

*A Brief History
of the
Unitarian Universalist
Community Church
Washington County, Oregon*



**Unitarian Universalist Community Church
22785 NW Birch, Hillsboro, OR 97124**

Our Ministers		Our Presidents
Rev. Tim Haley	1988	Beverly Conaway
Rev. Tim Jensen	1989-1990	Peggy Johnson
	1990	Gerald Wichmann
	1990-1991	Laura McKinney
Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock	1991-1993	Marcy England
	1993-1994	Maria Parish-Johnson
Rev. Fern Cowan Stanley	1994-1995	Will McKinney
Rev. Mark Hoelter	1996	
	1996-1997	Alice Sigmund
	1997-1999	Anita Osterhaug
	1999-2001	Allan Warrior
	2001-2003	Mary Kelly
	2004-2006	Jay Hamlin
Rev. Robert Schaibly	2006	Judy Kay
Rev. Patti Pomerantz	2006	
Rev. Christine Riley	2007	Patrick Pine

Board of Trustees

Patrick Pine	President	503.640.8066 home 503.803.4461 cell
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The Board of Trustees meets the first Wednesday each month at 7:00pm in the Social Hall of the Church and the third Sunday each month at 12:30pm in the Fireplace Room of the Parish House. All are welcome to attend.

Rev. Alan Deale, the senior minister of the Portland, Oregon, First Unitarian Church, had a vision of a new UU congregation in the Portland area. In April 1986, Dorothy Bartlett was sent to Boston as a “new congregation” planner. The following autumn, a feasibility committee was formed with Dorothy as its chair. Demographic studies were made, a location selected, grant money from the First Unitarian Church and the UUA secured, lists of interested people compiled, and a new congregation organizer (Rev. Tim Haley) was appointed. Tim arrived in Portland in August 1987 and immediately set about locating a place to hold informational and organizational meetings for potential new church members. The first informational meeting was held on September 18, 1987, at McKinley School in West Beaverton. Thirty-five people attended. A second meeting, held a week later, had approximately 50 people attending. From these two meetings, a Steering Committee was formed, and 26 people signed up for six committees (Religious Education, Finance, Social Action, Hospitality Membership, Music, and Publicity).

The committees worked hard to prepare for the first worship service planned for November 1987. The Steering Committee chose the name of the church and wrote the initial Mission Statement based on UU Principles and Purposes.

On November 15, 1987, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County held its first worship service, complete with music, greeters, and after-service hospitality. There were 75 adults and an RE program with 35 children in attendance.

Some dates in the history of our church:

Nov. 15, 1987 First worship service held at McKinley School.

Feb. 1988 First canvass held - goal \$20,000 - pledged \$28,000. Our mentor church, First Unitarian Church of Portland, pledged \$15,000 yearly for the first three years as a ministerial subsidy and earmarked money for property acquisition.

Mar. 6, 1988 Charter Sunday - 70 people sign the Membership Book.

Mar. 1988 Lucy Hitchcock, Extension Service Administrator, explains Extension Program to congregation.

Sept. 1988 Rev. Tim Jensen becomes our minister.

Mar. 1990 Rev. Tim Jensen resigns.

Apr. 1990 Congregation votes to stay in the Extension Program. UUA pledges financial support for 3 to 5 more years.

June 1990 Rev. Lucy Hitchcock candidates to become Extension Minister and is accepted.

Sept. 1990 Lucy is unable to come officially until January 1991. Lay leadership continues church programs.

Jan. 1991 Lucy becomes our minister.

May 1991 Congregation votes to hold a Capital Fund Drive in the fall of 1991.

Sept. 1991 First all-church retreat.

Feb. 1992 Property is purchased at 20 NE 216th Avenue in east Hillsboro with the house to be used as the office (Parish House). Cost:\$210,000.

June 1992 Arrangements made with Paraclete Society to teach ESL (English as Second Language) at Parish House.

July 1992 McKinley School begins renovation program and UCCWC is forced to find a new meeting space.

Aug. 1992 Chalice Lighter grant received to widen / upgrade driveway and construct handicap access ramp to church office.

Sept. 1992 Second all-church retreat. Hire first paid office administrator (part-time). We move our meeting place to Ladd Acres School gymnasium, which is near our property.

Oct. 1992 UCCWC and St. Patrick's Catholic Church protest (anti-gay civil rights) Measure 9 with an all-day rally at the Washington County Courthouse and later a candlelight parade through Hillsboro.

Jan. 1993 Congregation supports the Exchange Club in establishing a Washington County Parenting Skills Center at the Parish House.

Spring 1993 Community Garden is planted in co-operation with the Paraclete Society and the Hispanic community.

Apr. 1994 Congregation votes to change fiscal year from calendar year to church year (July through June).

July 1994 Third all-church retreat and beach cleanup.

Jan. 1995 18-month Canvass for January 1995 through June 1996 to adjust to new church fiscal year.

