

3rd DRAFT OF PUUF PIONEERS' LISTING OF PUUF HISTORY

Jan. 27th, 2018

1992: Dec., 1st meeting of organizers of group, response to an ad in the Daily A. 27 in attendance, placed by Tom Chatterton.

1993: Jan. 31st, 1st service, at the Seaside Community Center, with Dr. James Bond, speaker. Moved to the Cannes Cinema (Seaside). Good attendance, quite a few kids.

1994: Religious Education for children instituted; Jan Fletcher coordinated RE once a month. During these first few years, PUUF met at the Cannes Cinema lobby and later in a dark curtained theater. (Comment from a couple of Pioneers: *, it might be fun for the "astronauts" to know about the years we were in the Seaside Cinema lobby (memories of smelling the popcorn machine revving up halfway through the service made all our stomachs growl). We were always impressed w/ our little fellowship's gumption to withstand first that chilly lobby—then in later years being shuttled back into a black, curtained theater. Those who think the PAC is dark missed out on this daunting challenge.*

1995: May 1st received official affiliation with the UUA. Mentioned in UU World. 37 charter members. PNWD and 1st Unitarian were very supportive during this exciting time. Karen Broenneke was president.

1996-1999: RE was strong, PUUF was growing, moved into the Masonic Temple at Easter of 1997 (54 in attendance; John Compere was speaker), became a Welcoming Congregation. Tension growing about one founder's desire to be the minister of the congregation and his attempt to dominate the Sunday services. He had had training at the Humanist Institute in NYC in hopes of becoming a chaplain.

2000: PUUF moved to the Finnish church building in Astoria (now UCC) and began services there Sept. 10 of that year, with a Homecoming Service led by Rev. Sue Ayer.

2001: 9/11. The Peace Pole was installed by Tom Chatterton who also designed the banner. Welcoming Congregation status achieved in November. Arline LaMear was president years 2000-2005.

2002: A longtime domineering member left the congregation as tension grew over his efforts to control worship; this conflict caused pain among members, with some members leaving the group. Arline LaMear became president for several years (2000-2005) and Frank Logan was newsletter editor. The PNWD encouraged the Fellowship to work toward having a minister; this became an ongoing theme. PUUF had begun as a layed congregation but with pastoral care needs growing, having a minister became more and more desirable, as layed services and an occasional visiting minister did not meet the needs adequately.

2003: at the advice of PNWD, PUUF decided to work toward the financial resources needed to hire a part-time minister. PUUF hosted the Small Congregation retreat at Camp Magruder in Rockaway. Big success. Karen Broenneke asked to be ordained as a UU minister, after completing her studies. She was ordained by PUUF April 7, 2003 and became a prison chaplain.

2004: Nancy Logan assumed leadership of Religious Education and the presence of the children and families helped to reenergize the Fellowship. Claudia Harper was president for half a year; Frank Logan took the reins when Claudia left.

2005: Kerry Hawley and Marvin ? had a civil union ceremony, performed by Rev. Patti Pomerantz. Frank Logan was president.

2006: Rev. Sue Ayer began her ministry at PUUF. Canvass training and fundraising were strong efforts, in order to support a quarter-time minister. Sue served during the year 2006-2007 but ill health forced her to be less effective than necessary and her contract was not renewed. PUUF initiated a movie series about the topic of immigration; well attended, at the PAC.

2007-2010: PUUF went into survival mode; committees were disbanded, membership shrank, burnout was severe. Arline became president again and served for 2007-08. 2008-2010, Craig Holt served as president. Membership dropped. Burnout severe. In 2009, decided to ask Rev. Patti Pomerantz to come once a month.

2010: Patti served once a month for a year; attendance at about 18-20 on Sundays. Patti's contract was not renewed in spring of 2011. Patti was struggling with the death of her partner. Patti did not have a contract but was paid the normal rate for a UU guest minister.

2011: Rev. Carol McKinley of Olympia became a monthly UU speaker for 3 years.

2012: Rev. Kit Ketcham moved to the area and joined in August. She had been a regular supply preacher for PUUF for several years and was already known to many in the Fellowship.

2013: Kit offered to provide pastoral care to Ruth Jensen, Michael Link, and others who needed it. Kit preached a few times. A contract was developed with Kit. Cameron Brister was president, followed by Allison Wilski who moved and Cameron took back the job.

2014: Kit began to preach monthly, organized area coffee groups and happy hours. Growth began to increase with new members joining the Fellowship; UU 101 was instituted to prepare new folks for membership.

2015: The big picture window in the UCC/Finnish building blew out in a windstorm; a facilities committee was formed to look for a better, larger space. This process took about 18 months and several facilities were considered. A lot of tension over the possibility of leaving the "little green church on the hill", a much beloved space. Michael Rowe was president at this time; his energy and presence were valuable. Lots of stress and indecisiveness about moving or trying to buy the too-small building. After a long hiatus, a Canvass dinner was held in the spring at the Methodist church. "Magic Dragon" awards began. Connie Moore---RE teacher.

2016: in the summer, the Fellowship voted decisively to move to the Performing Arts Center. The transition to the new space was handled by Dave Ambrose, who organized the big job and helped it run smoothly. