

## **The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist Strategy for 2016 – 2019**

### *Our Mission:*

*Inspired by the wisdom of diverse religious traditions and our own history of ethical engagement, we strive to nurture spiritual growth, support and care for each other, and effect change through our love for the world.*

### *Purpose of the Strategy:*

*The Strategy provides a road map of the goals that we hope to achieve over the next several years towards our vision for 2020. It is not a comprehensive list of everything we plan to do.*

### **Our Goals**

Members feel spiritually empowered to live lives of integrity, service, and joy. Congregants experience the worship life of the church as relevant to their spiritual lives. Worship speaks to mind, heart, and soul and addresses the moral concerns of our day. Children, youth, and adults experience our church as a vital community in which they can grow and deepen in their spiritual lives. Our Music Ministry involves and touches an increasingly multigenerational and diverse church community.

We are a community of care and compassion in which members offer and receive support. As a lifespan congregation, congregants maintain a meaningful connection to the church from cradle to grave. Members prepare for life passages in a way that is empowered and faithful. The church provides members with a meaningful way to memorialize their life and connect their legacy to our church. Our building and grounds support our programs and activities by being clean, accessible, responsibly maintained and adequate in size. We are staffed at a level appropriate to support the ministry, program, and administrative needs of a growing, vital congregation.

Our justice work is faithful to our history and our enduring vision of social and racial justice in our community and across our state. Those in our congregation step courageously into the work of social justice and become active, credible, and dependable partners in the work of social and racial justice.

Those in our congregation are aware of opportunities to live their faith through activism and community service and are empowered to be involved in a meaningful way. We strive for environmental sustainability and stewardship in our church, in our individual lives, and in the wider world. Congregants develop the ability to engage in dialogue on difficult issues, both within the church and in the broader community. Our members grow in the ability to be fully welcoming to a broad diversity of people – including diversity in age, race, ethnicity, class, gender, and orientation.

## **Our Actions**

### **1. Nurturing Spiritual Growth**

- a. Continuously improve upon and expand our current worship experience
- b. Better extend our worship to those who cannot attend on Sunday
- c. Adopt a strategic staffing plan in anticipation of our congregation's needs
- d. Maintain and improve our Religious Education program
- e. Continue to enhance our Spiritual Exploration for Adults program

### **2. Supporting and Caring for Each Other**

- a. Maintain and improve our Caring Ministry
- b. Continue to strengthen our Music Program
- c. Maintain and increase the integration of our children and youth into the life of the church
- d. Support and improve programs that foster fellowship and connection among members
- e. Improve communication within the congregation about church activities
- f. Warmly welcome all who come to our church, and encourage awareness by church groups and members of ways to effectively integrate people from a full range of diverse backgrounds into our activities.
- g. Maintain, improve, and expand our physical plant and grounds
  - i. Anticipate and meet maintenance needs
  - ii. Undertake a capital campaign for facility renovation and expansion
  - iii. Add additional space for Religious Education Programs and church groups
  - iv. Establish a meaningful way to memorialize the lives of those in our congregation who have passed
- h. Support and develop leadership in the church

### **3. Effecting Change Through Our Love for the World**

- a. Continue our history of active, credible, and responsible partnership in the work of social, racial and environmental justice in our community and across our state and beyond
- b. Collaborate with local UU congregations and the UUA on issues involving our seven Principles
- c. Improve communication within the congregation about service and justice activities and opportunities for learning, action and volunteerism
- d. Strive for a positive environmental impact in church decisions and actions
- e. Implement a coordinated program of public communication and promotion of The Community Church of Chapel Hill and Unitarian Universalism
- f. Develop and expand our ability to facilitate dialogue on difficult issues, both within the church and the broader community

#### **Vital Signs** (leading and lagging indicators of the health of our congregation):

1. Participation:
  - a. Total members and new members per year
  - b. Average number of souls on campus on Sundays, including RE
2. Activities:
  - a. Numbers of religious education classes and participants therein, by age cohort
  - b. Number of people volunteering in the greater community in organizations supported by the church
  - c. Numbers of community events and participation therein
  - d. Number of people trained in lay leadership development
  - e. Total number of people trained in diversity
3. Member testimonials about how we are realizing our mission
4. Finances:
  - a. Total pledges, pledge units, and average pledge
  - b. Total funds raised in any capital campaign(s)