

Connections EEA

July 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona

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Our congregation meets
every Sunday at 10:30 AM
at Bella Vista Elementary School,
801 N. Lenzner Ave., Sierra Vista
<http://www.uuchurchseaz.org>

Sunday Services / July 2009

July 5, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Co-Dependence Day

Independence, interdependence, dependence, co-dependence. How do we understand and guide our interactions with other people and with the world around us? What is healthy? What is right? What is real?

July 12, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Thoreau-ly Satisfied

Today is the birthday of Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden* and *On Civil Disobedience*. Do his writings still speak to us today? Can he prick our social conscience? Raise our awareness of the natural world? Teach us about contentment?

July 19, 2009

Wally Hoggatt

Fated to be Free

This year we're celebrating the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, and so it is our task to honor him. But in view of the complexity of the man, we might wonder just which Lincoln we are supposed to honor.

July 26, 2009

Rev. Rod Richards

Sailing on the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea Scrolls are one of the most amazing and enlightening archaeological finds in the last century. But what is contained within these writings? And what can they possibly say to us?



Rod's Reflections

(Don't) Sign Here

In 2005, I had the great honor and privilege of performing a wedding ceremony for two good friends, two women, who wanted to make a public and celebratory expression of their commitment to one another. In that ceremony, using words that had been passed along to me, I said:

Marriage is the outward token of an inward union of minds and hearts which religions may consecrate and the state may legalize, but which these ceremonies can neither enforce nor destroy. It is a union created by living purpose and kept by abiding will and compromise, which becomes what the partners make of it, day by day.

Religions may (or may not) consecrate a marriage. The state may (or may not) legalize a marriage. The important thing to note is that these are two separate things and that the confusion of one with another has led to the denial of civil rights to particular couples. Because many religious institutions choose not to *consecrate* marriages of two people of the same gender, the state (AZ, for example) has chosen not to *legalize* marriages of two people of the same gender. I confess to having contributed to such confusion in my role as minister by acting as an agent of the state in signing marriage licenses, a legal document.

I seek to make a small step in correcting that confusion by no longer signing civil marriage licenses. I, in my capacity as Unitarian Universalist minister, will continue to perform wedding ceremonies for committed couples, and happily so, whether or not the state deems them worthy of a contract. I will uphold the rights of any religious community to decide whom they will marry in a religious ceremony. And I will do all that I can to uphold the civil rights of same-sex couples as they seek *legal* recognition of their marriages.

Though the advocates of tragically misguided "marriage amendments" across the country often speak of "preserving the sanctity of marriage," it should be remembered that it is not the role of the government to "sanctify," nor should it be. The dictionary defines *sanctify* as "to set apart for a sacred purpose," and it is my belief that a couple *sanctifies* their union through their love and commitment to one another. My task, as religious officiant of wedding ceremonies, is to help articulate, celebrate and honor the sacred purpose that they have chosen together. I will continue to do so, looking toward that day that all committed couples will have their legal rights recognized in this society.

I am proud to be part of a religious community that stands on the side of love. We will stand as grateful recipients of the grace, embedded in this life, which leaves no one out, and for the Spirit of life and love available to all. We will stand for the rights of free individuals to love whom they will. We *will* stand together to conquer *all of our own* prejudices, misunderstandings, and short-sightedness. We will stand in hope. We will stand on the side of love until there are no more sides.

See you on Sunday,
Rod
rrichards@uuma.org

The *UUCSEA Connection* is published monthly by the *Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona*.

The church can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 3123, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-3123,

UUCSEA OFFICE

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Website: www.uuchurchseaz.org

Visit our web site at www.uuchurchseaz.org.

Current members of the **UUCSEA Board of Directors** are:

President: Terry Zapotocky
Secretary: Pamela Lee
Treasurer:
Board Members are:
Jim Horton
Wally Hoggatt
Terry Erickson
Suzanne Stoffolano

The Board meeting is Thursday, July 2 at 6:00 PM at the UUCSEA Office. Meetings are open to members and friends.

