Our Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

* The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
* Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
* Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations;
* A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
* The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
* The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
* Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Join Us for Worship Services Online

Sundays at 10 am https://www.cvuus.org/worship/watch-online/ OR https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/

Honoring Earth

April 4—The Easter Exam—Rev. Barnaby reflects on what has become an important annual UU spiritual test -- naming what we celebrate at Easter. Readings: Lynn Ungar’s Accounting and Claude McKay’s The Easter Flower. Connor Timmons introduces our April donee Common Ground located in Starksboro, VT. He’s its executive director.

April 11—Real News—Rev. Barnaby discusses what recent information about the nature of our planet and the health of life on it should matter most to us as UU’s.

April 18—The Uses of Catastrophe—Shakespeare’s comedy As You Like It celebrated the usefulness of adversity in reacquainting us with the uplifting lessons to be learned from Nature. But how do UU’s address a future where our home planet is increasingly likely to become horrifically hostile at times? Our choir sings Justice and Joy by Amanda Udis-Kessler. Followed by our Congregation Conversation on the upcoming UUA General Assembly.

April 25—Honoring Earth—Sangha led service by Colleen Brown with Sam Guarnaccia providing music.
Words from Rev. Barnaby:
A while ago, I promised everyone a March sermon that included my conversation with Philia, the saw whet owl, about her willingness to participate in our Pledge Drive. Alas, the Sundays slipped away without my making good on that. But Philia and I did talk and here's a transcript of how it went.

“So, Philia, great to see you again out here in the evergreens at the edge of the meadow. How have you been?”

“Fine. I took a stab at being more like other saw whets despite my extraordinary intelligence and inexplicable language proficiency. I headed south for the winter. But by the time I started I began to run into saw whets returning north and gave that up. Plus, now that I’m almost one year old, some of the males were acting really weirdly. A couple came after me and offered me field mice they’d caught.”

“How nice!”

“No, it’s weird. Saw whets never give anything to anyone. They must want something but I have a feeling I’m a few weeks away from understanding what that might be.”

“Well, it should work out well. As you’ve seen, we people give things to each other all the time. And I give both Pan and you his dog treats, right?”

“Absolutely! And you take the time to talk with me. And you accept me for what I am, even if we are both not completely sure what that is.”

“We UU’s welcome inspiration wherever we encounter it,” I agreed. “And as for what we are, it’s not fixed. It’s wrapped up in what we experience together and what we are becoming. I’ve been sharing our relationship with the congregation and I see you as practically a member. You might want to join the new UU classes in April.”

“Is that all there is to becoming a member?”

“Well, you also have to commit to participating in congregational activities as you are able and to making a financial gift of record, unless I waive the financial gift because it’s beyond your means.”

“What's a financial gift?”

“Human money. Any amount.”

“Money. Oh, I've read about it. But I'm not interested and don't expect to have any.”

“It reminds me of Rev. Kitchell's friend Coyote and his wife, Doña Coyote. You're not the first unusual animal friend of a UU Minister. In the 1990's, Webster Kitchell, the minister at the UU congregation in Santa Fe, developed a deep friendship with Coyote, who presented as a minor deity with a mischievous streak. They had many spiritual discussions and adventures together, including one where the board of the church prevailed on Rev. Kitchell to visit Coyote and his wife and ask for a financial pledge during the Canvass drive. The coyotes eventually asked what Rev. Kitchell was giving and he said he was increasing his pledge 15 percent. They agreed to do the same. It was only as he heard them howling with laughter as he drove away that he realized that 15 percent of $0 would be $0 dollars.”

Philia laughed, “He must have been upset.”

“Not really. He figured that having demonstrated his incompetence at fund-raising, he might not be asked to help in future Canvasses. I think he also was happy to have made the point that the Canvass is not just about asking congregants for financial support. The money is needed, of course, but not from those like you with very different gifts to offer. The Canvass is a time for everyone to consider all the ways they can help the congregation.”

