

All Souls Annual Meeting, May 21, 2017

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Religious Education for Children and Youths

In our religious education programs for children and youths we lived out our All Souls mission statement this past year. Our children/youth built caring communities in their Sunday School classes by creating and following covenants to treat each other with kindness, caring and respect. We inspired spiritual growth by teaching our children about our UU faith, world religions and living our UU principles. Our Sunday School lessons created opportunities for our children/youth to learn about social and racial justice and to develop compassion for others.

We provided two hours of programming every Sunday morning for six different age levels. We are grateful to our wonderful volunteers who teach our professional UU curriculum in our Sunday School classes.

We celebrated the holidays with a UU twist this year with our Jack-o-Lantern parade, Easter egg hunt and gifts of flowers on Earth Day. Our children decorated valentines to give to our congregation in February.

In conjunction with the Shawnee Mission UU Church we offered the award winning Our Whole Lives Sexuality program for our 7th-9th graders.

“Erin Go Bragh” was the theme for our successful summer camp in July. Through storytelling, art and music we learned about the people and traditions of Ireland. It was a fun and enriching experience for children, youth and adults who attended the camp.

50 children and adults participated in our Mystery Friends program that made multigenerational connections between older adults and the children/youths in our religious education programs.

Our Coming of Age program for 7th-8th graders culminated in an eight day trip to our world headquarters in Boston. Martin Tomlinson was the co-dean of the UU-UNO Conference for teens in New York.

Under the leadership of the talented Sarah LaBarr, our Children’s Choir experienced the joy of singing and sharing their music with our congregation from October through May.

Through our Chalice Lighters program our children in grades 3-5 took turns lighting the chalice at the beginning of the church service each Sunday.

Submitted by: Reverend Judith Cady, Minister of Religious Education.

RE Team Members: Bill Raney, chair, Joe Robertson, Joyce Jonasson, Ralph, Barbara and Martin Tomlinson, Jessica Mattingly, Raegan Buatte, Shawna Fortunato, Nelson Maurice, Tracy VanQuaethem and Judith Cady.

Audit Committee

Due to the audit having been completed during the church year ended June 2016, the Audit Committee was much less involved in audit-related activities, as compared with the previous year. We did not meet on a regular basis. Part of the reason for this was that the Chairperson of this committee also served as co-chair of the Construction Task Force. As such, I had to devote an unusual amount of time to those duties, in anticipation of the renovation project.

There were some activities in which the Audit Committee did become involved in during the church year. These were as follows: 1) attended Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings periodically, for the purpose of informing this body of any ongoing or pending audit action items being monitored by our committee and the Finance Committee for implementation, in order to satisfy audit compliance requirements; 2) attended monthly Finance Committee meetings to determine progress/status of audit findings resolution, and inquire about any budget and financial operations matters, as they might pertain to audit concerns or issues; and 3) reviewed and analyzed proposed architect/engineering professional services agreements, in connection with activities of the Construction Task Force's efforts supporting the renovation project.

Submitted by Don Wakefield

Demeters' Annual Report to All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Demeters is a social and service organization open to all women of All Souls. Monthly meetings are held in Conover for dinner, fellowship, and planning of service projects. Currently, there are 42 members and friends. The officers are: Mary Louise Carver, president; Barbara Bemis, vice-president; Kay Jones, secretary, and Kass Wright, treasurer.

Activities for the 2016-2017 year:

- Provided reception for the Ordination of Jordinn Nelson Long
- Provided iron and ironing board for church quilting parties
- Supported Needle Hearts
- Donated cookies and service to the UnPlaza Art Fair
- Prepared and served dinner for ReStart
- Participated in the church Connections Fair
- Supported "Telling Stories Through Memoir" workshop
- Held annual Holiday Boutique for three Sundays in December
- Welcomed members and guests to Simpson House for a Holiday Dinner
- Pledged \$1,200.00 to the church general fund for the fiscal year

- Pledged \$3,000.00 to the current capital campaign
- Supported “Aging with Wisdom” workshop
- Held Valentine Bake Sale to support the security camera project
- Provided refreshments for “Healing the Culture of Violence.”
- Prepared and served memorial receptions for the families of: Geral Culp, Sandy Ewens, Basil
- Hedrick, A. Rae Price, Bev Riemensnider, Lowell Smithson, and Ralph Stevens

