

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY

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## Report to the Board of Trustees Coordinating Team July 2007

### Introduction

At least there's no asbestos.

Thinking over some of the challenges we have been facing we came to the report we shared with you last year this time as we were knee deep in the process of asbestos abatement in our Skytown building. The good news is that this year has provided somewhat less dramatic challenges, though challenges have come, along with exciting possibilities.

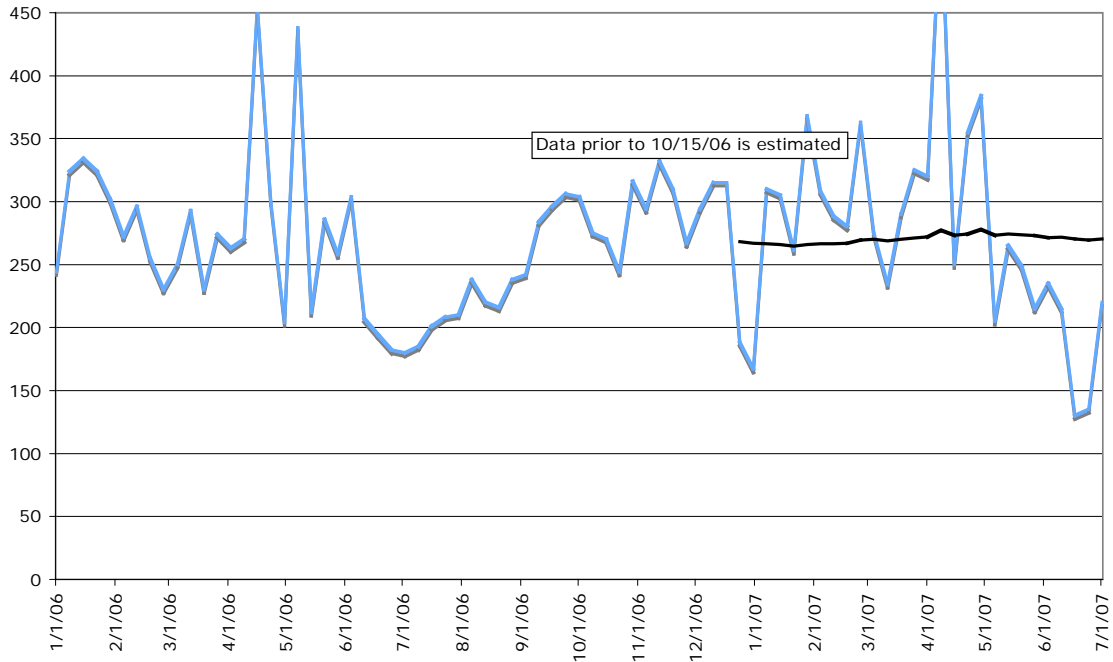
### I. Global Ends Statements

**A. Worship:** *The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley celebrates the human spirit and fosters lifelong spiritual growth. We are a vibrant and joyful community where religious seekers of all ages find connection, support and spiritual growth individually and in groups.*

### Attendance

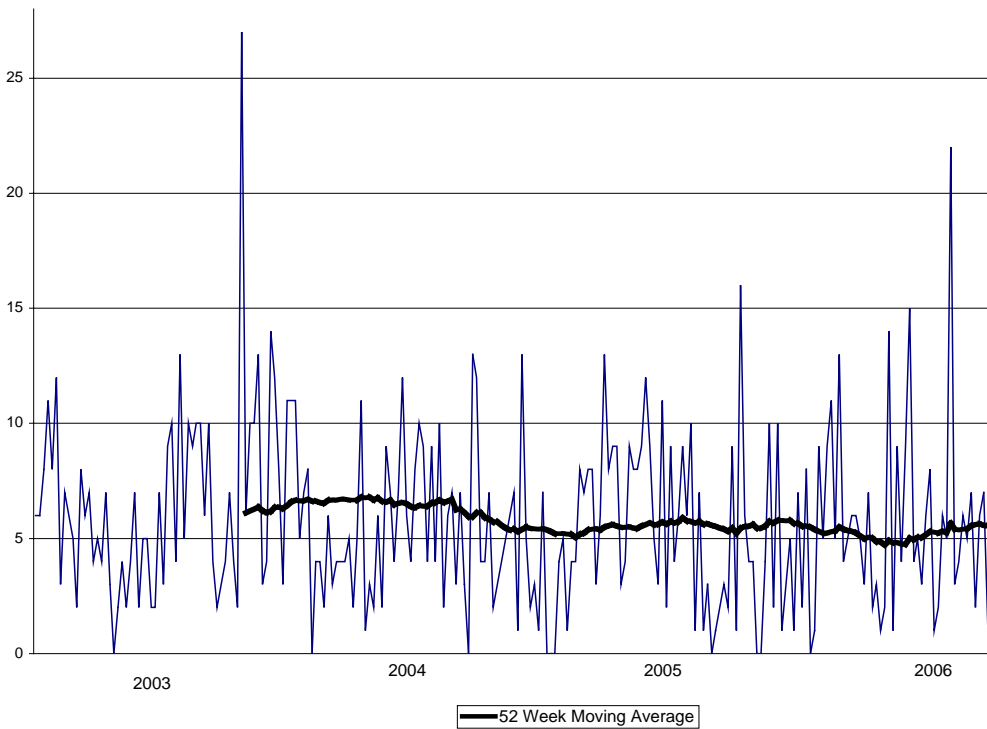
Even though attendance dropped substantially in June, that is typical for this time of year and essentially what happened last year at the same time, as shown by the flat trend line:

**UUCB Total Sunday Attendance Adults and Children**



Visitors typically drop over the summer, and start to increase in by mid-August.