“Ok. I'm going to think about it. Should I assume there is no need for field mice?”

“Good idea. And I have a feeling you will find other needs for them in your nest by June.”
Staying Connected...Virtually

Sunday Morning Zoom Coffee Hour (~11 am): Join exchanges after worship where we check in with each other. Login [https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/](https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/)

Weekend Greeting (Fridays): Rev. Barnaby shares inspirational thoughts, music and readings in a regular email from revbarnaby@cvuus.org. Not getting these? Email office@cvuus.org.

Weekly Blast (Wednesdays): Provides pathways for connection with links to our upcoming worship service, past services, and events. Not getting these? Email office@cvuus.org.

Facebook CVUUSVT follow us here with news and links to our Sunday worship service.

Yellow Card Milestones & Passages: Submit them before Sunday at [https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/YellowCard](https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/YellowCard)

Virtual Visit: Request one with Rev. Barnaby at [https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/VirtualVisit](https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/VirtualVisit) or arrange for one on one time with him in our Sanctuary at revbarnaby@cvuus.org

Small Groups: Some meet remotely. Contact Laura at office@cvuus.org if your group wants to schedule Zoom meetings. Ask Laura how you can become the host for your cvuus zoom meeting. Explore small group ministry and our affinity groups on page 8 and here.

Council of Ministries: Lise Anderson and Jean Terwilliger convene reps from our ministry groups online on 1st Monday of month at 4:30 PM to brainstorm and update each other. Look for opportunities galore for you to promote, celebrate and stay connected with CVUUS.

---

2021-22 CVUUS Pledge Drive

Thank you to CVUUS members and friends for being as generous as possible in pledging the resources needed to get CVUUS back to our full program. Questions? Ask your "Village Leader" or Brett Millier (millierb@gmail.com) or Karl Lindholm (lindholm@middlebury.edu)

“As someone who has grown up in this church community, I have so many great memories of CVUUS. As a child, I remember playing a dead body in a Monty Python skit and making art projects in RE. And with the youth group I was able to cook dinners at the John Graham Shelter and travel to NYC. This church let me try so many new experiences and helped to build my confidence in public speaking. I’m grateful to now be able to give back to this church as a worship associate, as well as to the pledge drives for allowing these wonderful memories to happen.”

—Wren Colwell

“CVUUS provides our family with a community of people who are open to various ways of being, who are inquisitive about the wider world, and who individually and collectively strive to make things better. For our children especially, it is a space where they can be their true selves, ask questions, and feel valued.” —Martin Hanson Family

Climb Aboard!
As I write this, I’m three days away from being able to sign up to get my COVID vaccination. A week later, my husband JP can sign up. My parents are fully vaccinated. This is all very reassuring and exciting…but what about my kids? And your kids?

This is a question all parents are asking right now. All of our kids between 12-16 might get vaccinated this summer or early Fall—we don’t yet know. The timeline for kids under 12 is even more mysterious. I keep seeing “in early 2022” but maybe earlier? Things seems to be moving quicker that we think which is great news.

In a few months, my family will become a split family with two people who are allowed to travel outside Vermont without quarantining, see other vaccinated people without masks (limits apply), and other things that will open up – and two people who can’t do much of those things.

So what do I do with that? Can I plan a trip to Maine? Safely sign my kid up for a summer camp that will be inside? Let them go to a friend’s house inside with masks? I am spending more and more time scouring the internet to try to find some answers to these questions. Even Vermont guidelines about gathering have had some fuzzy areas.

And what does that mean, as we start talking about opening up again, in person? I don’t know.

I DO know that it means we can’t plan any RE things in person yet. And we are thinking a LOT about lots of questions involving children and youth: inside vs outside, this summer, at worship services, and in the Fall.

