

Report on Connections Talking Circle 3—Discovering All Relationships/Networks Our Faith Community Builds Beyond Itself (DARN)

Summary

The third tough task of interim transition, after leadership, is connections. The congregation was offered two (2) talking circles to discuss aspects of leadership.

The DARN talking circles had 16 participants, including one e-mail response to the questions. The reasons for attending circles included wanting to renew commitment to church, wanting to improve connections, belief that networks are important, and (importance of our) values we make to the community. The Archives committee also submitted their research on church connections for discussion during the circles and for this report.

Details on the circles and the contributions made are given below.

Connections Talking Circle 3—Discovering All Relationships/Networks Our Faith Community Builds Beyond Itself (DARN)

Fifteen (15) participants attended talking circles either Wednesday 9/16 or Sunday 9/20.

The questions and responses for the circles were:

1. *What are our church's current connections to organizations beyond itself?*

<u>Wednesday group (7 people/1 e-mail response/2 facilitators)</u>	<u>Sunday group (6 people/2 facilitators)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups (local) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecumenical Council ○ Cedar Rapids Charities Non-Profits: Community connections with our plate collection (e.g. Madge Phillips Housing, etc.) and social justice projects (e.g., HACAP Headstart Olivet Classroom, Linn County Food Bank, Feed Iowa First) ○ Theatre Cedar Rapids ○ Cedar Rapids Police ○ City of Cedar Rapids ○ Our block ○ Cedar Rapids Public Library ○ United Way Tax Assistance ○ The Karaoke bar community ○ Helping Hands ○ United Nations ○ CROP Walk ○ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) ○ Like-minded groups in area ○ Minister connects with community and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar Rapids non-church connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serendipity Book Group ○ Unnamed Book Group ○ Old "Farts": retired friends, my colleagues and (their) spouses ○ Kirkwood Community Council ○ Medical Reserve Corps ○ Humanists of Linn County ○ Hiring local businesses for (church) maintenance

<p>wider and congregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using the sign out front! Makes a statement—humor, values—speaking to the) neighborhood ○ Love of our community ○ Our friends (e.g., youth bring in others not connected to our church) ○ Our schools ○ Local musicians (e.g., Jonny Lipford) ○ Would like to see connections to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood Welcome ▪ Sponsor Community Forums and Workshops ▪ Green Square Meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Social Justice Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UU Social Justice Social Justice ○ HACAP Olivet Classroom/Social Justice local grade school support ○ United Nations Association ○ Feed Iowa First ○ Iowa Abortion Access Fund ○ Helping Hands ○ Food Pantry ○ VITA Income Tax Service ○ Community Health Free Clinic ○ Multiple local organizations voted by congregation with shared plate collections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spin-off—self sustaining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Iowa Abortion Access Fund (IAAF) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unitarian Universal Association (UUA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness Advocacy Network (IUUWAN) ○ UUA Mid-America Region ○ Iowa UU churches (e.g., Iowa City UU) ○ Minister’s colleagues ○ Camp Unistar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Denominational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UUA ○ Mid-America Region ○ UU Service Committee ○ IUUWAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other UU Religious Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) ○ UU’s worldwide (e.g., have had active Partner Church relationship in past, would like to again) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other UU Churches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rochester UU ○ Des Moines UU ○ Iowa City UU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Religious Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inter Religious Council ○ Muslims in CR ○ Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center ○ Church to CR church community ○ Faith groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cedar Rapids non-church connections (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interreligious Council ○ Ecumenical Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joyous noise to the universe ○ Members to new friends ○ Members to work places ○ United Nations 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within Peoples Church UU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Van Vechten Guild ○ Our families—children learning UU values even if they leave church ○ Circles ○ Connections between the generations—Elders, Children, Parents, Families, Youth ○ Covenant Groups ○ Worship Associates ○ Social Media (e.g., Facebook) ○ Religious Education ○ Peoples History ○ Member to member ○ Minister ○ Staff ○ Teaching others ○ Connection of present (congregants) to deceased (congregants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Van Vechten Guild ○ Paraministry ○ Finance committee (money counters) ○ Good Neighbors ○ PCUU Committees ○ Peoples Humanist Group ○ Peoples Memorial Ministry ○ Peoples Archive Committee ○ Covenant Groups ○ CUUPS ○ Social Justice ○ Bridge Group Facilitator

