

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF VENTURA

2019-2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 14, 2020



*Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura*

*5654 Ralston Street, Ventura, CA 93003*

*805-644-3898*

*[www.uuventura.org](http://www.uuventura.org)*

# IN MEMORIAM

HAROLD DALE CARTLIDGE

DATES

NAME

DATES

NAME

DATES

NAME

DATES

## 2019-20 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President ..... Bryan Buck  
Vice President ..... Lisa Connolly  
Secretary..... Silvia Hutchins  
Treasurer ..... Jim Waldron  
Trustee at Large ..... Ron Dallas  
Trustee at Large ..... Yukio Okano  
Trustee at Large ..... Kent Brinkmeyer

Annual Report produced by Gretchen Buck  
with assistance from many others

NOTE:

This report is a shadow of its normal self in this challenging pandemic year, and that's OK.  
For more information about the activities of any particular committee or other group, please reach  
out using the contact information in the newsletter and weekly announcements.

More material will be added to the online version as it becomes available.

Thank you for your understanding.

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## FROM OUR MINISTER

Good Golly, what a year!

Here are the priorities I shared with the Board last August:

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| ** | Work with 545 Task Force to complete the Five Year Plan process.  | CHECK     |
| ** | Hire and orient Membership Coordinator and get the new member pipeline functioning and flowing.   | CHECK     |
| ** | Support second round of Beloved Conversations.  | CHECK     |
| ** | Help invigorate congregation environmental efforts, beginning with adult class Coming Back to Life.   | CHECK     |
| ** | Research hiring an Intern Minister for 2020-2021 or 2021-2022.  | POSTPONED |
| ** | Take the entire church – including worship, meetings, and small groups – completely online within a week as a pandemic spread across the globe... | Who knew? |

For nearly 8 months, 2019-2020 seemed to be going really very well. That feels like a lifetime ago, in a galaxy far, far away.

The ground started moving mid-March, seeming to shift every few hours those first weeks. We live-streamed our first service from the sanctuary on March 15. While planning the next for the 22nd, Governor Newsom ordered a state-wide shutdown on the 19th. Worship and nearly every other church activity switched to Zoom practically overnight.

With worship, especially, it felt like we were building the airplane while learning to fly it. It took collaboration, creativity, perseverance, good humor, patience, flexibility, and more. Our now-expanded worship team – or as I have taken to calling them, the Worship Collaborative – showed up and came through, Sunday after Sunday.

Those first weeks saw tremendous outreach effort from staff, Pastoral Associates, the RE community, and many, many, willing volunteers. Pastoral Associates went through a list of members and friends, identifying and contacting all our folks who were in need or vulnerable. We sent out a Needs and Resources survey. Folks asked for and offered technology help, asked for and offered help with groceries, asked for calls and offered to make them.

Nearly every group in the church is now getting together online – men's and women's groups, Covenant Groups, book groups, writers, watercolor artists, the Humanists – to name many, though not all.

The staff quickly pivoted to whole new tasks. Emily Carroll and a small team from RE checked on every family. Next then she started gathering adults and kids via Zoom. Jimmy Vasquez is putting his database and social media skills to reach out to our membership. Carolyn Bjerke is becoming a curator of YouTube music videos and has learned to make music on many platforms. Jennifer Luce has graciously held us all together, making sure that we know what's going on when and where in this distant galaxy

The Board of Trustees and Finance Committee pivoted, to address a starkly new economic reality. We applied for and got a Payroll Protection Program loan for \$42,000.

To mix metaphors – we were building a plane while flying it while climbing a very steep learning curve. The terrain seems to have leveled off. We are able to assess what we have learned and what directions to take next. As someone pointed out to me recently, we'll eventually need to learn how to land – on a whole new landscape.

There are more people to thank than I have space to name. I will just say that I have never been happier to serve a congregation of such committed and devoted UUs.

I will end with overflowing thanks to the two men leaving the board. Jim Waldron has been Treasurer for 7 years and has seen the congregation through many budgets and through creating a more transparent budgeting process. Bryan Buck is leaving the Board after 6 years – 2 as trustee and 4 as president. He has been a true partner in ministry and a leader in the very best sense. I will miss them both fiercely, and I look forward to new leadership on the flight.

