

RRUUC's Strategic Plan 2006-2011

June 2008 Update

Some highlights of our major accomplishments so far:

1. Successfully completed our first All-church Social Justice Project
2. Evaluated our name and held a congregational vote to determine the name preferred by most members
3. Reached out to the local community and beyond through distribution of leaflets, new signage, special events open to the public, music committee appearances in nursing/assisted living facilities
4. Welcomed 56 new members to our congregation
5. Initiated monthly young-adult activities
6. Encouraged intergenerational activities to build a spirit of caring and fun, including youth service, Mystery Pals, special performance by a storyteller, knitting group making caring shawls
7. Began addressing changing needs with new building by reassessing staffing and adjusting hours accordingly
8. Conducted exploratory discussions regarding leadership training during workshop at all-congregational retreat, then organized and conducted leadership training for congregational leaders and committee chairs/co-chairs.

What we are doing this congregational year, 2007-2008:

Reach Out to the Wider Community

1. Held our second all-church ACTION week with the theme Heal Our World—all ages participated and made a difference, connected in new ways
2. New banner welcomes visitors
3. New Website makes it easier to learn about our congregation and visit
4. Held another successful all-church bazaar that attracted many people from the larger community; had new banners up and handouts to explain what our congregation is about
5. Senior minister Scott Alexander read during a Sunday service his letter to President Bush urging restraint and diplomacy in relations with Iran; the congregation held talk-backs after each service in reaction to this important letter
6. Held a special Saturday evening service with uplifting poetry and music
7. Welcomed Khlur Mukhim, the representative from the Unitarian Union of North East India, where we have one of our partner churches
8. Held a chancel dialogue with the Imam from a mosque in Columbia, MD
9. Held a special debate one Sunday on Just War or Non-Violence
10. Hosted a Town Hall Meeting on health care in Maryland, to glean different perspectives and concerns
11. The Social Justice Council has developed the idea of Redirect the Rebate, suggesting that people—within the congregation and beyond--use their tax rebates for special causes
12. Women from River Road met with women at the Dar al-Taqwa Mosque for a tour, refreshments, and discussion of women in Islam

13. We are signing up to feed the homeless during the first week of June at a shelter in Rockville

Grow Our Membership

1. Bring-a-Friend Sundays continue
2. Membership Committee continues to host for newcomers informational gatherings about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism, in regular Sunday morning meetings and the New UU Saturday classes
3. Membership Committee continues to contact Friends of RRUUC to invite them to become members
4. Young adults meet regularly for special events
5. RRUUC's All-Announce email service expanded its list of receiving email addresses and extended its coverage to include items from the River Road Weekly
6. River Road has a newly invigorated Public Relations Committee to get the word out about our congregation and grow our membership

Unite in the Spirit of Fun and a Culture of Caring

1. Held a successful all-congregational retreat at Camp Tockwogh
2. Offered a catered lunch during the summer
3. Held our first Fall Leadership Forum to support emerging leaders
4. Enjoyed dancing, music, and food while supporting our two partner churches
5. Middle schoolers organized another haunted house during the Halloween Party
6. Youth organized food donations at All Souls for Thanksgiving Food Drive
7. Holiday party in December encouraged kids to make for themselves and others
8. Alternative Gift Market provided ways to remember our larger world while giving during the holidays
9. Winter Cabaret showcased the many musical and storytelling talents of our adults—ask Russ to tell his version of Cinderella!
10. Our youth staged another successful Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, this time involving pirates, lost treasure, and a delicious pirate stew. Proceeds will go to university students in Santa Marta, El Salvador
11. Circle Suppers have started connecting people by sharing meals in their homes
12. Fourth graders made teddy bears for children in-crisis and delivered them to police officers one Sunday
13. Our annual fellowship dinner and skit celebrated our contributions to each other and the larger congregation
14. River Road has a new suggestion box for people to ask a question or suggest something new

Nurture Spiritual Growth

1. Covenant groups started in October; new groups continue to form
2. Our ministerial intern has led a series of workshops on personal spirituality, including such topics as prayer, meditation, and building home altars