

October 2020

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## Leadership At UUMAN – No Experience Necessary

“In every new, energetic and growing movement we’ve participated in, the most enthusiastic and creative people have been the ones with no experience (Becky Bond & Zack Exley, Rules for Revolutionaries, p179).”

Most people don’t think of themselves as leaders. They feel that leadership is something that only certain people possess; that it is some esoteric quality that one is either born with...or not. Also, people often hold a very limited, pre-conceived conception of leadership; and the characteristics associated with it. People believe that leaders are bold, courageous, extroverted visionaries blessed with eloquence, etc., etc., etc.

I personally believe that leadership is highly nuanced and situational. Different leadership styles are needed in different situations and circumstances; and although good leaders possess certain skillsets, the skillsets themselves can also vary between situation and circumstance.

History bears this out again and again. Moses led his people out of slavery in Egypt yet he needed Aaron to speak to Pharaoh on his behalf as he was not confident in his speaking abilities. Moses then led his people through the desert for forty years to the promised land yet it was Joshua, not Moses, who led the people into the promised land. Universal health care wasn’t Nancy Pelosi’s idea, that vision was first proposed by others, yet she (not the visionaries) was the person with the legislative wherewithal and resolve to push it across the finish line and make it the law of the land. Different situations and circumstances almost always require different leadership styles and skillsets.

...and skillsets are learned and developed.

Last year UUMAN completed its Mission and Vision process:

### MISSION:

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

### VISION:

UUMAN’s vision is to be a vital and visible community for all, bravely working toward the day when social, economic, and environment justice is a reality.

Our mission and vision are intentionally broad. A lot can fit under this umbrella. What excites me the most is that there is room for you under this umbrella – you AND your ideas AND your passion.

To me, passion pulls leadership along with it. Passion motivates one to acquire the skillsets (and partners) necessary to make that passion a reality.

Howard Thurman says, “Do not ask what the world needs. Do what makes you come alive. The world needs people who come alive.”

Yes!!! ...and UUMAN needs people who come alive!

As minister, I see a big part of my role as a cheerleader of sorts. I want to water the seeds of your passion at UUMAN, whatever shape that takes, so that your passion can come alive as a ministry under the broad umbrella of our mission and vision.

We need you to supply your passion. UUMAN (and the UUA) can help with the technical side of the leadership equation. We can help you develop your skillsets with leadership training and opportunities.

UUMAN currently has nine members taking the UUA Southern Region’s Extended Leadership Experience. UUMAN’s Leadership Retreat will be held on Oct 17. We will be offering Leadership courses as part of our 2nd hour programming on Sunday’s at 11:15. These are for you!

To transform your passion into ministry at UUMAN, no experience is necessary. You don’t need permission... but you might need some help. Let us help you!

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave

# Harvest Moon Auction goes Virtual November 7!



## Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to [membership-tech@uuman.org](mailto:membership-tech@uuman.org)

It's 2020, and it feels like our whole world is uncertain and changed. With everything online and distanced, it can be easy to feel disconnected from family and friends. One UUMAN tradition is moving ahead, and we hope that the Harvest Moon Auction will be a chance for all of us to work together and connect in new ways. Some auction events sold last year changed to make sure they could be safely held. Team Trivia went online, the tofu cooking class was held virtually, and even a living room concert is going to be held outdoors, with social distancing. We need our auction now more than ever, not only to help raise funds, but to help us stay connected to each other and to our community.

It will look a little different this year as we plan a week long online silent auction, ending with a virtual online auction on November 7th, with auctioneer extraordinaire, Randy Blasch. We will also be using an online bidding system called Auctria, which you will get plenty of information about later.

