Agenda

In the Universalist spirit of love and hope, we give, receive, and grow. First Universalist Church

Treats provided by Paul Robinson

- 6:30 Call to Order
 - —Chalice lighting and centering meditation Paul Robinson
- 6:40 Consent Agenda:
 - —Approve November minutes
 - —Approve new members (if any)
- 6:45 Sr. Minister Report
- 7:05 Policy Workshop review Revised Visionary Goal #1 and measurements
 - 7:25 Financial Policies recap of terms and board primer Laura
 - 7:35 Report on Current Financial Condition Craig Bishop
 - 7:45 Determine if there's compliance with this policy All
- 8:30 Meeting Review / Wrap Up
- 8:35 Meeting adjourned

Attachments:

President's Report

Nov 2012 Board Minutes

Sr. Minister's Report - from Justin

Revised Draft Interpretation of First Visionary Goal - from Justin

Visionary Goal #1 Survey Questions

Board Primer for Financial Review

President's Report December 2012

Dear Board:

We'll be continuing to frame up the policy development discussions on Visionary Goal #1 and the Financial Policies. As before, Laura Park will be with us to provide guidance. Justin has revised his interpretation of Visionary Goal #1 since November. Our goals will be to affirm it and determine as a board whether this interpretation can map back to the current version of our congregational survey without changes (and if not determine what changes need to be made).

Additionally, we are still in the process of crossing the foggy chasm (policy work is worthy of metaphors, he said enthusiastically!) of interpreting the financial policies having to do with fiscal jeopardy and material deviation. How we do this is key and requires a good framing up of current data from the finance committee so that we have a clear understanding of where we today so that we can look forward. It was in that spirit that I asked Laura Park to include some pre-work in the board packet (Board Primer for Financial Review) along with the standard materials.

As we think beyond December, we'll plan on extending this practice to the remaining Visionary Goals. I expect at some point we'll naturally arrive at a place where the board can begin to do this independently.

In Faith, Craig Bierbaum

Thursday, November 15, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Board Members present (absent): David Bach, Dan Berg, Craig Bierbaum, Craig Bishop,

David Leppik, Paul Robinson, Pam Vincent, Lark Weller, Karin Wille

Clergy present: Justin Schroeder

Others present : Laura Park, Cindy Marsh

Agenda Item	<u>Presenter</u>	Discussion	<u>Action</u>
Chalice Lighting and Centering Meditation		The meeting was called to order at 6:35.	
Consent agenda	Craig Bierbaum	Approve October minutes. Approve new members. Action: Motion to approve Consent Agenda.	Approved
Conversation with the Senior Minister	Justin Schroeder	The Statistical Report (Attachment A) and October Attendance Report (Attachment B) were distributed. Justin shared that he is experiencing great joy in serving this church and for his own spiritual growth. Having just attended a conference of UU ministers he is reassured that there is something really great going on here at First Universalist. There are wonderful changes afoot throughout the church. We are starting to see the results of the hard work that we have done over the last several years. Justin also commented that last Sunday's service—the first after the election—was a great celebration, as the church had taken a public stand in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendments, which were both defeated. He shared his commitment to strengthening First Universalist's identity as an anti-racism, justice-driven church. The Board focused several questions on the Senior Minister's Report in the November Board Packet: Plans for the 2013-14 pledge drive; clarification of the policy regarding hiring church members (Justin explained that Sara Smalley was specifically hired for an interim position without the option of full time employment); an update on the work that Justin and Ruth have been doing to bring the church into compliance with copyright law; and an update on the database and financial system conversion that is currently underway. The database conversion has been put off until the membership position has been filled permanently. In the meantime, we are proceeding with a financial system conversion to QuikBooks.	

Policy Workshop

Craig Bierbaum, Craig Bishop, Laura Park

Laura Park introduced herself and the services provided by Unity Consulting.

Review of Visionary Goal #1

Karin Wille asked for clarification of the logic of asking the Senior Minister to interpret the board's governing policies. Laura answered that the interpretations should be seen as input to the board. The interpretation process should generate questions that might be addressed when the policies are revised. Justin offered that it is a circular process: the board's voice ended with the policies; the executive's begins with the interpretations; the board is informed by the interpretations which guide its monitoring of the executive's performance and provide a basis for any revisions to policies in the future. The Senior Minister provides "fair warning" as to his/her interpretation of the policies. Craig reviewed the issue that stalled the board's conversation at the last meeting: Justin's interpretation of the word "challenging" and whether it applies to the intellectual dimension. Laura suggested that the point of Justin's interpretation doesn't exclude intellectual challenge; it's just not a central priority. Craig invited the board members to share their comfort with the language of Justin's interpretation. There was general consensus that the language of the interpretation should be revisited to be more inclusive of the intellectual dimension, without necessarily making it the focus. Justin suggested that we live with this interpretation and continue to seek data through our survey or other means to see if we are on track or need modification.

Discussion ensued about how the survey does or doesn't provide useful feedback if the questions aren't directly linked to the Senior Minister's interpretations. Laura recommended keeping as many questions the same as possible from year to year. Justin expressed his desire for a shared understanding of what the Board is seeking in the survey instrument. David Leppik offered his thoughts on the process of survey development and invited Justin to meet with the survey development team. Lark raised the question of what other metrics there might be in addition to surveys. There was consensus that other forms of feedback are also flawed to some degree.

There was conversation about the meaning of "spiritual practice," and whether the interpretation (and related survey questions) needs additional definition.

There was considerable discussion about the following statement from Justin's interpretations: "I interpret 'grow in our UU faith' as our children, youth, and adults understanding themselves as being called to be 'Love's people' in the world." Several members expressed their comfort with the concept of being "love's people" but were uncomfortable with its being a condition upon which we measure growing in our UU faith. Board consensus was that this usage is too narrow to be reasonable. Justin acknowledged his understanding and will revisit the interpretation.

There was additional discussion about the following: "I interpret 'grow in our UU faith' as having our children, youth, and adults being able to easily and compellingly talk about their Unitarian Universalist faith, and how it is alive in their lives." Several board members suggested that there be more emphasis on action rather than talking. Justin agreed and will rewrite this interpretation to include action as well as talk.

