



The H E E D

June 2025

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

ABM Budget Presentation

In Treasurer Jen Pavlik's budget presentation at the Annual Business Meeting on May 28, she urged members and friends to try to dig deeper next year for their financial donations to defray the estimated \$51,000 of expenses in the 2026 fiscal year. As of May 25, donations were running about 27% below this fiscal year's budgeted amount with only a month remaining.

Current budget pressures include the \$5,335 for the Fellowship's liability insurance, a cost which has doubled during Jen's tenure as treasurer. Maintenance expenses for our building and grounds this year are currently \$1,270 higher than planned, and because of the aging structure, these expenses will likely increase over time. The yearly landscaping expenses are \$2,900 and snow removal is \$2,500. Our rental tenants help to cover these costs.

The new budget is calling for \$18,500 in donations for FY'26. We currently have 51 adult members in 36 households. This means that budgeted donations will be met if each member gives an average of \$363 or each household gives an average of \$514 during the 12 months beginning in July.

Join Our Services at 10:00 AM Sundays, Starting Again September 7, 2025

It's summertime, and the livin' is easy. And in keeping with a Unitarian tradition dating back to the early 19th Century, our Fellowship takes a vacation for the summer. This is becoming less common among UU's in the US, but here in Durham we still keep that custom.

But this only means that Sunday services are suspended. Our Care Committee, Social Action Committee, Marketing & Outreach Subcommittee, and in fact all of our committees and councils still find things to do during the summer.

If you find the need to do something, please get in touch with any of our committee members and they'll help you out. And of course, please remember that our entire Fellowship is more than ready to help you with personal issues you may have. Just give us a call or email...or text if you are Gen Z. Chris Rogers is coordinator of our Caring Committee at 603-970-0502 by call or text.

See you next September!

UUA General Assembly June 18-22

Want to know more about our denomination? Want to be a delegate to this year's GA? At our Annual Business Meeting on May 28th, Deb Johnson, coordinator of Denominational Affairs, reported that two Fellowship members are needed to attend virtually the General Assembly of the **Unitarian Universalist Association** from June 18-22. Registration fees of \$150 per person to attend business-only discussions will be paid by the Fellowship.

What to know before attending the annual UU gathering. Click on this link and you'll find a wealth of information on GA. Get in touch with Deb if you still have questions. www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-general-assembly-2025-registration-accessibility-childcare-info

Annual Business Meeting

May 28, 2025, Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Present: Tom Reichheld, Chip Noon, Jen Pavlik, Deb Johnson, Carol Bullivant, Bob Bullivant, Sarge Legard, Larry Vogelmann, Mary Downes, John Macri, Thomas Pistole, Fred Hochgraf, Dawn Meredith, Sue Noon, Jon Babon, Nick Isaak, Mike Fleming, Bob Pavlik, Rachel Legard.

The Minutes from the 2024 ABM were approved.

Reports from committees:

House: Jon and others are working on rectifying the stone wall out front. Upstairs offices and the one downstairs are rented. We need to paint the back side of the building over the deck. The elevator inspection has more requirements and thus is more expensive. (Jon Babon).

Membership: A lot of new members have signed the book and there are others who would like to. (Tom Reichheld)

Other reports were in the prior HEED newsletter.

The Treasurer presented next year's budget. Jen Pavlik pointed out there is still time left in the financial year. We are currently in a similar position to where we have been at this point the last few years. Income has not met the budget, but expenses have also not come in at the

budgeted amount. There is one more tax bill coming. Money came out of the Nest Egg account for marketing which is something that the body was in favor of at last year's annual business meeting.

Donations are under budget, but Jen left the goal amount the same for next year.

Insurance with Church Mutual has increased and is expected to increase again. There was some discussion about Church Mutual. It is the main insurer for Churches.

To balance the budget, Jen proposes taking \$1000 out of the Nest Egg account. There was some discussion about whether we should do this or not. Sarge was able to locate the description of the Nest Egg account and this is one of the stated uses for the money. Jen may not need it over the next five weeks, depending on what bills come in before June 30.

Larry Vogelmann asked about the solar panel status. John Macri explained that in 5 years (15 years after the installation in 2015) they can be purchased. Mary Downes warned against having to make expensive repairs right before purchasing. John said we can continue the agreement we have until 2040.

Larry Vogelmann moved that we accept and pass the budget. This passed unanimously.

Sarge Legard made a comment on the website and password, stressing the importance of information there and that all members should be able to access it.

Nominations: Sarge Legard presented the current slate of officers with 2 open positions: Vice President and House Manager. He was asked if this is concerning and what happens next. He said yes, it is concerning and next he will continue to try to fill the open positions.

Larry Vogelmann moved that we accept the slate of Officers, Chair People and Council Coordinators. This passed unanimously.