For now, we want to ask each UUMAN member and friend to start thinking about what you can do to help make this Auction a success! Our procurement team will be contacting everyone in the next few months, so start thinking about what items you can offer during this time of social distancing. Think outside the box! Everyone can contribute something: Got a gift with the tags still on? A beautiful piece of silver that you never want to polish? Do you knit, sew, make pottery, jewelry, paint, bake, cook, have a vacation home, have a signed book, photo, piece of art, sports memorabilia, rare doll or anything? We want it! Do you babysit, design gardens, cut hair, have a business that offers services such as cleaning, exercise classes, camps, massages, music lessons? We want you! Could you ask your dry cleaners, hairdresser, barber, massage therapist, dentist, therapist, mechanic, dog sitter, veterinarian, house painter, favorite restaurant, caterer, etc. to provide gift certificates? They get new customers and great advertising. We want them! Please commit to helping UUMAN's Harvest Moon Auction with your donations and participation. Also, if you'd like to help with the planning please let us know.

So mark your calendars, think about what you can offer, and when the procurement team reaches out to you, just say YES! Harvest Moon Auction, November 7th!

Put it in your calendar Now!

Thank you!

Laurie Wheeler and Jill Brooks

On behalf of the Harvest Moon Auction team

Date	Celebration
10/2	John and Miriam P. are celebrating their anniversary of 16 years
	Richard L. is celebrating a birthday
10/3	Bruce and McPatti L. are celebrating their anniversary of 29 years
10/4	Jacob P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
10/5	Dillon L. (who was raised at UUMAN) is turning 26
10/11	Michelle L. is celebrating a birthday
10/14	Alex P. is celebrating a birthday
10/18	Olivia P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
10/19	Becky N. is celebrating a birthday
10/22	Jim S. and Annette P. are celebrating their anniversary of 25 years
10/23	Jim S. and Annette P. are celebrating the 26th anniversary of the day they met
10/25	Stephen S. is celebrating a birthday
10/28	Ilona W. is celebrating a birthday
10/29	John P. is celebrating a birthday
10/30	Jan W. is celebrating a birthday



# Notes from the Board: Priorities and Goals

The UUMAN Board of Trustees had its annual Board Retreat on August 15, 2020 online using Google Meets. The purpose of the retreat or meeting was to bring new Board members up to speed and to begin to set priorities and goals for the Board for the year. The retreat was not all business as we had an IceBreaker (2 True/1 False) where we learned some fun things about our colleagues on the Board and who are the better poker players. We also played a game of Kahoots! where Board members got to show off what they had learned so far in the meeting.

We all came away from the meeting with a better sense of direction and a first pass at our “Board priorities and goals” for the upcoming year. The FY20-21 Board Priorities/Goals were then finalized during the August Board Meeting.

1. Staff open positions - Membership Coordinator & DRE
2. Leadership Development
  - Provide 5 leadership development experiences for existing and new leaders
  - Place 7-10 new leaders (for Board and Committee Leadership) in position for 2021-22 board year
3. Complete Policy & Bylaw Updates by end of board year
4. Complete Strategic Planning Goals by May 2021 to be voted on at Congregational meeting

During the meeting we also spent time discussing the “Future of Doing Church in the Age of the Pandemic”. Here are some of the Board’s thoughts that came out of that discussion. Hopefully, some of these resonate with you:

- Maintain and expand membership
- Maintain safety
- Stay connected
- Hybrid life
- Wider net
- Not bound by geography
- Plan now for when the pandemic ends
- UTHM virtual – way ahead of us!
- Once things are better be prepared to pivot
- How do we do UUMAN’s got talent virtually?
- Be cognizant that not everyone is going to have the technology to participate

- What if this is the future of church, that a vaccine will not be available for a long time?
- How important our online presence is, the Communications team could use some help
- Shift in mindset – what can I do for my church

Speaking of the “Future of Doing Church in the Age of the Pandemic” - on October 17th of this year at our annual Leadership Retreat you will have an opportunity to get involved and help set UUMAN’s direction. It will be online of course! At this meeting we will begin to discuss and plan how we are going to fulfill the Mission and Vision of UUMAN. This event is open to all UUMAN Members and Friends. I would like to encourage everyone to attend whether you are a long-time member or brand new to UUMAN. If you are currently a chair of a Ministry team or Standing Committee you should be there if possible - we need your ideas and input! If you are not currently registered for the event I would encourage you to do it now using this link: [UUMAN Leadership Retreat registration](#)

Thank you all for the gifts you give – your time, talent, and treasure to UUMAN. We could not possibly fulfill our Mission and Vision without you! Hope to see you soon online or better yet in-person.