Team Contacts are:

Book Group: Ed & Ellie Waters
Web Calendar: Rouanna Garden
Caring Ministry: Karen Horton
Cinema Circle: Gary Rulapaugh
Circulo de Amigas: Jean MacKeen
Committee on Ministry:
Lorraine Groberg
Patricia Burr
Max Frye

Communications Team: Debra Hoyle
District and Association Information:
Finance: Morris Farr
Flowers: Virginia Farrar
Greeters: Margaret Carlstrom
Library: Terry Zapotocky, Sue Speicher, Mitzi Jones
Membership: Molly Anderson
Music Director: Sharon Douglas
Pledge Chair: Carol Hanrahan
Religious Education: Heather Kutch
Social Action: Burt Jones
Social Events Director: Rouanna Garden
Sunday Services: Rev. Rod Richards
Web Site: Kerry Hales

Not in the congregational directory? Members and friends of UUCSEA are invited to submit their contact information to Debra Hoyle for inclusion in our password-protected online directory. Printed copies are available by request.

President Presents Terry Zapotocky, Board President



A few weeks ago, after being elected Board President, I was asked what my goals were for my presidency. I immediately went into panic mode. "GOALS! GOALS!, I'm supposed to have Goals? No one told me I was supposed to have GOALS", I thought to myself while trying to think of a brilliant answer. The first word out of my mouth was, "survive". I then recoiled at my inane answer and wished I had just kept my mouth shut. However, the more I thought about it, the more I decided maybe that wasn't such a bad goal after all considering the present economic downturn, the rise of religious fundamentalism, the healthcare crisis, domestic violence, international terrorism, political unrest, poverty, nuclear weapon proliferation and climate change. Maybe in view of all this, survival is all that can be expected for both for my presidency, the new board and our church.

However, the more I cogitated on this profound subject, the more I felt something wasn't quite right here. I finally realized I wasn't elected president to carry out my goals. It's not about my goals. It's not about Rod's goals. It's not about any individual's goals. It's about all of our goals collectively. Taken individually, each of us cannot do any better than survive. Taken together, and working together, we can do a lot more than survive. We can make miracles happen.

So what are our goals? Are they all equally important? How do we reach our goals? How long can we take to reach our goals? Can our goals or our emphasis on them change along the way? With this in mind, I plan to schedule some meetings with you, the members, and the board about these issues. Can we reach a consensus about our goals or at least agree to amicably disagree? Hopefully with the help of formal and informal discussions, member surveys, phone calls, emails, etc. we can get answers to the above questions, work on reaching a consensus about our goals, and start moving mountains.

As I get ready to take office, there are a lot of people I would like to thank for the work done this past year to help our church live and grow. I can't possibly mention them all in one newsletter, but here is a start. First of all thanks to the outgoing President and Board members, Sharon Covey, Carol Hanrahan, Jerry Covey, Sue Speicher, and Burt Jones and continuing Board members Terry Erickson and Jim Horton for jobs well done. A special thanks goes to Sharon Covey for helping to organize and guide our church through a difficult period of growth as we move from a family size congregation to a pastoral size and governed congregation. Thanks to incoming Board members Wally Hoggatt, Suzanne Stoffolano and Pamela Lee who have agreed to serve for 1 to 2 years. There's thanks to our Finance Committee, led capably by Morris Farr, who figured out a way to finance our office and who wrote a difficult budget for '09-'10. Thanks also for our Nominating Committee Patricia Burr, Jay Jenkins and Mitzi Jones for finding eager and capable people for the Board (possibly excluding me).

Thanks to Lorraine and David Groberg for doing an excellent job of heading our pledge campaign. Thanks to Jim Horton and team for finding us an office. Now we have a very real presence in the community. Thanks to Dave Weigel, David Groberg, Jay Jenkins, the Coveys and many others for turning our office space into an office. Jerry Covey also has served ably as Chair of Communications for the past two years.

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President cont' from pg 2

Thank you Kerry Hales for the computer system at the office and for maintaining our web site. Kerry has volunteered to take care of the computer part of the Communications Committee, and Debra Hoyle has agreed to chair the Communications Committee. Thanks to both of you. Thank you to Sue Speicher and Mitzi Jones for help setting up the church library.

