

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY**  
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**Report to the Board of Trustees**  
**Coordinating Team**  
**August 2007**

**Introduction**

This report lovingly prepared and submitted by your Coordinating Team. Compiled by the very expectant father, the littlest-in-years Reverend just weeks before being joined by the littlest Unitarian Universalist double PK (preachers' kid) in the movement...maybe country...maybe world.

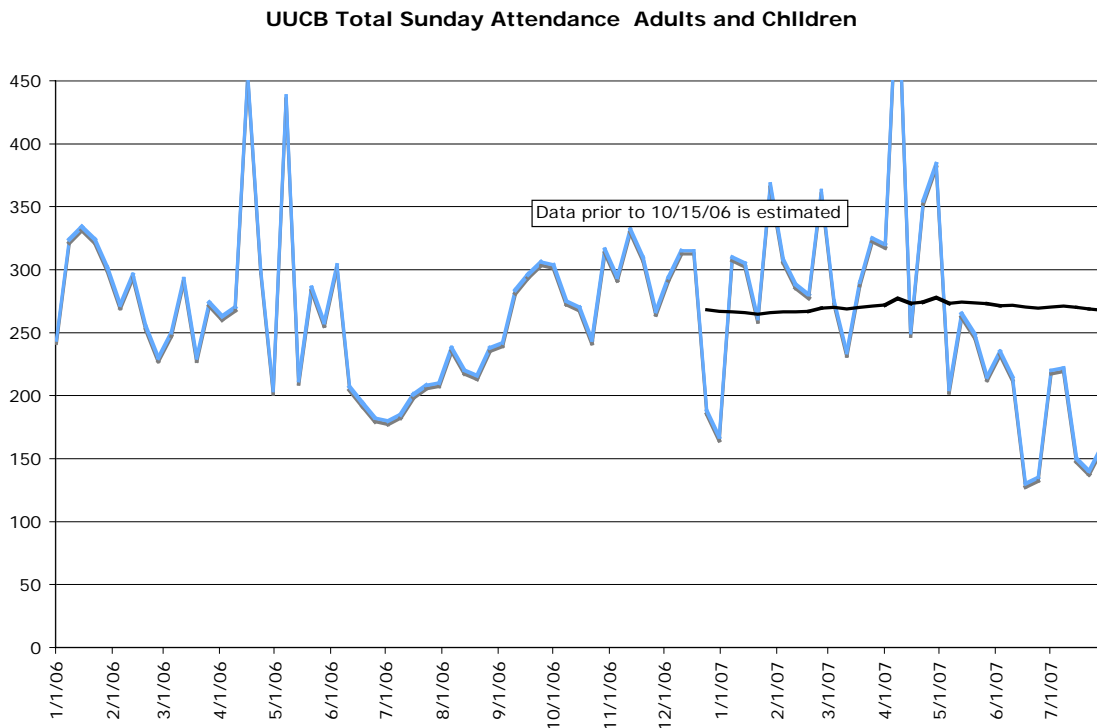
At any rate as we gear up for another wonderful year of excitement, exploration and possibility, here is a snapshot of some of the myriad goings on up in our sweet little big church.

**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.*

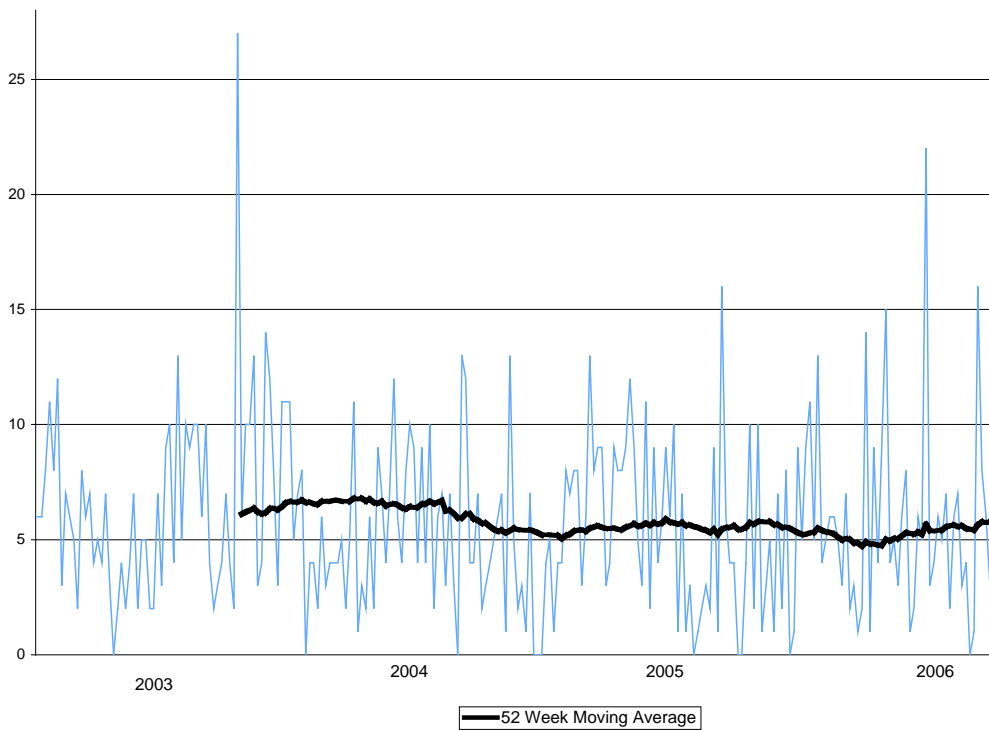
## Attendance

Attendance through July remains approximately the same, or slightly less, than last year at this time. We typically average less than 200 in Sunday worship in July, and start to increase in August.



