

Updated History of UUCC (Noreen Cooper Heavlin)

It's been almost two years since our last congregational meeting, not counting the survey we sent out in 2020 asking people what they liked best and least about Zoom services. But were I to sum up the past 20 months, I would contend UUCC is a wonderful story about resilience. Even though we had such short notice that fateful day in March to transfer to the online format, we trained people how to use Zoom, and with the help of many, especially our Technical Director Bruce Rafnel with support from Rob Carey and Bill Heavlin, we missed only one service in the seven years we've been meeting. All while retaining an excellent music program, first under the direction of Shauna Pickett-Gordon and now with our current music director Tom Devine. We're now at 43 online services, along with a YouTube Channel, and four successful online fundraisers; all during COVID times.

With the help of Tricia Dell, we raised \$4,195 dollars for the Coastsides Crisis Fund in August 2020, over \$5,000 dollars for the Coastsides Adult Day Health Center in December 2020; \$2,110 for ALAS in August 2021, and almost \$7,000 dollars for our stunning All-Music Holiday special for Senior Coastsiders less than one month ago.

We continued to pay for quality guest minister speakers throughout the pandemic and also helped create more lay speakers through a highly successful Shared Pulpit Class, co-sponsored by UU Fellowship of Santa Cruz County with attendees from six different UU congregations.

An on-going problem for UUCC has been growth. We doubled down on increasing more media outreach starting in 2019 with paid advertising in the Pacifica Tribune, Pacifica and Half Moon Bay Patch, the Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce; and Facebook ads. We also took advantage of free advertising through NextDoor.

Other useful outreach tools have been our Twice-Monthly newsletter and a beautiful website designed by Hugo Carr. We also have a YouTube Channel, with a banner design by Betsy Warren, and a fantastic article covering our most recent All-Music Fundraiser in the Half Moon Bay Review.

We took counsel with the MPUUC Founders to discuss their history and strategies for growth in Foster City. Mission Peak had three different covenanting congregations helping them out in their early years. We also attended Clovice Lewis' class on "Church 2.0" which encouraged how to re-envision church services during and after COVID.

One of our greatest achievements has been with networking among other congregations and with Coastside Faith and Social

Action Leaders. We have forged a special bond with Lake County where we attend each other's services. We took part in UU San Mateo's "All Together Now" auction. We've also formed a special relationship with CoastPride and are working closely with them and other faith leaders to draft an inclusion brochure for our LGBTQ Coastside Community. And we continue to deepen the conversation with the UU Fellowship of Santa Cruz, as to how we can help each other in 2022.

For Social Action, we include an Opportunity for Good at the top of all our newsletters, skillfully directed by Joanne Rokosky. Our members attended a unity rally for CoastPride in October of last year to protest the defacing of Pride banners on three separate occasions.

Our Compassionate Caring Committee came to the aid of three people who needed meals during surgical recovery and we also brought meals to Anne Dymond's daughters after her passing. And we doubled down to help one of our seniors in need last year and are very happy we did so.

As for Leadership Development, we have attended UUA workshops and monthly President's meetings for smaller congregations where we can share tips and ask for help. Dave Rokosky was given one of four spots from UU San Mateo to attend last year's General Assembly with a report back to the community.

We've done a lot and we can do more if only more people will get involved. And it's not all unicorns and rainbows. COVID has been hard on all religious organizations. We have lost regularly attending members. Our Planning Committee Board is down to only three people. Everyone on the Production Team is suffering from burnout since Zoom productions are 50% more difficult to produce than in-person services. Still, our morale is high and it is our resilience which promises to see us through another year and beyond. Thanks to each and every one of you, we will continue to blossom.

One of our unsung heroines is Nancy Palmer, who takes great care of our accounting, and is here to give us an update on our Financial situation.