Nominating Committee Report	Cindy Marsh	Cindy Marsh, as chair of the Nominating Committee, has been working with Justin and Craig Bierbaum to increase collaboration between the board and the committee. The committee would like to be on the board agenda quarterly. Cindy invited the board to submit recommendations of candidates to the committee. There will be some pulpit time dedicated to the nomination process in January, including participation by existing board members. Cindy introduced discussion about the board member job description that was included in the Board Packet. This is an edited version (by the committee) of a version that was written several years ago. The new draft includes formatting changes,	
		language about skills, abilities and behaviors that relate to our policy governance structure. Cindy explained the key changes and asked for any feedback so the description can be posted on the website in December. Craig Bierbaum suggested a process for making edits and additions. Cindy and Justin left the meeting and the Board continued its discussion about the job description and about the current and past recruitment process and how the board can own the former and partner effectively with the NomCom to improve the latter.	
Meeting Summary and Evaluation		Craig Bishop distributed first quarter (9/30) financial reports, which had been reviewed earlier by the Finance Monitoring Team. [Reports were attached to the November Board Packet following the meeting.] Otherwise there was no meeting summary or evaluation.	
Closing and Adjournment		The meeting was adjourned at 9:14.	

Important Dates:
Next meeting: December 20, 2012
Treats and opening words for Next Meeting: Paul Robinson

Attachment A

First Universalist Church Statistical Report November 15, 2012

MEMORIAL SERVICES: 1

Deb Juberian – service by Kelli Clement

MARRIAGES/SERVICES OF COMMITMENT: 0

MEMBERS FOR APPROVAL: 6

Barbara Sindelar, Minneapolis Jeanne Verdick, Plymouth Juliette and Eric Schneider, Edina Jim Ramnaraine and Tina Wade, Minneapolis

MEMBERS REINSTATED: 0

MEMBERS FOR REMOVAL: 2

Deb Juberian – deceased Leslie Lytle – moved to North Carolina

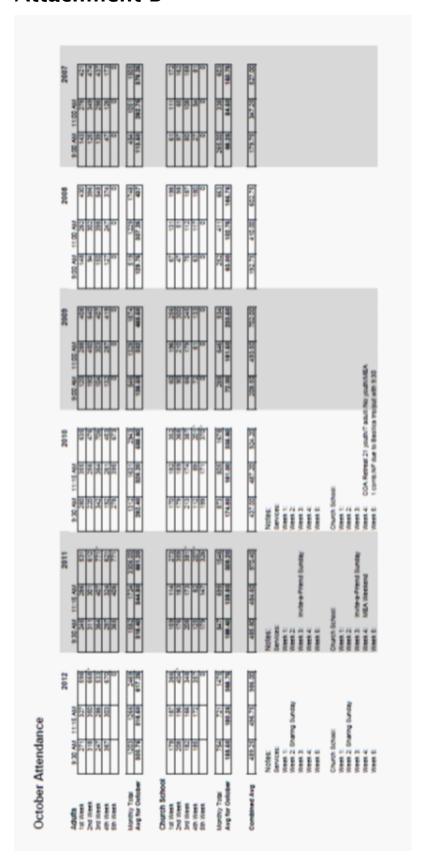
CHILDREN DEDICATED: 0

	To Date	End of Year	r Totals		
MEMBERS	2011-2012	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
(Fiscal Year)	113	98	75	72	41
TOTAL MEMBERS:	958	927	849	840	824

TOTAL MEMBERS AS OF THE LAST MEETING: 954

To be added: 6
To be removed: 2
TOTAL MEMBERS: 958

Attachment B



October Attendance

2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Adults 9:30 AM 11:15 AM 1st Week 271 327 598 2nd Week 318 350 668 3rd Week 247 286 533 4th Week 367 303 670 5th Week 0 0	9:30 AM 11:15 AM 245 286 531 311 301 612 364 407 771 297 324 621 365 406 771	9:30 AM 11:15 AM 280 355 635 220 256 476 342 364 706 192 261 453 278 395 673	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 120 288 408 190 450 640 104 303 407 132 287 419 0 0 0	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 148 282 430 94 302 396 150 398 548 127 247 374 0 0 0	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 143 278 421 125 349 474 139 298 437 47 126 173 0 0 0
Monthly Total 1203 1266 2469	1582 1724 3306.00	1312 1631 2943	546 1328 1874 136.50 332 468.50	519 1229 1748	454 1051 1505
Avg for October 300.75 316.50 617.25	316.40 344.80 661.20	262.40 326.20 588.60		129.75 307.25 437	113.50 262.75 376.25
Church School 1st Week 179 187 366 2nd Week 208 196 404 3rd Week 182 166 348 4th Week 185 172 357 5th Week 0 0	159 114 273	170 182 352	60 196 256	67 131 198	61 111 172
	176 183 359	179 189 368	90 210 300	47 51 98	97 65 162
	208 173 381	213 174 387	66 179 245	75 112 187	80 108 188
	125 82 207	112 89 201*	72 61 133	63 117 180	27 54 81
	179 147 326	199 171 370*	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Monthly Total 754 721 1475 Avg for October 188.50 180.25 368.75	847 699 1546	873 805 1678	288 646 934	252 411 663	265.00 338 603
	169.40 139.80 309.20	174.60 161.00 335.60	72.00 161.50 233.50	63.00 102.75 165.75	66.25 84.50 150.75
Combined Avg 489.25 496.75 986.00 Notes: Services: Week 1: Week 2: Sharing Sunday Week 3: Week 4: Week 5: Church School: Week 1: Week 2: Sharing Sunday Week 3: Week 4: Week 5: Week 4: Week 5:	A85.80 484.60 970.40 Notes: Services: Week 1: Week 2: Week 3: Invite-a-Friend Sunday Week 4: Week 5: Church School: Week 1: Week 2: Week 3: Invite-a-Friend Sunday Week 4: Week 5:	437.00 487.20 924.20 Notes: Services: Week 1: Week 2: Week 3: Week 4: Week 5: Church School: Week 1: Week 2: Week 3: Week 3: Week 3: Week 3: Week 3: Week 5: COA Retreat 21 youth/7 adult Week 5: 1 comb.NF due to Basilica trig		192.75 410.00 602.75	179.75 347.25 527.00