Funds raised in 2016-2017:

- \$998.64 from Holiday Boutique sales and donations
- \$1200.00 from memorial reception donations
- \$161.00 from Valentine Bake Sale

Funds contributed to causes:

- Pledged and paid \$1,200 to the All Souls General Fund
- Fulfilled pledge of \$3,000.00 to the church capital campaign fund
- Supported “Aging with Wisdom” workshop, \$50.00
- Gift to custodians, \$150.00
- Donated an iron and ironing board for special projects, \$40.00
- Donated \$70.00 to farewell party for Sister Pat Kenoyer,
- Donated \$50.00 to “Telling Stories Through Memoir” workshop
- Donated \$50.00 to Needle Hearts

Continuing goals are to:

- Hold monthly meetings for dinner, fellowship, and planning of projects
- Provide memorial receptions for members and friends of All Souls
- Serve as a networking opportunity to promote church projects
- Increase membership to facilitate the continued work of the group
- Raise funds to support the work of the church, currently pledging \$1,200.00 annually to the general fund, plus gifts for special projects.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Louise Carver, president

Endowment Committee Annual Report

The Endowment Trust was created by the Church in 1975 based on the belief of the Board that it would benefit the Church to keep funds from gifts and bequests separate from the general operating funds of the Church and to provide the Church with income earned on assets of the Trust. It is specified that the Trustees shall invest and reinvest the funds of the Trust as the Trustees determine to be in the best interests of the Church in the exercise of their reasonable direction.

Funds are invested in a moderately conservative balanced portfolio. The balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$1,617,181. Gifts and bequests to the fund during the year total \$10,236.

A transfer of 4% of the average balance of the discretionary funds for the past 13 quarters is made to the Church every year. The transfer in 2015 was \$46,044 and the transfer in 2016 was \$47,014. The transfer for 2017 will be \$50,287.

The Endowment Fund is also there for special opportunities that will benefit the Church and the presence of our liberal religion in the community. Funds to support a Membership position were provided in 2016 and will again be provided in 2017 until that position can be absorbed into the budget. Our Capital Building Committee is aware that funds may be needed to cover the immediate building expenses while awaiting final receipt of funds from our Capital Pledge Campaign. They have asked and Endowment has set aside funds to cover any spending gaps that may occur and to make this as smooth a transition.

The Endowment is composed of five persons: Bill Raney, Jamie Koelsch, Becky O'Connor, Diann Spencer and Bonnie Schwarzenholz. Members of the committee serve with the approval of the Board.

Endowment Statement of Assets and Liabilities Attached

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Schwarzenholz, Chairperson

All Souls Facility, Grounds and Simpson House

The All Souls/Simpson House Campus is cared for by the Facilities Committee, which includes the Grounds Committee, and the Simpson House Committee.

Projects on Church Building:

- New light blocking blinds for the Conover Auditorium window and door. This will allow for better use of the television to eliminate glare from the parking lot.
- New oak bookcases were donated for use in Conover Auditorium.
- Worked with the Kol Ami congregation to improve storage for their materials. New cabinetry was purchased from Surplus Exchange for their use and the old cabinetry was sold to defray the cost. We also worked with them to reduce the amount of books they store in the building.

- Technology Upgrades: LED “smart” television was purchased for the lobby
- Upgraded signage was purchased for the parking lot.
- Floors in the RE Classroom wing were stripped and waxed for the first time in over a decade. The floors in Conover were also stripped and waxed.
- Decorated the church for the holidays.
- The Kemp Nursery was upgraded at the request of parents. The bathroom was painted, a new counter installed and artwork added to the space. A new crib was purchased for the nursery and old furniture was discarded. The room was also decluttered to make for a more attractive and functional space. A lock will also be added to the door to improve security.

Simpson House Upgrades:

- The basement hall received a substantial facelift. The public area was upgraded with new paint and carpet. A new vanity, lighting and a mirror were installed in the men’s bathroom resulting in significant esthetic improvements. The women’s restroom on the lower level was painted and new lighting was installed. A workshop was installed in the non-public section of the lower level and the space was made much more functional. Trees on the Simpson House grounds were trimmed.

