



The CommUUnicator

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro**

Board Highlights

by Kay Yost, President

Greetings UUFW friends! This is my first ever newsletter article, and in my role as President this year, I want to keep our members informed of recent Board actions and activities. As I write this, the FY2024 Board has had two monthly meetings and an all-day retreat which was held Saturday, August 19 at Steve and Kristin Maxwell's home in Staunton.

The July meeting was the "Transitions" meeting where departing members Susan Clark and Florence Ferguson were recognized and new members Margot Kephart (Vice President), Erin Milnes, and Sylvia Woodworth (2-year members at large) were welcomed and brought up to date with Board procedures and ongoing Board activities. Peggy Anders was elected Treasurer, and Steve Maxwell re-elected Secretary.

At the August meeting a lot of time was spent discussing our Religious Education Program and how to manage the time without a Director of Religious Education in place. Earlier emails and the first September 2023 newsletter have already explained plans for finding a new DRE and how we will navigate the weeks ahead before an Interim DRE is found.

Some additional action items were approved in August including:

- Approval of funding in the amount of \$250 for a speaker from the Monacan Indian Nation requested by the Social

Justice Team for a service planned on September 24.

- Authorization for Wayne Nolde to evaluate recently received plans for The South River Greenway Trail Phase 3 Project and negotiate with the city on behalf of the Fellowship. (The new plans related to the Greenway project include plans for accommodating pedestrians on 14th Street along our property.)
- Allocation of up to \$3,000 from the Special Projects fund to pay for the purchase and installation of a TV in Fellowship Hall.

The Board retreat on August 19 was a good opportunity for members to get to know each other better and spend some time planning for the year ahead and sharing some ideas about our hopes for the future. Small group discussions highlighted the need to be working to increase our membership. To this end, we should increase our efforts to get out into the local community and be more visible. The BeatlesFest event held in June was well attended by people outside of UUFW, so it was a good opportunity to increase awareness of the Fellowship. We should increase our presence at local events and possibly have another "Open House" service where Unitarian Universalism is introduced and clarified to those who may not be well acquainted with it. It was also mentioned that

music can be a big draw in bringing in new members and retaining them.

In addition to discussing the importance of increasing our membership, it was acknowledged that we need to step up fundraising on behalf of the Fellowship. There was discussion of the need to increase our Special Projects Budget so that we have funds available in the future when significant expenditures beyond what is allocated for the current year are needed to replace or repair necessary items in our facilities.

It is with deep gratitude that I acknowledge the contribution of our members' time as team leaders and members, Caring Network volunteers, social justice and community service advocates, and volunteers for the many roles needed every Sunday morning. We are also fortunate to be starting out with an almost balanced budget for FY2024. I look forward to working with all of you to grow our Fellowship this year and live into our vision and mission.

Community News

The [African-American Heritage and Multicultural Festival](#) is returning to Staunton after several years absence due to COVID. It will be held this Saturday and Sunday from 10a.m until 6 p.m. at Gypsy Hill Park. The festival will include live music, storytelling, cultural enrichment experiences for students and families, cultural dancing, a variety of foods, crafts from local and regional artisans, and other family-friendly activities such as face painting, health screenings and community resources. All events are free and fully accessible. This annual celebration of black

culture and history is the oldest of its kind in the Shenandoah Valley. New this year, the festival has expanded to add a multicultural component in partnership with Waynesboro, Staunton and Augusta County schools to share stories, traditions, music and customs from students and families of diverse backgrounds.

Member News

Kristin Maxwell is at home recovering from a fall, which resulted in a concussion and a brain bleed. It has been stabilized, but she is staying close to home and being closely watched for any sign of related symptoms. Kristin hopes to be back to good health soon. Cards and calls are welcome.



Andrew Schmidt, former youth member of the Fellowship, and Kyla Whitman were married September 4th in the front yard of his parents, Susan and John Schmidt. They had a Renaissance themed wedding with guests participating by dressing in their own versions of Medieval clothing.