What a ride!

*With love,  
Rev. Dana*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the beginning of the year the Board asked three questions; 1) How do we begin to create a community that is more racially and culturally inclusive? 2) How do we develop financial and spiritual resources to support our vision? 3) How do we support our professional and volunteer staff?

Reflecting on the past year I am struck by how quickly things changed. Last June we were optimistic about our future. The pieces were in place. More people were attending the UUCV. Membership was growing and we had many pledging members and friends supporting this community. Our Sanctuary was full on Sunday. The RE program was increasing with more young families. The Adult programs were rich with opportunities for connections. Staff was making it possible for us to know ourselves and our neighbors. Our parking lot was re-coated, and a new sound system installed in our Sanctuary. One could only conclude that the UUCV is a magical place with amazing people. Which is still true today!

That is how the world looked in December. By the end of January everything in the country was turned upside down. Uncertainty became the uneasy norm. In response, the Members, Friends and Staff of the UUCV embraced this new dynamic with creativity. We have seen the creation of all manner of Zoom meetings. This is how our small group ministries have kept on meeting. Finding imaginative ways to stay connected is leading us into new ways of thinking about how we do church in a modern world. We are reaching out to each other with phone calls, by running errands, shopping for folks, and more. Thank you to everyone for beginning this new chapter in our congregation's history with love and compassion.

Which means that the three questions the Board asked are still relevant. Though our 5-Year Plan may experience a hiccup in getting started it represents 2 years of effort as well as our hopes and dreams for the future of the UUCV. New leadership is stepping in to guide our work. The budgetary concerns we face are real and will need to be dealt with just as they have been every year. We will need to plan how to re-open our facility. And, we will figure it out as we continue to move forward.

Currently, the answer to the first question is that we continue to support marginalized communities in many ways. For example, The Action Team for Immigrant Rights (ATIR) has done amazing work this year. Please see their report. In January we hosted "Beloved Conversations" for UU congregations in our area. This is the second year that we have participated in this awareness building program.

The second question speaks to how we support our reason for being, both financially and spiritually. This year we did not hold a "Celebration Sunday" event asking for financial support. Covid-19 affected the financial situation of everyone. Yet, as a reference, this congregation has always stepped up when asked, and when the need was great. Spiritually, we Zoom on Sunday morning. Not ideal, but what an amazing effort to bring to you, quality programming that helps keep all of us connected once a week.

The third question is answered through past and present generosity. We are fortunate to have reserves, acquired via good stewardship, that will help us with our budget. Your continued spirit of giving allows us to have quality, professional staff that help the UUCV to achieve specific goals in connecting folks to our community. We are fortunate to have folks that understand how to communicate in the internet age of a virtual world. The smooth functioning of our staff is a direct result of the leadership and guidance provided by our minister, Rev. Dana Worsnop.

There are so many people to thank for contributing to our church. All of you have made a difference. The giving of your time, talent and treasure is the glue of the community we create and share. Your support of the UUCV permits us to be a strong liberal religious presence in Ventura county. Thank You Everyone!

*In Faith,  
Bryan Buck, Board President*

# ENRICHING OUR SHARED LIVES

## ***CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION***

Thank you to the dozens of volunteers in the religious education program this year! We are grateful for your time and energy!