Our entire CVUUS community hasn’t been able to meet in person for months but this is going to start changing. By Summer, we will have vaccinated adults and unvaccinated children and youth (and their mostly vaccinated parents). Our CVUUS family will be a split family for a while.

It is our job to figure out how to stay together as one strong united community, as we navigate this period. To make everyone feel loved and cared for, despite our differences in what we can all do. As always, right? We always have differences and strive to be radically inclusive to ALL, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need. It will take lots of thoughtfulness.

** UPCOMING RE THINGS **

Youth Group Sat, April 3 and 17 4-5:30
Coming of Age Sun, April 4 and 18 4-5:15 (Save the Date! COA Ceremony Online May 16)
+ more Parent Sharing Circles? RE Council meeting? RE for Younger kids?

~ Love, Poppy - your Director of Religious Exploration
Congregational Conversation: The Future of Worship
Sunday March 14 Highlights

Many of us are looking forward to coming together for worship in person in the near future. There are some aspects of Zoom and online services which we want to continue.

**Broadcasting:** We heard widespread support for some form of broadcasting of services.

**Visual Display:** People had questions about the actual format of the streaming. Would there be a screen where people there in person would see those on Zoom? Would people on Zoom be aware of those in the sanctuary? There could be a camera in the back, unobtrusive, not show faces of those in sanctuary. Putting kids’ images online is a privacy concern. There could be a designated “no film” zone for any who don’t want to be filmed. Don’t want the cameras to dictate what can or can’t be done. Think about the kids, we want the kids to come in person. Would we see people at home? People at home see us? Seeing others would be a distraction from sacred space and shared intimacy.

**Zoom Coffee Hour:** Continue in some form.

**Questions for follow up:** What are other churches planning to do? Who are we serving at home? What are their needs? **Some data:** We save visual record of each service on CVUUS website and UTube. We get about 10 views each week after the service, and 10 – 15 viewers are on UTube for the service. We have 50-60 people participate by zoom. **An essential question:** What is our end goal – distribution or building community around sacred time? **Comment:** Prioritize experience in the sanctuary, let recording fall as it may.

---

**Congregational Conversation:** Preparing for UUA GA
Sunday April 18, 11 AM, cvuus zoom

Join us after worship during Zoom Coffee hour to learn about the wider work of UUA and the upcoming online UUA General Assembly. Share this YouTube clip of who we are here!

From UUA President
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

[UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person When COVID-19 Subsides | UUA.org]
Social Action Updates

April “Share the Plate” Donee: Common Ground

Common Ground is an inter-generational family camp founded in 1994 located on 453 Tatro Rd in Starksboro VT. They welcome people of all ages, ethnicities, lifestyles, abilities and economic backgrounds. They rent unique eco-friendly facilities for events and host week long family vacation programs focused on creative expression, fun, great food and community. New and old friendships are cemented at Camp Common Ground. The extra time spent lingering over meals, on the wrap-around porch, or on the hill watching kids run and play allows for stimulating conversations. Family camp is an easy way to vacation with your extended family and friends. Grandparents to toddlers will have the time of their lives. For more, speak with Neily Jennings and Connor Timmons or visit cgcvt.org.

Future “Share the Plate” Donees Please speak with anyone on Donation Ministry to suggest an organization you’d like CVUUS to support: Allison Cutler (chair), Barbara Karle, Ashleigh Hickey, Chris Murphy, Avi Freund or Rev. Barnaby. Thanks to all who gave to Vermont Abenaki Artists Assn. and Abenaki Helping Abenaki last month. Track how much we contributed to them and other donees at cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/

Charter House Dinner Prep Team We aim to do this every second Monday of month from 10 am – 1 pm. You can come for part of this time for a specific job if that works for you. Contact Alan Moore alanwmoore1947@gmail.com if you want to help with the next meal. Volunteers to deliver lunch (11:30 am) or dinner (5:30 pm) are also needed as well as coverage for the Day Station. Contact hlacey.charterhouse@gmail.com.

