



July 2021 Volume 26, Issue 7

WORSHIP: Every Sunday at 10:00 am

July 4



“The Country Where My Heart Is”

“This is my home,” we sing to the tune of Finlandia by Sibelius, “the country where my heart is.” Where is your heart this 4th of July? And what will you joyfully or gratefully or hopefully or thoughtfully celebrate this weekend? It’s important, as Stacey Abrams said to thousands of Unitarian Universalists at our General Assembly Saturday night, to say what are you for!

“Seriously” TODAY at 5

Margaret reports: *We have received comments from Tamworth neighbors regarding our Black Lives Matter banner. They range from “I feel proud to live in a town that has a Black Lives Matter banner,” and “This banner really expresses my views, thank you,” to “The only racist thing in Tamworth is this banner,” and “This banner divides our town. Please take it down. We don’t need more division.”*

It has even been suggested that the banner be taken down for the 4th of July. UUFESian heads, hearts and hands worked hard to create the banner. How can our community convey a message of love? In what ways can we engage with our neighbors?

Views from the Pulpit

Sometimes, we care more than we let on. When townspeople take issue with our Black Lives Matter banner, we want to respond in a meaningful way. Last summer, as protests raged after the murder of George Floyd, our community worked hard on decisions about whether to have a banner, what would it say, and where would it go. “UUFES affirms,” it reads, “that Black Lives Matter.” This message, and the hours that went into it, reflect our community’s caring.



In Kevin Henkes’s children’s book *Julius, the Baby of the World*, a bossy big sister mouse



cares more than she lets on. She criticizes her new baby brother, calling his fur not so sweet and his eyes beady. But at his baptism party, when a cousin utters those words, Lilly erupts with scorn. She rhapsodies about the baby's beauty. Let there be no mistake about her love!

So it went at Poetry this week. After sitting with a hard-hitting poem about Native Americans, the conversation swung around to our BLM banner, the mood thoughtful at first. The words on the banner land differently for different people. What can UUFES do about that? How can we engage with our neighbors? How can we express how much we care about this country? How can we convey that it's love that drives our commitment to reckon with its past? Maybe we care more than we let on. How to get *that* message across this 4th of July when it's been suggested that our banner be taken down for the festivities?

The mood brightened as ideas began to fly. One idea was to use our big white sign on the corner to say, "Love is the spirit of this fellowship," or "This is my home, the country where my heart is." Another idea was to plant American flags (one for each state) beneath the banner, between the two trees that support it, the intent to respectfully acknowledge the 4th. That appealed to some the next day but not to others, with so little time before the weekend to discuss and reach consensus.

We speak with one voice about our first principle, that we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. What that looks like is different for each one of us. Heard this week at UUFES: No way will we take down our banner....Maybe we should move the banner closer to the building....Our banner's doing good work, generating discussion....We should have two flags on our building: the rainbow flag and the US flag....What is UUFES's history regarding the American flag?...When will we have a sign that honors Indigenous people?....

This 4th of July, as the world emerges from a year of isolation and trauma, passions run

deep. Take a breath. May we show how much we care by living into our values, listening generously, and leading with love.

With a full heart,

Rev. Betsy

From the Governing Board

To the UUFES community,

Thoughts from General Assembly:



This last week I have been attending some of the sessions of the UU's General Assembly. Nine UUFESians have been there, and some of us shared our perspective during this last Sunday's coffee hour. Each of us have had different opinions so do reach out to any of us if you want to know more.

For me, the most meaningful session was the Ware Lecture by Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade. It was a powerful reminder of what white supremacy really means. Stacey, as you know, is a forceful spokesperson for the need to revise our voting laws. Desmond is a returning citizen having been incarcerated when he was a young man. He just voted in his first election last fall.

As I listened to them, I realized that as a white person in this society I've never had to consider whether or not I could vote. I might have found (but didn't) excuses such as "I'm too busy," or "It's hard to get away from work." Both Stacey and Desmond brought home what it was like not to be able to vote at all. That's yet another thing that few white people have to confront, but is all too frequent for people of color in our country. To experience Desmond's joy at his first election was very moving.