November Attendance

2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Adults 9:30 AM 11:15 AM 1st Week 348 496 844 2nd Week 336 369 705 3rd Week 360 388 748 4th Week 267 250 517 5th Week 0 0 0	9:30 AM 11:15 AM 307 287 594 270 349 619 294 290 584 371 317 688 0 0 0 0	9:30 AM 11:15 AM 369 389 758 264 258 522* 152 222 374* 212 265 477* 0 0 0 0	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 198 416 614 183 370 553 176 293 469 210 581 791 0 223 223	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 230 394 624 137 339 476 156 296 452 130 296 426 0 172 172	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 160 306 466 136 301 437 150 333 483 113 249 362 0 0 0
Monthly Total 1311 1503 2814 Avg for November 327.75 375.75 703.50	1242 1243 2485.00 310.50 310.75 621.25	997 1134 2131 249.25 283.5 532.75	767 1883 2650 191.75 376.6 530.00	653 1497 2150 163.25 299.4 430	559 1189 1748 139.75 297.25 437.00
Church School 1st Week 193 192 385 2nd Week 208 178 386 3rd Week 192 184 376 4th Week 23 16 39 5th Week 0 0 0	187 170 357 190 176 366 155 153 308 16 7 23 0 0 0	209 193 402 180 193 373 108 139 247 100 0 0 0 0 0	86 259 345 82 225 307 84 223 307 86 226 312 0 34 34	91 131 198 88 51 98 87 112 187 85 117 180 0 0 0	78 118 196 97 127 224 86 69 155 67 100 167 0 0 0
Monthly Total 616 570 1186 Avg for November 154.00 142.50 296.50	548 506 1054 137.00 126.50 263.50	497 525 1022 165.67 175.00 340.67	338 967 1305 84.50 193.40 261.00	351 411 663 87.75 102.75 165.75	328.00 414 742 82 103.50 185.50
A81.75 518.25 1000.00	447.50 437.25 884.75 Notes: Services: Week 1: Week 2: Week 3: Week 4: Thanksgiving Week 5: Church School: Week 1: Week 2: Week 2: Week 3: Week 4: Thanksgiving: nursery only Week 5:	414.92 458.50 873.42 Notes: Services: Week 1: Week 2: Snow Storm: Auction and Services in the	276.25 570.00 791.00 rvices affected.	251.00 402.15 595.75	221.75 400.75 622.50

First Universalist Church Statistical Report December 20, 2012

MEMORIAL SERVICES: 2

Mary Hoaglund Vedder, Nov. 30 Becky Zacker, daughter of Carol Anderson, Dec. 1

MARRIAGES/SERVICES OF COMMITMENT: 0

MEMBERS FOR APPROVAL: 2

Deborah Buchman Walters, St. Louis Park John Daniels, Roseville

MEMBERS REINSTATED: 0

MEMBERS FOR REMOVAL: 1

Marge Beilke, deceased 11/17/12

CHILDREN DEDICATED: 6

Ada Claire Mesenburg Jovin Dilan Wijesinghe Jemma Malley Wijesinghe Theodore Mitchell Althaus-Kotila Aiden Robert Peterson Holden David Rutmanis

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MEMBERS	2011-2012	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
(Fiscal Year)	115	98	75	72	41
TOTAL MEMBERS:	959	927	849	840	824

TOTAL MEMBERS AS OF THE LAST MEETING: 958

To be added: 2

To be removed: 1

TOTAL MEMBERS: 959

Sr. Minister Report for the Board of Trustees, Dec. 2012

Mission Statement: In the Universal Spirit of love and hope, we give, receive, and grow. First Universalist Church.

Visionary Goals (Shorthand: "We are all Love's people, held by a Love that will not let us go. As Love's people, we do holy work: we welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we act outside our walls for justice and equality; we listen with our whole being to where Love is calling us next.")

The people of First Universalist Church grow in their UU faith: we are equipped to live out our values and experience worship, spiritual practices, and rituals that challenge, comfort, celebrate, and heal.

Worship continues to be the heart beat of the congregation. We're well into our "Awaken" theme, and the Choir is planning a major piece (*Wachet auf* (Awake!)), by J. S. Bach, on Dec. 23.

This year, in order to allow more children to participate in our pageant, we'll be offering the pageant on Dec 23, at 4pm, and on Dec 24, at 4pm. While this is a significant change, I believe it best serves the needs of our church. The response so far has been positive.

Our Director of Worship Arts, Ruth MacKenzie, has been hard at work training and coaching our new Worship Associates who will begin being a part of services in January, 2013.

Lauren Wyeth, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, continues to share (in the weekly newsletter) ideas for spiritual practices that families can easily do at home with their children.

First Universalist Church is a home for ageless wisdom. People of all ages find opportunities to engage in an intellectual and spiritual search for deeper meaning and understanding in the UU tradition, both as individuals and in community. We know our roots, find our wings, and apply our knowledge and wisdom to all our endeavors.

The Winter Program Guide is now out

(http://firstuniv.org/sites/firstuniv.org/files/Winter%20Program%20Guide%20Web.pdf) and highlights programming for elders, updates on our Social Justice Focus Areas, and much more. Additionally, the pilot Wellspring Program that Rev. Jen Crow is leading is going quite well and we are anticipating launching three Wellspring Groups in the fall of

2013. Wellspring is a program designed to deeply ground participants in UU theology and history, as well as spiritual practice, and social justice work. It's essentially "seminary+" for lay leaders. Participants know their roots and find their wings.

First Universalist Church is an intergenerational community of mutual caring and support. We build this community by actively welcoming all and encouraging each other to discover, develop and share their gifts.

Sara Smalley, our Interim Director of Membership and Adult Ministries, continues to work with and strengthen our welcome teams. We have increased signage around the building, to help people find their way, and we're focused on making sure that winter parking is available to our elders, young families, and those with limited mobility. At its heart, this is a hospitality issue.

It is more and more clear to me that our Small Groups are a place where people feel cared for and supported. Nearly every person at a recent new member gathering shared that they were in a Small Group, and all reported it being a very positive experience. Part of the way that Small Groups are structured is that current leaders/facilitators identify potential new leaders/facilitators, as well as help people get connected to other areas of church life. Not only are Small Groups about the spiritual practices of listening deeply, but they are also about relationship building, gift identification, and pastoral care.