Bob Popp

## Humans at UUMAN...let's get to know each other even better

Leslie Wolfe and her grown daughters, Mallory Cundiff and Colleen Reynolds are vital to the life of UUMAN. Leslie has served on the board as secretary until recently and is currently leading our Covid Task Force, Mallory is taking on the task of making certain we continue as a certified Welcoming Congregation and Colleen has served on the worship committee and rumor has it that she once impersonated a famous nun during a service. They agreed to answer some questions so we can get to know them even better



### ***When did you come to UUMAN and why?***

All three of us have the same response: Easter 2017, all three of us wanted a more spiritual community in which to celebrate the holiday instead of the Methodist church service we had attended for years. Leslie had taken each of the girls once before, a few years prior, but that Easter service showed us the spirit and welcoming community of UUMAN, making it easy for us to come back for more.

### ***What are your career paths?***

Leslie: Just retired from a 13-year career as a HS English teacher, worked in broadcast media and public relations, both full-time and freelance, for 30-plus years.

Mallory: Currently in culinary arts school (all online now, hate it – want to get back to the kitchen), working as a tutor at a center offering virtual school support.

Colleen: Internal IT support for a large, Alpharetta-based payment processing company. Been working remotely at home since March and until further notice, for sure until at least January.

### ***What experiences have been the most meaningful to you so far in this community?***

Leslie: I'm a real Martha, so being on the food detail for the Harvest Moon festival was wonderful fun for me – lots of hard work and teamwork! All my new friends – and the hugs! (I miss the hugs....)

Mallory: My favorite is being on Brew Crew, being first in the building and seeing everyone come in, hearing their news and chatting about our lives.

Colleen: I really enjoyed being on the worship team! The Christmas candlelight services will always have a special place in my heart.

### ***How are you staying connected as a family during the pandemic?***

Leslie: All of us are staying as safe as possible in our daily lives, so the girls have been to Roger's and my place in the mountains a few times where we have lots of outdoor space. We also text and talk (yes, like on the phone) regularly.

### ***What if anything, would you like to see change about UUMAN in the next five years?***

All of us: Be able to come back together in church!

## October 2020: A Month of Sundays

All in-person Sunday services and any meetings or groups at UUMAN are canceled until further notice. See [this page](#) for more details.

We plan to continue live-streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#).

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
10/4	<p><b>The Six Simple Machines</b></p> <p>Lever, Wheel &amp; Axle, Pulley, Inclined Plane, Wedge, Screw. These are the six simple machines. In their most basic sense they can be used to multiply or change the direction of a mechanical force. How can we use them metaphorically to multiply or change the direction of our lives?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/11	<p><b>The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal</b></p> <p>In 2019 the UUA launched a new Welcoming Congregations renewal program called The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal. The goal of the program is to encourage congregations to practice Welcome every year, year-round. How will we participate?</p> <p>PRIDE SUNDAY – 5 PRACTICES OF WELCOME RENEWAL</p> <p>COMING OUT DAY – OCTOBER 11</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL PRONOUN DAY – OCT 17</p>	Mallory Cundiff
10/18	<p><b>There Is No Nature! ....What???</b></p> <p>Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Zizek makes the radical claim that, “There is no Nature.” What if he’s right? What if everything is simply...well, just everything? If that could be true, what about us?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
10/25	<p><b>Do We Live in Haunted Houses?</b></p> <p>We can’t choose our upbringing, our childhood or our parents; yet it would be an understatement to say that all these have had a profound impact on our future development. How do we know who we are from the story we tell ourselves about ourselves?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn

**ABOUT THE UUMANTimes:** The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month proceeding the issue date.

Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)