- ❖ Our summer program involved a mask-making project that resulted in an exhibit in the Green Room Gallery, a Music & Principles curriculum where guest congregants would bring in their musical instruments, a shadow puppet theater on the Magical Monkey King, and a unit on Growing Young Justice Makers to get children involved in doing justice work with UU values
- ❖ For Peace Camp in August, we were excited to welcome 18 campers including 8 who are new to our church! We went to Abundant Table Farm, sang at the assisted living center next door, and had a pool party, along with a musical curriculum on social justice, conflict resolution, empathy, cooperative games, and so much more!
- ❖ Special events included a Back to Church BBQ, a festival for children at the auction, a family worship packet at Chalica, a Winter Holiday Party with caroling, and two teacher gatherings.
- ❖ We continued Children's Chapels on 5th Sundays for children to join all together for a worship service and activities followed by Quidditch, and we instituted RE Sundays, whenever a Sunday lands very close to a big holiday, for a combined class with a service project.
- ❖ We provided theme-based worship activity kits for children at all intergenerational services.
- ❖ The youth curriculum Crossing Paths involved the longstanding tradition of Unitarian Universalist teens visiting other faith communities within our city. The youth studied and visited houses of worship within the Christian, Jewish, Quaker, Catholic, and Black Church Traditions (Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam were scheduled for March, April, and May).
- ❖ The upper elementary students used Sing to the Power, a Tapestry of Faith curriculum that affirms our Unitarian Universalist heritage of confronting "powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love."
- ❖ The lower elementary used the Soul Matters theme-based ministry packets for religious education to deepen the connection to the monthly themes with age appropriate activities, including a wonder box!
- ❖ Family Hikes continued, a parent-run group that meets monthly after church with the goal to get their kids outside and engaged in nature
- ❖ Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education for Grades 4 and 5 ran from October - February with 12 students
- ❖ Free Little Library project where kids helped paint two library structures for our building!
- ❖ We finished the UU Parenting Group which meets the second Saturdays of every other month, using a curriculum with topics including media, bullying, family ritual and more. On alternating months, we offered a free childcare drop-off.
- ❖ Facing the pandemic, we postponed Easter, the Baby Dedication, All Church BBQ, Child Blessing, and all remaining RE classes, and added 6 regular Zoom meetings for Children, Youth, Parents, Young Adults, Families, and Teachers. We also provided home resources and DIY religious education lessons.

*Submitted by*

*RE Team, Rebeca Fassett, Francesca Ferrara, Jamie King, Nani Oesterle  
and DRE Emily Carroll*



## ***WELCOME TEAM***

The Welcome Team, comprised of six volunteer church members, continues to serve the congregation in its Welcoming Ministry, to include scheduling and guiding 35-plus Greeters before, during, and after Worship services and other events where Greeters are requested. Team members also work in tandem with Jimmy Vasquez, Membership Coordinator, helping him stage Pathway to Membership classes for those wishing to join the church, either as Members or Pledging Friends. Team members cooperate with Connecting Table volunteers in welcoming all visitors and guests in Berg Hall. All brochure and literature racks are replenished by the Welcome Team.

Recently, Welcome Team noticed that a crowd was forming around the hymnal/songbook carts where members were returning books creating a bottleneck. To remedy this crowding, the hymnal/songbook carts were moved to a new and more safe and convenient location to the left and right of the double doors leading into Berg Hall

*Submitted by Gudrun Eastham*

## ***CARING TEAM***

Team members are: Diane Walmsley, Tessa Weeks, Shelah Wilgus, Corine Barksdale, Sylvia Wikholm, Linda Hillman, Mary Kay Lambert, Kathy Miller, Yukio Okano and Madelaine Okano.

This team reaches out via cards and telephone to members who are ill or have suffered a recent loss. Team members also assist with occasional rides or meals. As well, the team helps with memorial service and wedding receptions held at the church. This past year, team members assisted with receptions for four memorial services.

*Madelaine Okano*

*Caring Committee Coordinator*

## ***ADULT PROGRAMS***

It has been a good year for adult programs at UUCV. In addition to existing programs which are ongoing and continue to be successful, twelve new programs were offered. The Adult Programs Coordinating team (APCT) provided logistical, promotional and coaching support to both. Below are the new programs:

- Broken
- Playback Troupe
- Never Again
- Progressive Christianity
- NAMI
- Coming Back to Life
- Retirement Transition Support Group
- Your Money or your Life
- Writers' group
- Five Wishes
- Circle Dinners (resurrected)
- Mindfulness

Other accomplishments during the year included:

- Completed outreach to all program leaders and committee chairs
- Worked together on a 5-year plan and submitted to 545 team
- Vetted applications—said no to some (oratory, discussion with political opposition, lawn device, external speaker Mitzi and other, when they didn't fit with mission)
- Got two new members welcomed and oriented, Jo Ann Stark and Keith Koch
- Firmed up and documented responsibilities of the APCT team/the point person role
- Bulletin Board refresh, update
- Handled challenges: A congregant's concerns, women's group saboteurs, honorarium policy, requirements for entry
- Revised and updated the SOP, program checklist, letter to program applicants, AP application
- Clarified processes (program startup, tech support and childcare, budget, etc.)