**UUCB Weekly First Time Visitors**



**B. Service:** *UUCB is a community where people of all ages actively participate in ministry, service, and outreach, and work for peace and social justice in the world.*

A coordinated, accessible, organized social justice program remains a goal to be attained. During this year's General Assembly many members of the CT had inspirations and ideas about ways to cultivate the social justice work of the church. More to report soon, but the following is one example of some of the opportunities we are exploring.

We were contacted by Judy Hardin of the Kensington Farmer's Market about sponsoring them. They felt the Market's goals were very much in line with UU value systems. They recently lost their non-profit sponsor, which is required to be certified by the state. Our participation could range from simply putting our name as the sponsor (we are checking to see if there is any legal liability associated with this), to publicizing the market to our members and friends, to hosting the market on our property. The market is currently 10-2 on Sundays, but they are open to changing to another day or adding a day. They already do some social justice activities in connection with the market, and would like to add more. John Tucker, Anne Greenwood, and Linda Laskowski met with them, and John is determining if the Green Committee would like to take the lead on this.

**C. Education:** *UUCB is a community in which human talents are nurtured and religious education and spiritual understanding are fostered, one where people of all ages are encouraged to express Unitarian Universalist values in their daily lives.*

The world of Religious Education is always interesting in the mid and late summer, but this year there is much afoot. Particularly exciting is the new Education Hour starting in September.

First off, the education hour will have some tried and true favorites. We will have our wonderful Personal Theology with its constant flow of deeply evocative speakers. We will have the choir deepening their love of music and one another.

We will also have some other classes for adults. Next year we will be offering three classes for adults on Sunday mornings. Rev. Cathleen Cox-Burneo will be offering a class on “Walking Our Talk: Dialogue For Living the Vision”, Donna Sequeira will be offering a class on “Queer Theologies” and Rev. Lisa Sargeant will be offering a class on the Bible. They will be one Sunday a month like, meeting on the first, second or third Sunday each month.

In addition during that time we will have our curriculum based classes for Children and Youth. So many adults have told me that they wanted to teach, but just couldn't imagine missing worship that much, well this is your chance. This year's theme is Spiritual Practice, and we will be looking at the many varieties of spiritual practice, and helping children and families find ways that deepen their experience of Unitarian Universalism.

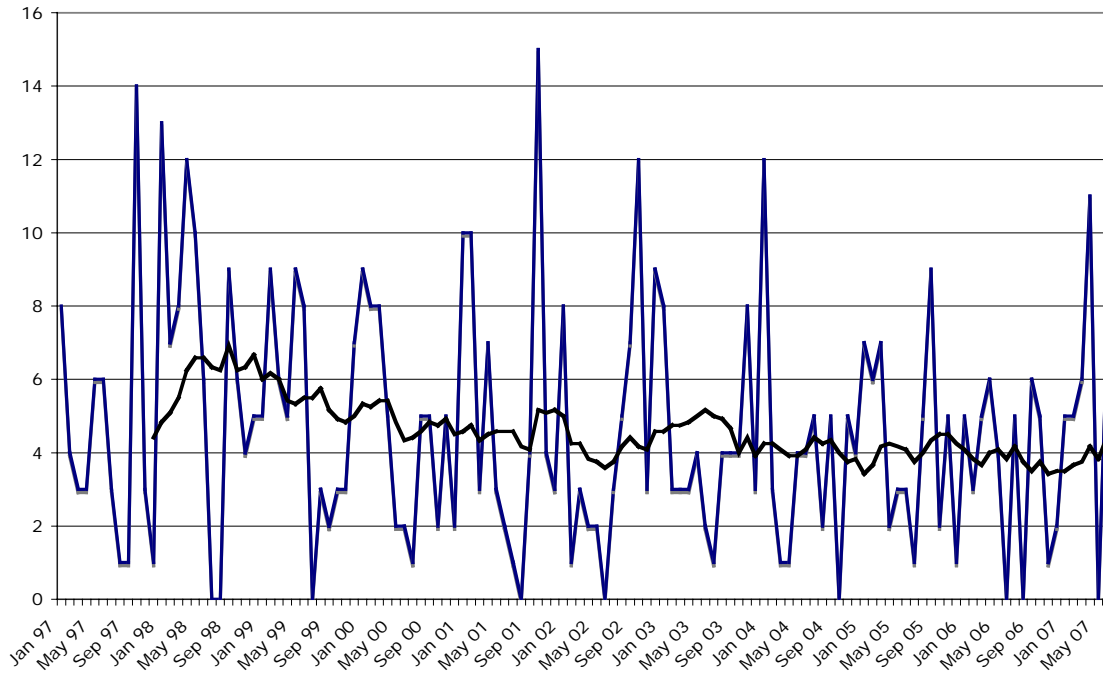
During the 11:00 service we will be having a whole new kind of Religious Education. Children's Creative Community Play. (or CCCP for short...I was thinking of even making the flyers red and made a chalice out of a hammer and sickle, but thought that it might be in poor taste for those who have difficult associations with the former Soviet Republic, but I'm still thinking about it)

