



# NEWSLETTER

## Credo, Not Creeds

**Rev. Bob Renjilian – Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday**

Our Unitarian Universalist religion is one of the toughest for newcomers, because we are without creeds. Instead we have principles that ask us to walk together in finding the religious principles which mean the most for each of us, individually. Knowing that I preach to folks who grew up Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Jewish, Pagan, or “None of the above” is a challenge. Come hear about creating your own Credo.



Image by Rachael Henning

**What Holds Up Your Beliefs?**

*“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.” — Dwight Eisenhower*

## Please Don't Feed the Minister!



### Rev. Bob

I'm so pleased to be having porch conversations and Fellowship on the Green gatherings with UUTC folks. The weather (except when raining) is perfect for outdoor safe-distance meetings, and covered porches (or even a garage with the doors open) work when storms pass through.

Invariably I'm invited to share food, but I end up declining. I'm not trying to be rude, I'm just careful to pamper my body. Earlier in my life I could eat anything, but now my body needs a little more discipline from me. If you ask me what I like, I will honestly say I like most foods, but can't eat them anymore. I won't drop dead from a slip-up, but I may end up with some pretty bad outcomes and painful consequences over time. My body no longer handles carbohydrates well so I avoid carbs (it does not matter if they are "good" or "bad" carbs, that includes fruit), and my body turns oxalates into kidney stones now (oxalates are in most growing things, with especially dangerous levels in healthy leafy green vegetables, nuts, potatoes, stevia sweeteners, grains, chocolates... you get the idea). It is fine to park the plate of brownies in front of me, or fresh baked bread, muffins or pies - I'm not even tempted, though I do enjoy the aroma.

No, not coffee, tea, or alcohol either. You can always offer me water. Just plain tap water, or unflavored plain seltzer as a treat. That's supposed to be good for me. Yes to basic hydration!

When we get back to being able to have meals together I can bring my own food, just don't be alarmed that I seem to be limited to meat, fat, lactose-free high-fat dairy, and iceberg lettuce (which does not contain much of anything, but it is crunchy!).

I love meeting you, so please don't feel awkward that you can't feed me when we get together. I'm avoiding the food, not the cook!

## 2019/2020 Fiscal Year Summary

### Gail Meyers, Treasurer

This past fiscal year saw Great Challenges and Great Achievements. There is no doubt that our peaceful year was rocked with Rev. Ilene's illness. Both emotionally and financially difficult, we handled unexpected costs related to her disabilities and departure, welcomed our incredibly needed and helpful Rev. Sally Beth, and ultimately supported the Search Team efforts for our new settled minister, most of which was not in the budget.