Rouanna Garden has done a terrific job doing double duty as both Director of Social Events and as an active member of the Social Action Committee. Thanks to Therese Erickson for organizing Soup Sundays. And there's more thanks for Sharon Douglas, Jean MacKeen, Jeannie Reeves and the Joyful Noise Singers for all the lovely and appropriate music for our services. Thanks for Heather Kutch, Rouanna, Ann Danell and others who have done children's religious education this past year. Rouanna has also instigated and planned the children's Saturday monthly activities. There's more thanks for Gary Rulapaugh for setting up the sound system for the weekly church services and Jerry Covey, John Faust, and Roland Bockhurst who have set up when Gary's not around. Thanks to Kerry for recording the sermons so even those who can't make it to the services can listen to the sermons online. Thanks to all the volunteers who show up to set up chairs and to those who stay after to clean up and take down chairs and tables. Thanks go to Ed and Ellie Waters, Rod and now Ellen Taylor for doing the newsletter. Thanks to Barbara Vercoe for a very successful garage sale. Thanks to Tricia Gerrodette for ordering and selling chocolate and coffee for the Social Action Committee every week. Thanks to my chickens, ducks and geese for their wonderful eggs that raise money for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Thanks to everyone who has been involved in a Theater for all Ages production. Look at the left side of the second page of this newsletter and see all the people responsible for keeping this church running beautifully. The list goes on and on. We wouldn't have the strong and caring community if it weren't for our many volunteers. Thanks to our UU children. Not only are they the future of this community, but also we never know what pearls of wisdom will come out of their mouths. Last but definitely not least, thanks for our wonderful Minister, Rod Richards who works 24/7 for our church even when he's not working.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH meets at the Lonestar Café (Hwy 92 and Hereford Rd) at 9 AM the 2nd Fri. each month (July 10). All women welcome - come for the fun of it!! Call Margaret for info: 458-1237.

UU MEN'S LUNCHEON is held every 3rd Thurs. (July 16) at 11:30 AM at the Landmark Café, located at 400 W. Fry Boulevard.

Minister's Office Hours and Schedule

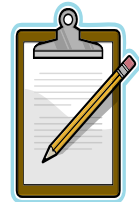
Rod's office hours are Wednesdays from 1 PM – 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM. Members, friends, or visitors to the congregation are invited to call (378-0197) or email (r-richards@uuma.org) Rod to schedule appointments. Rod has Mondays off.



Rod On The Radio: "The Magic Eye" airs live in Old Bisbee on KBRP-LP 96.1, Wednesdays 11AM - noon and Sundays (rebroadcast) 5-6 PM. All those with Internet access can hear the show during those times by visiting the KBRP web site at <http://www.kbrpradio.com>.

The Sunday Services Meeting is at 1:00 pm on the first Tuesday (July 7th) of each month at the UUCSEA Office.

Looking To Sign Up...for anything? ALL of the sign up sheets for a whole host of volunteer opportunities are on a back table at each Sunday Service with the sign that says "Opportunities to Serve." The blank spaces on the "Team Contacts" list on the second page are open opportunities. **We need you!**



SOUP SUNDAY



Well, it has happened again: we had chefs that gave us wonderful choices and every last morsel was eaten with delight. We all thank the chefs Ann Danell, Judy Ingram, Tom King and Barb Vercoe. We again made \$230.00 after expenses. We have now accumulated \$906.00 for the building fund.

We look forward to the surprises that the next soup Sunday will give us. The chefs will be Jan Boucher, Joyce Carpenter, Carolyn Edwards and Marie Gielm. We are still looking for 5 more volunteers, 2 for September, 2 for December and 1 for February. Interested call Therese at 803-9260

UU Kids Corner

July is Burt's second Cooking School. Please R.S.V.P ahead of time so he can plan the menu and buy the needed supplies.



Have you checked out the UU Calendar? All the up coming UU Kids events are listed. We finish off the year with making a treasure box and some more outings. You do not want to miss out.

