

# Grounds Committee Annual Report 2023–2024

**Committee Chair and Members:** Jim Flowers (Chair), Susan Baker, George Lally, Denise Martin, Amanda Morgan, Greg Evanylo, Susie Fry, Walt Pirie

**Purpose of the Committee:** To maintain and improve our Grounds in support of our larger congregational Mission.

**Achievements During the Last Year:** Tune-up of Zone management concept, including significant re-juvenation of the Glades, ecological re-direction of the Meadow, ongoing tweaking of the Gardens, and improvement of the lower Picnic Area. We experienced a successful Fall and Spring (Big Event) work days and introduced casual work days. We operated within our budget and created an initial draft of a fresh Ten Year Plan.

**Lessons Learned in the Last Year:** Periodic group workdays are more interesting to general congregants than regular solo maintenance assignments. The No-mow May concept, while publicly noticeable, is actually counter-productive from an ecological point of view. Zone leaders must be allowed general autonomy over their zones, within the general guidelines adopted by the Committee and according to the latest Ten-Year Plan.

**Committee Expenses for the Year:** The latest and most accurate description of our expenses are available from the Administrator via the Budget vs. Actual statements regularly provided.

**How the Committee Supports the Mission and Vision of UUC:** We consider the UUC grounds to be a spiritual venue to be used for nature appreciation, meditation, prayer, and gentle recreation. We welcome neighbors and community members to walk our grounds. We consider the grounds and their flora and fauna to be a trust, and ourselves as stewards of that trust.

**Goals of the Committee for Next Year:** Completion of a fresh Ten Year Plan, including input from the Committee on Ministries gathering of congregational advice. Operate within budget. Recruit additional regular volunteers, including possible identification of future Zone Leaders and Committee members.