Both speakers talked about working to convince people to register for the first time. There's all kinds of reasons why not - prime among them, "What difference will it make?" Still Stacey was hopeful. "You have to meet

people where they are,” she said, “not where you want them to be.” We have to be patient.

I also found the Sunday morning worship service to be very impactful - though on reflection in our coffee hour discussion afterwards, I found that I was not the only one to feel slightly off center. Partly it was because the congregation was so large and diverse and partly, as Margaret observed, it was because the service did not “center” white people. But Rev. Betsy’s analysis I also think is true: General Assembly’s goal has always been to be aspirational - to stretch us beyond our comfort zone. When I think of our country mired in centuries of systemic racism and I try to think of what we at UUFES can do up here in our little white community, I can feel very uncomfortable. But that’s what I should feel.

With all that, though, there were wonderful stories and music. I particularly loved having Beethoven’s Ode to Joy end the service with incredible syncopation - making us all want to dance and clap.

Do reach out to the folks who attended in the next several weeks and get their reactions to a very full week.

- Betsy Loughran, Governing Board President

Registered for GA: Shana Aisenberg, Kevin Connerton, John Frenz, Kim Hamel, Betsy Loughran, Barbara Lubin, Sam Perry, Margaret Reiser, and Rev. Betsy

Women’s Group

*Wednesday July 14, 12:00,
A cooperative salad lunch out of doors
at Sandra Carr’s home, with a rain
date of July 15!*

Men’s Group

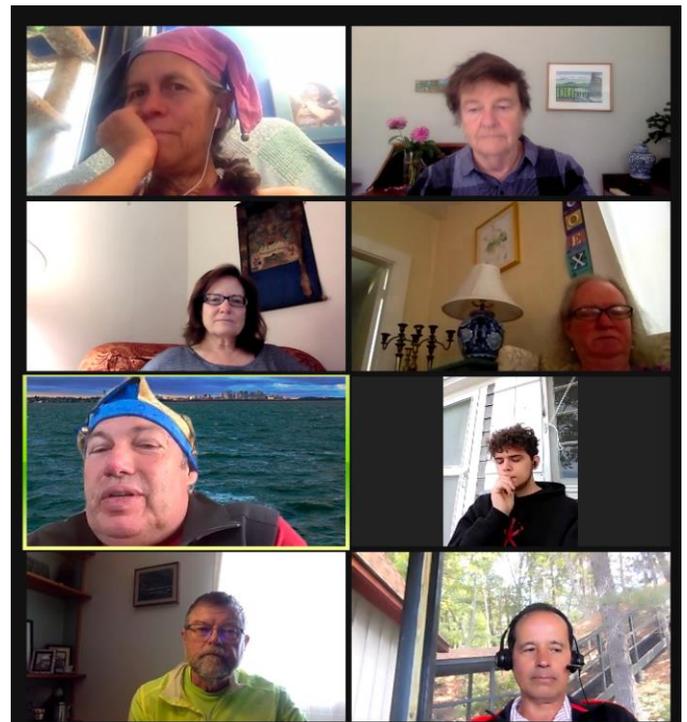
*Wednesday July 21, 2-3:30,
at Dick Byrd’s home in Wolfeboro.*

Re-Opening Update

This week’s Reopening Conversation focused on envisioning future indoor services.

We identified guiding principles: inclusion, radical welcome, diversity of voices, adaptability. A core feature of UUFES remains, as always, a sense of genuine-ness and the energy that results from our UUnique form of convening and worship.

Inclusion means helping all individuals feel comfortable and embraced. We want services where people attending in person feel supported in interacting – whether standing together, holding hands, dancing, lighting candles, or dropping stones in the water. We also want to honor those who desire more distance, may wear masks, or may not want to be viewed in the zoom images.