UUCSEA News and Notes

BOOK CLUB

(Note: After each book A.=Amazon, prices may change ; L.= Cochise Cty. Libraries)

July 19 - Boom!: Voices of the Sixties– Personal Reflections of the 60’s and Today by Tom Brokaw, review by Shirley Sandy. The veteran newsman “examined the accomplishments and sacrifices of an America contending with the shadow of a World War darkening daily life. He seeks to recreate that feeling in BOOM! The Baby Boomers have seen innumerable changes in the years following World War II --- an improvement in rights for women and minorities; technological advancement; revolutions in popular culture and the arts, among others. Brokaw reports on and interviews scores of “boomers” to discuss how coming of age (primarily) in the 1960s changed their lives”. (A. from .74 – L. 7 copies)



August 16 - Energy Victory: Winning the War on Terror by Breaking Free of Oil by Robert Zubrin, review by Rita Aronna – Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez says he wants to send oil to \$200 a barrel. An American aerospace engineer known for his inventive approach to Mars exploration turns around the world energy situation by combining soaring idealism, incisive thinking, and a viscous go-for-throat killer instinct in a single package.

(September 20 - When the Mississippi Ran Backwards: Empire, Intrigue Murder and the New Madrid Earthquakes I by Jay Feldman review by Rouanna Garden. “This book sheds light on this now-obscure yet pivotal period between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, uncovering the era’s dramatic geophysical, political and military upheavals. Feldman paints a vivid picture of how these powerful earthquakes made an impact on every aspect of frontier life – and why similar catastrophic quakes are guaranteed to recur. (A. from 6.40 – L.2 copies)

The Book Group meets the 3rd Sunday of each month, 2:30 to 4:00 PM at the UUCSEA Office. You are welcome whether or not you have read the book. ??? Ed and Ellie Waters, 459-3390 or edellie@intergate.com.

MEXICO SIGHTSEEING ADVENTURE

Sign up by the end of August or the trip may be cancelled! Visit Mexico’s Copper Canyon October 10-18. Magnificent vistas, fascinating and colorful Tarahumara Indian culture. The railroad itself is an engineering marvel. All arrangements for lodging, transportation, and meals taken care of. This will be a modest fundraiser for UUCSEA but will also be a lot of FUN. Contact Tricia Gerodette at 378-4937 for more information or details. We have to have enough commitments by end of August to make this trip happen, so let 'simpatico' friends know about it too.

JULY DAYS OF POWER

- 4 July - Independence Day
- 7 July - Full Moon (Blessing Moon)
- 8 July - Celtic Tree Month of Holly (for the UUCSEA Druids)
- 21 July - New Moon



July is a quiet month as there is no Pagan Sabbat (holiday).

-submitted by Debra Hoyle

GOOD NEIGHBORS

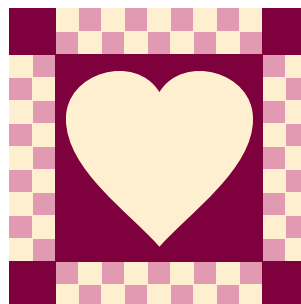
The UUCSEA cooks at the Good Neighbor Alliance on the 3rd Monday every month. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the dinner for homeless guests that are staying at the shelter. Please prepare the dinner, starting at 4pm and it should be ready to serve at 6pm. The bonus here is that volunteers don't have to do the dishes...unless they really want to. Please see Ann Danell for further details.



There are other available days for cooking at Good Neighbor Alliance for each month. If you are interested in cooking, then sign-up please. A list of those dates will be given to Mitzi Jones, so please see her for further details.

Quilting Group

Karen Horton is forming a quilting group to make quilts for charity.



She loves to quilt and teaches quilting and has all the supplies and tools. No experience necessary. We have tentatively scheduled meetings for the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9-12 at the office. Come learn new skills, socialize and help others.

Contact Karen at 378-2460.

**Annual Garden Canyon
Pot-Luck
on Fort Huachuca
Saturday August 1st.**



To get a vehicle on Fort Huachuca you need vehicle registration, proof of insurance and drivers license. We have reserved the middle garden canyon picnic area.

