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The Compass

DECEMBER 2010

Minister’s Musings

The Will of the Congregation

I remember Clair Huxtable and her friends on the Cosby Show reminiscing about their favorite Hillman College professor. They laughed lovingly as they intoned in unison her oft used command, “Dig Deeper.”

In seminary, the Reverend Dr. Thandeka, our beloved - feared, respected, passionate - theology professor ingrained our religious core in similar style. After giving Thandeka a hopefully well thought out answer to her intense questions about the nature of our spirituality, she would fold her hands, peer squarely into our eyes and softly direct, “Dig Deeper.” We squirmed and valiantly tried to find that place where our true heart and reason resonate. We dug deeper and, with her next instruction, “Good! Dig deeper!” were inspired to push ourselves until we understood more of our deepest desires and convictions.

Sometimes we think we know, but when push comes to shove, when the rubber meets the road, we find confusion.

Last month UUCE took two votes on ministerial and financial options for 2011-12. Members entered into this dialogue seriously and responsibly voted. The result each time: No option was chosen. In the immediate, a sense of confusion and unease fills the air. Board members will continue to meet to discern the course which best meets the mission and vision of UUCE. But they cannot, must not, do it alone. They need your input, your brainstorming, your creativity. What must we do? “Dig Deeper!”

I am not speaking of deeper financial commitments. Of course, that would certainly aid UUCE in its decision making process. Here, though, is a request to honestly evaluate what you expect from UUCE. What is your deepest wish for this church?

What is your dream? Is your primary need for fellowship and good discussion? How much do you value professional ministry? Would it be okay to have no minister? Or a half time minister? How about a

minister from another faith tradition? Where does social justice fit into your spiritual need spectrum? How will UUCE sustain justice work over the course of time? If you feel that ministry is not a priority at this time, how will programs be sustained? If you feel that professional ministry is a priority, how will that be achieved? What will you do to ensure the health of UUCE?

Whether UUCE becomes lay led or continues to select professional ministry as a priority worth pursuing is only the surface issue. The heart of the question requires soul searching. What is our heartfelt mission? What will I contribute to this church?

Each of us has the slick response to these questions. But we must heed the Board President’s mandate. How are you willing to change in order to produce a healthy congregation? For UUCE, it can no longer be business as usual. To find the answers, we must dig deeper.

Winter Blessings,
Rev Deane

Happy Holidays from UUCE to you!

Sermon Topics



December 6th *It's All About You* Contrary to current "correct" psychology, it is all about you. Let's own that truth and imagine the consequences. Rev Deane with John Schaeffer, Worship Associate

December 12th TBA

December 18th *Winter Solstice Celebration* at 5 pm at Overlook Park in Newburgh. A short service will be followed by solstice merriment. Rev Deane and Rev Claudia Ramisch

December 19th *The Quest for Light* –What is it about light that has intrigued folks throughout the ages? Join us in this holiday intergenerational celebration of life and light. Rev Deane with Tom Moor, Worship Associate PLATE SHRE: Aurora Homeless Project

December 24th *Christmas Eve Service* Christmas Eve is a special time, filled with music and story. Let us rejoice together. Refreshments follow the service. Rev Deane with Link Christensen, Worship Associate

December 26th *Owning Our Values* – Seminarian Emily Webb joins Rev Deane for this introspective on value formation, with special attention to Kwanzaa. POTLUCK TODAY



Solstice Celebration December 18th, 5 pm Overlook Park, Newburgh

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville invite you to a Winter Solstice Celebration round the evening fire complete with spirit, fellowship, games, joy and refreshments.

Join us!

Celebrate the season!



A Word From Our President

For the past several weeks we have all been involved in discussing and deciding our financial future. This has not been an easy issue for anyone. When we decided to seek a full-time minister three years ago, we were excited and happy and anticipated good things. We made a three year agreement and financial plan with our new minister, knowing that we would be dipping heavily in to our endowment fund but having high hopes for a bright future. Then, the economy stepped in - even though we have made some progress towards our three year goals, it hasn't been enough to be able to financially continue with a full-time minister. Our hard working minister has provided lots of enthusiasm, project ideas, classes, and energy, but - like so many of us right here in our congregation - financial difficulties have stepped into change our expectations and intentions - now, we have to deal with the realities. The board felt it imperative that we bring our projected financial dilemma to the attention of our congregation for discussion. Our recent votes have confirmed that our congregation doesn't feel that we can afford to meet the financial needs of our current minister

for the upcoming fiscal year. Our current minister will continue at full salary/benefits until June 30, 2011, then we will become lay-led.

This has been a very lengthy, often stressful process for all of us, with



deep soul-searching and realistic acknowledgment of our financial status - minds have changed back and forth many times over the past weeks. Dreams have been dashed, but we need to re-group and move on. We need you to pledge, join the board, chair committees, host fundraisers, and come worship with us.

The board will be working especially hard these next few months on the issues of the Annual Budget Drive, stewardship, membership, and the financial future of our church. We will also be discussing leadership options for the next fiscal year. We would welcome any input you will share with us.

Board meetings have always been open to the congregation, except for discussion of personnel matters concerning specific individuals. You are welcome to join us on any first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our next board meeting is December 6th.