The Facilities Committee has sponsored multiple workdays for fall and spring-cleaning and to get ready for the holidays. The workdays were staffed by committee volunteers who were joined by a diverse group of volunteers from the All Souls Church Community

In December, Diane Cassity resigned from chair of the Committee. We are deeply grateful for her leadership, good judgment and attention to the needs of our facilities.

2016-2017 annual report for the All Souls Forum

The mission of the All Souls Forum is to afford a platform for the discussion of significant issues, especially those which involve ethical values in the contemporary world.

The Forum Committee meets four times per year, on the third Thursdays of July, October, January and June. July, October and January are the crucial planning meetings. The preceding All Souls Forum “year” is discussed at the June meeting.

All meetings are open to interested people. Preceding each meeting, a notice out to about 25 people who have expressed interest.

Core “actors” are George Baggett, Michael Duffy, Carol Fields, Martin Hazlett, Michael Hoey, David Jackel, Jeff Lewis, Carolyn MacDonald, Linda McNicholas, Bill Mullins, Rae Ann Nixon, Rita Norton, Renae Price, Theo Schubert and Craig Volland. Bill Schrimsher is a major assistant on Sunday mornings. All Souls’ A/V staff provide crucial service Sunday mornings and for the KKFI broadcasts that occur weekly.

Forum chair is **Theo Schubert**. Craig Volland and Rita Norton are computer wielding asst. chairs. Renae Price is our social media specialist. Rita acts as calendar secretary. Following are the Forums that have occurred during the 2016-2017 “year.”

All Souls Forum program, 2016 - 2017

- 04 Sept 2016 - George Frazier, Wild Places of Kansas (ca. 54 in attendance)
11 Sept 2016 - Brian Steed, Understanding ISIS in Context (ca. 60)
18 Sept 2016 - Ron Berry, Missouri Voter ID Referendum (ca. 54)
25 Sept 2016 - Bob Eye, JD; Reproductive Rights: Tensions, state power & indiv. rights (ca. 37)
- 02 Oct 2016 - Geo. Baggett & Camilla Huet-Derrossett, Aging with Grace (ca. 52)
16 Oct 2016 - Melissa Robinson, Community Health Improv, Planning & Engagement (ca. 46)
23 Oct 2016 - Karen Curls, Eastside Fighting for Economic Renewal (ca. 38)
30 Oct 2016 - Mark Bedell, K.C. Public Schools: What's New for 201-2017 (ca. 50)
- 06 Nov 2016 - Raj Bhala, Penetrating Rhetoric on Key Election Issues (ca. 63)
13 Nov 2016 - Kate Bender, KCSTAT, City Performance by the Numbers (ca. 51)
20 Nov 2016 - Winston Apple, Direct Democracy in Action (ca. 60)
27 Nov 2016 - Weijun Chen, filmmaker of *Please Vote for Me* (film for T'giving weekend) (41)
- 04 Dec 2016 - Bill Mullins, Affirmative Apathy: I'm Already Doing What I Can (ca. 57)
11 Dec 2016 - Barbara Bichelmeyer, UMKC—An Urban Univ. Looks into the 21st Century (ca. 49)
18 Dec 2016 - Robin Martinez, Dakota Access Pipeline (ice—ca. 34)
26 Dec 2016 - no forum
- 01 Jan 2017 - Soapbox Sunday (ca. 36)
08 Jan 2017 - Yael Abouhalkah, There's Nothing Fake about Real Journalism (ca. 137)
15 Jan 2017 - cancelled due to weather
22 Jan 2017 - Mayor Sly James, The Forum's State of the City Address (ca. 138)
29 Jan 2017 - Max Skidmore, The Presidency—What is Was and What It's Become (ca. 112)
- 05 Feb 2017 - Gayl Reinsch, Sr. Co-housing: building community where you live (ca. 83)
12 Feb 2017 - Lewis Diuguid & Bette Tate-Beaver, Political Cartoons: No Laughing Matter (ca. 95)
19 Feb 2017 - Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., Deconstructing White Privilege (ca. 102)
26 Feb 2017 - John Tibbetts, Oscar Sunday at the Forum (ca. 71)
- 05 Mar 2017 - Burdett Loomis, What Now? (ca. 81)
12 Mar 2017 - Craig Wolfe, The Climate Emergency: Case for Immediate Action (ca. 64)
19 Mar 2017 - Erica Forrest, Asthma, An Urban Public Health Issue (ca. 53)
26 Mar 2017 - Stephanie Boyer, Confronting the Vicious Cycle of Mental Illness (ca. 55)
- 02 Ap 2017 - Kimber Myers Givner, Affordable Senior Housing: Challenges & Trends (ca. 55)
09 Ap 2017 - Ann Allegre & John Carney, Aid in Dying (ca.75)
16 Ap 2017 - Jon Adams, Homeland \$curities: Policing for Profit
23 Ap 2017 - Tony Luppino, UMKC Lessons in Community Project Engagement
30 Ap 2017 - Debby Irving, I'm a Good Person! Isn't that Enough?
- 07 May 2017 - John Hoffman, Arts Alive! K.C.
14 May 2017 - Fred Slough, What is to be done—assessing social vs. economic justice