6/23 Tech Conversation

Simultaneously, we want those participating on zoom to feel fully welcomed and engaged, knowing that some aspects of the service will feel different on zoom. We recognize the need for clear explanations and expectations of what's going to happen in the physical service. How this impacts aspects of the service may be different for UUfarians and UUnearians.

We want to engage both modes of worship by keeping the interactive parts of the service: sharing Joys and Concerns and responding to questions at the end of the service. People participating on Zoom will continue to offer readings and reflections. We also hope to find practical ways for those attending in person to participate on Zoom – e.g. coffee hour (happy hour to some!).

On the tech front, we continue to think about the location of cameras and TV screens, how many volunteers we'll need on Sunday, etc. New topics include planning for adequate air circulation/air exchange in the sanctuary and restrooms (an issue for B&G) and accommodating people with hearing and mobility needs.

Every Wednesday at 11, a Reopening Conversation convenes to discuss tech and/or vision considerations. At this early time in our planning, we invite your ideas about how to support the flexibility and diversity of engagement that UUFES has always welcomed. Please drop in at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5022081578> (same link as for Poetry and "Seriously").

Attending with much like-minded purpose: Diane Shank, John Frenz, Shana Aisenberg, Reverend Betsy Tabor and Sam Perry - and by (extensive and much appreciated and oft cited) email contribution, Moria Merriweather.

We'll miss Sandy when he leaves for college in late August and are recruiting a team of 4 people, along with Annie Provenzano and Moria Merriweather, to rotate as zoom hosts. If you're an interested zoomer, please contact a Board member or Rev. Betsy.

Summary of the May 23, 2021 Annual Meeting of Members

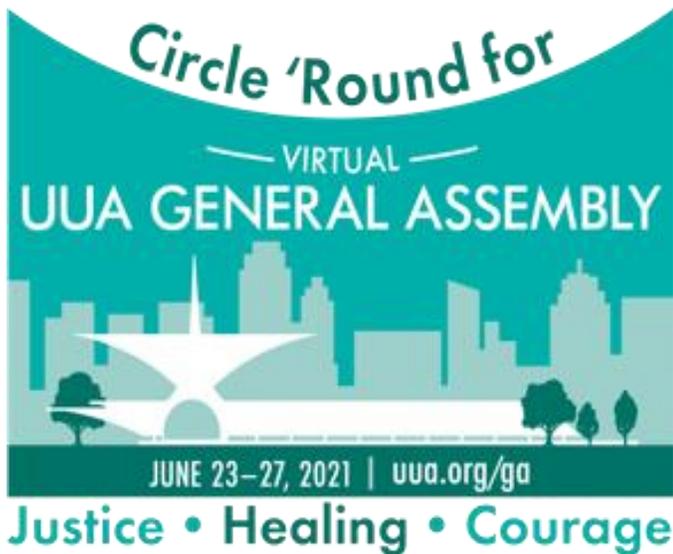
Greatly exceeding the quorum required to conduct our Annual Meeting, the Members of UUFES participated via Zoom following the Sunday service and voted on the following:

1. Approval of the actions taken at the 2020 Annual Meeting conducted via Zoom technology
2. Election of Officers for one year:
President - Betsy Loughran
Vice President - David Wilkins
Treasurer - John Frenz
Secretary - Barbara Lubin
At Large Board Members - Pamela Ambrose, Kim Hamel and Peaco Todd
One member of Leadership Development Committee for three years:
Rod Forsman (continuing members are Andrea Walsh through 2022 and Ann Wilkins through 2023)
3. Election of Delegates to UUA 2021 General Assembly: Kim Hamel and Sam Perry *
4. Approval of [FY22 Budget](#)
5. Approval of Amended and [Restated Bylaws](#) and [Endowment Bylaws](#)

Meeting concluded with appreciation to incoming officers and delegates, departing officers, the Policies Group for revising Bylaws, Policies and Procedures of the past year, and to Members and Friends of UUFES for steadfast support over this pandemic year.

Copies of the approved Budget and Bylaws are available via the above links or upon request from the office or Governing Board.

