knowing our capacities to not just do more but to do what we do well and with impact.

As we embark on this engaging process to determine the strategic directions for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, we are particularly interested in determining our common ground vision and commitments. Some of the critical topics we will address at the Summit include:

- Engaging and equipping our membership for our common work
- Welcoming our visitors and new comers as they seek a spiritual community
- Building on our current strengths even as we imagine expanding what we do
- Refining our mission for the years ahead of us
- Determining ways to plan for, accommodate, and encourage growth of our membership
- Listening intently to our deepest aspirations for ourselves and this Fellowship
- Discerning how we might best respond to the needs of those in our broader community and to our common call for social justice and prophetic action
- Determining how we might resource ourselves mindful of both the limits and the strength of our capacities
- Continue building our capacity for spiritual growth