

February 2023

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Article II Study Commission

Although one mustn't profess any particular creed to be a Unitarian Universalist, today, the foundational elements of the denomina-

tion, its purposes and professions, are found in Article II of the UUA Bylaws. For an aspiring congregation to be accepted into, make covenant with, the Association, they must agree to honor Article II.



Article II consists of the following:

- SECTION C-2.1. PRINCIPLES - Seven Principles & Six Sources
- SECTION C-2.2. PURPOSES - The UUA serves congregations; implement principles
- SECTION C-2.3. INCLUSION - Welcome all by changing structures of oppression
- SECTION C-2.4. FREEDOM OF BELIEF - No Unitarian Universalist creed

Outside of the Principles and Sources, which many are familiar with, the rest of Article II consists of less than 200 words.

The UUA Bylaws also state that "If no study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to study Article II for not more than two years and to recommend appropriate

revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of Trustees for inclusion on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly (UUA Bylaws, Article XV, Section C-15.1)."

Although there have been some minor adjustments to Article II over the years, it has essentially been unchanged since 1987.

In the Fall of 2020, an Article II Study Commission was appointed by the UUA Board of Trustees to review Article II. The Commission has now completed its work and has issued a report detailing recommendations. These recommendations, changes to Article II, (and I will say that they are wholesale changes to Article II,) will then be placed on the agenda for voting approval at UUA General Assembly June 2023. Amendments and modifications can (and likely will) be made and voted on at GA 2023. To fully modify Article II, a subsequent vote at GA 2024 will also need to take place.

Here is a link to the Commission's report: [Article II Study Report](#).

I urge you all to read the report and become familiar with it (e.g. the history, the process, the recommendations, etc.). I'm sure you will all have your own opinions about the recommendations. I have my own, yet my personal opinions aside, I was struck by the spirit of humility and grace in which the report was written and the profound sense of responsibility and respect that the Commission has for Unitarian Universalism and for all of us Unitarian Universalists.

I will be talking about the details of the changes in some upcoming worship services this spring.

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave



UUMAN RENEWAL WEEKEND IS COMING!

Is it too early to think of Spring? No, not if you want to **SAVE THE DATE** for UUMAN's fantastic renewal weekend. Mark your calendar for Friday night (April 28), Saturday all day (April 29) and then church on Sunday (April 30th). Don't have SOMO (Sorrow of Missing Out!) Mark your calendars!

Starting Friday night, we will have a vegetarian potluck dinner at 6:00 followed by fellowship and fun (maybe a movie?). Saturday starts around 10:00 and is a day of fun learning for adults and youth/children. That night we will have some dinner (pizza?) and then activities that just might lead to amazement and wonder. On Sunday, as part of the service we will have a ceremony celebrating all our elders.

We are inviting the spirit of **UU REVIVAL**. Can we reclaim that word 'revival' to mean homage to the Spirit of Life, to the fires of Spring inside all life and to learning, inspiration, and enjoyment? Yes, we can!

This is also the time of Beltane (May 1st) on the Wiccan calendar AND this is for everyone, not just those who practice ancient Celtic ways. We have grappled with COVID and now we are hopefully climbing out of its grasp. The timing is perfect for the rising of the sap!

If you want to spend time with friends, meet new ones, get surprises and maybe feel the energy of connection and engagement rise, then come be with us! We will do our best to include those who are at home AND this lends itself very well to in-person attendance, if you are ready. Weather permitting, some activities will be outside and after the sun goes down.

If you have something you would like to offer that enlivens you and/or want to volunteer, please call Donna Melcher at **770-823-4235**.

We already have some wonderful things cooking and we won't solidify the final happenings probably until April. Feel the quickening! Be a part! Stay tuned for more...

- Donna Melcher

Family Promise Fundraising Dinner

Meals with Meaning

Family Promise
of North Fulton/Dekalb

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2023 AT 6 PM

TEMPLE SINAI
5645 DUPREE DRIVE
ATLANTA, GA 30327

www.mwm.givesmart.com

Sponsored by

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

Our friends at Family Promise of North Fulton/Dekalb will host their annual fundraising dinner on March 23 at 6 pm at Temple Sinai, Atlanta.