## ***LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT***

The purpose of the Leadership Development Committee is to:

- 1) Identify new and emerging leaders among the membership
- 2) Provide leadership training
- 3) Support church committees by problem-solving and recommending new members
- 4) Fill leadership positions in the church, including identifying and nominating candidates to serve on the board

This year the committee's business included:

- Interviewing board members whose terms were expiring to understand what board experience was like
- Successfully recruited candidates to filled vacancies on the board, Leadership Development Committee, and Memorial/Endowment Committee
- Promoted UU Leadership Institute training, and paid registration fees for 4 members to participate
- Published articles in the newsletter On Common Ground that profiled "unsung heroes" among the church membership

Members of the Leadership Development Committee:

Gary Zinik, chair  
Carolyn Briggs  
Wil Devine  
Madelaine Okano  
Gudrun Eastham

*Gary Zinik, Leadership Development Chair*

## **545 FIVE YEAR PLAN TASK FORCE**

The Five-Year Vision Task Force (545) was established in 2018 by the Board to facilitate the congregation's creation of a 5-year Vision and Plan. The church has a strong history of creating a bold vision, identifying a plan to achieve that vision, and then executing on that plan to do good work in the church and our community. The prior 5-year plan was created during 2012-13 church year and covered through 2018.

We are pleased to say that we have completed our work during this past church year. We have delivered the 5-year plan to the board for distribution to the congregation and a vote at the annual meeting.

Our work consisted of three parts: a mission statement, a vision statement, and a plan. During the 2018-2019 church year, we focused on the mission and vision. We crafted a mission statement and began the process of gathering congregational feedback for the vision. This year, we continued our work on the vision and facilitated the creation of the plan.

The 545 team facilitated the planning process, but there were over 20 people in the congregation, including committee chairs, staff members and other stakeholders that worked hard to create individual plans for the major stakeholder groups in the church. The 545 team created opportunities for stakeholders and committees to get feedback from the congregation, culminating in our "Speed Planning" event in the fall. We provided templates and instructions to committees and other stakeholders. We consolidated the plans and reviewed them to ensure consistency with our mission and vision and to identify areas where stakeholder groups needed to collaborate and align to deliver elements of their plans. But the heavy lifting was done by those 20+ others. The 545 team is grateful to them, and their committees, for all the hard work that enabled us to deliver the final plan.

The result of all of this work is the document that you received in April which includes the mission, vision narrative and the individual plans.

On behalf of the 545 team (Janice Frank, Mark Mendelsohn, Joe Osborne, Maura Raffensperger, and Rev. Dana Worsnop), I would like to thank everyone that has participated in the process over the past 2 years. Your enthusiasm, openness, and willingness to talk about difficult topics has been invaluable to us. Additionally, I personally would like to thank the members of the team. Your dedication, good humor, and ability to work through very difficult discussions made the process pleasant from start to finish.

*In faith,*  
*Kimberly Prieto, Chair, 545 Team*

## ***COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY***

The Committee on Ministry met approximately monthly with the Minister to discuss church life and the health of the congregation. The committee serves an ombudsman function to support, advise, and problem-solve church issues and concerns. Members of the committee may mediate and/or intervene when differences and disputes arise in the congregation with the aim to uphold the church's Covenant of Right Relations. The work of the committee is confidential. We encourage members to contact us with their concerns.

Members of the Committee on Ministry:

Gary Zinik	gzinik@gmail.com	805-320-6773
Krista Mendelsohn	858-229-1414	kmendels7@gmail.com
Gretchen Buck	805-231-4615	uucvformgoddess@att.net
Neil Ortenberg	805-368-9835	neilstuart@gmail.com

*Submitted by Gary Zinik*

# REACHING OUT

## ***SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SACC)***

### ***LIFT UP YOUR VOICE (LUYV)***

Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness (LUYV) coordinates UUCV's outreach to our homeless neighbors. Leadership for LUYV is in transition as Kathy Powell, our most recent chair, has stepped back for health reasons. Ruth Owens, Kappy Paulsen, and Yukio Okano have served as rotating chairs for the past year. Rob March has served as recording secretary.

