

SCUUF Leadership Planning Retreat

By Marty Giles

2008-08-02. Mahaffy's Century Farm

"Where Do We Want To Go?"

Participating: Barb Taylor, Dennis Phillips, Bob Mahaffy, Jim Sherman, Sarita Southgate, Georgia Martin, Jim Martin, Mark Stueve, Marty Giles, and Boomer.

After opening words and a moment of silence for the Tennessee Valley UUs, we set the stage by affirming our purpose (via the Seven Principles) and reviewing our fellowship history and Mission Statement (via a presentation by Mark Stueve). We worked and ate and worked some more.

We began the hard work by brainstorming our views of the best SCUUF in 2018. Then, after looking at the membership's input from the fellowship survey conducted in July (see sidebar), we augmented and grouped the details of that vision. The results were further analyzed by testing the fit of each major point with the Seven Principles in terms of service to individuals, the Fellowship, and the community at large.

It was a demanding day: retreat participants thought hard and spoke fervently, agreed and disagreed, and used both their heads and their hearts, contributing fully for an entire

summer's Saturday to help envision the next step for our fellowship.

In the end, our Retreat identified these features as important to who we want to be in 2018 (not in priority order):

To individuals, SCUUF should—

- ▶ offer an intimate environment
- ▶ instill a feeling of community
- ▶ meet social needs
- ▶ meet religious and spiritual needs
- ▶ offer diverse opportunities for spiritual/personal growth
- ▶ show welcoming attitude & conduct welcoming processes
- ▶ including being a Welcoming Congregation
- ▶ manage ways to retard member burn-out
- ▶ include music and culture
- ▶ be fun

To the congregation, SCUUF should—

- ▶ work to meet the needs of individual members
- ▶ commune with ourselves (nurture camaraderie)
- ▶ meet the religious, spiritual, and (some) social needs of members
- ▶ be intergenerational, encouraging membership of all ages
- ▶ nurture a new generation of SCUUs, via both children's programs and new adult members

The goal of a retreat is to retreat, to step back from the daily chores and look at the big picture, to think and to dream.

- ▶ better retain current and returning members
- ▶ honor service to the congregation by members
- ▶ regularly evaluate our members' satisfaction
- ▶ be physically accessible
- ▶ be a Welcoming Congregation
- ▶ demonstrate tolerance (within limits)
- ▶ have both roots and wings
- ▶ have a sense of stability
- ▶ have reliable, functional infrastructure
- ▶ be inclusive—in attitude and in processes
- ▶ offer and use conflict resolution training
- ▶ manage by democratic leadership, with accountability
- ▶ investigate a variety of options in regards to both infrastructure and programs
- ▶ pursue planned, foresightful development and growth—with "growth" defined not necessarily by numbers

- ▶ be managed by the participation of 95% of membership
- ▶ connect to the UUA
- ▶ maintain an

Action Issue Committee

- ▶ have some level of paid staff

To the community at large, SCUUF should—

- ▶ have a clear public identity (be known in the community)

- ▶ interact with others in the religious community, especially those of liberal faiths
- ▶ have more social currency and power
- ▶ model liberal values
- ▶ be tolerant of others (within limits)
- ▶ demonstrate organized, effective social action
- ▶ have a stronger member presence (i.e., be more of us)
- ▶ be proactive in meeting challenges, especially “The End of the World as We Know It”
- ▶ offer some level of physical center for liberal interests
- ▶ have some sort of physical presence, such as a building sign
- ▶ (SCUUF may need some level of professional minister to facilitate these goals)

It is the SCUUF Board’s intention to steer by these points in making Board decisions for the near future.

All such human endeavors are organic processes. Identifying these features helps us be more confident in making decisions for the group—but we know that situations change, groups change, and our desires and visions evolve along the way. There will be ever more opportunities to participate in the continuing development of the South Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, beginning with any interested Fellowship member discussing such ideas with any other member.

Here’s to the next step in our journey! ☺



Membership Survey Results Summary

Twenty-five members of the South Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship took the time and effort to complete a 2008 survey in time for their input to be included in the Leadership Planning Retreat in early August. Your considered input and thoughtful comments are very valuable in Fellowship planning!

Key findings of the survey included (please be aware that this is a small sample and that not all respondents answered every question):

- ▶ 40% of responding members have been participating UUs over 20 years
- ▶ 32% of responding members have been participating UUs 3 years or less
- ▶ nearly half of responding members have been SCUUF members 3 years or less
- ▶ more than half of the responding members attend Sunday programs either regularly or occasionally
- ▶ all parts of our standard Sunday programs generally meet the respondents’ needs, except music, which was highly skewed to “not at all”
- ▶ SCUUF-specific information, such as the program calendar and local member news, were the most useful parts of the

SCUUF to respondents—and a mailed paper copy was the most preferred way to receive the SCUUF

- ▶ responding members would like to see more personal growth topics (64%) and more spirituality topics (56%) in Sunday programs
- ▶ many responding members (45%) have difficulty hearing others speak at Sunday programs
- ▶ several aspects of a religious community were deemed “very important” to respondents—
 - programs and services to adults (86%)
 - social connections (63%)
 - personal growth (60%)
 - general community presence (45%)
 - programs and services to children (41%)
 - social events (38%)
 - specific community action or cause (35%)
- ▶ most respondents said SCUUF membership is too small (64%)
- ▶ many respondents wrote thoughtful comments and gave additional ideas on their survey

Like more details? Contact survey manager Mark Stueve.