I had the great privilege of leading a Small Group this past semester, a group for fathers with young children, and it was a wonderful experience. Thanks to the leadership of several group members, we will be offering several groups for fathers with young children next semester.

Though staff support, training, and ministry we continue to help people discover and share their gifts of music (the choir continues to grow), to grow as Small Group Leaders (sharing the gift of creating a space where deep listening can occur, sharing the gift of powerful facilitation), Welcome Team Members (sharing the gift of hospitality and welcoming), and Religious Education Teachers (sharing the gift of seeing and caring about the light inside of our children.) Furthermore, we have trained 11 young children to be Chalice Lighters in Children's Chapel and on Sunday mornings, during Sharing Sundays. Being with these children on Sunday mornings is a profound experience. They take this roll quite seriously, and it is clear to me that they feel that the church has welcomed and embraced them as they perform this important ministry.

The people of First Universalist Church work to build a just, loving and sustainable world. We are a visible, influential voice, and we act to shape the larger community into a more just and equitable society.

We are soliciting ideas for our 3rd annual day of service on Feb, 2. 2013. We are being strategic about the Day of Service, intentionally trying to offer a number of service projects connected to our "Focus Areas" – housing/homelessness, environmental justice, and immigration.

Our housing/homelessness ministry team is building a relationship with Augsberg Fairview Academy and we are partnering with them to create a "clothing closet" at the school. The project is called "There is Hope." Many of the students at Augsberg are in precarious housing situations or are homeless, and many of them are working and parenting as well as attending school. Gently used clothes, professional clothes, and clothes to wear to interviews will make a huge difference in their lives. This project is the first step we are taking in building a deeper relationship with this community.

We're continuing to hold monthly conversations about what it would mean to become a church committed to racial justice principles. Right now, building on what we've learned from the Marriage Amendment Work, we're doing deep listening, and inviting congregants to share personal stories and experiences around race. As we continue to listen deeply to where Love is calling us, we trust and believe that next steps will emerged. In addition to this work, Debra Rodgers and I are having monthly Skype meetings with a colleague who is coaching us on this work; we're also meeting with local Racial Justice trainers to determine who will lead a training for us in early 2013. Current books that I'm reading that are informing me around issues of race are White Like Me, by Tim Wise, The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander, and Soulworks, by UU leaders and theologians.

Reminder: This is not a one year project. This is a multi-year, multi-decade project that we're beginning this year. It will be important to have the Board involved and committed to this journey. The clear next step is for the Board to participate in the training for staff, lay leaders and Board members. (We have not yet set a date, but it looks like late February is a possibility; I'll let the Board know when we have a firm date.)

Finally, our **ministry of generosity** continues to grow, as we invest in our community. In the past month and half, we've given over \$3000 to Hurricane Sandy relief, over \$3500 to Simpson Shelter, and over \$2000 the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Updates for the Board: I am intentionally linking these updates to relevant policies to demonstrate that I am in compliance with the Executive Limitation Policies that are in the Governing Policies Handbook.

Inform/Consult	Item	Relevant Policy and Comments
Inform	Director of	Policy D. Communication to the Board and
	Membership	Congregation. Inform the board in a timely manner
	and Adult	of any relevant trends, issues, or events affecting
	Ministries	the health of the organization."
		We will be asking Sara Smalley, our interim Director of Membership and Adult Ministries, to stay on staff through the end of June. Initially, the Management Team offered Sara a 6 interim month position, unsure exactly what the next steps would be moving forward. After further reflection the Management Team believes that the church is best served if Sara stays on through June, and we hire a new Director of Membership and Adult Ministries who will begin on August 1. This timeline synchs up better with the natural rhythm of the church year and we believe will give us a better candidate pool from which to hire.
	Sabbatical Time	Policy D. Communication to the Board and Congregation. Inform the board in a timely manner of any relevant trends, issues, or events affecting the health of the organization."
		Per the Letter of Agreement I have with First Universalist church, I am eligible to take sabbatical time after four years of service, a month for each year completed. In August of 2013, I will have been at First Universalist for four years. While it is often the tradition to take a 6 or 7 months sabbatical after 6 or 7 years of service, I believe that is too long to be away. I would be more comfortable taking a 4 month sabbatical. Given that, I am looking at January-April of 2014 as potential sabbatical time. I imagine this would be a conversation we would

have over the next few months, as we figured out details, etc., but I wanted to lift up this possibility now.

Third Worship Services

Policy D. Communication to the Board and Congregation. *Inform the board in a timely manner of any relevant trends, issues, or events affecting the health of the organization.*"

As we strive to "actively welcome" all who enter our building, we are beginning a process of very seriously considering adding a third worship service in the fall of 2013. While there is still room in the pews on Sunday morning (though not much room), our religious education classes are at capacity. We anticipate holding several "listening sessions" with the congregation is March, 2013, to hear ideas, hopes, and dreams, about when and what a third service might look like.

Final Fellowship

Policy D. Communication to the Board and Congregation. *Inform the board in a timely manner of any relevant trends, issues, or events affecting the health of the organization.*"

I want to let you all know that I've received final fellowship from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. For my first three years as your minister, I was in Preliminary Fellowship, and I had to submit paperwork every year - evaluations from the Board, my own self evaluation, and an evaluation from my Ministerial Reflection Team at church.

I am grateful for the time and effort many of you put into my annual evaluations that have been submitted to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee during my first three years here. Through these efforts, and countless others, you have helped me learn and grow as a minister.

DRAFT Interpretation of First Visionary Goal; presented to the Board of Trustees, Dec, 2012.

Rev. Justin Schroeder

We, the people of First Universalist Church, grow in our UU faith: we are equipped to live out our values and experience worship, spiritual practices, and rituals that challenge, comfort, celebrate, and heal.

Operational interpretation of this Visionary Goal:

I interpret "we, the people of First Universalist Church," as people who indicate in the annual survey that they attend 2 or more Sundays per month. (Note: this would be the 167 people - 73% of survey respondents – who indicated that they "attend almost every Sunday." (Q23.))

Furthermore, I interpret "we, the people of First Universalist Church" as children and youth who indicate that they attend 2 or more Sundays per month in Religious Education or Youth Programming. Thus, I am interpreting this to mean that "we, the people of First Universalist Church" are children, youth, and adults, who are actively engaged 2 Sundays per month in the teaching and worship life of First Universalist.