This will be a whole different kind of Religious Education. There will be activities and stations, a number of facilitators helping the participants explore a variety of themes linked to our Unitarian Universalist identity through a number of mediums. We will have up to three stations and activity areas open for kids to explore and experience.

**D. Fellowship:** *UUCB is an intergenerational community where we interact with one another in trust, reverence, joy, and love. UUCB is a welcoming, caring, vibrant and ever more diverse congregation, overcoming barriers that divide the human family.*

We added 7 new members in June, bringing our fiscal year total to 48, slightly above last's year's fiscal total.

UUCB New Members



## Council

We are very pleased with the work the Council is doing to improve communication. In response to an invitation to guest write the co-ministers column for August, they proactively sought input from their clusters and the congregation at large through the UUCB Discussion Group. The response was so overwhelming that it became clear that people needed a simple way to provide input and get current information about potential changes. Our traditional ways of encouraging people to “contact Sally or Joe (or the ministers)” if they have input or questions or holding a meeting where people need to show up physically do not get the same response that came through the email solicitations. The Council has since added a Council voicemail and email address to provide more ways to get feedback, and will publicize it in the August Beacon column.

The Council has also offered to lead the evaluation of the fall schedule and January second service changes.

**E. Stewardship:** *UUCB is a congregation where all members and friends share human and financial resources generously to support our vision and the common good. Our buildings and our grounds are welcoming, inspiring, well maintained, and accessible to all.*

### Solar Panels

As we reported previously, our original investor was unable to produce the required investment for solar panels. There is still significant uncertainty around the IRS perception of investors taking tax benefits on behalf of non-profits and then cashing out, with the potential payment of back taxes with associated penalties and interest. For that reason, the new proposals we are getting provide little (if any) long term economic incentive to UUCB, and would essentially be buying "green" power at a rate that could in the future be more than PG&E charges. For that reason we are considering a low cost loan from UUA and buying the panels, at a total cost of about \$350,000. A little over \$100,000 of this would be defrayed in the first three years by the State of California incentive program, leaving about \$250,000 to be repaid from energy savings, other general operating funds, and possibly contributions and/or bequests over the next 5-10 years. As this would be a congregational decision, we will provide more specific information to you and the congregation as it is developed.

### May Financials

The May report is preliminary due to the unavailability of our accountant in the month of June. Known changes are included in the notes below.

1. A little over \$20,000 of revenue did not get booked in May: \$10,000 from the Orel Wolters Religious Education Fund, a bequest for \$4139 from Sally McCleery (which is shown as reversed in May), and \$6445 for Montessori rentals. These should be corrected this month. This means we had a strong revenue month, overrunning by nearly \$7000 (versus the nearly \$14,000 underrun shown). YTD revenue overrun is over \$21,000, primarily due to unpledged contributions, pledged contributions, and community rental. We also had an outstanding Auction, raising over \$18,000 – a big thank you to Ann Harlow and her team!
2. Most May variations in expenses were either timing differences or due to budgets mapped to the wrong account in our system change. We are currently underrunning YTD by \$7700, and expect to maintain or slightly

increase this underrun.

3. We continue to anticipate a surplus of general operating funds for the fiscal year. Part of this surplus is due to the 2005-2006 audit, which reclassified about \$15,000 of expense from 2006-07 to 2005-06, increasing our deficit from the preliminary number provided to the board of (\$12,000) to (\$31,000). Due to the accounting system change, the final June 2006 statement was not prepared until after the audit was completed, and not provided to management until March.

4. Preliminary YTD reports for June suggest as much as a \$35,000 surplus, due to the reclassification above and very strong pledge and community rental incomes in June.

## **II. Coordinating Team Limitations**

Nothing to report.

## **III. Board-Coordinating Team Linkage**

### **A. Coordinating Team Defined**

We are enthusiastic about the potential for Tim Weitzel joining the Team and we look forward to introducing him to those who have not yet met him.

## **Conclusion**

In honor of all that has been, and in hope for all that is yet to be, we give thanks for this opportunity to be a part of the leadership of this community, and together with all of our people, to realize the mission of this church.

*Christopher Craethnenn, Barbara Hamilton-Holway  
Bill Hamilton-Holway and Linda Laskowski*