Meals on Wheels Time commitment is based on your availability— vary from one day a week to two days a month (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from 10 to 11:30 am. Talk with Thurs UU Team leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood. Contact emarks@agewellvt.org or 662-5249 or visit agewellvt.org/giving-back to volunteer.

Donate items to Neat Repeats, Buy Again Alley, JuneBug, WomenSafe, HOPE and Addison Allies! Drop off used clothing to Neat Repeats and give them account #108 or Buy Again and give them #504. WomenSafe will take toiletries (see Dottie Nelson with questions). Addison Allies needs appliances and seasonal items for migrant workers to help with heating and cooling and help transporting them and meals. More at cvuus.org/news.
Honoring Indigenous People: CVUUS worship opens with a ringing of the bell and saying: "We recognize that CVUUS gathers on the land of the Western Abenaki people. We respect their spiritual relationship to the land. We hope to learn from them how we can live together in peace and justice." Fuller Event Opening Language: "I want to start this event by acknowledging that we (or for Zoom, 'most of us') are gathered here and holding this Meeting on the unceded traditional homelands of the Abenaki People, their Ancestors, and allies. Please join me in acknowledging the Abenaki community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. Let us not look away from the exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples, including those on whose land we live, work, and witness. May we be committed to dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism here in Ndakinna - the place the Abenaki People call Our Land. Thank you."

World Water Day was celebrated Monday March 22 kicking off a month of heightened environmental awareness concluding with Earth Day on April 22 for UU Ministry for the Earth which featured a viewing of Condor and the Eagle about four Indigenous environmental leaders embarking on an extraordinary trans-continental adventure from the Boreal forest into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America for climate justice. See UUMFE (a previous CVUUS donee)'s top campaigns here. See our Green Sanctuary efforts here.
Explore Small Ministry Groups: A Different Way to Do Church

Small Ministry Groups deepen and broaden personal spiritual growth. A group usually consists of 8-10 members who meet via Zoom monthly. Each meeting is focused on a spiritual or religious topic. To join or form a group, contact Doug Richards (drichard@keuka.edu or 802-989-9387). Or join one of our affinity or Adult RE groups.

Writers Group meets the 2nd Monday of month from 7:30-9 pm via Zoom. This is for anyone who writes: for pleasure, hoping to publish, published. All are welcome to come and share, including people not part of CVUUS. You may ask for feedback or not. Questions? Email bobbiloney@gmail.com to get on the list for Zoom link.

UU Cingles gathers via Zoom here for those aged 60+ to provide company and conversation during these difficult times. We aim to meet on every other Saturday at 1 pm (Mar 13 and 27). Watch the blast for invites. For more, call or email Monty Montgomery, Revell Allen or Marjorie Carson.

Native Moons Group led by Liam and Mike Greenwood celebrates the Abenaki and Iroquois lunar cycle and uses Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Hall Kimmerer to guide reflective writing and sharings via monthly Zoom evening meetings aligned with celebrating the full moon. Contact Liam at liambattles@gmail.com to get on his zoom list. Look for him leading our worship service often on last Sunday of the month.

April 11 -- A Mother's Work
April 26 -- The Consolation of Water Lilies
May 11 -- Silver Bells
May 26 -- Collateral Damage
June 10 -- Sitting in a Circle
June 24 -- Setting Down Roots (last session?)

Breathe Book Group led by Jean Terwilliger and Mike Greenwood concludes on Wed April 28 at 7:30 pm online here.

CVUUS Sangha & Meditation If you’re interested in developing a meditation practice, you’re warmly invited to join us Sunday mornings 9:15 to 9:45 AM when Colleen Brown or Dinah Smith give instruction and three 5-minute guided meditations. It’s aimed at those who are just beginning a meditation practice. Please feel free to contact either Colleen or Dinah with any questions. Zoom link here.

Have You Discovered Our CVUUS LIBRARY?