Rationale: It is difficult to change someone if you only have them for 1 hour a month in worship, or one or two hours every two months. Thus, while I believe we have an impact on all who step through our doors, I'm most interested in discovering what kind of life change we're inspiring in those who are with us 2 or more times a month.

I interpret "grow in our UU faith" as having our children, youth, and adults being able to easily and compellingly talk about their Unitarian Universalist faith, how it is alive in their lives, and how they are acting on their faith.

I interpret "equipped to live out my values" to mean that people have the theological and practical tools (i.e., be grounded in UU history, as well as having a range of spiritual practices to engage in) that will help them connect with, be reminded of, and live out their deepest values.

I interpret "experience" to mean all that every aspect of church life reflects some form of "spiritual practice," i.e, every meeting or gathering has a chalice lighting, an opening reading, and a time for reflection (using the same questions our Small Groups us) and for listening to one another. Every dimension of church life includes spiritual practices and rituals that challenge, comfort, celebrate and heal.

I interpret "challenge, comfort, celebrate, and heal," as the "holy tension" we're trying to live into in our ministry as a church. We're "challenging" people to grow in their faith, and to make life changes that reflect a deepening spiritual maturity. (I do not interpret "challenge" as the church challenging people solely in an "intellectually" way. It is my deepest belief that the vast majority of people do not come to church to be intellectually challenged; people come to church to be transformed, to learn a spiritual practice, and to connect with other humans being who are trying to figure out what it means to be in relationship with one another and the Holy. Being "intellectually" challenged is a piece of that, but not the focus.) We're comforting those who are in emotional and spiritual pain and we're striving to create an environment where healing can take place. We're seeking to celebrate as well, giving thanks for the gift of life and for the relationships that sustain us. Overall, I interpret "challenge, comfort, celebrate, and heal," as meaning that First Universalist provides a way for people to make sense and find meaning in their lives and the broader world, as they maintain faith and hope.

Measures: Indicators, Sign and Stories: How progress and compliance will be observed and demonstrated

There are several questions from the annual survey that can be used as indicators to assess progress on this Visionary Goal:

Using a scale of Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree (5 options total), please rate the degree to which you have (this is from Q1 from the survey):

- Worship life at First Universalist that is challenging...
- Worship life at First Universalist that is comforting...

- Worship life at First Universalist that is celebratory...
- Worship life at First Universalist that is healing...

Compliance will be demonstrated by at least 85% of respondents indicating that they agree or strongly agree that the worship life has been both comforting and celebratory (these numbers were 88.6% and 89.1%, respectively, in the 2012 survey.) My rationale for the 85% mark is that given the great diversity and set of needs in any particular worship service, we are having a significant impact on people when 85% of them report that they agree and strongly agree that worship is comforting and celebratory.

Additionally, compliance will be demonstrated by 70% of respondents indicating that they agree or strongly agree that "worship life is challenging" (this number was 67.1% in 2012 survey); additionally, compliance will be demonstrated by 70% of respondents indicating that they agree or strongly agree that "worship life is healing" (this number 71.1% in 2012 survey).

Using a scale of Regularly to Never (4 options total), please rate the degree to which you have:

- A spiritual practice...and I practice it regularly...occasionally...infrequently...never. (Q2)
- Your family has a spiritual practice...we practice it regularly...occasionally...infrequently...never. (Q3)

Compliance will be demonstrated by 45% or more of individual respondents indicating that they have a spiritual practice and they practice it regularly (this number was 43.1% in 2012 survey). Rationale: I believe that regularly spiritual practice is the surest way to "grow in our UU" identity, hence I'm concerned with folks who have a regular spiritual practice, as opposed to an occasional spiritual practice. I believe we can move the needle on this one.

Compliance will be demonstrated by 20% or more of respondents indicating that their family has a spiritual practice and they practice it regularly (was 15.1% in 2012 survey.) Rationale: I believe that regular spiritual practices, especially for families, is the surest way to "grow in our UU identity." We can definitely move the needle on this one.

Using a scale of Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree (5 options total), please rate the degree to which:

- In the past 12 months, First Universalist has helped me to live out my values. (Q4.)
- In the past 12 months, First Universalist has helped my family to live out our values. [PARENTS AND TEENS ONLY] (Q5.)

Compliance will be demonstrated by 90% or more of individual respondents indicating that they agree or strongly agree that First Universalist has helped them live out their values (this number was 87.1% in the 2012 survey). Rationale: this is what we're in the world to do! It's a high bar, but I believe that 9 out of 10 people should have an experience at First Universalist that helps them connect with and live more deeply into their core values.

Compliance will be demonstrated by 50% of families indicating that they agree or strongly agree that First Universalist has helped their families live out their values (this number was 44.6% in 2012 survey.) Rationale: this is what we're in the world to do! It's a high bar, but I believe that 5 out of 10 families should have an experience at First Universalist that helps them connect with and live more deeply into their core values.

I believe some important insights may be gained from the responses to question #6, "If you have any additional thoughts related to Visionary Goal #1 feel free to provide them here," especially as it relates to how people are "growing in their UU faith," and how they are "experiencing spiritual practices and rituals" in various dimensions of church.

2012 Congregational Survey - Final



1. The worship life at First Universalist is...

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Count
Challenging	14.5% (33)	52.6% (120)	22.8% (52)	9.6% (22)	0.4% (1)	228
Comforting	34.3% (79)	54.3% (125)	8.3% (19)	2.6% (6)	0.4% (1)	230
Celebratory	36.0% (82)	53.1% (121)	9.2% (21)	1.8% (4)	0.0% (0)	228
Healing	26.6% (61)	44.5% (102)	24.0% (55)	4.4% (10)	0.4% (1)	229
				answe	red question	231
				skipp	ped question	5

2. I have a spiritual practice.

	Respons Percent	
Yes and I practice it regularly (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)	43.19	6 100
Yes and I practice it occasionally	28.09	65
Yes and I practice it infrequently (once or a few times in the past 12 months)	7.39	6 17
No	21.69	% 50
	answered questio	n 232
	skipped questio	n 4