Didn’t participate in the survey? It’s not too late to weigh in: our SurveyMonkey account has been extended to 9/19/2008. To start the survey, visit our web site at www.scuuf.pnwd.uua.org. Instructions are on the home page.

Many thanks to all who participated!

Thanks, too, to the survey committee: Dennis Phillips, Sarita Southgate, Jim Sherman, Mark Stueve, Marty Giles. ☺

Membership Challenge

A Fellowship friend and supporter has generously offered to match donations (up to \$1500) for a project that will help increase SCUUF membership. Please bring your suggestions to our next board meeting or contact a board member (below). We need your input for the benefit of the Fellowship! ☺

We Want to Know "What UUs Believe"

We are creating a new feature for The SCUUP, a personal belief column. Each month we will announce a simple topic and invite you to respond with your thoughts.

The topic for next month's "What UUs Believe" column is:

Friendship

Please respond in 50 words or fewer. Bring your response to any SCUUF meeting or email to scuuf@markstueve.com. Responses may be edited for length or clarity. ☺

HERMAN®

by Jim Unger



"Boomer, she wants to know what the pot roast was like."

Here to Serve

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Sarita Southgate • Director
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New ways to learn at Meadville Lombard, a Unitarian Universalist Seminary

Meadville Lombard is now offering courses in formats that make it easier for working religious professionals and lay leaders to broaden or deepen their theological and congregational understanding. Visit http://www.meadville.edu/Ac_CourseOfferings.htm for a full listing and course syllabi or contact Erika Chavez, Director of Admissions, at 773.256.3000 x 250 for more information.

Upcoming Weekend Courses

- ▶ Lay Leadership Development
- ▶ Real Peace/Real Security: UU Perspectives on Peace and War
- ▶ Problems in Public Ethics

Upcoming Week-long Courses

- ▶ Fling Wide the Doors: Children and Church Growth
- ▶ Afro-Americans and the Universalists, Unitarians, and Unitarian Universalists

Among UUs

In August a UU couple from Ashland, Leo Nemzek and Ahna Lich, requested a home stay with a local UU, and were graciously hosted by SCUUF president Bob Mahaffy at his Century Farm on the Coos River. The couple came over to the coast to escape the smoke from wildfires burning in northern California. Leo & Ahna made a generous donation to SCUUF. SCUUFers who are willing to open their homes to other vacationing UU couples may list their names and contact information in the UU homestay directory, an annual publication.

☺ ☺

Nancy Hoecker will once again put her skills to good use as a citizen scientist by traveling to Mongolia in September. We look forward to hearing about her participation in a research project involving goats and cows in yet another far flung corner of the world.

☺ ☺

Sarita Southgate, SCUUF board member, recently underwent elective surgery. We wish her a complete and speedy recovery.

☺ ☺

Dick Root, who recently sold his Myrtle Point ranch, will be moving away this fall. His destination was originally northern California, to be near his daughter, Susan. Now it turns out that Dick will be moving to the Portland, Oregon area instead, where Susan is soon to be transferred. Best wishes to both!

☺ ☺

SCUUP editor Mark Stueve is back on two feet, having healed from a broken right hoof. ☺



**South Coast
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship**

PO Box 595

North Bend OR 97459-0048

September – October 2008

Visit SCUUF online at <http://scuuf.pnwd.uua.org>

South Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sept – Oct 2008 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, programs are from 3:00 to 4:30 pm
at North Bend United Methodist Church, 2289 Meade Street.

Children's Religious Education every Sunday at 3:00

- Sept 7 **Awakening to Your Life's Purpose**
Based on A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle
- Sept 14 **What's in UUs Future!?**
Congregational meeting to address the future of the South
Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Sept 21 **Equinox Celebration: Honor the Harvest**
The Gazebo at Sunset Bay, 3 pm. Bring a song or poem or
thoughts about harvest time
- Sept 28 **Tolerance**
Reflections on the path from exclusion to tolerance to
acceptance to embracing
- Oct 5 **Hiking at Golden and Silver Falls.**
Carpool from Bunker Hill School at 11 am
- Oct 12 **State Ballot Measures**
Includes who initiated and funded each one. Based on Rural
Organizing Project's short voter's guide made especially by
and for small town and rural voters: "STAND: Small Town
Actions for A New Democracy."
- Oct 19 **Hillbilly Golf**
A nonsensical, no-skill-required, acceptable, safe-for-all-
ages, non-trauma inducing, non-competitive activity. 11 am
at the Sunset Beach Gazebo. Bring your lunch, lemonade will
be provided.
- Oct 26 **A UU Day of the Dead**
3 pm at 93764 Coho Lane. Potluck featuring favorite foods
that the person we wish to remember enjoyed.

*Board Meetings on Sept 11 and Oct 14 • 7:00 pm • Stueve-Giles
Program Planners on Sept 11 and Oct 16 • 4:00 pm • Java Jones*
