

UUCP History - The 2010s



The congregation and the country segued into the new decade, bringing along the weight of the financial recession and the resulting budget-slashing reality throughout society. Wars continued, as did environmental disasters.

Within our church, in FY 2009–2010, the Board of Trustees experienced its first full year of adopted ends policies (goals). The Global End Statement is “UUCP exists so that the communities we touch experience spiritual openness, love, justice, sustainability, and peace.” The two principal Ends/Goals are

- I. All who enter feel welcome, known, and loved.
- II. All who enter feel supported in their spiritual journeys.

The BOT reviewed a full cycle of executive limitation reports prepared by the Executive Team so it could fine-tune the governing policies established several years before. It organized three forums between services to discuss the future of the Committee on Ministry and the roles of various leadership groups. The BOT, after much study, decided to continue in the Leadership Leaves program but with one minister rather than two.

The Search Committee took the lead in asking members and friends about who they are, what they feel is important in the life of the congregation, and how they envision the future. The most concerted effort to gain this information was the confidential Survey Questionnaire, which members could fill out online or via a paper copy during February. SC member Diana Gray, who headed this effort, announced that a total of 236 congregants responded from the current official membership of 365. In addition, 57 girls and boys – the youngest was 4 and the oldest 14 – gave their views in the RE Children’s Survey. The survey findings were released in a 23-page report to the congregation in March.

Looking back in May 2010, the Board and the Executive Team (ET) reflected on welcoming 14 new members but also the effect of a modestly declining membership and the downturn in the economy on our budget, which decreased 7.6% from the year before. This required some difficult decisions and cost cutting. Both the Board and the ET knew that important decisions about the composition of the Executive Team in the future had to be faced because the previous structure was both unusual and flawed.

Still, life in the congregation had gone on, improvements such as a new sound system had been made, strong Sunday services and RE classes continued, the Youth Group worked to obtain the funds to go to New Orleans to help in the rebuilding efforts there (and were told “Every once in a while a group comes along that helps renew our energy and devotion to the work of recovery. Yours is such a group.”), and the future was envisioned in a Master Plan, presented to the congregation, that would improve our facilities in major ways .

*** To be continued ***