June 1995 Lucy accepts position with Puget Sound Council. The congregation votes to continue being a full-service church and seek an interim minister.

April 17, 2006 Rev. Bob Schaibly, enroute to a ministers' meeting in Woodinville, Washington, has a near-fatal car accident. He spends nearly a month in intensive care with spinal and internal injuries before he is transferred to a care facility in Portland, and another two months before he is able to re-turn home. Rev. Sue Ayer is hired to provide pastoral care, and with Rev. Emily Champagne, Cecelia Kingman Miller and Sara Schurr, the worship calendar is filled for the remainder of the spring.

April 2006 Annual fellowship dinner at the Elks Club on Quatama Rd., with Rev. Dana Worsnop from Atkinson Memorial UU church in Oregon City speaking. Ministry Student Sarah Schurr spoke at Commitment Sunday the next day.

June 2006 Rev. Bob Schaibly resigns, and is given an open invitation to speak from our pulpit. Rev. Patti Pomerantz of Portland, just finishing an interim year at the UU Church of the Palouse in Moscow, ID, is hired to serve as Interim Minister until June 2007. The Settled Minister Search Team and Building Team begin holding meetings.

Summer 2006 The Worship Associates (WAs) present a summer series on Modern Mythology, drawing record attendance for WAs in the pulpit discussing Star Wars, Harry Potter, Dune, Wicked, and guest speakers discussing Shrek, The DaVinci Code, Lord of the Rings and Star Trek.

Aug. 2006 All-Church Campout at Willamette Mission State Park (Willamette River)—second year.

Aug. 13, 2006 Rev. Patti Pomerantz's first Sunday in the pulpit.

Aug. 20, 2006 Rev. Patti Pomerantz speaks on the Myth of Ministry, introducing herself as the In-terim Minister. The service includes a Moment for the Young, where she steps forward in a pair of Rev. Bob Schaibly's shoes.

Sept. 2006 Rev. Sue Ayer is celebrated for her support of our congregation during a very challenging year. Having signed the UCCWC membership book in August, she starts a quarter-time ministry in Astoria, OR in the fall.

June 2007 Rev. Patti Pomerantz's interim ministry ends.

Aug. 2007 Rev. Christine Riley begins her ministry.

Summer 2005 Church kitchen renovation, including installation of professional grade dish sanitizer.

Aug. 2005 Church campout in record heat at Willamette Mission State Park (Willamette River).

Fall 2005 The Property Trustees hold meetings to gather input on the location and space needs for a 79 new building. An East-West orientation behind the Parish House is identified as the preferred location, with larger RE classrooms and Adult RE meeting spaces on the bottom floor, and a large meeting hall and kitchen to seat and feed 300 on the top floor.

Sept. 2005 Rev. Mark Hoelter resigns to begin his work in Interfaith Ministry in Washington D.C.

Nov. 20, 2005 At a General Meeting the congregation votes to participate in the UUA's interim ministry program, and to launch a capital campaign and hire Prosperity Group International as our consultant.

Dec. 2005 The Board of Trustees votes to hire Rev. Bob Schaibly as of January 1 to serve as interim minister through June 2007.

Jan. 2006 Small-group informational meetings are held to generate interest and answer questions regarding the Foundation for the Future capital campaign. Rev. Bob Schaibly is able to attend most of these events to support the campaign and introduce himself to members. After experimenting with different music styles at the two services, the Worship Associates and Music Director decide to use the same style at both services, focus on an eclectic mix.

A fundraising drive to purchase the new UUA Hymnal Supplement, *Singing the Journey*, is incredibly successful, raising enough money to purchase 120 songbooks, well over the initial goal. Donors can choose to have a message on the nameplate inside the front cover.

Feb. 26, 2006 Commitment Sunday for the Foundations for the Future capital campaign. More than \$400,000 is pledged for the first 3 years of the campaign.

March 2006 At Reverend Schaibly's invitation, more than 80 people from the UCCWC congregation take part in the Portland Peace March. Escorting three of our Peace Doves and carrying signs, we are joined by members of East Rose UU church.

The Congregation meets to elect the Settled Minister Search Team, with the goal of hiring a new settled minister for September 2007. Service times are changed to 9:30am and 11:15 am to try to balance attendance.

Sept. 1995 Rev. Fern Cowan Stanley accepts position as interim minister. Search committee is formed to look for a settled minister.

Spring 1996 Ministerial candidates are examined by the Search Committee.

May 1996 Rev. Mark Hoelter is presented to the congregation as a candidate. Congregation votes to accept Mark as settled minister.

Sept. 1996 Rev. Mark Hoelter begins his ministry with UCCWC.

June 1997 The School District's rental policies change and our rental space at Ladd Acres School will be terminated. A search for a new meeting space begins. Long Range Plan is begun and options are explored for a building.

Nov. 1997 Low point! Congregation is unable to purchase one available church property and shortfall in income leads to staff reductions.

Dec. 1997 Congregation discusses selling the Cornelius Pass property in order to move forward.