2. *How do we decide as a congregation what connections to make and what kind they will be (church-supported vs. affinity group)?*

- Past connections; some are traditional and have been around a long time
- Workshops
- Person with interest/passion brings it to church to see if church will formalize action/money to make it come alive
- A lot of things come from the board (e.g., community contacts church for help and Board decides whether or not to pursue)
- Current Social Justice committee suggested IUUWAN to Board; Board approved, congregation was asked what areas they wanted to act on this year; Social Justice committee surveyed congregation's interests for action (but) congregation did not vote on specific projects (e.g. Olivet classroom)
- At the end of last year the SJC conducted a survey to determine what social justice areas the members wanted to focus on in 2015. It was poverty/income inequality, followed by racial injustice and the environment. Therefore, the SJC focused its activities along these lines. My plan is to have the SJC propose some SJ initiatives (based on the interests of the SJC) to the membership at the Annual Meeting in Dec and have a vote. Whichever initiative has the most votes is where we focus our efforts in 2016. I think it is very important for the membership to decide on the SJ initiative so there is some ownership and investment. And, we can also ask the membership if they even wish to pursue SJ efforts. It is up to them.
- Minister and other staff make connections
- Spin-offs: Church members start working on a project and it becomes a separate entity (e.g., IAAF)

- Social media and individual initiatives make connections grow quickly
- Our kids are sharing with their friends that Christianity is not the only way and that brings awareness of our church to other youth
- Affinity groups are started by people with an interest (e.g. bridge, Wednesday night workshops, etc.)
- Might be time to survey church members about their desires/interests about what they want addressed
- (How has involvement changed?) We have ebb and flow. (Things are) very active then we regroup. The leadership of the minister sets the tone (outwardly active or regroup).
- (How has involvement changed?) When we have state legislators or other elected officials in our congregation, we are more politically active.
- (How has involvement changed?) In 3rd Ave location, we rented our space to lots of different community groups

3. *What do we do to keep our connections alive and strong?*

- Connect our FB page to those outside connections we have made
- Have time limits to our commitments to outside entities. For instance, we committed to the Head Start Classroom for the calendar year of 2015. After that, we move on to the next priority of the membership.
- Wherever we form bonds/coalitions to promote social; justice and equality, we find ways to publicize it and let the local community know who we are, what we are doing, and why
- Even when things are in the newsletter, at least 1/3 of the people say nobody told them
- It's not enough to read and post on Face Book; we need to use web sites, call our administrator, tell the minister, talk to friends, put it in the Voice, post it on a bulletin board
- It all depends on the person willing to keep that connection alive—can be random
- Would like to see connections between our social justice work and other churches
- Connections are rooted in people who take their connection to the church seriously
- We need to stay active and engaged ourselves; people have to invest themselves and stay informed
- External connections may need to be planned by group
- Visual poster of what is going on
- RE program: the kids are going to have a float in the Holiday Parade
- Post list of historical connections on large paper in the Andre Room
- We need to have a central communication module—would be great to have something centralized

Archives committee lists of past connections are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Price
Chair Interim Transition Task Force

Peoples Connections to the Greater Community

submitted by Clarice Krippner

60's

Fund and clothes collected for Holmes County, Mississippi

Ongoing support of Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarane

Fund Raising for Ticket for needy children to newly opened Bender Pool

Financial contribution to Oak-Hill Jackson Neighborhood Credit Union

Funding for Neighborhood Family Planning Clinic

Supported Walter Kellison's Participation in Selma March

Donated items to the Oak-Hill Neighborhood Store

Collection for Biafra Relief

Clothing sent to Toulouse, France for Spanish Refugees

Members participated in Mail in to President Johnson in Support of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

70's

AIM Trials—support for the families involved and monitoring of Federal trials

Food and Clothing contributions to Rosebud Reservation

Thin String-Peoples fund to help the needy in the community

Members protest Vietnam War

90's

Welcoming congregation, Gay civil rights in city and state

2000's

Marriage Equality

Visible presence at Gay Pride

Across time

Housed:

UNA

Metro Gay Church

Jewish Congregation

Incubated Suzuki School

Trails Group

Notes from Voice Sept 1974-July 1976

Bill Hart

(Dates not clearly marked on some issues)

General note: Voice of this era has lots of notes about individuals' milestones, hospitalizations, & community involvements. There was a series of biographies.