This is a pot-luck. Everyone: bring all their own supplies, plates, cups, napkins, serving utensils, etc. and take home all you bring.

We start at 10am.

WHY A WELCOMING CONGREGATION?

Most of you have heard that the UUCSEA is establishing a Welcoming Congregation Committee to start our congregation on the path to becoming an official Welcoming Congregation. Some of you may be asking yourselves, "Aren't we already a welcoming congregation? Don't we already accept everyone?" Yes, you're right. UUs are a very accepting people, but let's face facts -- churches have historically been a breeding ground for discrimination against the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

The Welcoming Congregation program will provide a process for our congregation to become more cognizant of the issues facing the glbt community, support on how to address those issues in our church's activities, sermons and literature, and a means to reach out and make ourselves known to the glbt community as a "safe" place to explore spirituality without fear of persecution.



From the continuing debates on gay marriage to "don't ask, don't tell," discrimination against the GLBT community not only continues to exist through the actions of people, but is sanctioned through law. There is no better time for the UUCSEA to open our doors, and our hearts, and say WELCOME!

— Danielle Mackenzie

Have you heard about You You, the social networking site that is full of information about our congregation, news and discussions about Unitarian Universalism, announcements and photos and links and calls to action? Would you like to learn more? Come to the UUCSEA Office to learn how to join the site and use it to your benefit and enjoyment. Wednesday, July 15th, 6-8 PM.



**Happy Birthday to You!
July Birthdays**

- July 2 Beverly Hart
- July 4 Ginger Ryan
- July 6 Mitzi Jones
- July 11 Sue Speicher
- July 14 Roland Bockhurst
- July 19 Rita Gau
- July 25 Shirley Sandy
- July 26 Charles Riley
- July 29 Ed Waters



If your birthday has not been listed and you would like it listed, please email uucsea.admin@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

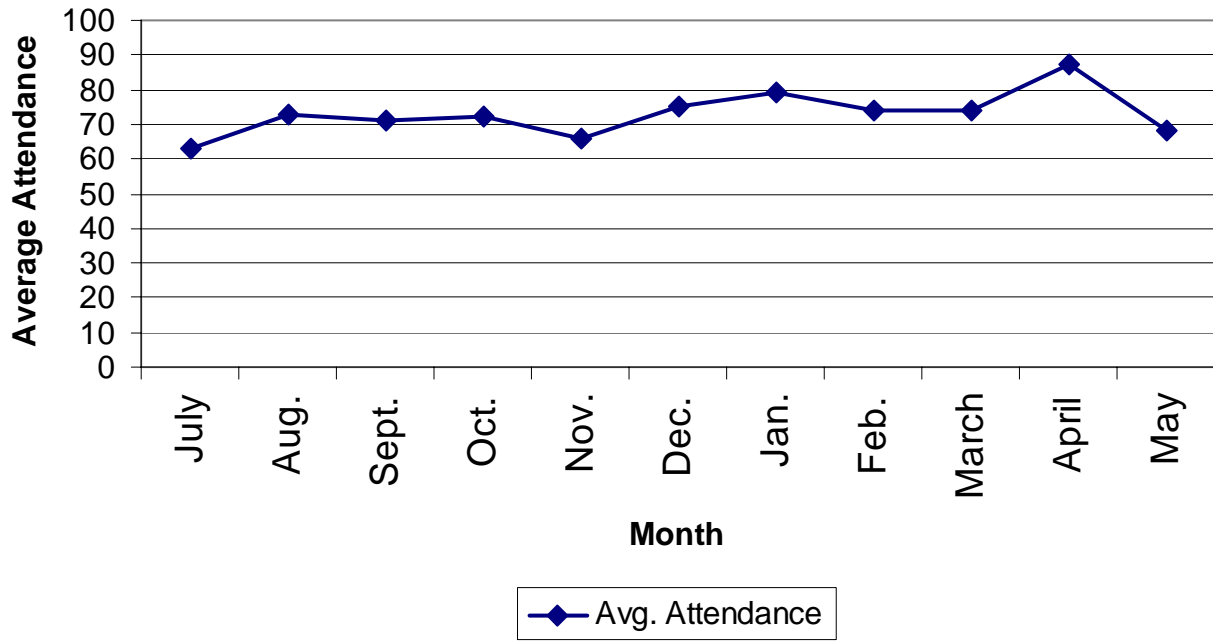
The Social Action Committee sponsored "The 11th Hour" starring Leonardo DiCaprio on Saturday June 13 at the Sierra Vista Public Library. Twenty four people viewed it and approximately half were non UU members or friends. This documentary is now available for borrowing from the church library. At their meeting on June 7, SA approved donations to the following: \$400 to the Center for Biological Diversity, \$200 for the Sierra Vista Public Library, \$350 to St. Vincent de Paul for their food bank, \$350



