

Red River Ramblings

Sunday, August 7, 2022 - 11:15 AM

The Democracy of Beloved Community

The Rev. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

The world deeply needs religious visions that model inclusion, community, and democracy rather than patriarchy, hierarchy, and autocracy – visions that call us to look around and join with others in beloved, just, and participatory communities rather than looking up and bowing down. Read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, August 14, 2022 - 11:15 AM

Two Trillion and Counting

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

What impact does the knowledge that there are likely more than 2 trillion galaxies in the universe have on our self-understanding and on our religious vision of ourselves within the cosmos? Read Mark's bio [here](#).

Sunday, August 28, 2022 - 11:15 AM

Peace Sunday #2 – *Living Peace*

Jana Norris & Marla Loturco, *leading*

This morning we continue with our special series based on the book *Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World* by Ken Beller and Heather Chase by taking a look at leaders who 'live peace': Martin Luther King, Jr., and Anderson Sá.

Sunday, **August 21, 2022** - 11:15 AM

Water Communion Sunday

The Worship Team, *leading*



In 1980, two Unitarian universalist women, Carolyn McDade, and Lucille Shuck Longview, were asked to create a worship experience for the Women and Religion Continental - Convocation of Unitarian Universalist. As they shaped that ceremony McDade and Longview wanted to create a ritual "that spoke to our connectedness to one another, to the totality of life, and to our place on this planet." they included a new, inclusive symbol of women spirituality: water. They write that the first water communion was for them "a new story of creation," add that water was their chosen symbol of empowerment.

In the 42 years since its creation, water communion has become an important annual ceremony in many UU congregations across the nation, including our own. With water always the theme and central element, each celebration of water communion is distinctive. Join the Worship Team as we again commemorate the spiritual and ecological importance of this life-giving element.

Please bring a small container of water with you on Sunday. If you collected water from travels over the last year, or collected some from a favorite local spot, or if your water is virtual from a location you see in your mind's eye bring it.

Search Team Update

The Minister Search Team met on July 14th. This meeting focused on two major tasks.

The first task we focused on was financing. It looks like there are two specific funding sources that we can apply for to help cover minister compensation.

- NTUUC: We should be able to get a \$50,000 Grant. This will be paid out \$30,000 in year 1 and \$20,000 in year 2. If we get the grant before the minister starts, they will hold the money and give it to us once the minister starts.
- Chalice Lighters: This is a crowd funding operation for UU organizations. We submit a request to their website and people pledge amounts. The average for their type of funding is usually around \$10,000 raised. However, they have some projects that have raised in excess of \$100,000. We can only apply for this no more often than every 5 years. We are thinking of applying for \$40,000 that would fund a minister for two years at \$20,000 for each year. We need to apply when we are close to having a minister start and we have most of our finances lined up.

We also looked at funding through the UUA funding programs and Faithify. UUA funding programs do not do funding for a minister's salary. However, they do supply funds to support social justice programs. Faithify (another UUA crowd funding organization) didn't show any specific funding programs for a minister but did show several projects for social justice that were funded. With

Faithify its all or nothing. When you set your goal, you must receive at least your target goal. Anything else and you get nothing so picking the right target goal is important.

For UUA and Faithify it looks like we could apply for a social justice program to bring in and fund speakers for our Sunday services. The money would cover Honoria, milage, administrative costs, and advertising. This money would replace what we currently have in the budget. The freed-up money would then transfer to the Minister Fund. To make this happen we would need to define a social justice program that would work for us, be able to measure its success, and have it be supported by a small, dedicated team of members and friends that would make this successful. This is how we (Amy) runs Earth Day. It takes a Team leader, volunteers, and hard work.



The second task we discussed is interviewing our congregation to find out what you would like to see in a minister. We all submitted our thoughts and questions to Marla, and she has consolidated them. This list went out in an email blast to everyone on July 23rd. If you did not get this email please read it [here](#). All

discussions will be livestreamed on Zoom (Meeting ID: 989 0789 7878). We are planning on meeting on this schedule:

- Thur. Aug. 4th in the Chapel starting at 6:30 pm
- Tues. Aug. 9th in the Chapel starting at 6:30 pm
- Sunday Aug. 7th in the Chapel starting at 1 pm
- Sunday Aug. 14th in the Chapel starting at 1 pm

Please come to one of these dates to discuss your thoughts on a minister.

Report prepared by:

David Dyer, Jana Norris Jim Holmes, Marilyn Alexander, Marla Loturco

Kids Clothing Swap

Red River UU will host a free Children's Clothing Swap on **August 6th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Parents, grandparents and care givers are invited to donate clothing they no longer need and take clothing they do need.



Clothing donated must be clean and free of stains and holes. To donate clothing in advance of the swap, please contact Adrian Hinman at 903-436-7125.

Volunteers are needed for set up Friday evening and Saturday during the swap. Please talk to Adrian or Amy to let them know you can help.

August Birthdays

- 06 - Linda Tracy
- 09 - Helen Schulze
- 10 - Lisa Cates
- 29 - Carolyn Fridley
- 31 - Doug Strong

Are YOU an August baby but don't see your name on the list? That's 'cuz your birth date isn't in the dBase. Email [Marla](#) and next year you can join the other August babies.