Despite a long history serving the homeless community, LUYV had not articulated a formal mission statement. The following mission statement was created during the past year:

*Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness is the arm of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura that answers the call to serve our homeless neighbors and those at risk for becoming homeless. It lives our values of affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Our mission is to: advocate for ending homelessness, empower unsheltered people to advocate for themselves, provide direct services to our homeless neighbors, and support congregants' participation in programs outside the church that serve people without housing.*

During the past year, LUYV has continued to be active on many fronts in the community. Church-based programs include the following:

- **Safe Sleep.** In coordination with the City of Ventura and the Salvation Army, this program allows cars to stay overnight in the church parking lot. Although the program was expanded from 10 to 15 cars during the past year, various factors have caused a decline in the number of cars participating in the program. The program will be undergoing cost-benefit review in the near future.
- **Park Outreach:** On most Tuesdays, a small team of people walk through city parks to reach out to homeless folks and provide a friendly presence, clothing and hygiene necessities. They also provide information on how to obtain social services.
- **Motel Fund:** This program assists homeless individuals and families who are in need of immediate shelter by providing nights in local motels. These folks are frequently helped by social services agencies to obtain more stable housing.
- **Memorial Service:** This annual event, usually held in December, honors our homeless neighbors who died in Ventura County during the year. Sponsored by UUCV, a service is held at Plaza Park that includes speakers from multiple faith communities and musical interludes. In 2019, 79 persons who died had their names read to honor them.

In addition to church-based initiatives, LUYV members have been active in many community homelessness programs. These include providing meals at River Haven; serving meals at Family to Family; and participation at One Stop. LUYV members are also active on the Ventura Social Service Task Force, Oxnard Homeless Commission, and the Homeless Prevention program.

*Yukio Okano for Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness*

## ***ACTION TEAM FOR IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS (ATIR)***

The Action Team for Immigrants' Rights (ATIR) was formed by UUCV members in Fall, 2018.

ATIR works to support immigrants as they express their needs; Educate fellow congregants on issues facing immigrants in our community; Support congregants in becoming allies of immigrants; and, collaborate and partner with other organizations, faith-groups, and individuals in Ventura County working on immigrant issues.

ATIR is led by a Coordinating Committee composed by Susan Franzblau, Silvia Hutchins, Rob March and Ray Vargas

ATIR created a website to post information, events, actions and ways how church members can help and be involved. The internet address is: <https://unitarianuniversalistventura.org/social-justice/immigration-justice/> The webpage is updated by member Rob March, with technical assistance by Kate Higgins.

- Members of ATIR provided shelter, food, transportation, and housing to asylum-seekers. Ruth Capelle housed a young Honduran for four months; a young Salvadoran who is transgender for four months; and currently sponsoring a Mexican farmworker, still ongoing. Susan Franzblau opened her home to an asylum-seeker.
- Members participated in the U.S. citizenship workshops and fairs assisting qualifying immigrants to apply for naturalization. Susan Franzblau teaches and tutors the English language through MICOP (Mixteco Indigenous Community Organizing Project) in Oxnard.
- Ruth Capelle and Marguerita Cobelens joined inter-faith teams to visit refugees and children held at the ICE Detention center in Adelanto, CA. COVID-19 has ended visitation to the center.
- ATIR member and immigration attorney Vanessa Frank provides legal counsel to prepare asylum seekers and refugees at immigration hearings.
- ATIR members encourage and assist immigration justice nonprofits to apply to the UUCV Inreach/Outreach program resulting in generous congregation donations to the United Farmworkers Foundation; No Mas Muertos/No More Deaths; CAUSE; and MICOP.
- In November, ATIR hosted Adam Schwartz of Never Again Action, a national mobilization of Jewish Americans organized to stop deportation of immigrants. The presentation was held in the church sanctuary following Sunday morning service.
- In January, ATIR presented local documentary film maker George Sandoval who spoke of the plight of thousands of U.S. military veterans who have been deported by the U.S. to Tijuana, Mexico because of their undocumented status and denied entry back into the U.S. Many Ventura-area veterans attended including members of the Veterans for Peace chapter. This program was held in Berg Hall where Mr. Sandoval presented a video of his work interviewing U.S. veterans in Tijuana.