3. My family has a spiritual practice or family rituals. [PARENTS AND TEENS ONLY]

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, and we practice it regularly	15.1%	28
Yes, and we practice it occasionally	16.1%	30
Yes, but we practice it infrequently	9.1%	17
No	22.0%	41
Not applicable	37.6%	70
	answered question	186
	skipped question	50

4. In the past 12 months, First Universalist has helped me to live out my values.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	26.3%	61
Agree	60.8%	141
Neither agree nor disagree	9.9%	23
Disagree	1.7%	4
Strongly Disagree	1.3%	3
	answered question	232
	skipped question	4

5. In the past 12 months, First Universalist has helped my family to live out our values. [PARENTS AND TEENS ONLY]

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	8.0%	14
Agree	36.6%	64
Neither agree nor disagree	10.9%	19
Disagree	3.4%	6
Strongly Disagree	0.6%	1
Not applicable	40.6%	71
	answered question	175
	skipped question	61

6. If you have any additional thoughts related to Visionary Goal #1 feel free to provide them here

Response	
Count	

45

45	answered question	
191	skipped question	

Board Preparation for Financials Review

During your December 20 board meeting, you'll review financial reports in the context of your Policy H, Financial Condition to determine whether there's compliance with this policy and whether the policy needs any revisions to better reflect the board's values.

To help the board prepare for this discussion, this document offers an overview of the three financial lenses the board uses to review the financial status of the organization. Please review this information before the board meeting. Feel free to contact Craig or myself with any questions you have before the board meeting itself.

First, here's your policy on financial condition (although please note that I've eliminated the unnecessary and confusing comma between "allocation" and "integrity"):

H. Financial Condition

With respect to the actual, ongoing condition of the organization's financial health, the Senior Minister may not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy, loss of allocation integrity, or a material deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in visionary goals. Accordingly, the Senior Minister shall not fail to:

- Ensure that cash remains at or above the amount needed to settle payroll and debts as scheduled.
- Expend Legacy or restricted funds only for the purposes determined at time of receipt or designation.
- Ensure that expenditures do not deviate materially from the approved annual operating budget or capital expenditure budget.
- Provide cash reconciliations and completed financial reports on at least a quarterly basis to the Board in writing
- Provide reasonable access to financial records by the Board, its committees, and authorized outside advisors.
- Perform the following only with the explicit prior approval of the Board of Trustees:
 - Borrow funds
 - Make unbudgeted transfers or "loans" between the general funds and the Legacy funds
 - Solicit funds for non-budgeted purposes

In reviewing the financial condition of the organization, the board uses three key lenses. Two lenses are in this policy and one is an ends-related lens. Here's the perspective each lens brings:

- 1. Material deviation. Using this lens helps the board determine that the congregation's resources are being spent on the right things. Notice that your policy prohibits "material deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in visionary goals" in the level 2 policy (right under H), and prohibits material deviation "from the approved annual operating budget or capital expenditure budget" in the level 3 policies. Classic Carver policies usually just prohibit the first deviation, from board priorities, and not the second, from the budget. This is because prohibiting a deviation from the budget doesn't ensure that the congregation's resources are being appropriately invested in board priorities. Circumstances change, programs change, and the Senior Minister may need to adjust the budget to better produce the outcomes the board states in the visionary goals. But, you might be thinking, how do we ensure that spending is in line with resources available? That's the purpose of the second lens:
- 2. **Fiscal jeopardy**. Using this lens helps the board ensure that the congregation's resources aren't being depleted inappropriately. Two reflections from the Board Executive Committee meeting on December 6:
 - a. It can be difficult to know at what point you're developing fiscal jeopardy. That is, "you know it when you see it" but it's hard to articulate what you're seeing. However, the clearer you can get about how you know, the more effective your monitoring of this policy will be. Some of those standards are articulated in the level 3 policies (Don't allow cash to fall below the amount needed to settle payroll and debts, for example). Others, and the metrics to demonstrate compliance with these standards, you can leave to your Senior Minister to determine in his/her interpretation. For example, at Unity, our Executive Director uses a balanced budget as one measure demonstrating that we aren't developing fiscal jeopardy.
 - b. There's a difference between small fiscal jeopardy and large fiscal jeopardy. It's important for the board to know at what point to step in. In some cases, to better realize your mission in the world, you may want to take the risk of a small fiscal jeopardy. And part of the answer to whether you want to take that risk is in the third and final lens.
- 3. "At what cost?" Using this lens, the board determines what amount it's willing to ask for from the congregation and other resources to be used in pursuit of its visionary goals. This is the lens you use if you have a budget shortfall that threatens fiscal jeopardy. Do you ask for more from the congregation, or do you reduce expenses? What's the right choice in support of a mission that matters?

On December 20, we'll:

- Briefly review these three lenses
- Hear a presentation of the current financial position
- Use these lenses to assess the current financial position and determine if there's compliance with this policy.
- Determine if your policy needs updates to better reflect the board's values.

Again, please contact Craig or me with questions!

Laura Park Unity Consulting 651-271-7666 or laura@unityconsulting.org

First Universalist Church FY 2012-2013

Projections vs Budget Summary of Material Variances

Pos (Neg)

(43,500)

(43,500)

Summary of Material Variances

Plus expected variance

Net Income(Loss) projected

Revenues

Budgeted Net Income(Loss)	0	As approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
Net Variance	(43,500)	We expect to end the fiscal year worse than budget by this much.
No. 1 March 2011	(42.500)	
Total Expense Variances	(19,500)	Expenses projected to be more than budget.
Finance and Admin	(11,000)	Costs for high-level temp to assist with financial system implementation offset by savings due to delayed hiring of Receptionist and less IT consulting costs.
Children, Youth and Family Ministries	(6,000)	Error during budgeting for staff; higher program costs due to higher enrollment mostly offset by higher RE revenue.
Ministers	(2,500)	Summer Minister paid more than budgeted.
Expenses		
Total Revenue Variances	(24,000)	Revenue projected to be less than budget.
Other Misc	3,000	
Rental Income	(9,000)	Will take more time to ramp up additional rentals.
Releases from Restrictions	(2,000)	UUA Grant for Ministerial Intern less than budgeted.
RE Fees	4,000	Higher enrollment.
Other Fundraisers	(9,000)	Program staff is considering creative community building options.
Pledges	(11,000)	Includes Miracle Sundays and estimated uncollectables.