21 May 2017 - George Baggett, Modern Dystopia
28 May 2017 - Stan Slaughter, The Soil will Save Us

The All Souls Forum is a major portion of regular, All Souls Church Sunday programming which appeals to a significant portion of the regional community. Approximately half of our "regular" audience is All Souls members or affiliates; the other half are from the larger community. KKFI broadcasts of the All Souls Forums extend the audience well beyond the building.

We hope to continue to develop the program within the 38 to 39 week framework now used, growing increasingly larger audiences.

Submitted by Theo Schubert, Kansas City All Souls U. U. Forum chairperson

2017 Annual Report: All Souls Men's Group

The All Souls Men's Group is an open meeting of men normally held on the second Thursday of the month for the entire year. Don Wakefield and Don Dickey have served as co-chairs of the Group this past year and will continue.

Many members of the Men's Group are already very active in the church. Given that involvement, our focus is on building relationships. The format of our meetings remains to have casual discussion, food, and a program. Members take turns preparing the meal or leading the program. Participation is not limited to All Souls members.

Activities the Men's Group has engaged in this past year include the following.

- In December our meeting was a musical Yuleboeck with lute music performed by George Moss and two singers.
- Co-sponsored the Annual Yuleboeck Bonfire in January.
- Contributed funds to the Music Program.
- Assisted at Memorial Services.
- Contributed \$600 toward expenses for attendees of the Midwest Leadership School in 2017.

A history of the All Souls Men's Group authored by Don Wakefield is appended.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Dickey, co-chair
Don Wakefield, co-chair

History of the All Souls Men's Group

The All Souls Men's Group was formed around 1996-97. So, our group is coming up on its 20th anniversary. It was originally organized by Bob Jameson, who had a lengthy and affectionate connection with the church. The group is considered an "affiliated" group, which is strictly voluntary in character and does not have a "mission" as such. At

the conclusion of the church year, a report of the group's activities and accomplishments is included as part of the Annual Report to the congregation.

Bob felt there was a need for a men's group at All Souls. There had been such a group previously, but it disbanded about 1995. When the new group was formed, it was first comprised of men who were still engaged in a career, but also included men who were older and/or retired. Later, these men formed their own group, which became known as the "Aging Bulls." Therefore, in a sense perhaps, Bob's creation of our group could be seen as a partial impetus for the Bulls formation.

In Bob's view, one of the most meaningful aspects of a church is the sense of "community" which draws us together in the first place, and which nurtures and sustains our feeling of connectedness. For him, it was a logical progression to have a place and purpose for men of approximately his age to go and experience this feeling of belonging to a specific community. This said, Bob always emphasized that "all men are welcome" to participate in the group. Consequently, we have since tried to live up to this mantra.

My belief is that Bob envisioned a setting for men that would be comfortable, inviting and informal in nature. We have tried to preserve and promote this vision by providing fellowship, conversation and a meal to share.

Our meetings begin with a "check-in" in which attendees (if they desire) share what has been going on in their life over the past month. The program for the evening (which one member has volunteered for in advance) is one of that member's choosing and could be virtually anything - personal odysseys, religion, history, philosophy, current affairs, music, sports, science or anything else. In this regard, one of the goals is to afford everyone, indeed specifically encourage all present, to participate actively in the evening's activities.

Donations are collected from attendees to cover the cost of the meal. From time to time, monies are contributed to support various church programmatic or social justice activities, such as the Coming of Age and ReStart meals, among others. Members also lend a hand ushering and managing the parking lot during memorial services and other events at church, as well as mentoring youth.