** Sam Perry withdrew and Betsy Loughran served as our second GA delegate with Kim Hamel.*



GA Business Update

I attended five General Sessions at GA last week:

Five amendments to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws and Rules were adopted: 3 pertained to timelines for President-elect and submission of AIWs and RE credentialing; and 2 with a 2/3 vote for shortening campaigns and removing fee requirements for Delegates to vote.

Elections were held for three Board positions, one Commissioner of Appraisal, one Financial Advisor, one to the GA Planning Committee and three to the Nominating Committee. The next presidential election will be held in 2023.

The Delegates also affirmed three **Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW)**:

- **Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Non-binary, and Intersex Communities...**addresses anti-trans sentiment spreading throughout the country and urges UUs to demand repeal of discriminatory legislation, support the Equality Act (its passage is long overdue!), and most importantly affirm that “living one’s identity...is part of our free exercise of religion.”

- **The Covid-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage...**urges UUs to advocate for the Medicare for All Act and address the healthcare needs of disproportionately disadvantaged groups exposed by Covid.
- **Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy...**addresses the January 6 assault on our democracy and voter suppression legislation across the country. This AIW urges UUs to “organize and activate our faith to advocate for relevant national legislation, e.g. the For the People Act.”

A Statement of Conscience (SOC), presented by the Commission on Social Witness was adopted: **Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action.** This SOC calls upon the UUA and UUs to “actively engage in undoing white supremacy in all its manifestations” and, of particular note, “fulfill our UU role as a spiritual anchor to UU BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People Of Color.” Delegates adopted two **Responsive Resolutions**:

- **Responsive Resolution Article II** outlines our Principles and Purposes (last updated in 1987). A commission has been formed to consider revisions. The RR includes adding systemic anti-racism to the principles: an 8th principle.

- **Proposed Divestment Responsive Resolution, Revised**, requests that UU Youth and Young Adults have a voice.

Anyone who wants more in depth info on any of the above transactions, please visit the UUA website or reach out to me!

- Kim Hamel, 2021 UU GA Delegate



A Snapshot of our June 20 Service



Monday Book Group

Monday 10 am

BOOK GROUP LINK:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/104432872>

The Book Group will meet as usual on Monday, July 5. Come to UUFES at 10:00, or join by Zoom.

Special Request in Memory of Susan Bruce *Minister's Discretionary Fund*



UUFESians have asked how they might help out with expenses related to Susan Bruce's death. Susan's daughter Jessica has indicated that financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. To make a donation that will go directly toward such expenses, please send a check made out to "UUFES" with "MDF - Susan Bruce" in the memo line. Send to UUFES, Box 474, Tamworth, NH 03886.

Please note—the American Friends Service Committee folk are also working with UUFES member Ed Butler on creating a scholarship fund for Susan's beloved granddaughter, Lucy. We anticipate more information about this shortly. - Rev. Betsy

UUFES Special Collection - July 25

Carroll County Adult Education

Carroll County Adult Education offers:

- HiSET Preparation
- Basic Literacy Skill Development
- ESL & Citizenship English Development
- Carroll Academy for High School Diploma
- Course preparation for Tech school & College

Crystal Sawyer, Program Director, will share information about the programs and explain how our contributions can help defray the costs of materials, courses & testing. In addition, several of our UUFES members who have been tutoring with Adult Education, will be present to talk about their experiences.

If you would like to make a contribution but will not be attending the service, checks can be sent to: Carroll County Adult Education; 680 White Mountain Highway; Tamworth, N.H. 03886.

An Activity for This Week

I hope that in July we can laugh a little more than usual. It is an ancient medicine, a gift that we share with our relatives, the great apes.



My suggested inclination is to find times to smile, giggle, chuckle and laugh this month ~ with a gentle, inclusive, fun-loving humor that heals, mellows some of our anxieties, and lifts our spirits.

Marion.

Chat from Our May 23 Service

AFTER THE GA SERVICE, HOW DO YOU FEEL?

