



2024-25 Pledge Campaign

Our mission: We strive to be a welcoming and growing spiritual community of religious liberals advancing acceptance, pursuing reason, nurturing love, furthering justice, and promoting peace.

Whether you're a current MVUUC member or a new attendee, we hope you'll consider pledging to support our congregation in 2024-2025. This packet includes a summary of MVUUC activities from this past year and our plans for the future; an explanation of membership; our proposed 2024-2025 budget; income-based giving guidelines; electronic payment instructions; and fillable pdf pledge form.

As a member-run church, we rely on the service and monetary contributions of our members. Your pledge helps us plan for the coming year so we can continue to be a vibrant community. Thank you for your pledges!

Please respond by 03/31/2024.

YEAR-IN-REVIEW: MVUUC 2023-2024

Activities and Accomplishments

This year has been a year of community building and there is much to be proud of! We want to take the time to review key highlights of the year and acknowledge the efforts involved.

Sunday Services

During 2023-2024, the SSC continued working hard to ensure quality, inspirational services that connected with UU principles. In particular, the committee worked to ensure the congregation learned about the UUAs proposed shifts in language and the upcoming adoption of revised principles. We met our goal of inviting outside speakers to share their wisdom and inspire us on a number of topics ranging from the metaphysical to the historical.

In addition, we worked to be more inclusive with the children in our congregation, adding stories for all ages that tie in with the week's purpose and theme, as well as rearranging the order of service to allow for more participation by the children.

For the upcoming year, the SSC will continue programming quality services, using our own resources, as well as inviting inspiring experts to enrich our spiritual lives.

We thank the **Sunday Services Committee** members (Noel McCluney, Tom Edge, Ted Goldman, Melanie Stinson, Kevin McCluney, Megan Rancier, David Love, Robyn Perry, Winnie Rex, Susan Rogers, Lynn Israel, Tina Jones [**chair**]) and contributing members (Steve Israel [sound], Colleen Fitzgerald, Demetrius Ingram, Lisa Merrill-Price, and Lou Hebert) volunteer their time to plan and lead weekly services. Special thanks to our Music Director Ted Goldman and our SSC chair Tina Jones!

Religious Education

- Noel McCluney was hired as our new DRE!
- Our new playset was purchased and assembled in Spring/Summer 2023.
- Mackenzie Phillips and David Love have served as RE Assistants.

2023-24 RE:

- Held another epic Hogwarts Camp in August 2023.
- Began holding monthly RE Committee Meetings in September
- Continued running RE August-December with efforts of Mackenzie Phillips MVUUC RE Assistant and volunteers David Love and Noel McCluney
- Noel McCluney took on role of Director of Religious Education in January 2024
- Comprehensive RE curriculum planned out for the year

- Began providing RE lesson summary handouts for families
- Began sending RE specific weekly email newsletter
- Updated Children's Programs section of website
- Created new RE family welcome packet and flyers for marketing tables
- Created lesson progress map for kids to track progress and receive awards
- Began establishment of teen room
- Began revamp of main RE room
- Assisted Membership Committee with reaching out to families we haven't seen in a while



2024-25 RE Goals

- Hold another successful Hogwarts Camp August 10-11
- Continue holding monthly RE Committee meetings
- Continue lesson handouts and RE newsletter
- Fully launch RE progress maps
- Complete teen room and begin teen program lesson extensions
- Complete main RE room update
- Update young child room
- Install fence around playset outside
- Improve advertisement of program with pictures on website and regular Facebook posts



- We established a regular schedule for donations to **Brown Bag Food Project** so that every potluck Sunday (first Sunday of each month) is a designated Brown Bag donation day.
- We held several **Red Cross Blood Drives** thanks to the dedicated leadership of **Lisa Merrill-Price** and **Bob Price**.

Social Action

- We continued the **Antiracism Reading Group**, led by **Megan Rancier**. We have read numerous works about race, racism, and social justice and we are currently reading *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*.
- We managed a **community garden** and shared produce with members.
- We organized two outings to clean up MVUUC's adopted mile of the **Slippery Elm Trail**.

Building and Grounds

- We took good care of our HVAC system with regular maintenance.
- We purchased **new fire extinguishers** and updated our fire safety system.
- We installed a **Knox Box** so that the local fire department can access a door key in case of an emergency.