There will be cocktails on the veranda, interesting speakers, and fun auction items.

You're likely to see many UUMAN friends!

Individual tickets are \$75. Funds from the evening go to helping families in our area who are experiencing situational homelessness.

www.mwm.givesmart.com

- Mike Chambers

MLK Day of Service 2023

by Elizabeth Rohan

This year, about 50 UUMAN members and friends of all ages volunteered at FurKids Headquarters and Cat Shelter in Cumming for MLK Day of Service. Many of us met for lunch ahead of time, where we socialized before heading to the shelter. Once at the shelter, we were put to work. The grounds of the shelter are gorgeous, and there were many opportunities for us to help, both outside and inside. One group cleaned windows, and another group painted a fence. Several groups picked up pinecones and twigs from the parking lot and walkways, while another group emptied a van-full of cat and kitten food and then scooped cat food into Ziploc bags for families who foster cats. Eventually, we all got a chance to spend some time reading to or petting the cats. FurKids was so grateful for all that we accomplished! Thank you, UUMAN volunteers, for showing up and showing out!



Religious Exploration News

Gratitude

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

Last month's theme was service. This month it is gratitude.

I am constantly amazed by the hard work and dedication of our volunteers every day, week to week, rain or shine. I want us all to take a moment to appreciate the time and talents brought forth by some amazing individuals. From the RE Team, to RE and OWL instructors, nursery volunteers, play group parents and so much more. Our volunteers come from all ages and walks of life. Some are parents or grandparents and want to give back to the community. Others enjoy spending time with the youth because it feeds their souls and reminds them what it is like to look at life from a place of wonder.

If you're interested in getting involved, let someone know. There are many opportunities and any one of our amazing volunteers would be happy to talk to you about how your interests can be plugged in. Whether it be working on curriculum with the youth a few Sundays a month, helping to organize events like the Career fair, or helping our youth lead as they start their own volunteer project.

Here's what we did in January!

We restarted the RE curriculum with four classes the 2nd Sunday of the month. Due to volunteer shortages and low attendance as we reimagine the MCY program, collectively we decided to combine Jr and Senior youth while K-3 and 3-5 classes remained separate. So far we have had great success with this lay out!

The following Sunday, we had a great multigen activity. The youth created their own vision boards by drawing and collaging magazines with the help of two of our senior youth. The next day many of us met for lunch in Cumming before we headed over to volunteer with FurKids. A whopping 30 plus children, youth and adults came out to join us.



On Saturday the 21st, the Roswell Police Department came out to educate the congregation about active shooter. I was so pleased to see so many RE volunteers there. Our own Mike Chambers has since put together a Safety and Security Team.

Following the 2nd hour on Sunday the 22nd, Little Kid Big Projects held their first planning potluck. It was a huge success with almost 30 participants. We heard from Josie Burkhardt, the project's creator, about this exciting new project. While it is still in its planning stages, it is a volunteer group led by children and youth who want to develop leadership and organizational skills to give back to their community. They recently decided to kick off with one big project, building a UUMAN playscape! If you are an youth or adult interested in helping to make support this group, fill out this form and get involved: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/33deee>

This month, we launched a playgroup for active minds and bodies to play during service, from 10-11:15 AM. This group does not replace RE, no curriculum is taught. It is a place for children and youth to connect with their peers, burn off excess energy and have fun before settling in for 2nd hour. The parents of youth participating in this group are expected to volunteer some of their time to make this group possible. Sign up to volunteer with this form: <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/059e3d>

At the beginning of this year, UUMAN was reminded of what it was like to hold worship in Fellowship Hall like we used to a few decades ago after the Sanctuary sustained water damage. But as usual, our congregation rallied in logistics and morale. One of the features you all may be missing is the fidget shelf and with it, the presence of youth during fellowship, including our youth artist, Eli Lansdowne. While he did join us the 1st Sunday of the month, he has joined the playgroup for the time being.