11:13:00 From Diane S to Everyone : inspired

11:13:07 From Kim H to Everyone : Uplifted

11:13:08 From hopeful to Everyone : joyful

11:13:10 From Peaco T to Everyone : Joyful joyful

11:13:10 From Betsy L to Everyone : Joyful!

11:13:12 From Meredith m to Everyone : uplifting

11:13:15 From Cindy E: Good morning all! Joyful

11:13:21 From Barbara L: excited

11:13:23 From Shana A: Powerful, inspiring!

11:13:27 From Starr H: Joyful!

11:13:30 From Barbara B: A mixture of hope and skepticism

11:13:30 From marsha c: Inspired to deal with my pain....

11:13:34 From Peggy P: happy!

11:13:42 From pamela a to Everyone : incredible

11:13:44 From Margaret R: Proud to be UU

11:13:46 From Sam P : Remembering the fugitive ...

11:13:56 From Kevin C: Hopeful!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

11:14:07 From Peggy P: I second that Margaret!



Barbara Bald



Sandra Carr

WHAT RESONATED?

11:14:10 From Barbara B: Loved the phrase UU sibling

11:14:40 From Kim H: The children singing Love is Love is Love

11:14:46 From Peaco T: I love the message of welcoming the hard things

11:14:46 From hopeful: humming meditation

11:14:49 From Meredith m : meatball story [about the song "On Top of Spaghetti"]

11:14:49 From Barbara B: Love wins when we keep our resolve

11:14:49 From Diane S: Idea of pressure being good...creating diamonds

11:14:49 From Betsy L: We need a vaccine for white supremacy

11:14:52 From Starr H: Images of MICAH video

11:14:54 From Sam P: Humming!

11:14:54 From Barbara L: fugitivity

11:14:55 From pamela a: leveling up

11:14:59 From marsha c: Humming to my pain
 11:15:01 From Carol S: empathy with meatballs
 11:15:06 From Barbara B: Have compassion for the meatball
 11:15:16 From hopeful: a town desperate for "its " blacks
 11:15:20 From Kim H: Diamonds formed through pressure
 11:15:25 From Sam P: Dividing the church by the aisles on path to integrating...
 11:15:33 From Barbara B: Stay in the struggle till love wins
 11:15:42 From Margaret R: Stay with compassion and grief, until you are ready to move along. The meatball story. My son had the same reaction to that song.
 11:15:54 From Kevin C: Expanding meta-meatball miracles
 11:16:03 From Barbara B: We are whole, worthy and welcomed
 11:16:10 From Peggy P: I love our meetinghouse circle!



Grace Ferguson

THOUGHTS ABOUT BEING PART OF THIS UU FAITH:

11:16:35 From Cindy E: Belonging
 11:16:38 From Starr H: Grrrrreat!
 11:17:00 From Barbara B: I realized there are lots of folks working for love
 11:17:02 From Sam P: integrating
 11:17:11 From pamela a to Everyone : powerfully dynamic
 11:17:12 From Kevin C : Sam UU Am
 11:17:22 From Barbara B: Not so alone
 11:17:24 From Sam P: Integrating (on many spiritual levels that is) as well as literally
 11:17:31 From Peaco T: That white supremacy is called out
 11:17:32 From Eleanor j: More about what happened in 1967
 11:17:37 From David W: Such a focus on social activism
 11:18:26 From Carol S: when I have traveled, I've tried to attend a UU service wherever I am....definition of 'home'....when you go there, they let you in

11:18:29 From Margaret R: We have a profound responsibility to each other

COFFEE HOUR:

11:44:18 From Margaret R: I love that, Barbara, the idea of being "revved up." It moves our thinking/feeling to a higher level.

11:53:29 From Sam P: I found GA overwhelming...complicated and shared with Betsy L and Kim we all felt a bit that way. Glad they represented formally, which Kim did most of and deserves huge kudos for that imho!

11:54:23 From Sam P: As per Barbara: From her Mother, Stacy Abrams says she learned to meet people where they are ... also ... patience!