Special Event

Each year the Grayson County NAACP joins forces with the interdenominational ministerial alliance to sponsor an annual scholarship banquet. Our congregation has a Life Membership in the Grayson County NAACP. We have in previous years had members and friends of the church attend.

This year scholarship banquet is Saturday, August 6 at 7:00 PM in the Sherman municipal ballroom. Tickets are \$35 each. Red River UU will have at least one table comment depending on the number of us who wish to attend contact Amy if want to go.

This banquet is the only fundraiser dedicating to providing scholarship for minority students in Grayson County. If you would like more information or would want to attend, please e-mail Amy [here](#).

Caring Circle

The heat of July has kept many inside and cool according to the caring crew - a month where no special needs were discovered among us.

One change to announce however, Lanan Shelton has a new phone number: 512.317.6167. She adores having people reach out to her.

What do ministers do?

- *Rather than telling others what to do or believe, ministers encourage people to make sense of the world in their own way, supporting them on their life's journey.*
- *As spiritual leaders of our faith communities they help us explore life's questions, challenge us to live out our values, and comfort us in times of suffering.*

Please remember to attend one of the 4 scheduled meetings to share what you would like to see in a minister. Meeting details are in the Minister Search Team's (MRT) article on page 2

Marilyn's Musings



In July, I chaired my first board meeting and we survived! Here is an update.

- Dick and Jim reviewed the past fiscal year finances, and we fortunately had surplus of \$4181.16. The board decided to apply this toward the fund for contracting a minister, since we need to raise a considerable amount of money to make that happen.
- Jim reported on the progress made by the Minister Search Team. Since he has an article about that in this newsletter, I will not repeat that, but instead ask that you please read the information he has for the congregation.
- Carol and Doug, on the aesthetics team, gave a presentation about covering the lower cabinet openings in the kitchen with fabric curtains held in place with tension rods. They estimated the cost at \$225. A question about fire code was raised and Jim is going to check to see if cotton fabric curtains can be approved for covering the lower cabinet openings. This would be a stop-gap measure until suitable base cabinets could be found at a price that we could afford to have installed, which might be a long time from now. This aesthetics team project is tabled until we get a fire code decision.
- We discussed replacing the problematic church computer printer and Don suggested getting one with ink tanks instead of cartridges, since they operate cheaper. He is checking on that.
- A discussion of ordering name badges ensued. Doug is checking to see if the price can be less than the quote of \$10 per badge he got recently from the new owner. Amy and Don are pursuing other options.
- We approved hiring Minnie for serving and cleanup for the 5th Sunday potluck.
- We discussed sprucing up the building and talked about holding a **Labor of Love** workday Sunday, September 4th. I am checking with the worship team to see if that can be scheduled. Minnie takes care of routine cleaning, but there are items that require the congregations help. Some are listed below. **NOTE:** The only open date for this will be October 9th and it will be cooler then.
 1. Clearing the accumulation of discarded items inside the back door.
 2. Straightening the upstairs rooms other than the crafts room where Elle holds the program for children
 3. Replacing the lights on the porches that are getting dimmer and can be replaced cheaper than repairing
 4. Steam-clean the carpet in the Alexander Room where the serving table is located for Conversations and Calories
 5. Replacement of the siding on the garages.**Some other things I thought of later:**
 6. The sheers in the Alexander room need to be washed and the rod on the east window needs to be repositioned, since it isn't level (low on the north side and high on the south side).
 7. Clean the basement .
 8. Do something with the boxes of books Doug put down there when he moved years ago.
- These people volunteered to be board reps. through the end of this calendar year.

July – David	September – Marilyn	November – Dick
August – Amy	October – Jim	December – Don

Marilyn Alexander,
President

New Class Starting

Chair Yoga with Balance and Movement - FREE - SAVE THE DATE - class begins **Tuesday, Sept 6 @ 9:00 a.m.** All are invited but the emphasis will be towards 65 or older. The class will focus on physical techniques for balance, expand breathing capacity, increase mobility, improve posture, improve coordination which will decrease risk of falls. The class will begin for one time a week - Tuesday - for about 55 minutes. 9:00 to begin but this time can change depending on the majority preferences. The time frame for the class will depend on interest. I recommend 4-6 weekly sessions, so participants can have the time to learn, practice, see improvement and gain confidence as well as decide if this is something that will benefit their quality of life. If enough are interested, I can continue the class for an open period of time.

Look for more details in the September newsletter. Leading the class will be Marsha Runnels. Marsha and hubby Jim are active friends, but you may not know that Marsha has a lot of experience as a Physical Therapist and thought there may be people interested in having such a class.

What do ministers do? (Continued)

- All congregationally-based ministers lead in partnership with members of the congregation because the members get to choose whom they will call and settle as their minister, because of our commitment to congregational polity.
- Ministers teach, preach, listen, and learn by leading congregations, serving as chaplains, and working for justice in the community.
- They give sermons, challenge, and guide the congregation's spiritual focus, provide pastoral care and counseling, conduct special services, and represent UU-ism in the larger community.