1974 Sept 4 ?

Parking arrangement with Iowa Electric

1974 Sep 11 ?

Heritage Room open for visiting. Want to collect materials.

Thin string (long appeal)

1974 Oct 2 ?

LRY

New members list

Member became citizen

Member hospitalized

1974 Oct 16

Forum on Watergate and Pardon

Biography of a member (series continues through many issues)

1974 Oct 23

O.N.E. store

1974 Oct 30

Forum: Our ideas about **Native Americans**

UUSC

Community food bank

Art exhibits

Bazaar

1974 Nov 6

Steinway benefit

1974 Nov 13

List of community programs

1974 Nov 20

Forum: UUSC project in Haiti

Thin string case story

1974 Dec 4

Steinway benefit

1974 Dec 31

Thin string success story

1975 Jan 7

Forum & service on **Schweitzer**

1975 Jan 14

Small dinners

1975 Feb 26

Thin String

1975 Mar 12

Sisterhood dinner Mar 15

1975 Mar 25

Proposed budget

1975 Apr 22

Rhena Schweitzer Miller speaks Sunday

Submitted by Judy Price, Interim Transition Task Force, 9/28/15, page 6 of 17 pages

Pledge payments behind

1975 May 6
 Forum: Walter Gormly, anti-fluoridation
 Walter Kellison out of hospital

1975 May 14
 After Rhena **Schweitzer** Miller's visit, church sent donation

1975 May 20
 Churches United
 VVG

1975 Sept 2
Memorial service for **Walter Kellison**
 Small dinners
 Thin String fund

1975 Sept 19 ?
 Mary Jo Gross replaced Martha Garner as secretary

1975 Oct 3?
 Margaret Pratt obituary

1975 Oct 14 ?
 Art display

Nov 4
 Small Dinners schedule

1975 Nov 14
 Thank you to Thin String

1975 Dec 9
 Highlights of Questionnaire

1975 Dec 28
 Letter from Rhena Schweitzer Miller about **Schweitzer Hospital**
NAACP seeking memberships. CR branch was re-formed in Peoples Church 1947.
 Summary of congregational questionnaire by Ministerial Search Committee.

1976 Jan 6
 Presidential candidates speak at Peoples

1976 Jan 13
 Ministerial search committee expects to receive list of recommended candidates from Boston.
 Board: Walter Kellison Memorial Fund to provide scholarships to ministerial students associated with the church.

1976 Jan 27
 Singles group starting by Churches in area, Peoples is participating

1976 Feb 24
 Peoples congratulated by UUSC for support in fund drive.

1976 Mar 2
 Ministerial search
 Small dinners
 Singles group (area churches)

1976 Mar 16
 Bob Putt continuing services for church in absence of a permanent minister.
 March Art Fair sponsored by Peoples at Roosevelt Hotel

1976 Mar 23
 Two oil paintings by Ruth Ward

- 1976 Mar 30
 Proposal to buy two parcels near the church
 Midwest Issues Forum lecture series schedule (co-sponsored by Coe and Iowa Board
 for Public Programs in the Humanities
 Highlights of 75-76 at church: Services/forums/RE/Denominational/
 Social Concerns/Special Events/Art/Building/Financial
- 1976 Apr 6
 Resolution to buy property in the church block
 Sunday Morning 2nd program in Humanities Lecture series
 VVG luncheon
 Delegates to General Assembly
- 1976 Apr 20
 Sunday 2-hour program in lecture series, 3rd in 5-part series
 Sisterhood Dinner
- 1976 Apr 27
 Community announcements – Food Bank
- 1976 May 18
 Request for Reconsideration of Board vote to NOT let **Indians** use church again
 RE program and needs for 1976-77
- 1976 May 25
 Annual meeting passed Resolution of Concern for the **Indians**
 Commission of 9 members with \$1500 budget. Note indicates controversy
 on resolution.
- 1976 June 2
 Church picnic at Morton's Farm.
 Brainstorming uses for \$100,000 remaining of Pratt bequest
- 1976 July –
 Ministerial search: Judith Urquhart candidate week
 Peoples People news items
Indians camped at Morton's Farm
- 1976 Sept 7
 Thin String
 UUSC representatives to meet at Peoples
 Peoples People news items
 Churches United O.N.E. store
- 1976 Sept 14
 Forum: Commission formed last may at annual meeting with mandate to see to
 the comfort and safety of **Indians** on trial in Federal Court.
 Discussion of how to use the corner property 3rd Ave and 7th St.
 Community event: C.U.R.E. energy conservation
- 1976 Sept 21
 Prairie Star meeting
- 1976 Sept 28
 Thin String
- 1976 Oct 5
 Small Dinners
 VVG
 Community notes
- 1976 Oct 19
 UNA meeting