Some years after the inception of the group, Nelson Maurice joined Bob in facilitating and leading the group. Following Bob's passing in 2012, Nelson assumed full leadership. After a couple of years, Nelson stepped down and asked Don Dickey and myself if we would be willing to lead, which we agreed to do.

In summary, I feel grateful to Bob for having started the group. I think it's safe to say that it may well not have happened at all without his efforts and dedication. It is my observation that he always treated everyone with respect and good humor, regardless of education level or background. Moreover, he always seemed interested in people as human beings and what/how you were doing. He was the foundation for our group and is greatly missed to this day.

- Don Wakefield

Annual Report for the All Souls Movie Group

The All Souls Movie Group meets each month to discuss selected movies. It is a lively, fun and informal group. Each month the group has a facilitated discussion of five movies that were selected at the previous month's meeting. The types of movies discussed at the meetings include: art house films, foreign films, documentaries, animated films and popcorn movies. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m. in the All Souls in the lobby.

The All Souls Movie Group's discussions are always fun and interesting and they serve popcorn!

During the last year the All Souls Movie Group discussed more than 72 movies and the group hosted an Oscar watch party at All Souls.

MUSIC TEAM ANNUAL REPORT: 2016-2017

Members: Anthony Edwards, Dori Bader, Sharon Grosshart, Marion Huet-Derrossett, Sara Pedram, Ginger Powers, Joe Robertson, Roma Lee Taunton, James Warne, Jane Wilson

Mission: The Music Team supports the mission of the church in nurturing personal spiritual growth and positive relationship building by serving as a bridge between the congregation and all musical programming.

The Team is a resource to the Music Director. Members assist and advise in the areas of music selection, guest artists, special programs, Adult Choir recruitment and Children's Choir development.

The Music Team supports Sunday services and other congregational music needs by reinforcing liturgical themes through appropriate music. Because our Church membership values diversity, selections are drawn from a variety of music genres. In addition to Unitarian Universalist music, songs from other religious traditions, and compositions relevant to specific social justice issues, we include classical, jazz, pop, soul, rhythm and blues, and show tunes.

Activities and impact: Currently, the Adult Choir consists of 22 members. In addition, four full-time sections leaders are contracted to assist them. The Adult Choir sings approximately twice each month, except during summer months, and at holiday and other special services and events (20 services this year). The Music Director and other guest musicians cover the music during other weekly services.

The Section Leaders are responsible for song leading on the Sundays when the choir is not in session – twice a month and throughout the summer.

Participation in the Children's Choir is increasing, with 7-10 children for practice each Sunday. The Children's choir has sung at 5 services this year.

The Music Team shares a **fundraising** goal of \$12,000 with the Religious Education Team. The Music Program provided themed music to lead the service and enhance the dedicated special offerings for the solstice celebration and on four other occasions throughout the year.

As of April 30, Music and Religious Education have raised \$12,969.72

Two complete Music Sunday services are presented annually by the Music Program. On October 30, 2016, the Adult Choir sang Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* to celebrate All Souls Day and Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). On May 7, 2016, the Adult Choir offered the cantata *Sing for the Cure: A Proclamation of Hope*, music by Michael Cox, Alice Gomez, Rosephanye Powell, Patti Drennan, Stefania De Kennessey, Dave Friedman, W.T. Greer, III & Joseph M. Martin and words by Pamela Martin. A second performance of the spring Music Sunday Service was held for the community on Monday, May 8. Maggie Swensen from The Susan G. Komen Foundation joined the event to introduce the Offering which supported their foundation. Susan G. Komen was the beneficiary of our regular church offering in April and at the performance on May 8th.

The Adult Choir donated wine baskets that generated ~ \$300 at the annual **All Souls Auction**.

The Children's Choir **sang by request** for the residents at 333 Meyer West Condominiums in Brookside for the holidays on December 20th. On May 28, 2017, the Adult Choir will provide dinner at ReStart, participating enthusiastically in that annual service project.

Goals for the future: Goals for the future will be set at the first meeting in the coming year. We also will be looking at the public performance of Prayers for Bobby on May 4 for direction about any future public performances.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Robertson, Chair

Anthony Edwards, Music Director

Social Responsibility Board Annual Report 2016-2017

Social Responsibility Board (SRB) began in 2005 as an effort to coordinate and grow the organized social justice efforts of All Souls. SRB evolved slowly till today the member groups meet bimonthly to coordinate our activities calendar, encourage idea development and project growth, and to guide the use of church space by outside justice organizations. The list of groups using our church free or at reduced cost include Food Circle, Jobs with Justice, Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence. Several have grown too large to continue at All Souls. Congratulations! While construction plans are in flux, we must limit outside groups to space probably available.