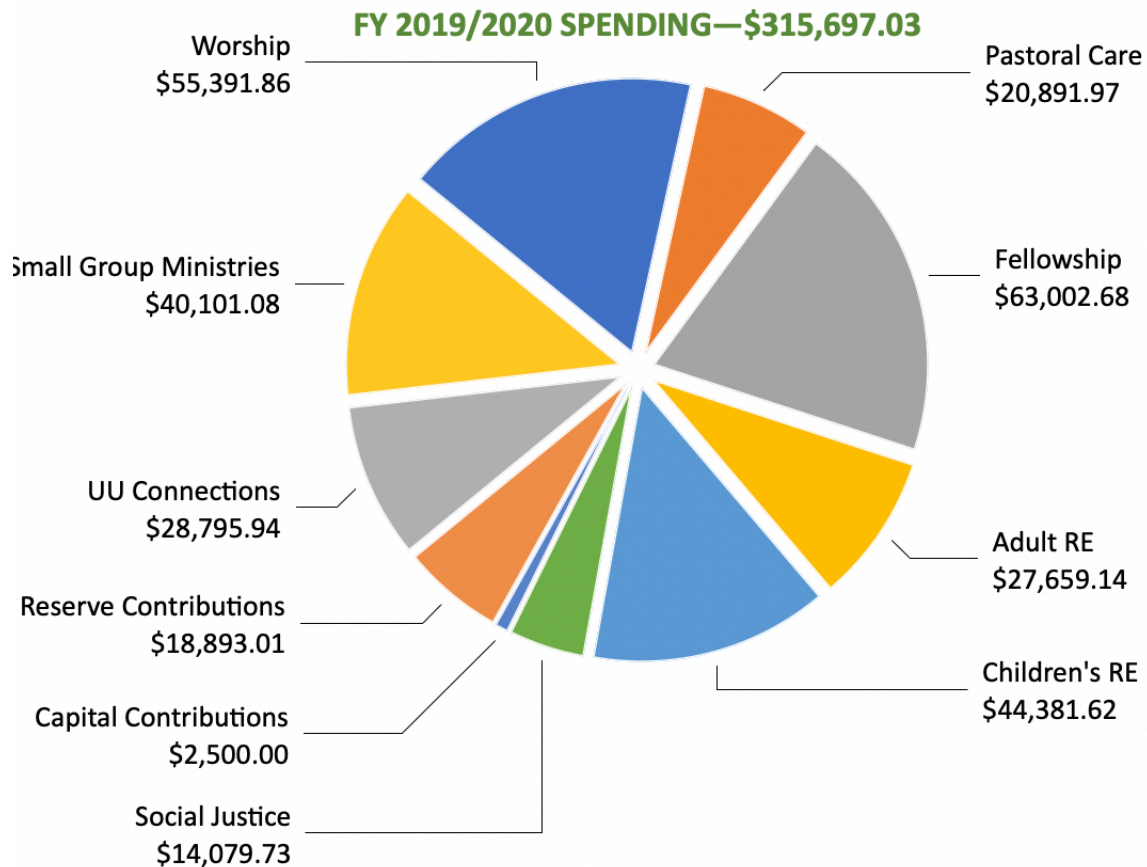


Like the saying goes "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" we saw the failure of our AV system, and thanks to our incredibly generous congregation, we were able to solve that problem, and upgrade to a flexible system that we are growing into.

When Covid 19 hit, a complete lockdown of our building instantly occurred. This reduced our typical Sunday morning plate collection to \$0.00. Our newly-expanded Stewardship Committee helped us finish off the year with a very successful cupcake drive, benefitting both our local community and UUTC.

Seeing the need to improve our Sunday morning broadcasts, the Board authorized spending to acquire technology for better visual and audio quality. The Board also authorized the purchase of seating for a new meditation area and improved other areas to be more suitable for physically distanced, comfortable small groups outdoors.

Fortunately, the SBA's Payroll Protection Program allowed us to continue paying our staff during this time of uncertainty and disruption. We borrowed \$28,000, which was to be used 75% on payroll costs (excluding taxes) and the remaining 25% could be used for equipment rental, mortgage interest and utilities. During the 2019/2020 fiscal year, we used \$ 17,386.24 with the remaining \$10,616.48 to be used in the fiscal year 2020/2021.



While all this was going on, we pushed forward by upgrading our front doors in order to satisfy current building codes. Another project that was started and almost completed was the beautiful new UUTC sign out in front at the corner of Varsity and Broad Streets, supported again by generous individual gifts. (This sign is now complete and in place!)

Despite the unexpected expenditures, however, the Congregation has held fast and supported our every challenge. In the end, there was a surplus of \$16,262.99 which was transferred to the Restricted Reserve for our future security. The transfer of this year’s surplus brings the total Restricted Reserve Account to \$29,320.82; a healthy increase that moves us closer to the UUA’s recommendation of having between 6 months and 2 years’ average expenditures in Reserve. Our average monthly expenditures last year were approximately \$ 25,000 per month.

Our Current Cash balances (after transfer to Reserve Account) as of the end of the year are:

Operating Fund	\$70,454.61	Capital Fund	\$24,520.90
Restricted Reserve Account	\$29,320.82	Gifts and Memorials	\$1,175.00
Endowment Fund	\$183,309.57	Dignity Project	\$7,792.42
Varsity Fund	\$ 5,543.41	Sabbatical Fund	\$3,367.02

Respectfully submitted, Gail Meyers, Treasurer

## Catching Up on Contributions—& Banks

### RK Young

Recently, a giving statement was emailed out to all contributors. This statement showed pledge completion on the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and contributions to other funds. **It also showed that some of us had not gotten pledge giving restarted for this fiscal year.**

An earlier newsletter gave step-by-step direction on entering the information necessary to “re-start” your pledge. **New privacy laws required software changes that keep staff from being able to edit your financial gifts and sources— only you are empowered to do that!**

**Call Eloise at (828) 435-2781 if you need assistance setting up e-giving in Realm.**



With the acquisition of Entegra Bank by First Citizens bank, all UUTC account numbers have changed. **Those of you who have an “auto draft” directly from your account, like an online bill pay, may need to get in touch with me for our new routing and account number.** On the Pay Bills section of your personal bank website, you will have to either edit your current autopay or delete the old one and create a new one. Give me a holler at 828-577-8164, or email [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).

Thanks for your continued efforts dealing with change!