Religious Exploration News



Have any of you ever wondered what he is so diligently working away on? Well I asked him if he'd like to feature some of his art in the times and he jumped at the chance. So I present to you his submissions.



Would your children or youth also jump at a chance to share their art with the rest of the congregation? Coming soon, an MCY art wall or sorts! Email Lexie Tangney at dre@uuman.org for more information or to get involved.

Here's what you can look forward to in February!

- 2/5/23 @ 11:15 AM- RE Curriculum
- 2/5/23 @ 12:45 PM- OWL Parent Orientation for 4-5 & 7-9
- 2/12/23 @ 11:15 AM- Jr&Senior youth will have RE and plan for the youth service. K-5 will do a Valentine's day craft.
- 2/19/23 - No RE or Playgroup for Presidents Day weekend. Nursery aged kids can go to the nursery, all other youth are invited to service.
- 2/26/23 @ 11:15 AM- RE Curriculum. The children and youth will also talk about the upcoming career fair.

Stewardship 2023

Stewardship Your Way: Reconnect and Recommit

We're excited to announce the kickoff of Stewardship Your Way in 2023, and the opportunity to "Reconnect and Recommit" to our faith community this year.

Along the way, join in on events including the Haynes Bridge Boys Bluegrass Band, Sandwiches After Service, and Young Adult Stewardship Gathering to bring us together and to learn more about this year's stewardship campaign.

With our recommitment to our community, we'll be looking for returning members, new members, and friends to offer a financial Pledge to UUMAN for the coming year as we look to enhance our staff support and our program offerings with our primary source of funding.

We'll also highlight the many volunteer opportunities within UUMAN and in the larger community, where we put our faith and principles into practice. What better time to get involved?

Whether you want the convenience of contributing via an online form, or want to meet individually with one of our stewards to discuss your feedback and hopes for the year ahead, we look forward to working with you to reconnect and build our mission together.

Key Dates:

Feb. 5 - Stewardship 2023 Kickoff Service

Feb. 11 - Haynes Bridge Boys Bluegrass Band Kickoff Event, 4:30 - 6 pm, Watch for Invite

Feb. 26 - Sandwiches After Service, 12 noon

Mar. 9 - Young Adult Stewardship Gathering 7 - 10 pm, Watch for Invite

Mar. 19 - Stewardship 2023 Ends, All pledge forms joyfully submitted

Your Stewardship Committee:

Martin Poteralski, Laurie Wheeler, Merry Beth Stephens

UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

February 2023: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
2/5	<p>Justice, Equity, Pluralism</p> <p>Justice, Equity and Pluralism are three shared values put forth by the Article II Study Commission. Thinking about ourselves as individuals, and ourselves as a congregation with a specific Mission and Vision, are these values that we share?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/12	<p>Stewardship Your Way: Reconnect, Recommit</p> <p>We've spent much of the past three years disconnected due to a global pandemic; and although we're not out of the woods yet, is it time for you to reconnect and recommit to the mission and vision of UUMAN? What is this community, and its mission and vision worth to you, your children and your children's children?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/19	<p>Francis David: The First Unitarian Minister</p> <p>On March 3, 1568, Transylvanian King John Sigismund assembled the region's most learned theologians to debate the nature of God. The "Trinitarian" perspective was opposed by the "Unity of God" perspective, represented by the minister Francis David. What happened and what became of him?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
2/26	TBA	Lay Led



Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to

membership@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
2/1	Kyra P. is celebrating a birthday.
2/4	Elizabeth N. is celebrating a birthday.
2/5	Davis dV. is celebrating a birthday.
	Izzy D. is celebrating a birthday.
2/12	Jacob C. is celebrating a birthday.
2/14	Michelle and Mike L. are celebrating their anniversary
2/15	Dan C. is celebrating a birthday.
	Maud VdB. is celebrating a birthday.
2/22	Riahna L. is celebrating a birthday.
2/28	Raffaella S. is celebrating a birthday.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org