Money to Jail Chaplancy \$200
 1976 Oct 12
 Forum: Sheriff candidates debate
 1976 Nov 2
 Small Dinners
 LRY
 1976 Nov 9
 Forum: Human Rights Commission
 1976 Nov 16
 Forum: World Hunger Day, includes Joyce Nielsen, Director of HACAP Urban Center.
 1976 Nov 23
 Citizens United for Responsible Energy raffle tickets can be purchased at Church office
 Announcement of need for volunteers at CR Clinic for Women
 1976 Nov 30
 Installation of Judith Urquhart as minister will be Dec 4
 1976 Dec 14
 Forum: Recovery Inc program for emotional difficulties
 Natural Health Educ. Society event at Peoples
 1977 Jan 4
 Community announcements – Reading tutors, Program on Business of Weapons
 1977 Jan 11
 Solemn celebration in honor of M.L.King at another church
 1977 Jan 18
 Announcements of community events: Iowa legislators town meeting, Good News
 Coop, C.U.R.E., International Student Exchange
 1977 Feb 8
 Judith's Corner: Church advertising on WMT-FM
 Small Dinners
 1977 Mar 15
 Congressman Mike Blouin town meeting in the church
 Sisterhood Dinner Mar 19
 Hearing assist earphones installed
 Deliberating a smoking policy
 1977 Mar 22
 Forum: Panel "Battered women and what's being done in Linn Co."
 Sisterhood dinner thank you
 1977 May 10
 UNA potluck at church
 Thin String
 1976-77 budget in the black
 7th street corner property, 3rd Ave apartment house
 Fight Fat for th Faith weigh-in and sponsors
 UUA delegates
 United Nations Association potluck at church
 1977 May 17
 VVG picnic
 Concert Chorale performance at church
 Fight Fat for the Faith

1977 May 24

\$125 to sponsor a person for Urban Potential Seminar

Morton's Farm cleanup

Recovery Group meeting at church for people with symptoms nervous in origin
or former mental health patients

1977 June 7

Delegates to UUA General Assembly

Thin String

LRY discontinued for summer

1977 July 17

Membership is 278

Thin String fund

Certain investment income to go to CR Public Library in memory of Margaret Pratt

Sale of Parsonage – contract extended

Closed bank account of Commission on **Native Americans**

Red Cross volunteer & board member from church

Minister is on the board of Foundation II

Linn Co Association for Retarded Citizens seeking volunteers (no church involvement?)

TOUCH POINTS IN THE HISTORY OF PEOPLES CHURCH and the larger community
Submitted by Dorothy Hershner

LARGER CR COMMUNITY & beyond

1980-81 - Elisabeth Young's OUTLOOK column in the Gazette

Thin String (Social Responsibility)

4-10-1984, coordination with HACAP, Foundation 2 and LEAF became the way to handle this goal.

1-11-1983 Thin String aids Dakota Indians during tough winter.

(Early VVG members considered efforts of this kind, "paying our civic rent".)

Local artists were honored with a formal receptions when their work was displayed for varying lengths of time in Andre Room.

7-29-1981

Individual support for the CR Medical Aid Fund (subsequently, the IA Medical Aid Fund and currently, the IA Abortion Access Fund.)

Ongoing.

2-23-1982

Youth wrote the Board regarding War & Pacifism. In-house counseling was not mentioned.

9-7-1982 Support for Linn County Food Bank. Ongoing.

9-28-1982

Walter Gormley offered organic produce at his home near Palisades.

10-5-1982

Early efforts to educate people regarding end-of-life choices.

10-26-1982

John Ely led a workshop on Volunteer Simplicity.

3-29-1983

Judith spoke about the importance of preparing wills and powers-of-attorney for health.

2-25-1986

Tax Assistance VITA program at Mt. Mercy

PEOPLES CHURCH COMMUNITY

Summer, 1980 - Paraministry - formed after attendance at Stephens Service workshop in St. Louis, MO. After extensive training in-house, the CR group was celebrated & 'commissioned" at Peoples, March, 1981.

