

Connections Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Committee Chair and Members: Pauletta Copenheaver and Lisa Evanylo (Co-chairs), Kim Feucht, Patrick Feucht, Crosby Houston, Britton Gildersleeve, Pam Philips, Akiko Nakata, Jill Kiecolt

Purpose of the Committee: Promote and enhance membership by developing programs, conducting activities, and producing materials to connect with potential members and visitors, encourage interested parties to become members, and enhance the integration and involvement of current members and friends.

Achievements During the Last Year: Held two newcomers' orientations, supported 2 new member ceremonies, held monthly and weekly (except for 2nd Sundays) as of November 2023, "Get to Know UUC", held coffee hours after services with snacks provided by committees or individuals, offered a wine & cheese social to the UUC auction, held monthly potlucks, supported the re-start of a new writers' group, helped with the end-of-year RE Sunday Sunday, assisted with the Stewardship Celebration, continued Circle Suppers, organized a watermelon social following the Water Service, continued to have greeters both for in-person and virtual services, coordinated the annual Thanksgiving Potluck at UUC, participated in the Activities Fair, and assisted with the RE Family Crafts/Movie Food Night.

Lessons Learned in the Last Year: Revising the newcomers' orientation agenda and replacing the long presentation of UUC's history with a written history improved the sessions, and providing snacks during coffee hour encourages more people to stay and socialize.

Committee Expenses for the Year: To date \$555.02 has been spent on UUA brochures and mostly hospitality (coffee, kitchen supplies, cleaners), with another substantial amount in receipts from hospitality being turned in by the end of the year. The committee has a budget of \$1075.

How the Committee Supports the Mission and Vision of UUC: We support our mission by creating connection opportunities and providing ways for new and old to develop friendships. We help transform friends into active members. Our vision of being known as a place of welcome, joy, and celebration is practiced as we welcome visitors, celebrate new members and support the new members ceremony.

Goals of the Committee for Next Year: Continue to acquaint people with possibilities to serve. Continue to support RE activities. Continue newcomers' activities and support connections among all UUC congregants. Work to increase participation at social events.