The MST looks forward to your participation at one of the 4 upcoming meetings to hear what you want from a minister.

For the twelve months ended June 30, 2022, we had total income of \$62,583.84, which included the NTUUC grant of \$7,200.00 and special collections of \$9,400.00 for the purchase of new AV equipment and support of Lanan Shelton. Total expenses were \$42,289.31, leaving an excess of income over expenses of \$20,294.53.

It is worth noting that the total of Pledges, Unpledged Regular Giving and Weekly Offerings exceeded the budget by \$2,809.38.

As of June 30, 2022, we had \$7,852.54 available in checking, and a total of \$19,107.86 in all savings accounts. The total market value of our investments in the UUA Common Endowment Fund was \$8,418.65 less than the \$79,605.17 shown on the balance sheet.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell,
Treasurer

No Moveable Feast

The Head Feasters are heading east to visit old haunts (Nashville and Chattanooga) the latter part of August. They hope everyone might consider the August feast having been combined with the 5th Sunday All Church potluck on Sunday, July 31st

Look for an announcement about the next Moveable Feast in the September newsletter.



August Common Read



The late Congressman John Lewis said “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something.” We know that being a Unitarian Universalist isn’t just about believing in justice, equity and compassion, but what we do to make those values come alive.

Our congregations can be the embodiment of our sacred values that propel our faith and communities towards a world where all of our communities thrive. This means we work collectively to get in the way of injustice and get into Good Trouble to build a truly multiracial democracy.

Let’s honor Rep. John Lewis’s legacy of fighting for civil rights by showing up to get into Good Trouble in 2022. This year, we are challenging our congregations to show up in 2022 to vote love and defeat hate as a UU the Vote Good Trouble Congregation!

What is a Good Trouble Congregation?

Good Trouble Congregations are congregations that answer that call to organize their communities and engage in the multiple and necessary tactics that will help us win big for our communities in 2022. Whether you’re protecting voter access in Georgia, fighting

for reproductive justice in Kentucky, or election protection in Pennsylvania, your work is essential to building a strong movement for democracy. Let’s all do our part to build a multi-racial democracy by becoming a Good Trouble Congregation.

What criteria must we meet?

Meet 4 of these criteria to become a Good Trouble Congregation! All congregations and fellowships are eligible. Criteria is relative to the size of your congregation.

- Average 20 postcards or letters per member
- Average 200 text messages per member
- Average 20 calls per member
- Average 20 door knocks per member
- Reach 20 percent volunteer engagement
- Average 2 newly registered voters per member
- At least 2 congregants are line warmers, poll workers, or poll watchers

How do we get started?

Get started now with our [Congregational Planning Tool](#). Set your goals and then report your work as you go using the [Story & Report Form](#). Each month we will provide updates and spotlight teams that are on their way to becoming Good Trouble Congregations.

Recognition

Congregations that hit 4 of the 7 criteria will receive a large UU the Vote gift box filled with UU the Vote swag, gifts, and party favors. This will help you to show up in style for the Good Trouble Congregations post-election celebration with President Susan Frederick-Gray, the Side with Love Team, and special guests.

This election year, we are choosing to lean in deeper in our values and the work to uphold our sacred principle: right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

The challenge starts now! Have you already taken action during the 2022 midterms? Get the work counted today by sharing your work with us using the [Story & Report Form](#).

Non-Resident Poet

August 21st is *National Senior Citizens Day*.
Celebrate by taking a senior citizen out to lunch.
(Don Mathis says he is available 😊)

Celebrate, as well, with a poem.

Life in the Past Lane

by Don Mathis, *our non-resident poet*

The other day on the freeway
I saw a sign.
It just flashed by on my daily drive;
I gave it no mind.
Hey, wait a sec, I can't neglect
a message this great!
Have I read what I thought it said –
or was it a mistake?
“Elderly man, white Dodge van,”
they're looking to find,
“License plate GX4-98.”
Hey, that's mine!
I didn't know I shouldn't go
wandering off all alone.
But Alzheimer's is for old-timers
who have to stay at home.
If I'm not wrong, I missed the 'A-Bomb,'
I don't have memory loss.
“Where's my residence? Who's the president?”
These questions make me cross.
Bigger than any sign that you might find
for a missing person
is the proof, to tell the truth,
you're an octogenarian.
Yes, turn the page; you're past middle-age,
and in the final story.
If you're lucky at all, you won't recall
how far you fell from glory.



Our Leaders

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Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
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Committee on Ministry:

Carolyn Cameron, Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes

Nominating:

Carole Harner, Jana Norris, Linda Tracy

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion*

Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug*

AV: *Carole, Don, Jim, Marla*

Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*

Facilities: *Jim*

Finance: *Jim, Dick, Marilyn*

Grounds: *Marilyn*

Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn*

Membership: *Marion*

Minister Search: *David, Jana, Jim, Marilyn, Marla*

NTUUC Rep: *Elbert*

RE Team: *David, Ellie, Marilyn*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*

Social Action:

Web Team: *Hana, Jim, Marla*

Welcoming Congregation: *Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas*

Worship: *Dan, Doug, Jana, Marla*

Contact Us

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