Ongoing.

Submitted by Judy Price, Interim Transition Task Force, 9/28/15, page 11 of 17 pages

9-2-1980 Sisterhood Dinners - Ongoing.
Brotherhood dinners - 5-15-1980,
4-22-1986 - Meet at Peoples & drive to Papa Juans)

9-2-1980 Small Dinners - Ongoing

1981 Youth effort to collect items that can be recycled.

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A definition from an early Peoples Voice that might bring a Smile ~

*RELIGION: A daughter of Hope and Fear explaining to Ignorance
the nature of the Unknowable. (Ambrose Bierce)

ASSORTED EVENTS - NOW & THEN,
over many years and for all seasons ~~~~~~

Partner church connections, Morton's Farm, Bike rides, 'Prom', auctions, Renaissance Dinner, Group
gathering for movies, theater, Dog walking , Rochester Cemetery nature walk or other destinations, Ice
cream social, Picnics, Book discussions, rummage sales, winter sledding at Pinicon Ridge county park, to
name a few ~

Archives from **The Voice** 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988
(Reviewed by Joye Winey 2015)

Jeremy Brigham Minister

Sept.-December 1986

About your sexuality

Outreach was a big part of the congregation

UN, Justice, Crop Walk, UN Forums, Olivet Church, Peace Networks, Nuclear Freeze, Unicef, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Cards distributed. Humanist group.

Concerts on Sunday afternoons

Elevator Pledges Began for December 1986 for installation in October 1987.

All Voices had Biographies of Members, new members and often youth, Birthdays of members.

May 1986

Sermons were on the UU philosophies, Views on War and Peace, U.S. Politics

Flower Services, Brotherhood dinners, book clubs, plant sales, Food Bank, cheese distributions.

Medical Aid fund, American Friends Committee

Had a social concerns committee,

Youth Groups, did dinner theatre "Arsenic and Old Lace"

Talks about Budgets, handicap accessible bldg.

General Assembly

April 1986

Toxic clean

Peace march, rummage sale

June 1986

Church retreat at Palisades Kepler State Park

Summer programs

Volley ball league

Play Groups for children

Building history

June 1987-May 1988

Pancake breakfast

Mention of Grant Wood attending in 1920's.

He participated in the committee to renovate the sanctuary, add the Crossbeams and the wrought iron light fixtures.

Services devoted to musicians, UN and UU principles

Coming together, Palestinian conflicts, pledges, ministerial expectations, World Peace, Women's Justice Islam, Middle East. South America

World religion classes were held in the evenings.

1988

Gay Pride Walk,

Greenpeace

Retreats,

Walk a thons

Submitted by Judy Price, Interim Transition Task Force, 9/28/15, page 13 of 17 pages

Guest at Your Table

High Coffees

Article on Getting to know your Members

Madrigal Dinners

Encouraging Caucus attendance

Hemlock Society Information

Meetings marked with asterisks in the Voice were announcements with community interest.

Lectures on "triangles" in the church

There were "Elevator Pilots", members manning the elevator who took those needing the elevator to the sanctuary.

The Voice: 1984-1988

(Reviewed by Joye Winey-2015)

There didn't appear to be major things happening during this period, but an intense continuation of world and community involvement.

The Voice was a vehicle for sharing events in the Cedar Rapids and larger community that Peoples People were interested. There was exciting conversation during coffee hours, before and after church. There were well attended social functions. Church attendance was high (80-105).

July 1987

The elevator was nearing completion. (Sept.'87)

The cost estimate was \$38,000; the actual cost was \$38,400.

June 1988

Included in each Voice:

Talent Shows," Young UU" corner- a column of what was happening with the youth of the church.

Anniversaries, celebrations were noted.

Minister's column was called "Jeremy's Journal" and included his thoughts and books he was reading.

Picnics, all church retreats, Potlucks, were commonly mentioned.

Frequent requests for Volunteers for outside organizations: Crisis counselor, Muscular dystrophy and the Willis Dady center were among those frequently mentioned.

A note that the Budget was in trouble and to please pay pledges.

Attendance numbers for Sunday's sanctuary and youth attendance was included.

October 1987

A special collection for new hymnals was held. (The gray ones?) Attendance was 105.