The COVID-19 pandemic and mounting public health guidelines and government restrictions at many levels has sadly halted many immediate plans. The UU Justice Ministry of California Border Journey to refugee centers in Tijuana in April was cancelled erasing the plans of Rob March, Susan Franzblau, and Mary Kay Lambert who registered to participate. ATIR'S June meeting to focus on conditions of farmworkers in Ventura County suspended. Visitation of detainees at the ICE detention centers is halted.

Lastly, the safety and health of area farmworkers is of considerable concern as agriculture is deemed an essential industry, as well as the vulnerable population of refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented persons including many children held at ICE detention and refugee centers. Both populations are at dangerous elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19.

We will continue to fight for the release of detainees imprisoned by unjust, heartbreaking U.S. policies which are endangering the lives of children and families, and stand up for human rights in witness of our Unitarian Universalist principles.

*Prepared and submitted by Ray Vargas  
on behalf of the ATIR Coordinating Committee*

## ***INREACH/OUTREACH***

The Committee included chair Sue Brinkmeyer, and Shelah Wilgus (publicity) George Naugles, Mary Kay Lambert, Michelle Murphy. Bob Newman, Christine Rutter, Stephanie Tiffany, Diane Wamsley, Tessa Weeks, and Teresa Zdanowich.

Tasks: The Committee oversees the process by which the congregation votes three times per year to see which organizations will receive each of our offerings. Members submit a brief story about someone helped by the organization to be read from the pulpit at the time each offering is taken up.

Total Donations: As of March 29, 2020, total offerings for this church year have been \$32,754.59 (about \$3,000 less than this time last year). Online services have resulted in a sharp drop in offerings. In-Sanctuary offerings have averaged \$858.26; online offerings just \$267. If offerings for the 13 remaining services this church year continue at the lower rate, offerings for the church year will total about \$36,225, some \$10,000 less than last year. If offerings return to their in-sanctuary rate for the remaining 13 services, the total for the year will be about 43,900.

Average per offering. As of March 29, the average offering in the sanctuary was \$858.26, or \$78 higher per week than the previous year. The average offering during online services, though only three such totals have been recorded, has been \$267.

Average per attendee. Total attendance through March 8 (the last in-sanctuary service) has averaged 147. For in-sanctuary services, then, the average donation per person has been \$5.81. This compares with an average donation of \$5.23 last year, and an average donation of \$4.84 two years ago.

Organizations served: As of March 29, offerings had gone to 25 different outside organizations, including 805Undocufund, Camp de Benneville Pines, Caregivers, CAUSE, CFROG, CLUE, Food Share, Friends of Fieldworkers, Mercy House, MICOP, No More Deaths, Planned Parenthood, PSWD YRUU Board, Quilt Project Gold Coast, Reduced Barriers, Safe Sleep Guests, Santa Barbara Channelkeepers, SMART Recovery, Step Up Ventura, UFW Foundation, VC Caregivers, VCCF Rapid Response Fund, Ventura County Partners Foundation, and Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund. Five of these received more than one offering. Seven offerings totaling \$4,518.08 went to an action team that is part of Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness, and one offering of \$938.15 went to the Action Team for Immigrant Rights. In addition, five offerings went to our own Inreach Outreach Fund for a total of \$5,166.48. Through this time last year, the Inreach/Outreach Fund had received a total of \$4,553. The total donated for this fund in the 2017-2018 church year was \$3,389.67.

*Sue Brinkmeyer for Inreach/Outreach*



## *Unitarian Universalist Principles*

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## Mission Statement

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, united by our liberal religious tradition, seek truths and meaning, and commit to right action. We will nurture our congregation and carry our principles forth to better ourselves, our community and our planet. To these purposes we pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and means.



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