Need UU social action reading material? See our CVUUS Library reading lists at https://www.cvuus.org/learning/library/reading-lists-2/. We’re happy to locate books for you. Arrange pick up with office@cvuus.org or awolfson@middlebury.edu.

NEW! CVUUS Library of Things (LoT)

Library of Things (LoT) is a listing of useful items, owned by congregants, that they are willing to lend to other community members:

- baby equipment (portable cribs, booster seats, infant baskets),
- medical equipment (cast covers, walkers, canes, shower seats),
- furniture (folding tables and chairs, lawn chairs),
- kitchen equipment (pressure canner, percolator, hot plate),
- craft or hobby equipment (hot glue gun, sewing machine), and
- tools of all kinds.

It will be important that items be lent and returned in good condition, and especially for baby and medical equipment, be clean and sanitary. Let Artley know what items you are willing to lend. Visit https://www.cvuus.org/connection/library-of-things/ to view what’s listed so far. We are still working out our loaning process.
Choir Group  The choir is still plugging along, ZOOMing in on Wednesdays for an hour and singing a variety of music from our hymnals and the Peter Amidon books that we own. We have more music from Amanda Udis-Kessler, *Justice and Joy* for one, and *Spirit of Justice* that we had ready for February but it was put on hold for another Sunday. It feels good to have some recordings “in the can” to use wherever Amanda’s music might fit. She is a long time UU composer, and her music can suit the UU sensibility at any service.

As we round the seasons into Spring, we will be deeply missing Kate, who has stepped down from being the principal choir accompanist, and the shared Sunday accompanist job with Chuck. We will be seeing Chuck again in April, after he returns from his relaxing time away in Florida. We are very grateful to Ronnie Romano for his musical support of the choir.

The choir always accepts new members. No recording experience is necessary. We may do some more recording this spring if the choir members want to, but I encourage you congregational singers to try us out. we are still having a good time, and we support each other in our lives and life experiences. The choir is a Small Ministry Team, and we welcome you! Best, Lucy

---

**Need an update on your pledge status?** Contact our bookkeeper Kris Butler at fm@cvuus.org or 989-7346 on Tues or Fri (10 am–1 pm) when she works remotely. Look for the 2021-22 online pledge form that you can easily complete at cvuus.org.

**Stock Transfer Giving:** If you are interested in giving to CVUUS in this way, you can refer to Vanguard account 29559438 and DTC# 0062.

**Planned Giving Strategies:** Most of us have many more options than we realize for making financial gifts to family members, organizations they support like CVUUS, and charities. Did you miss our free workshop with guest advisor Jason Cadwell, Ashley Cadwell’s younger brother—a money management expert based in Burlington? See more [here](#) including how to contact him. It was not recorded, but you can follow up with Rich Wolfson or John Berninghausen for guidance.

**Online Giving** [https://cvuus.breezechms.com/give/online](https://cvuus.breezechms.com/give/online) See how to choose options [here](#) or by code to right.

**PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Loan Update:** Ours is being forgiven. The $26,050 was used to continue to pay employees at their full salaries through ~2 months of the pandemic spring.
Roses to...

...Abi Sessions and Alan Moore for leading the congregational conversation on the future of worship.

...Pam Berenbaum for leading our Passover service.

...all who worked on the Canvass assisting chairs Brett Millier and Karl Lindholm including the “village leaders” and those who provided testimonies and special music and those who pledged.

...Ted Scheu for giving us canvass lyrics and joining the Caring Network, replacing Ginny Moser and Nancy Wright. Roses to them for service on it many years.

...Miles Peterle, Paul Stone and Alan Moore for upper level window washing while scaffolding was still on loan from Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to Paul for also replacing our BLM sign which had faded and keeping an eye on our pride flag which the wind tests.