Frequent High Coffees

A petition to the City council to Support the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was passed.

Visitor's names were included in the Voice

Committee Chairs, Bios for those running for the Board of Trustees.

Thanks to those who participated in the Worship Service.

Sept. 1987

The Historian Was Hope West.

The Margaret Pratt Library Fund gave \$800. yearly to the public library for the purchase of new books.

Small group dinners were starting (again?)

We were collecting Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids to be sent to Haiti.

A block of twenty was being reserved for Peoples People to attend a performance at the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre.

Submitted by Judy Price, Interim Transition Task Force, 9/28/15, page 14 of 17 pages

April 1988

Included in the Voice:

Wednesday noon a lunch at Gringos, Recycling was encouraged by John Ely. The church had paper drives and recycling collections.

The addresses and phone numbers of new members were included.

A monthly calendar of all church and community events held at the church.

Adult Film Series, Art exhibits and receptions, reference to NOW, the National Organization For Women, Unistar attendees, the Board Agenda.

The Grand Opening of the Cherry Room was held.

December 1988

Included in the Voice:

A Buy, Sell or Trade Column

Book Club information

UNICEF Card Sales

We were unable to find "The Voice" for the dates July 1984-June 1985

The following information came from the *Order of Service* for that time period.

July 8, 1984

Jeremy Brigham and family were in the church for a candidating visit. He was chosen as the ministerial candidate.

Reminders of dates for:

Volley Ball League

Thin String

Committee on Ministry

Adult Education Serious

Couples Groups

Frequent Pancake breakfasts after church

Women's Support Groups

Parties of all kinds: Halloween, New Years Eve, often in members' homes.

UU History was a series being taught.

December 1984

Gay Men and Lesbian AA met twice each week.

A mention of the return visit of the Rev. Howard Parsons, who was the interim minister 1961-1962.

November 11, 1984

The Installation of Jeremy Brigham as the Settled Minister.

1990's Submitted by Jan Federer

1993

- **Formation of Inter-Religious Council of Linn County.** PCUU representatives: Florence Ballantyne and Doris Hamilton. Membership includes persons from many faith traditions, including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Community of Christ, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian-Universalist. (IRCCLC website)
- **Celebration of PCUU 125th anniversary** "Celebration on the Green"
- **Habitat for Humanity** project

1994

- Nov. 6 – Ordination and Installation of Linda Hansen as minister
- Nov. 16 – Covenant Workshop to establish: Responsibilities of minister; Responsibilities shared between minister and others; and Responsibilities of Lay Leaders.

1995

May Annual Report

- **Building and Grounds**– End of 3 yr fund drive for major structural repairs resulted in \$116,244. Temporary shoring walls in place until permanent repairs made in summer. Ron McGraw, Acting Chair; Ray Garnant, Chair; Linda Langston, President of the Board
- **Margaret Hulbert Thin String Fund** – Disbursed \$1898 from May 1, 1994 to April 30, 1995
- **Social Concerns**
 - + Endorsed formation of Welcoming Congregation Committee and paid for training manual
 - + Jim Federer had very active role on 3rd Ave Ecumenical Committee Task Force
 - + John Ely coordinated a petition against the death penalty in the State of Iowa. The Iowa Senate voted against the death penalty.
 - + John Ely continued heading up the recycling program which earned \$360 for social concerns. Bottle & cans with 5 cent deposit were collected along with various metals.
 - + 5 bicycles were donated to Metro High School for student use. (Roy Watkins ?)
- Results of covenant workshop on responsibilities presented to the Board of Directors on April 16, 1995. Pamphlet outlining the covenant distributed.

1996

May – Pumping mortar into sanctuary walls was well underway.

1997

May Annual Report

- **Social Concerns**
 - \$700 generated from recycling of bottles and cans collected at church along with scrap wire, brass, aluminum, iron, etc. \$1000 given to new Ecumenical Center Foundation of which Jim Federer is the treasurer.
 - Cynthia Johnson headed project to assist Somalian refugee family - \$325
 - Crop Walk, PCUU representative on the committee (Mary Alice Ericson ?)
- **Margaret Hulbert Thin String Fund:** disbursed \$281. (Balance to Helping Hands at ECC? See Social Concerns report above.)