- Our **inaugural Chili Cook-Off** featured nine contestants and generated over \$150 in donations.
- **Goals** for 2024-2025 include more committee members, more non-service events and hangouts, more all ages/intergenerational events, events across the Toledo area, and working with the community to bring more non-UUs into our space.

Membership

- We organized a **new member ceremony** to welcome seven new members – *Laura Burdine Schutze, Will DeLamater, Robin DeLamater, Mackenzie Phillips, Buffi (Beverly Ann) Elwazani, Ted Goldman, and Heather Goldman* – who were the first to sign our new membership book.
- **Kevin McCluney** and **Lynn Israel** updated our **membership list** and made electronic and paper copies available to congregation members.
- We **updated our electronic sign messages** to improve recruitment efforts.
- We were able to give accurate numbers to the **UUA** regarding members and friends.
- **Matt Rower** designed an ad for MVUUC that appeared in the *Best of BG* publication distributed to BGSU students.
- Proposed updates to **bylaws** about membership
- Improved our **Facebook** advertising
- Began developing **new blue cards** to learn about visitors to MVUUC
- **Goals** for next year include implementing new blue cards, increased advertising, and more consistent follow-up with visitors and people we haven't seen in a while.

Finance

- A **professional bookkeeper** was hired to assist the treasurer.
- The Finance Committee assisted with creation of MVUUC's annual budget and ran the **pledge campaign**.
- All of our bills have been paid - including our dues to the UUA - thanks to our wonderful and dedicated treasurer **Winnie Rex**.

- We hired a **professional cleaning service** to deep clean the building and provide ongoing quarterly cleanings.

Caring

- Under the leadership of **Tom Edge**, we created a **Memorial Garden** sub-committee to plan a memorial garden at MVUUC to honor our loved ones.

Fellowship

- Committee chair **Colleen Fitzgerald** reinstated Game Nights
- Monthly Circle Dinners continued, organized by **Winnie Rex** and **Robyn Perry**
- We hosted Trunk-or-Treat, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and UU Trivia
- **Robyn Perry** became chair in December 2023 and began hosting monthly **Movie Nights**.



Nominating

- Committee members worked hard to build a slate of candidates for 2023-24, and are preparing the 2024-25 slate for our congregational meeting in April.

Administration

- We rented the MVUUC building to the **Roots Homeschool Co-op** on Wednesdays from September 2023-May 2024. They provide social and educational support to neurodiverse kids and their families.
- Our **Administrative Assistant Tina Jones** has kept our weekly newsletter running smoothly and our electronic sign messages up to date, in addition to many other administrative duties each week.
- We continued to connect with our members and friends with our **weekly newsletter** and we've kept our **website** current.
- We held a **Board Retreat** in December 2023 to give Board members an opportunity to build relationships and discuss strategic planning for MVUUC.
- Our **committed board members** (*Megan Rancier, Lisa Merrill-Price, Winnie Rex, Lynn Israel, Matt Rower, Colleen Fitzgerald, Tom Edge*) have continued to meet monthly to discuss and work on congregational needs.

NEXT YEAR'S PLANS: MVUUC 2024-2025

Check out plans for our coming year!

- **SSC:** Continue to provide quality hybrid services and increase the number of outside speakers and musicians.
- **RE:** Continue to provide quality RE lessons, hold Hogwarts summer camp, continue to freshen up RE space and associated areas.
- **SAC:** Continue monthly collection drives, Antiracism Reading Group, garden, and blood drives. Create a calendar of monthly social action activities for 2024-25. Find new chair.
- **Building and Grounds:** Find new chair, continue maintenance efforts with cleaning and lawn care services, start land management activities in prairie area, paint foyer wall and sanctuary ceiling, resurface the parking or replace sanctuary carpeting.
- **Caring:** Continue to support members, continue developing plans for memorial garden.
- **Fellowship:** Continue game nights, movie nights, circle dinners; expand events into the community.
- **Membership:** Keep membership list up-to-date, track attendance and reach out to people we haven't seen, and assist with marketing/recruitment efforts (e.g., sign, Facebook).
- **Administration:** Continue to hold monthly board meetings and onboard new board members, work more closely with UUA leadership to help MVUUC clarify its mission and vision, utilize UUA trainings to develop necessary skills.



To make your pledge,
scan the QR code or visit
tinyurl.com/3n7cewab