Jan. 1998 UCCWC congregation begins meeting at the Aloha United Methodist Church at 4:00pm on Sundays. The congregation votes to sell the Cornelius Pass property.

June 1998 Second Long Range Plan is presented to the congregation.

Oct. 1998 The Orenco Presbyterian Church becomes available for purchase for the second time and the congregation inspects the building. The condition of the building is in disrepair, but the structure seems sound.

Jan. 1999 Orenco Presbyterian Church is purchased for \$378,000.

Feb. 1999 UCCWC accepts offer of \$700,000 on the Cornelius Pass property, contingent on purchaser obtaining the required permits.

Mar. 1999 The purchaser and the City of Hillsboro begin a long disagreement over the allowed density permitted by the zoning.

Summer 1999 Many members work during the summer and early fall repairing and painting the Orenco church building and creating new landscaping.

July 1999 Congregational worship services begin at 4:00pm in the Orenco church building. We still operate out of boxes because the Presbyterian congregation has not moved out of the building.

Sept. 5, 1999 Richard England pipes the congregation into the sanctuary and a ceremony of possession is conducted.

Sept. 12, 1999 Homecoming Sunday and first formal 10:30am worship service in church building.

Oct. 1999 The zoning dispute still not ended. Board of Trustees agrees to remove the permit contingencies and sell the property “as is” for \$550,000. Purchaser agrees to absorb the legal expenses. The congregation meets with Rev. Anne Odin Heller (PNWD Exec.) to draft a Covenant of Right Relations.

Dec. 1999 Architect Cynthia Bankey hired to develop short-term renovations and long-range building plans.

July 2000 Congregation commits to a full-program schedule. Throughout the year, many member donated hours and hours of labor and substantial gifts to make our new church home better.

Oct. 15, 2000 Formal dedication of the Orenco church building. One hundred ninety-four adults and 45 children attend the dedication service. A new church bell is installed in the bell tower. An additional property lot is purchased on north side of church.

June 2001 The house at 2240 NW 228th St. (adjacent to our church, on the north) is put up for sale for \$155,000. Since we are desperately short of RE space and meeting room space, we decide to make an offer on the house. The owner then attaches three lots to a package purchase of the house and lots for \$250,000. The congregation decides to purchase the house and lots.

July 2001 The old ramp is removed and construction begins on a new ramp. The ramp is a significant structure built by volunteer labor. The ramp is completed at the end of October 2001.

Sept. 2001 Possession of the house is finally achieved. The smell from numerous cats running free in the house and general neglect of the house creates more than six weeks of intensive, expensive renovation work by volunteers to make the house inhabitable.

Oct. 2001 The church office and the Religious Education department move to the Parish House.

Nov. 2001 Covenant Groups are established where participants create new and deeper connections with one another as well as continue with own spiritual growth.

Jan. 2002 The congregation meets in small groups to begin establishing a new Mission Statement and a “Search for the Future” process to focus on goals and mission for the next three to five years.

Spring 2002 The Religious Education program establishes a Roots and Shoots Chapter, which is the Jane Goodall Institute’s environmental and humanitarian program for youth.

Sept. 11, 2002 A Peace Tree is planted in memory of the events and people of Sept. 11, 2001. A more formal dedication, on Sept. 15, includes the new Memory Garden.

Dec. 2002 The congregation votes in favor of adopting a new Mission Statement and Long Range Plan. The plan supports a transition that is designed to offer us deeper and more varied spiritual connections and a larger base of support for community outreach by 2008.

Jan. 2003 Rev. Mark Hoelter starts a five month sabbatical leave, and Rev. Sue Ayer serves as our Anchor Minister during Mark’s absence.

June 2003 The Children’s/Youth Group plants a cherry tree as part of a youth-led Sunday service to express their dreams and wishes and those of the participating congregation.

Sept. 12, 2004 Thanks to the **W2TF (Worship to 2 services Task Force)**, UCCWC successfully launches two Sunday services, the first at 9:00am and the second at 11:00am.

Fall 2004 The congregation undertakes the process of covenanting with our Director of Religious Education (DRE), Sara Cloe.

Jan. 2005 Work begins on restructuring our volunteer groups to reduce the number of committee chairs and amount of recordkeeping work. 22 committees are reorganized as groups or teams under 6 standing committees (Worship and Education Services; Membership Services; Financial Stewardship Services; Social and Environmental Action Committee [SEAC]; Administrative Services; Property Services).

Apr. 24, 2005 At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the congregation, after much preparatory work required by the UUA to become eligible for official status, votes to become both a Welcoming Congregation and a Green Sanctuary.

June 2005 Long-time Choir Director Russ Oelheim steps down, as he and his wife Cathy are retiring and moving to the southern Oregon coast. A group meets to discuss our current and future music ministry needs, and a small team is formed to create a Music Director job description and conduct a search. The team interviews and auditions two candidates with the choir, and Allison Wilski is hired July 1 as our Music Director.