Projected difference.

We expect to end the fiscal year with this deficit (rounded).

Projections vs. Bud 9/30/12

					FYF	
	ACTUALS thru 9/30/12		FYE Projection	2012-13	FYE Projection vs Budget	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Budget	Variance Pos (Neg)	Comments/Explanation of Variance
5						
	1,100,083	(1,086,573)	1,162,793	1,183,500	(20,707)	Pledges made as of 10/31 plus an estimated \$25,000 in new pledges. Includes all Miracle Sundays pledges and contributions.
id Pledges	(30,000)	30,000	(35,000)	(35,500)	500	3% of total pledges estimated to be uncollectable.
	8,986		8,986	0	8,986	Payments on balances previously written off.
	9,593		40,150	40,000		Monies donated without restrictions.
ins	5,256		30,000	30,000	0	Church's portion of offering plate (70/30 splitwe keep 30%).
arily Restricted		1,808	0	0	0	Children's Offering and other Restricted
5	6,307	(6,307)	11,957	9,000	2,957	contributions. (\$2,000) UUA Ministerial Grant came in less than budgeted; \$5,000 offset by negative expense variances
OPR. CONTRIBUTIONS	1,100,226	(1,061,073)	1,218,886	1,227,000	(8,114)	Bottom line impact: Pledges (\$11,000); UUA grant (\$2,000). \$5,000 offset by negative expense variances.
	80		26,000	26,000	0	AWESOME PARTY planned!
	12,163		24,915	27,000	(2,085)	(\$9,000) less in fundraising than budgeted but Program staff is considering creative community building opportunities. \$7,000 YCE offset by negative expense variances.
FUNDRAISERS	12,243	0	50,915	53,000	(2,085)	Bottom line impact: (\$9,000).
OS/Realized Gains/Loss						
lends & Interest	1,728		10,000	10,000	0	Dividends and interest on reserve account.
es	(28)		(28)	0	(28)	Gains and losses on the sale of donated stock.
ends & Interest	159		159	0	159	
INTEREST & DIVDENDS	1,860	0	10,131	10,000	131	
	2,985		11,450	11,450	0	T-Mobile contract year 4 of 5.
	2,538		20,000	28,600	(8,600)	Securing new renters taking longer than planned.
BUILDING USE	5,522	0	31,450	40,050	(8,600)	
	FUNDRAISERS DS/Realized Gains/Loss dends & Interest es lends & Interest INTEREST & DIVDENDS	1,100,083 1,100,083 1,100,083 1,100,083 1,100,000 1,256	1,100,083 (1,086,573) id Pledges (30,000) 30,000 8,986 9,593 9,593 9,595 9,5	\$ 1,100,083 (1,086,573) 1,162,793	1,100,083 (1,086,573) 1,162,793 1,183,500 (35,500) (35,50	S

9/30/12

				3/30/12			
		ACTU thru 9 <i>)</i>		FYE Projection	2012-13	FYE Projection vs Budget	
			Temporarily			Variance	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Budget	Pos (Neg)	Comments/Explanation of Variance
MISCELLANEOUS							
Offering Plate for Co	mmunity	10,589		70,000	70,000	0	We give away 70% of our offering plate to organizations we support. A portion of UUA Dues and PSD Dues is funded by Offerings.
From Foundation		0		1,000	1,000	0	Foundation Admin \$1K.
Legacy Fund Distribu	ition	0		4,000	4,000	0	4% of Legacy Fund rolling average balance.
Misc Funds and Othe	er Donations	867		867	0	867	
Hospitality		193		1,500	1,500	0	
	MISCELLANEOUS	11,649	0	77,367	76,500	867	
RELIGIOUS EDUCATI	ON						
Contributions		450	0	650	0	650	Donations received during RE registrations.
Program Fees		41,965		57,550	55,875	1,675	\$4,000 due to higher enrollment offset by lower rates than budgeted for some classes; (\$2,000) no fees for Wellspring.
	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	42,415	0	58,200	55,875	2,325	
UNITY LEADERSHIP							
Contributions					0	0	
Contributions Tempo	orarily Restricted		1,000				
Release of Restrictio	ns	10,201	(10,201)	10,201	0	10,201	Portion of Unity Fund used to cover Unity expenses.
	UNITY LEADERSHIP	10,201	(9,201)	10,201	0		Unity is a program of the Church in FY12-13. Programming and further funding is currently under consideration.
INTEREST TEMP RES	TRICTED						
Dividends & Interest	Library		42				
Unrealized Gains/Los	sses Library		536				
	INT TEMP RESTR	0	578				M.E. Carter Fund.
MISC TEMP RESTRIC	TED						
Cummins Fund			1,222				Cummins Fund pledges, contributions and earnings.
	MISC TEMP RESTR	0	1,222				

	ACTUALS thru 9/30/12		FYE Projection	2012-13	FYE Projection vs Budget	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Budget	Variance Pos (Neg)	Comments/Explanation of Variance
TOTAL INCOM	<u>1,184,115</u>	(1,068,474)	1,457,151	1,462,425		Bottom Line impact (\$24,000): Net pledges (\$11,000); Ministerial Intern grant (\$2,000); Other Fundraisers (\$9,000); Rental Income (\$9,000); RE Fees \$4,000; Other \$3,000. Additional \$19,000 positive variance is offset by negative expense variances.