SRB sponsors reading groups like The Third Reconstruction, this year's UUA Common Read. Every Sunday, the collection is directed either to a service agency or to special needs of the church. SRB reviews applications from the agencies (501c3 current or pending) and assigns an appropriate month. The Giving Grove receives collections near the planting season, Carver Amigos when school is in session.

The cause chosen depends on current congregational involvement as well as the perceived community need.

Christmas in October, a city-wide program to aid needy homeowners, has found a House Captain for this year's project. We then pick the house from a thoroughly vetted list and find volunteers to do what's needed. If you can scrape and paint, cut weeds, fix a doorbell or replace a broken step, you can have a gloriously sweaty day with 10 or 15 All Soulers, and know you made a real difference.

Some of our committees and work groups have dissolved because of changing church

membership. If you want to see something happening, like Racial Justice Taskforce, bring it to a meeting or email srb@allsoulskc.org We promise to answer you.

SRB: Carver Dual Language School

Eighteen All Souls members known as Carver Amigos have had a rewarding year at Carver Dual Language School working with students on reading, language and math skills. This year a new effort has been made by several amigos to encourage students from 3rd grade on up to memorize their multiplication tables, a project heretofore dismissed by many students as “too hard.” Volunteers drilling students in groups are creating new expectations.

This year Bill Prange has stepped up to distribute food from Harvesters each Fri. to the classrooms of the students whose families need extra food over the weekend, freeing up the school counselor. Carol Cowles has begun offering a 20 minute yoga class to 3rd and 6th graders three days a week. Students and teachers find that the practice has such a calming effect and is so popular that teachers are looking for other volunteers to conduct additional classes. Ellie Dawson provides help with landscape and gardening projects at the school and welcomes help any time.

All Souls members continue to contribute Box Tops for Education to benefit Carver. Through the Special Collection and the Carver Lunch Plus, the congregation contributed \$1,856 to fund field trips and special programs so important to the student’s education but currently not in the budget. By giving of time and/or treasure All Souls has made a valuable contribution to the students of Carver Elementary.

Carver Amigos who have been active over the past year include: Marilyn Carpenter, Carol Cowles, Ellie Dawson, Kay Engler, Brenda Funk, Lee Ann Googe, Jack Heller, John and Peg Maher, Rae Ann Nixon, Virginia Powers, Alan Proctor, Bill Raney, Don Wakefield, Kathy While, Jane Wilson, Bill Prange and Gordon Leak.

SRB: MORE2 Annual Report

The MORE2 members have met monthly at Issues Night in Kansas and Missouri, continuing work on immigration and education, workers' rights and civil rights, and health care. We have organized and participated in two health care rallies, Congressional office visits, and two well attended public meetings at Community Christian Church on the Plaza and Overland Park Christian Church in Kansas. All Souls members have attended and supported the annual banquet and this year, held meetings at All Souls called the Honest Conversations on Race. We will be helping organize a National 3-day leadership training for women in Kansas City.

We would like to have a dinner party for More2 at the church, and have some of our local immigrant cooks earn funds to cook the dinner, and maybe provide some music. We could invite the broader community to the fundraiser. Core team members that we need to contact to have a planning meeting: Peg & John Maher, Roma Lee Taunton, Ron Achelpohl, Martin Hazlett, Carol Cowles & Jim Fletcher, Nelson Maurice, Diann Spencer, Erin Liner, Bob Grove, and I am sure there are some others.

SRB: PeaceWorks, Kansas City, Annual Report

PeaceWorks' vision: A healthy world of justice and peace without war and its weapons.

Mission: To embody and empower our core truth—peace works!

People involved: About 110 paying members (perhaps 15-30 from All Souls), plus 200-300 others who come to our events. Officers: Board Chair (and All Souls member) Henry Stoever, henrystoever@sbcglobal.net, 913-375-0045; Board Vice Chair Lu Mountenay, lmountenay@cofchrist.org, 816-252-5724; Board Treasurer David Pack, kndpack@everestkc.net, 913-744-5684.