Connections 2001 to 2009
Submitted by Judy Price

Local

Ecumenical Center
Margaret Bock Housing
LEAF
CR Islamic Center
Linn County Early Childhood Development Center Giving Tree
Indian Creek Nature Center scholarships
Values in Action (VIA) Summer Tutoring Program at Zion Baptist Church
League of Women Voters
Willis Dady Shelter and Network of Faith
Helping Hands Ministry Magic Show
Cedar Valley Humane Society
Madge Phillips Center

State and National

Youth bucket for Hurricane Katrina victims
Minister attended GA in Fort Worth
Calling All Hearts Massachusetts Supreme Court Equal Marriage Decision
Boston Heritage Tour 2006 Middle School
Zero Poverty Symposium
Iowa Social Justice Center
Marriage Equality
UUA Research on domestic abuse

International

Faith and Labor Movement
UUSC Justice Sunday Darfur
Values in Action (VIA) and Nicaragua medical clinic; Latin America Labor Unions & Human Rights;
Center for Development in Central America
Sponsorship of Rehema Buzayayo from Congo
CROP Walk
Rev. Gregory Andrasi and wife from Kojatszic, Romania
Women for Peace
OxFam Hunger Banquet

Jan Watkins also submitted a history on the Partner Church which is appended.

PARTNER CHURCH HISTORY

February 24, 1990: Jeremy Brigham, Peoples Church Minister had contact with Rev. Gyorgy Andrasi, Minister of the Unitarian Church in Komjatszeg, Transylvania, Romania, where the members are of Hungarian origin.

March 18, 1990: Rev. Brigham, suggested to the Board of Trustees of Peoples, that a partnership be considered. The board agreed. Partnerships are promoted by the UU Partner Church Council.

1992. The Peoples Church Wider Affairs Committee members were: Gene Jahncke, Doris Hamilton, John Ely, Polly Ely, and Florence Ballentyne, Chaired by Roy Watkins. The committee wanted an active partnership. Numerous attempts to make contact failed.

1998: Roy Watkins made contact by telephone to Rev. Andrasi in Romania. Rev. Andrasi explained the difficult economic circumstances of the community in their struggles to recover after the communist revolution in 1989.

May 24 1998. The same committee decided to hold a dinner to raise funds to send to the Partner Church. The first "Hungarian Dinner" took place in the Peoples Church basement. Catered by Kirkwood Community College Culinary students, the dinner menu had Hungarian ethnic dishes with "Bull's Blood" wine from the village of Egri in Hungary. Dinner and silent auction proceeds were \$1,462. 87 tickets were sold. Julie and George Triplett from the Kansas City area explained their visit to their partner church in Romania with a slide show. \$1,000 was sent to our partners. The money was gratefully received by the congregants and used for gasoline expenses for the minister who had to travel from Komjatseg, about 30 miles away, a wood carved gate in front of the church building, furniture for their pre-school Christmas presents and clothing for the children.

May 11, 2001, November 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2006: "Hungarian Dinners" for the purpose of raising funds. Each time, the committee was able to send \$1,000 for such needs as a computer for the minister, a scholarship to send a student to high school in Komjatseg, a fence for around the church property, (very important to their culture) and renovation of the church that was built in the 1800s. The dinners were well attended by the congregation and many members worked hard to make them successful.

November 4, 2004, Kristiana Bagula, Rev. Andrasi's daughter flew from her home in Little Rock, AK, and was guest speaker.

March 5, 2006, Rev. Andrasi visited Peoples Church and delivered a "Transylvanian Church Service" at Peoples. Activities included dinner at the Amanas, together with Bryan Davis, Board President, Rev. Rick Koyle minister at Peoples, original members of the Denominational Affairs Committee, and including Louise Wickham, and Jan Watkins, who had become active members of the committee.

June, 2007: A Peoples Church delegation visited our Partner Church in Romania for one week and were honored guests at a Sunday service celebrating the restoration of their church. It was attended by several denomination dignitaries. A painting by an artist in their congregation was presented to our congregation. Those making the journey to Transylvania were Roy and Jan Watkins, Bryan and Kris Davis, John Karn, Tony Browning and Susan Elliot Bryan. Visits to several historical sites recognizing our Unitarian roots were made possible by our hosts.

2012: Rev. Andrasi retires. The Denominational Affairs Committee lost most members due to death, disability, and greater church needs related to the transition to the church on Gordon Ave. The committee has not been revived as of 2015.