Chip agreed to be the interim VP. Mary Downes expressed willingness to learn the position of VP.

The Transitional Board Meeting was set for 6:30 on June 18.

Other Business:

Deb Johnson talked about General Assembly (this year June 18 - 22) and encouraged two people to attend. DUUF pays the associated fees. She is available for questions.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Mike Fleming shared a letter about climate change written by Richard Lipari. He proposes sending it signed from the fellowship to representatives and media. Mary Downes added that it could also be sent to the NH Department of Energy which is collecting opinions before the end of this month. Jon Babon requested signing it from the Fellowship and Its Youth.

Deb Johnson moved that Mike Fleming send the letter signed by the Fellowship and Its Youth to the NH Department of Energy and subsequently sending this to both news organizations and our representatives. This passed unanimously.

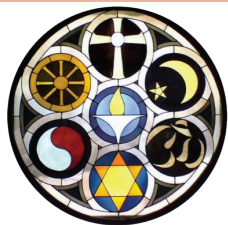
*Rachel Legard
Filling in for the Secretary*

Caring Committee

We still care!

Although our Sunday Fellowship meetings are on summer break, your Caring Committee remains ready to spring into action, should the need arise, as indeed we are ready to do no matter what the season. Of course in a caring community we all look out for one another, but if any specific or additional needs arise, please contact Chris Rodgers (coordinator) at 603-970-0502 by call or text.

Caring Committee members for the upcoming fellowship year: Chris (as above), Dawn Meredith, Carol Bullivant, Susan Bullivant.



The Six Sources Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

The Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, "The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities."

- 1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The seven Principles and [Six Sources](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.



Program Committee Annual Report

This year's committee consisted of Dawn Meredith, Betty Crepeau, and Thomas Pistole as chair. This report also appeared in the May edition of The HEED.

In planning the Sunday programs for this Fellowship year we used three model formats. The first was our standard format that featured a speaker and discussion period. The second model was a reflection format and featured short periods of meditation interspersed with readings, music, and other activities. The third format was an interactive approach involving discussion, either in small groups or as a whole.

Among these varied formats we considered a wide variety of topics. Within the area of religion we explored agnosticism and humanism, and looked at components of the newly adopted shared values used to describe Unitarian Universalism. We began and ended our Fellowship year with an inward look at ourselves.

Within the sphere of our own lives we looked at gratitude, finding peace, love and forgiveness, loving conversations, and at death.

We looked at the power of poetry, of storytelling, and of music. We explored the spirituality of gardening. We learned more about the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and about the lives and accomplishments of several African-American women. We glimpsed the life of a hospice chaplain.

Because of events in our country this year we included more programs focusing on social justice issues. Topics included food insecurity, immigration challenges, the situation in Gaza, various voting issues, affordable housing, and peace.

We conducted a survey part way through the year. The results are summarized below and are based 11 responses. We used a five-point scale with 5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

Traditional format programs: 4.5; lowest rating was 3

Discussion format programs: 4.64

Reflection format programs: 3.73 [note: this showed a bimodal response. We made some modifications to this format and individual feedback was positive.]

Other comments/suggestions included leaving plenty of time for the speaker and having UU ministers come more often. There were very favorable comments regarding Maria and the music. Our sense is that we are on the right track and the committee will continue to make adjustments as appropriate.

Several folks gave suggestions for possible speakers, for which we are very grateful. Dawn and Betty will be continuing the committee and invite your comments or suggestions. Sending ideas for speakers via email is best, so we aren't relying only on our memory!

Rock My Soul Rocks On!

Hi All,

Here is info on a couple upcoming music events people might like, including the beginning of my Rock My Soul choir's summer series! More info on that whole series is at www.projectmusicworks.org and www.projectmusicworks.org/tickets. Proceeds fund our ongoing outreach performances at nursing homes and jails!

Chris Chance



President's Message

This is my last message as your president. Thank you all for your support, guidance, and the fellowship you have given me over the last three years. I have been honored to serve you and promise to continue my service to one of the best organizations to which I have belonged.

Every Contribution Matters

At the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we thrive on the spirit of community, connection, and shared purpose. As Members and Friends of this cherished Fellowship, you are at the heart of our vibrant community, and your involvement plays a crucial role in shaping the work we do together. While financial contributions are appreciated, they are not expected, nor are they a prerequisite for participating in the life of our Fellowship. We believe in welcoming everyone and ensuring that no one feels excluded due to their ability or inability to contribute financially.

Ways to Support the Fellowship

We warmly invite you to make a difference by volunteering your time, talents, and energy. There are countless ways to

actively participate in the work of the Fellowship, and each brings its own unique value and reward:

Join a Committee

Dive into the heart of our organizational efforts by joining one of our committees. Whether it's planning meaningful services, organizing events, managing communications, or supporting social justice initiatives, committees are where ideas come to life. Your insights and enthusiasm can inspire others and strengthen the foundation of our shared mission.