Blue Jeans “Saturday”
Sat. April 24, 9 am–1 pm

Join our annual effort to spruce up our buildings and grounds. Tasks will be: A. yard clean up, cleaning gravel from around drives and leaves from shrubs. B. weed gravel. C. wash siding as needed on sanctuary (soap and water and soft brush with hose) and perhaps electric power wash vinyl siding on Fenn house. D. May refinish Fenn House kitchen door.

Staffing Updates: With Kate Gridley retiring after 20 years of serving as an accompanist and her fellow accompanist Chuck Miller hoping to return to Florida during future winters, as well as uncertainty about what the pandemic will allow us to do with group singing and choir music, there is broad agreement among the congregation's lay leaders and Rev. Barnaby that the time has come to revisit the longstanding issue of whether CVUUS should try to consolidate our paid music jobs into a single music director position. We welcome everyone’s input on what they would like to see happen with any aspect of our music as we develop a Music Director job description. Feel free to contact Rev. Barnaby or Carol Harden, head of the Music Ministry Team, if you have immediate ideas or questions. Watch our communications for updates on the process we are developing for deciding whether this possible change is the right thing for us as we head into 2021-22.

Looking further ahead, Rev. Barnaby also announced that he and the Board have begun discussing his long-term retirement plans. He said he will present a tentative timeline for this multi-year process to the congregation by next September.
FROM CVUUS BOARD

In mid 2019, after having spent several years serving on the Worship Ministry, I felt it was time to step down and let new ideas bubble up from those from the congregation who were ready to step forward and join this vibrant team. I thought I had a plan for where my immediate future was heading.

Little did I know that my mother would pass away before the year ended. Little did I know that in my work life the amazing plan my assistant, who would be retiring, and I had put in place to ensure a smooth transition to a new assistant would fall apart at the last minute. Little did I know that what would normally be considered a stressful National Election Year would have to be administered during a pandemic. Little did I know that the sanctuary I went to every Sunday morning to worship with friends and neighbors, that provided me with support, challenged my thinking, and inspired me to endeavor to be a better person would close its physical doors for over a year. The actual events vary, but each of us has experienced a year we did not plan.

In the middle of all this uncertainty I also joined the CVUUS Board only to find that a major amount of our time and focus was developing the next 5-year plan. Imagine my anxiety when asked to consider a plan of action for CVUUS over the next 5 years while personally struggling to figure out how I would handle the simplest of tasks day to day. My anxiety levels decreased during discussions as I realized that each of us were motivated to move forward but struggling with the logistics of dealing with all the uncertainty.

Once we were able to accept that plans do not always work out or plans may have to change, we were able to delve into the real purpose of making the plan. Previous 5-year plans have brought us to where we are today. There was a vision of where we could go or what we could become. Plans were never followed step by step as written and some previous goals have not been reached yet. But each step of the way members continued our journey, one step after another into the future.

Good things are happening at CVUUS. Your Board is active, and it is a pleasure to work with such dedicated and thoughtful individuals. Worship services have continued to be inspirational and quite creative. Small group ministries continue to meet. Our facilities team continue to maintain the buildings in anticipation of our return. RE continues to stay active and focused on reaching out to families with children. People step up every day to continue the behind-the-scenes activities that are CVUUS. Outside groups are beginning to use our facilities. And we are blessed to have a dedicated Minister and professional staff. I see a bright future.

What is your vision for CVUUS? What have we learned from the pandemic that we want to carry forward? What have we found is fragile and needs to be nurtured to survive? The Board plans to host a congregational conversation in May to gather your thoughts about our future, but do not hesitate to get in touch with any one of us at any time. Ann Webster
CVUUS COVID Building Use and Meetings Policy

The Board-appointed Covid 19 policy team met last month to clarify and weigh updating broad outlines of our campus use policies. The state is loosening up and vaccination for adults is expanding rapidly. That is giving us confidence we will be able to have worship in some form in the Sanctuary during June, hope for a summer program that includes indoor worship for adults and on-site outdoor activities for children, and Sunday morning activities approaching normal in the fall.