While attendance has stabilized, first time guest attendance continues to outpace last year, with a consistent upward trend since January. It is interesting that while overall attendance is typically down in July and August, visitor attendance actually starts to increase in these summer months.

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.*

One exciting thing coming our way this year will be a coordination between our many social justice groups in the church and the RE program. Many of the church's groups will offer workshops and experiences to the children and youth on Sunday mornings. Then once the adults come out from worship, the children will help facilitate and educate the adults.

So for instance, the UULM has put the call out for another wave of valentines to the Governor to help him realize that Civil Marriage is a Civil Right. Folks who love UULM will help facilitate the children and youth in making Valentines, discussing the issues and helping tem think about what they feel is right. Then once worship lets out, the children and youth will help the adults facilitate the Social Action Table as their parents and other adults come to participate directly in the shaping and changing of our world.

This will be a way for many of our groups to have effective and engaging projects and a way for us to mobilize the latent energy around transformation and social change which is here at UUCB.

**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.*

It is an exciting time in education.

Last weekend we hosted a training for the Our Whole Lives, or OWL, program. OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education program which explores decision making, what love is and the many complexities of relationships while also providing clear, honest, and unflinching information about all aspects of sexuality. It is a wonderful curriculum which we offer for four ages here at UUCB.

This training was significant for a few reasons. Firstly, the district staff person whose job it was to be the registrar and administrator for such events quit with little notice. So there was not going to be a training in our district, which would mean that many churches would either not be able to run the program, or would run it with untrained facilitators.

We decided that we would host the training and that we would serve the functions that the district staff would have done in the past so that the many churches in the district could offer the program with trained staff. We had such an enthusiastic response that the course filled up, and instead of turning people away, we decided to fly in another set of trainers and run two parallel programs.

A number of our congregants provided home hospitality, meals, and support to make the training a success, which it was. It felt like a wonderful service that we could provide to the district, to our movement, and to all our children. (and everyone they date)

And as far as what is coming this year, stay tuned for the latest and greatest RE Prospectus, coming your way very soon.

**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 welcomed two new members in July, Rob Putman and Ellen McGinnis. One of the things we will be watching closely over the next year is our conversion rate – the percent of first time local visitors who become members. This is a measure not only of how welcome guests feel when they first come to UUCB, but also how effectively they are able to connect and decide to become a member. Most churches run around 10-12%, though evangelical churches and UU congregations known for their visitor excellence (such as Peter Morales' Jefferson Unitarian in Golden, Colorado) can go as high as 25%. When we first started tracking this number at UUCB in 2002, we were running 14%. Since then we have improved to 18%, mostly likely due to the attention paid to returning visitors, who are 3 times more likely to join than those who are coming the first time.

### Singing to the Choir

UUCB as a cabaret? Our first-of-the-fiscal-year fundraiser featured a gifted performer, Roy Zimmerman, a political satirist who got two standing ovations. About half the crowd of 120 was from outside of UUCB – conversations with several about UUCB suggest we will be seeing a number of them again. Roy is working on a holiday show, and would like to do a trial run back at UUCB in late October or early November. Don't miss him if you did not make it on August 4!

**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.*

## Fall Marketing Campaign

UUCB members and friends contributed 113 of the 629 gifts to the fall marketing campaign, which has almost reached the \$300,000 level – the highest amount and with the most donors of any of the UUA campaigns! A big thank you to our canvass co-chairs, Susan Lankford and Jane Middleton, who not only included the Bay Area campaign in this past year’s canvass, but followed up with phone calls to outstanding Bay Area pledges from UUCB members. Several UUCB members and friends are playing a direct role in the campaign through the “Regional Marketing Guerrillas”, who are doing publicity and placing ads in smaller media: Lee Lawrence, Jane Middleton, Steve Caramia, Steve Beale, and Linda Laskowski. The campaign starts with a kick off for donors on September 15 at UUCB, and includes Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA president.

## Solar Panels

The Solar Working Group is preparing a “voters guide” with information about the panels for the congregation, and will have several meetings over the next month to address questions and concerns. They are proposing that this be decided by a ballot rather than a congregational meeting, around the third week of September. The current estimate of the installed cost for a 54 KW system is \$411,000, with a \$138,000 rebate from the fund established by the State of California for non-profits. The funding would come from the endowment, which we would pay back through the electricity savings and a campaign for members to “buy a panel” (about \$600 each). Funds can be withdrawn at the end of each quarter. This will impact our endowment transfer, which per our by-laws is 5% of the December 31 balance, so we would not want to take the funds out until January 1, to give us a full year to replace as much of the endowment as possible before the end of the next year.

## **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.

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