On a personal note, I sincerely thank all of you who were willing to share your thoughts at our congregational meetings - it was heartwarming to see how deeply you felt about how much this church and congregation means to you. And I also want to thank the board members for wrestling with this issue - you the congregation elected us the board to work on your behalf and to be responsible for decisions concerning the business of this church, and the board members have really put their hearts into this matter. And in spite of all the stress, etc., I am grateful to be board president at this time in our lives, to witness the concern and growth and challenges we are willing to face head-on. And I can't even begin to express how much your statements of support have touched me - thank you doesn't even begin to cover that! Sincerely,
Jan Steinmark.
UUCE Board President

Opportunities for Engagement

Solstice Celebration -Would you like to help plan the Owensboro- Evansville Overlook Park Solstice Celebration on December 18th? Our plan is to have a very short spiritual service followed by fellowship and fun. We would love your ideas!

Christmas Eve Service – Would you like to

- decorate the sanctuary
- help choose the music and readings
- plan a special part for the children
- do a reading in the service

Please contact Rev Deane to join in planning for these events



Celebrate CHALICA



CHALICA is a fairly new week-long UU holiday, which starts on the first Monday in December - the 7th this year. Each day is focused on one of the seven UU Principles, reflecting on their meaning,

doing a good deed focused on each one, and lighting a chalice. For example: Our first principle is about the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and could be a day to apologize to someone. The second principle is about justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, and you could donate clothing to an organiza-

tion.

If you go to www.uuidentity.com/chalica you can find information and suggestions for each of the seven days. I thought this might be a nice tradition to start for yourself and your family.

Jan Steinmark

Coffee

Place your order for chocolate, cocoa and coffee by the 25th of the month. Contact Chris Norrington for details 471-9867.

Monthly Potluck

Join your fellow UU's after church the fourth Sunday of each month for potluck.

United Caring Shelter

UUCE prepares a meal at the United Caring Shelter on the 3rd Friday of the month. We work from 3:00– 5:00. Helpers are needed!

Donations of spaghetti noodles and sauce are always needed too!

Adult Discussion Group

The Adult Discussion Group meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 8:45 in the Chalice House. Contact Hardin with any questions.

Meditation

Join us for meditation Mondays and Fridays from noon til 12:40.

Check out these on-going events at UUCE

December Plate Share

We will Collect for the December Plate Share on December 19th.

The Aurora Homeless initiative provides direct services to the homeless, prevention services, community awareness of homelessness, collaboration among agencies advocacy for change.

The Homeless Outreach team provides street outreach and engagement services, intensive case management in emergency shelters, contracted services in transitional housing,

information and referral as well as fresh start essentials and massages.

In one year Aurora served 325 people on the streets and 144 clients. 87% graduated from the program and 84% moved into permanent housing. 75% raised their income. Aurora staff drove 23,917 miles to help those they served.



— Giving light to the homeless —



Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711

812-474-1704

Services Sunday at 10:00 AM

Rev Dr Claudene F Oliva, Minister

Office hours: Wed.& Thurs. 2-5 or call for
an appointment

Home Phone: 812 490-7145

Cell Phone: 270 779-9222

email- cogenisys@aol.com

Board of Directors:

The UUCE board meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM.

President	Jan Steinmark
President Elect	open
Secretary	Tina Sizemore
Secretary Elect	Joan Hargis
Treasurer	David Granholm
Treasurer Elect	Jack Carden
Director	Teri Rockwood
Director	John Schaefer

Other Volunteers:

Religious Exploration	Teri Rockwood
Youth Leader	Diana Brewer
Building and Grounds	Hardin Rathgeber
Caring Committee	MaryHelen Weldy
Newsletter Editor	Beth Heil
	uuceeditor@hotmail.com
Webmaster	open
Website	www.uuevansville.org

Child and Youth RE at 10:30 Sundays



December Events at UUCE

1st: 5:45 Yoga
7:00 Health & Wellness
7:00 SMART in Chalice House

3rd: Noon– Meditation
7:00 Drumming

4th: 4:00 Christmas decorating
Party

5th: 5:30 Blooming Lotus Sangha

6th: Noon– Meditation
7:00 SMART in Chalice House

7th: 6:30 Pagan Study Group

8th: 5:45 Yoga
7:00 SMART in Chalice House

10th: Noon– Meditation

12th: 5:30 Blooming Lotus
Sangha

13th: 11:00 Membership Com-
mittee
Noon– Meditation
7:00 Worship Associates

14th: 6:30 Pagan Study Group

15th: 5:45 Yoga
7:00 SMART in Chalice House

17th: Noon– Meditation
3:00 United Caring Shelter
7:00 Drumming

18th: 5:00 Solstice Celebration–
Overlook Park

19th: 5:30 Blooming Lotus
Sangha

20th: Noon– Meditation
6:30 UU Theology

21st: 6:30 Pagan Study Group
6:30 Stewardship Committee

22nd: 5:45 Yoga
7:00 SMART in Chalice House

24th: Noon– Meditation
Christmas Eve Service

26th: Potluck
5:30 Yoga

27th: Noon– Meditation

28th: 6:30 Pagan Study Group

29th: Noon- Haffner/Hargis
Wedding
5:45 Yoga
7:00 SMART in Chalice House

31st: Noon– Meditation