Participate in Activities

Get involved in the many activities hosted by the Fellowship. These range from community outreach programs to educational workshops, social gatherings, and group discussions. By participating, you not only enrich your own experience but also contribute to the inclusivity and vibrancy of our community.

Support Community Organizations

The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition that has changed in many ways from the original Christian roots of its Universalist and Unitarian heritages, and it continues to evolve today. Most recently, this evolution has taken the form of adopting new language to describe who we are as UUs. At General Assembly in June 2024, UUs voted to replace existing Seven Principles and Six Sources language in our bylaws with language describing Unitarian Universalism through these shared values:

Interdependence: We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.

Pluralism: We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

Justice: We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.

Transformation: We adapt to the changing world.

Generosity: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

Equity: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

has a proud history of supporting various community organizations. From assisting local charities to advocating for social equity and environmental sustainability, our collective efforts have made a lasting impact. Your participation in these activities helps uphold our tradition of service and strengthens our bonds with the wider community.

Why Your Involvement Matters

Active participation in the Fellowship aligns with our purpose—to foster spiritual growth, social responsibility, and a sense of belonging. When you volunteer, you not only support the Fellowship's work but also help create an environment where every individual feels valued and heard. Your involvement is a gift that benefits both the Fellowship and the broader community.

A Welcoming Space for All

At the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we are committed to inclusivity and hospitality. We welcome anyone and everyone who wishes to associate with us. Our doors are open to all who believe in our mission and

principles, and we cherish the diversity and richness that each person brings to our community.

How to Get Started

If you're ready to get involved, reach out to us! We encourage you to speak with our leadership team, attend Fellowship meetings (re-starting on September 7th), or connect with committee chairs to explore opportunities that align with your interests. Whether you can offer a few hours a month or more, your time and talents are invaluable. For now, just get in touch with me: Chip Noon, 603-866-1121 or chipnoon@gmail.com. I'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

A Final Word

At the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, every contribution matters. Whether it's your time, skills, or presence, your involvement strengthens our community and furthers our ability to make a positive impact. Together, we can achieve great things, support meaningful causes, and foster a Fellowship that embodies unity and purpose.

**Join us. All are welcome.
Your participation makes
all the difference.**

Chip Noon



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

**General Assembly 2025
From June 18–22, 2025,** the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event, with the main stage hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland and hundreds more joining on the Whova app.

[www.uua.org/
files/2025-05/ga2025_webinar_05212025.pdf](http://www.uua.org/files/2025-05/ga2025_webinar_05212025.pdf)



DUUF Officers, Chairpersons and Council Coordinators, and Members of Committees and Councils for 2024-2025 - Under 2018 By-Laws

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Chip Noon

Vice President: Rachel Legard

Treasurer: Jen Pavlik

Secretary: Julie Lipari

COMMITTEES

Program: Thomas Pistole (Chair), Dawn Meredith, Betty Crepeau

Religious Exploration: Bob Pavlik

House and Grounds: House: Jonathan Babon (Chair), John Macri; Grounds: (TBD); Dottie's Garden: Sarah Tambling; Rentals: Maria Isaak

Socials: Carol Bullivant (Chair), Deb Johnson

Membership: Tom Reicheld (Chair), Rachel Legard; Caring Subcommittee: Dawn Meredith, Susan Bullivant, Chris Rodgers (coordinator)

COUNCILS

Nominations: Sarge Legard (Coordinator)

Music Council: Maria Isaak (Coordinator)

Green Sanctuary: Mike Fleming (Coordinator), Nick Isaak

Social Action: Dawn Meredith (Coordinator), Betty Crepeau

Communication & Outreach: TBD (Webmaster), Bob Bullivant (HEED Editor)

Marketing Subcommittee: Julie Lipari, Chip Noon, Susan Noon

Denominational Affairs: Deb Johnson (Coordinator)

DUUF Durham Housing Association Representative: Susan Noon, Secretary

Our Mission Statement

The real test of our religion is the way we live our lives. The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism:

We seek to be a place in which each person's unique worth and beliefs are acknowledged and respected and where each person's voice may be heard – a place in which each may freely explore his or her own spiritual path. We join with others in reaching out to make the world more just, and commit ourselves to caring for the earth and all that makes up the web of life.

We strive to be a source of inspiration, a forum for intellectual exchange, a wellspring of comfort to those in need and a nurturing, supportive community for each other and our children.



Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

HEED is published by the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Durham, New Hampshire.
Editor: Bob Bullivant
Designer/Layout: Chip Noon

20 Madbury Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824
www.uudurhamnh.org