However, for now, the team’s position is that we should not implement any substantial changes. So, to summarize:

1) No congregants will be invited to Sunday morning worship pending further notice. Those creating worship can continue to use the Sanctuary for live or videotaping service elements providing all distancing, cleaning, and masking rules are observed. The current sign-in procedures will continue unless the Safe Congregation Team recommends changes. People who have been fully vaccinated, including the waiting period after the last vaccination, are not required to mask if only vaccinated people are present, but are urged to do so. We will use the honor system but people are required to enter the date of their final required vaccination on the check-in sheet.

2) Small groups cannot yet meet on campus without the approval of Rev. Barnaby or, if he has delegated the decision, Laura. We continue to observe the state guidance to use "necessity" in making judgments. In general, a "necessary" onsite meeting will be one that serves a broad social action need for which one of our spaces is especially well suited (for example, cooking for Charter House in our Fellowship Hall kitchen or the use of the Sanctuary for the Red Cross blood drive). A second category would be meetings where the facilities themselves are a focus of the discussion (for ex., meetings of the Facilities, Library, or Safe Congregations teams).

3) Inclusiveness is a primary concern in all we do. Small groups with permission to meet on campus shall, wherever practical, make it possible for other congregants to participate via Zoom, Skype, phone or some other remote access technology. For more, see cvuus.org.

A Special Message from Rev. Barnaby

If you haven’t read our governing policy statements in a while (or ever), you might not realize that they include some specific directions about how you are supposed to be treated by me! Our policies forbid your Minister from allowing or causing “conditions, procedures, or decisions that are unsafe, untimely, undignified, or unnecessarily intrusive.”

More specifically, I shouldn’t ask for information that is “clearly unnecessary,” or allow anyone else at CVUUS to collect information that isn’t protected from unauthorized access by others. I also have a responsibility to see that our facilities have an appropriate balance between accessibility and privacy. When you come to me or other staff members for support, we are to give you clear guidance as to what we can and cannot give you. And finally, we are to give you a way to be heard if it is reasonable to conclude you have not been protected in the ways I’ve described above.

Clearly, this policy is subject to lots of potential conflicts in interpretation. It’s hard to imagine that I or any of our wonderful staff members can execute it perfectly. But we want to do our best and to keep improving, so I sincerely invite you to let me know – kindly if possible – whenever you feel I am falling short in my treatment of you. If your concern is with another staff member or a congregant, please try to sort it out with them first and then come to me if concerns persist.
Pastoral Care

CVUUS is blessed with many wise and well-trained individuals providing support to members and friends in various kinds of distress. Laurie Borden, Jordan Young, Marjorie Carsen

CVUUS Seasons of Life Fund

Our Seasons of Life Fund is a way to share your joy or concern with the CVUUS community. Members and friends can commemorate personal milestones and passages through financial gifts to CVUUS that provide extra money for us to fulfill our mission statement. The names of the donors and the occasions of the gifts are noted in our monthly newsletter. There is no minimum amount and the size of your donation will not be made public. Please consider the Seasons of Life Fund the next time you—or someone you know—want to honor a birthday, marriage, retirement, anniversary, death, or achievement of any sort.

Mary Hadley made a gift in honor of Bob Johnson who died peacefully March 7, 2021 at age 96.

Our Caring Network provides support, such as calls, visits, meals, and rides, to those in need. We thank all the faithful folk who have participated in our efforts to support our members—providing lots of meals and myriad rides to doctor’s offices, doing errands and paying visits. We encourage the congregation to call on us. We have a network of willing helpers standing by that we can call or email on your behalf. Let us know if you’d like to join this network by contacting Kathryn Schloff (kathrynschloff@gmail.com or 349-5264).

Visit www.uua.org to learn about the wider work of UUA and our affiliates. Visit www.cvuus.org to explore our happenings and most current calendar.