# Treasurer's Report for July 2020

## Operating Fund

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Receipts	\$ 81,313.45	\$81,313.45
Expenditures	17,863.39	17,863.39
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ 63,450.06</u>	<u>\$ 63,450.06</u>
Unrestricted Cash in Fund:	\$ 61,640.93	
Restricted Reserve Fund:	40,614.07	
<b>Total Available Cash on Hand:</b>	<u>\$ 102,255.00</u>	
<b>Endowment Fund:</b>	<u>\$ 182,809.61</u>	

<u>Other Funds:</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>Amount Restricted</u>	
Fund 3: Varsity Fund Checking	\$ 6,739.42	\$ 0.00	
Fund 7: Capital Expenditures	\$ 18,973.59	\$ 5,695.90	
Fund 8: Gifts and Memorials	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 0.00	
Fund 10: Charitable Giving	\$ 1,185.00	\$ 1,185.00	
This Month –Minister's Descretionary			\$ 2,770.20
Fund 12: Dignity Project	\$ 8,217.42	.	
Fund 13: Sabbatical Fund:	\$ 3,367.16	\$ 0.00	
<b><u>Pledge Campaigns @ 8/21/20</u></b>	<b><u>Committed</u></b>	<b><u>Collected</u></b>	<b><u>Outstanding</u></b>
2020/2021	\$ 274,758.00	\$ 87,957.00	\$ 186,801.00
Amount transferred to Restricted Reserve from prior years' net surplus			<u>10,878.06</u>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail Meyers  
Treasurer

## PLEASE NOTE!

July's expenses were down around \$7,000 from last year's average... many expenses, such as power, toilet paper, water — all of these are down. However, pledging by many has not been renewed (likely due to software updates & banking changes). Please check with RK if you need help restoring your pledge contributions! Call 828-577-8164 or email [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).

## WE PERSIST

Progress is sometimes slow, but we will get there! We have been working on two things: revisions to the Bylaws and the creation of a new Endowment Committee. The Administration Committee has been reviewing changes to the Bylaws since October of 2019, and the Board has now finalized the proposed revisions to the Bylaws for consideration by the congregation. In addition, the Nominations Committee has presented a slate of nominees to serve on the Endowment Committee, a new committee which is established in the proposed Bylaw changes. A final ballot is being prepared for a Special Congregational Remote Vote to occur between August 31, 2020 and September 15, 2020.



Kay Webb, Board Secretary

After the August 12<sup>th</sup> Q&A Bylaws Forum, two issues made it necessary to further edit the proposed revisions to the Bylaws. One issue required the removal of two phrases referencing a 2009 brochure that were included in Article XI, Section B, which describes the purpose of the Community Outreach Endowment Fund; the phrases were considered superfluous and not appropriate for Bylaws.

The second issue required that Article XV, explaining the transfer of assets should UUTC cease to exist, be returned to its original language. Because UUTC is affiliated with the UUA and operates as a church through this affiliation, the UUA requires language that transfers the assets to the UUA in the event UUTC ceases to exist. Should UUTC wish to have greater input in the transfer of assets in the event of dissolution, the issue will need further study and consideration. With these issues addressed, the final draft of proposed revisions to the Bylaws (dated 08/17/20) has been published to the website and can be found at this [LINK](#).

With the adoption of the proposed revision to the Bylaws, a new Congregational Committee, the Endowment Committee, is established. The responsibilities of the Endowment Committee can be found in Article XI, Section D, of the proposed Bylaws. The Nominations Committee has vetted and presented a slate of nominees to serve on this committee: Joanna Bliss, Roberta Miller, and Jim Null.



Joanna Bliss



Roberta Miller



Jim Null

The Board wishes to thank the Administration Committee assisting the Board, the Nominations Committee working on behalf of the Congregation, and the Members willing to serve on the Endowment Committee. Your efforts continue to move UUTC forward to meet our Mission.

**Now, it is time for the Congregation to complete the process.** The upcoming Special Congregational Remote Vote gives Members the opportunity to approve the proposed revisions to the Bylaws and to elect the Members to serve on the Endowment Committee. Ballots for this vote will be mailed to Members on or before August 31, 2020. When you receive your ballot, please complete and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible to meet the 09/15/20 deadline and have your vote count!

**5th Principle:** *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*

## Somebody Got a New Sign. It Was Us.



Last year, we had an artist as our President of the Board. Joyce Henneberry has been a happy participant at UUTC, and watched with delight as we dealt with much deferred maintenance, including lighting, flooring, concrete... and some aesthetically pleasing needs such as new cabinetry in the foyer and the classroom.

But there was a piece falling into disrepair that need attention— wood will only last so long in this climate, even with an added roof (Thanks, Dan Carter!) and annual ministrations by its creator to touch up paint (Thanks even more, Shirl Thomas!)

So a new design was selected, and the Aesthetics Committee provided some tweaking to ensure the new sign would suit our building with 24” thick stone columns on the ends. Bill Denton found a terrific stonemason, and Joyce talked to other churches and College Walk and found the sign maker they had used. The process began.

Permits were pulled, footings were poured, rebar was sunk, columns were built, wall ties installed, mounts for the future sign were anchored, and stone was laid. Bob Bennett took the leftovers to the Meditation Garden. The old lights were removed. Electrical was run through the columns. Finally, the “innards” were installed, and the county inspector could be called in again.

How fitting it is to have a new sign in place at the beginning of what we hope is a long tenure with Rev. Bob Renjilian! While the final execution wasn’t exactly a match to the original plan, things that are two dimensional are always simpler to construct than those that are three dimensional. And so....