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		ACTU thru 9 <i>)</i>	/30/12	FYE Projection	2012-13	FYE Projection vs Budget	
		Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Budget	Variance Pos (Neg)	Comments/Explanation of Variance
Expense:							
MINISTERS							
Salaries and Benefits		77,594		311,393	308,890	(2,503)	Summer Minister paid more than budgeted.
Program Expenses		0		0	0	0	
	MINISTERS	77,594		311,393	308,890	(2,503)	
WORSHIP							
Salaries and Benefits		11,568		58,944	58,944	0	
Program Expenses		2,878		16,700	16,400	(300)	
	WORSHIP	14,446		75,644	75,344	(300)	
YOUTH AND YOUNG	ADULT MINISTRIES						
Salaries and Benefits		36,276		142,150	139,767	(2,383)	
Program Expenses		7,317		33,787	30,200	(3,587)	
YOUTH AND YO	UNG ADULT MINISTRIES	43,592		175,937	169,967	(5,970)	Higher costs due to higher enrollment.
CONGREGATIONAL C	ARE						
Salaries and Benefits		0			0	0	
Program Expenses		2,572		8,922	6,450	(2,472)	
(CONGREGATIONAL CARE	2,572		8,922	6,450		Marriage Equality Project fully funded by Releases from Restrictions (donors).
ADULT MINISTRIES							
Salaries and Benefits		16,947		74,085	74,085	0	
Program Expenses		0		1,200	2,800	1,600	No costs for Wellspring fully offset by negative revenue variance.
	ADULT MINISTRIES	16,947		75,285	76,885	1,600	
MEMBERSHIP							
Salaries and Benefits		6,300		25,515	25,515	0	
Program Expenses		2,909		17,300	17,300		
	MEMBERSHIP	9,209		42,815	42,815		

		Ī					
		ACTU		FYE		FYE Projection vs	
		thru 9/	'30/12 Temporarily	Projection	2012-13	Budget Variance	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Budget	Pos (Neg)	Comments/Explanation of Variance
FAITH IN ACTION							
Salaries and Benefits		6,053		26,428	26,428		
Program Expenses		10,028		28,773	22,000	(6,773)	YCE expenses fully funded by Fundraising.
	FAITH IN ACTION	16,080		55,201	48,428	(6,773)	
UNITY LEADERSHIP							
Salaries and Benefits		8,289		8,289		(8,289)	
Program Expenses		1,912		1,912		(1,912)	
	UNITY LEADERSHIP	10,201		10,201	0	(10,201)	Fully covered by a portion of Unity Fund.
DENOMINATIONAL (CONNECTIONS						
Program Dues UUA		0		20,000	20,000	0	\$8,000 to be paid from operating funds. \$12,000 to be paid from Offering Plate for Community. Collections through October \$1,900.
Program Dues PSD		0		6,000	6,000	0	\$4,000 to be paid from operating funds. \$2,000 to be paid from Offering Plate for Community. Collections through October \$670.
PDS/GA Meetings		0		1,000	1,000	0	
DENOMIN	IATIONAL CONNECTIONS	0		27,000	27,000	0	
COMMUNICATIONS							
Salaries and Benefits		7,549		36,519	36,519	0	
Program Expenses		1,618		11,552	11,100	(452)	
	COMMUNICATIONS	9,167		48,071	47,619	(452)	
FINANCE/ADMINIST	RATION						
Salaries and Benefits		34,306		181,271	230,479	49,208	Used temp labor rather than hiring.
Finance/Admin Expe	nses	31,662		167,868	107,588	·	Temp labor rather than hiring plus additional resource to help with system implementation.
FIN	ANCE/ADMINISTRATION	65,968		349,139	338,067	(11,072)	
PROPERTIES							
Salaries and Benefits		22,282		95,172	95,172	0	
Properties Expenses		36,393		173,788	173,788	0	
	PROPERTIES	58,674	0	268,960	268,960	0	

		ACTL thru 9/	_	FYE Projection	2012-13	FYE Projection vs Budget Variance	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Budget	Pos (Neg)	Comments/Explanation of Variance
NON-OPERATING							
Offering Plate for Co	mmunity	2,822		52,000	52,000	0	70% of offering plate given to outside organizations. Also \$4,000 reflected in Congregational Care; \$12,000 UUA Dues; \$2,000 PSD Dues.
Misc Donations Mad	le	0		0	0	0	
	NON-OPERATING	2,822	0	52,000	52,000	0	
	TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>327,274</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500,568</u>	1,462,424	(38,143)	(\$19,500) bottom line impact: Ministers (\$2,500); RE budget error and higher costs to due higher enrollment (\$6,000); Finance additional temp costs for systems work (\$11,000). No bottom line impact: (\$19,000) offset by positive revenue variances.
	NET INCOME-EXPENSE	<u>856,841</u>	(1,068,474)	(43,417)	<u>0</u>	(43,417)	Revenue (\$24,000): Net pledges (\$11,000); Ministerial Intern grant (\$2,000); Other Fundraisers (\$9,000K); Rental Income (\$9,000K); RE Fees \$4,000K; Other \$3,000K. Expenses (\$19,500): Ministers (\$2,500); RE (\$6,000); Finance (\$11,000).

First Universalist Church Statement of Financial Position September 30, 2012

ASSETS Current Assets Cash and Cash Equivalents Cash and Cash Equivalents Foundation Investments Investments Foundation	53,463 11,067 778,194
Cash and Cash Equivalents Cash and Cash Equivalents Foundation Investments	11,067 778,194
Cash and Cash Equivalents Foundation Investments	11,067 778,194
Investments	778,194
	1,376,483
Pledges Receivable	765,179
Accounts Receivable	6,360
Other Assets	512
Total Current Assets	2,991,258
Total Current Assets	2,331,238
Fixed Assets	
Land	250,000
Building & Improvements	3,249,608
Accumulated Depreciation Building & improvements	(1,581,969)
Furniture and Fixtures	154,539
Accumulated Depreciation Furniture & Fixtures	(69,616)
Total Fixed Assets	2,002,563
Total Linear rosets	2,002,303
TOTAL ASSETS	4,993,821
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Accounts Payable	12,576
Accrued Expenses	14,080
Deferred Revenue	11,970
Short Term Portion of Debt	67,790
Total Current Liabilities	106,416
Long Term Debt	603,261
Long Term Debt	003,201
TOTAL LIABILITIES	709,677
Net Assets	
Designated Net Assets	331,368
Designated Net Assets	331,308
Undesignated Net Assets/Equity	
Church Equity	2,311,412
Foundation Equity	1,356,534
Changes during the year	(127,779)
Total Undesignated Net Assets	3,540,167
Towns and the Doublished Not Assets	
Temporarily Postricted Net Assets Miscellaneous Funds	110 162
Temporarily Restricted Net AssetsMiscellaneous Funds	119,163
Cummins Ministerial Fund	155,570
Legacy Fund Temporarily Restricted Total Unity Leadership Temporarily Restricted Not Assets	68,064
Total Unity Leadership Temporarily Restricted Net Assets Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	6,199
iotai Temporariiy Nestricteu Net Assets	348,995
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	63,613
	55,515
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	4,993,821