Activities/background: PeaceWorks, Kansas City, which began as a committee of the Interfaith Peace Alliance in 1982 through the efforts of three All Souls members—Lynn Cheatum, Charlie Bebb, and John Harris—has held its annual UNplaza Art Fair fund-raiser for about the last 10 years at All Souls, and did so in 2016, with benefit both to All Souls and PeaceWorks. PeaceWorks received a Special Offering in March 2016, has its office in Simpson House, and sponsored a talk by Joy First, a drone-war civil resister from Wisconsin, at Simpson house in April. A PeaceWorks member serves on the Social Responsibility Board and coordinates information-sharing through tabling, fliers, and the weekly All Souls e-mail. PeaceWorks is grateful for its close relationship to All Souls!

Other activities: making our annual walk/ride/die-in on Memorial Day, going from the old nuke-parts plant to the new one and mourning deaths of workers from toxins at the old plant; having our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance at Loose Park; contributing \$1,000 apiece annually to AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) and KKFI.

Impact on the church and/or wider community: **spreading information** about the danger and cost of nuclear weapons (updating them will cost \$1 trillion over the next 30 years, including the \$900 million per year on the new KC, MO, plant making non-nuclear parts for nuclear weapons) and about “unintended” deaths of thousands of victims from bombs from drones guided by remote control from US air bases; **scholarships** of \$1,500 apiece for 1-2 Avila University peace scholars each year; **conflict resolution** sessions/food (about \$800) for Urban Ranger Corps in KC; **support** (\$250 per year) for the tutoring/mentoring Learning Club of KC, KS.

Goals for 2017:

- (1) Address war/weapon issues (nuclear weapons, drones, gun violence included),
- (2) Move the Money (social justice, a just political economy, racial justice, economic justice, etc.),
- (3) work for environmental justice.

Note: Support for whistleblowers comes under several of these goals.

Request: We request to use Conover or Bragg two to four times during the year, to address issues as they arise, through our status as a “relational member” of the All Souls community.

Submitted by PeaceWorks and SRB member Jane Stoever

SRB: reStart

One of SRB's long-term (as in over 20 years!!) initiatives is the monthly preparation of a meal at this organization's site, just east of downtown Kansas City. ReStart is a non-denominational

organization whose mission is, as it says in their logo, “empowering people, ending homelessness”. We serve somewhere between 75 and 100 people dinner on the 4th Sunday of each month except January. We need shoppers cooks, and servers. You can help at a time that fits with your schedule. It is rewarding and fulfilling to help in this way, and a great way to live our UU values. Contact Caron Wells or Becky O’Connor if you are interested in helping. Throughout the year, we collect a myriad of items useful to those starting over—clothes, especially socks and underwear, toiletries, furniture—in a big brown trunk in Conover Auditorium. The sign on the trunk can guide you. ReStart picks up donations when called.

SRB: TRANSYLVANIAN PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Our committee dates back to 1990. Our first action under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Judith Walker-Riggs, was to join the UUA Partner Church Council and the churches in the historic birthplace of Unitarianism, Transylvania, (now part of Romania), after the fall of the Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The next year 16 of our members joined the first All Souls pilgrimage to visit our new friends in Nyaradgalfalva. This was the first of four such trips involving 35 different travelers (13 are still ASUUC members), 3 of their ministers, and 2 of ours.

After that 1991 pilgrimage our congregation voted to donate \$1200 per year to our new partner congregation, half designated for needs of the church and half to be spent at the minister’s discretion. That generous commitment has continued through this year.

Before the 2014 pilgrimage their minister, Bela-Botond Jakabhazy, led their congregation in raising funds to strengthen the church walls, paint the exterior, and repair the roof. The interior of the church still needs painting and rewiring. After our visit with our donations he fixed up a room on the first floor of the parsonage to provide a location for gathering after services for coffee and pastries.

We hope to make another such pilgrimage soon after our 150th birthday (and approximately their 450th). We keep in regular touch through Ken Yager who each autumn visits his daughter’s family in Prague, and travels to Galfalva to visit Bela.

--Dick Dawson & Ken Yager, co-chairs. Other active committee members include Claudine Thomas, Joan Olsen, Karin Winn, Lee Ann Googe, Ellie Dawson, Holly Miller, Kathy While, Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons