

UUCA in 2015

The UUCA Board of Trustees approved formation of a Strategic Planning Committee in June 2006, charged to develop a structured way for the congregation to talk about their identity, purpose, and future and to come to a consensus and a commitment for action. In the spring of 2007, the committee organized a series of small-group meetings to enable all the members and friends of the congregation to provide input regarding their dreams for the future. The committee has spent the intervening time distilling what was learned at these meetings into the Vision and implementation of it listed below.

As a vibrant Unitarian Universalist congregation rooted in the liberal religious tradition:

We enthusiastically support spiritual exploration and moral development of individuals through all their years;

We foster inclusive and meaningful relationships with one another, our Association of Congregations, and the wider community; and

We work to create a sustainable world with peace and justice for all.

Our vision will be created in the following ways:

We sustain ourselves as a generous and caring congregation, supporting each other and our church programs with our time, talent and money.

We plan and budget carefully to ensure that the financial, real estate and other resources necessary to create our shared future are available when needed and paid for as appropriate for our continuing presence.

We provide a wide variety of excellent programs and worship experiences to support lifelong spiritual and personal development and to bring about peace and justice.

Our congregation is diverse, intergenerational and nurturing, recognizing the uniqueness and complexity of every person. We support those who are new to religious liberalism and encourage everyone to deepen their commitments through volunteerism, pastoral care and in other ways.

We provide engaging and inspirational worship that celebrates our heritage and values, confronts the challenges of the world and invites exploration of the spiritual, intellectual and emotional dimensions of living. We support excellence in every part of our worship experience, from sermons to music to meditation and more. We welcome variety and broad participation in our worship life.

Our church programming is rich and diverse. Opportunities for spiritual, intellectual and personal growth are numerous, focused and intergenerational when appropriate. We support leadership development, especially among the young.

We realize that sharing our lives with one another—in laughter, in meals, in games and in the hospital—makes us fully human. We encourage the development of close personal relationships through small group activities.

We recognize that religious exploration is the work of a lifetime, the work of all ages. We are especially committed to the development of the next generation of Unitarian Universalists.

We are a presence in the greater Asheville community and in our Association of Congregations. Our congregation is recognized locally, regionally and nationally for the effectiveness of its work. We partner with religious and other organizations in ways that support our vision, especially in the area of social justice.

We maintain an accessible campus that meets our program and staffing needs and reflects our commitment as a Green Sanctuary.

Our congregation has a campus that meets our worship and programmatic needs, is consistent with the character of our religious community, encourages interaction among the generations, is physically and temporally accessible, and supports our vision. Our buildings and grounds and our church practices befit those of a Green Sanctuary.

We employ a professional and support staff commensurate with our size and programs and compensate them according to UUA guidelines.

Our professional and volunteer staff is fully consistent in size and scope with our aspirations as a religious community. Members of the staff are well-trained, with diverse interests and capabilities; they are appreciated and recognized through fair compensation and benefits.

We communicate our message among members and to the greater community by utilizing technology effectively and creatively.

We have a clear sense of the purposes and possibilities of internal and external communication, as well as the technology and staffing needed to carry them out. The name of our congregation, our publications, indeed our church sign, clearly and proudly proclaims who we are.

We develop and maintain a vision that informs actions carried out by a democratically elected and responsible Board of Trustees.

We embrace our unique role as the leading Unitarian Universalist congregation in western North Carolina and one of the largest UU congregations in the world. We aid the development of religious liberalism through our example and the assistance we provide to new congregations.

Our system of governance is transparent, consistent with our religious traditions and appropriate to our size and strategy. We have an inspiring vision that is known and made real in our individual lives and in the life of our congregation. We made that vision real through clear strategic goals carried out planfully and assessed annually in a manner befitting the learning organization that we are.