to Bisbee Men's Coalition for their utilities assistance program, and \$300 to Good Neighbor Alliance. We will be purchasing food from Food City at a discount for St. V's to ensure the money is used for good sources of protein. SA will also be seeking approval from the Board in July for donations to SEAGO for their meal voucher program for seniors and to Meals on Wheels for seniors and the disabled.

— Terry Zapotocky

Average Attendance Fiscal Year 08-09 (except June)



Face to



Quick note to those who have sent me friend requests on Facebook: I have decided, for a variety of reasons, not to add members and friends of the congregation to my Facebook list. Please don't take this personally; it is a matter of seeking appropriate professional boundaries in what is an ever-evolving means of communication with an ever-evolving etiquette and ethic.

However, I very much enjoy being a part of Ning, our congregation's social networking site (You You), which can be found at <http://youyou.ning.com>. It is fast becoming a fun, informative, enlivening, enlightening site that is awaiting your participation. See you online!

Rod

Plan **Ning** for the Future

After Words

Would you like to share some reflections on something you heard in the service today? Or last Sunday's sermon?

Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism? About our congregation?

Join us at the UUCSEA Office on the second Sunday of the month (July 12th) at 1:00 PM for an informal conversation about what's on your mind. A special invitation goes out to newer members and visitors who would like to learn more about our congregation and our liberal religious tradition. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Rod





Q. What is *Standing on the Side of Love*?

Standing on the Side of Love is ultimately about changing the world. Standing on the Side of Love (SSL, pronounced “Sizzle”) is a public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe that no one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities. SSL is about lifting strong religious voices proclaiming love in the face of fear and hate.



Q. Why do this now?

We have seen a rebirth of hope sweep across our communities and engage people of all different backgrounds, especially young people. The election of the United States’ first African-American President has inspired many people to come together and collectively build a better future. But this rising hope is being threatened as fear and hate continue to tear apart our communities. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights recently released a report on the dramatic increase in hate crimes across the nation, particularly towards Mexican immigrants. The FBI estimates that 7,500 hate crimes are committed annually – that amounts to nearly one new victim every hour of every day. These incidents of exclusion, oppression and violence based on people’s identities, cannot go unchallenged. Our nation needs strong religious responses that invite and urge all people to stand on the side of love. If we come together, then all acts of exclusion, oppression, and violence based on people’s identities can be directly challenged with the power of love.

Q How are we going to do this?

The campaign will elevate and focus religious voices in the public square to influence public attitudes about the worth and dignity of all. While shifting the national dialogue will be part of this campaign, the most important place to create change is in local communities. Through community activism, social networking, web resources, media outreach, and spokesperson trainings, the hope is that people across the nation will be equipped and empowered to stand on the side of love. This will require that communities come together to build on existing partnerships and to create new ones. We will build a national network of people who are committed to standing on the side of love, one that can be mobilized quickly and effectively to respond to incidents of exclusion, oppression, or violence based on intolerance of people’s identities.



The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona is:

To create a welcoming community of caring people where all receive emotional support, intellectual stimulation, and respect for their individual spiritual paths; to work for justice and equality in our community and the world; to increase respect for the natural environment; and to promote the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Southeastern Arizona
affirms and promotes:**

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

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