11:55:31 From Sam P: Recommend Stacy Abrams – even if you’ve heard her before – as spot on in the lecture.

Some Tamworth people experience the UUFES Black Lives Matter banner as a negative judgment of our community and divisive...that we are accusing the town of being racist or being home to racists. It’s been suggested that UUFES take its banner down for July 4.

12:23:14 From Rev. Betsy Tabor (she, her) to Everyone : What are effective venues for a statement [in response]?

12:24:39 From Margaret Rieser to Everyone : Tamworth Exchange, Sandwich Board, Madison Boulder, Conway Daily Sun, our website. All good venues

12:27:58 From Kevin C to Everyone : Might want to dust off our American flag for the fourth?

12:32:45 From Kevin C to Everyone : We're Bearing Witness hopefully

Last Month's Services Online

UUFES service excerpts available to read at <http://uufes.com/sermon-archive/>.

Guest services at <http://uufes.com/guest-speakers/>.



05/30/21 "The Sweet Smell of Rain"

https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/blc-cmiKD-W1gyZ5XICziMhZpVSfIXmLlq6UKkH8DcbIWeC7ltWzS_OmZb4UgZ74.Y-gfeIPXd-ZdwE1k
Passcode: ^064bCV3



06/06/21 "Carefully Taught"

https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/Fyf0UTfkJ-kHDui1ETXZjbxvZxcju4owKx5yHvuTwgv3xnyPQmgImP8aJNU5_wSB.FxrdhbHLqfxRA7zX
Passcode: Z#Ci+?A3



6/13/21 "We Side With Pride"- A Lay-Led Service

https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/U3lgReh5xU779ar5AsE9ei1Yzw0Yd7bPyDaRh7CxLIts0_jh5igaP87OMLR8AwH5.6DD5I6KE_wUFeXgd
Passcode: ?8G@&s5y



06/20/21 "Opening Up"

https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/xO_zZR1ZEi1XAWZMSfIc5zalBWip1QF4fKKSeaQsJ3I3SpFywbRvh7wYYd7LDPEs.-8ouyOwgVd_zOGNK
Passcode: aENg4d!s



6/27/21 "Until Love Wins" (GA service)

<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2021/sunday-worship/minneapolis>



Weekly ZOOM Service and Meeting Links

Sunday 10 am Worship:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92959299766>

Meeting ID: 929 592 997 66#

Monday 10 am Book Group

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/104432872>

Meeting ID: 104 432 872#

Midweek at UUFES:

4 pm Tuesday - Poetry

11 am Wednesday - Reopening

5 pm Thursday - "Seriously"

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5022081578>

Meeting ID: 502 208 1578#

If connecting by phone, call 646-876-9923.

At prompt, enter Meeting ID.

Governing Board

Betsy Loughran, President

David Wilkins, Vice President

Barbara Lubin, Secretary

John Frenz, Treasurer

Kim Hamel, Member at Large

Pamela Ambrose, Member at Large

Peaco Todd, Member at Large

UUFES Meetings and Events – July

Book Group: Mondays at 10:00 am

Governing Board: Tuesday, July 13, 9:00 am

Men's Group: Wednesday, July 21, 2:00 pm

Women's Group: Wednesday, July 14, 12:00 pm

Committee Contacts:

Buildings and Grounds: Chair Open

Children & Youth Program: Ingrid Albee

Committee on Ministry: Bobbi Hoyt, Eleanor Jenkins,
Margaret Rieser

Finance: Jorge Dominguez

Hospitality: Melanie Hodge

Leadership Development: Rod Forsman, Andrea Walsh,
Ann Wilkins

Membership: Peaco Todd

Pastoral Care: Eleanor Jenkins

Special Collections: Kim Hamel

Sunday Services: Chair Open

Ways & Means: Betty Fernandes

Small Groups:

Men's Group: Dick Byrd, Jorge Dominguez

Monday Book Group: Rotating Leaders

Women's Group: Blythe Sterling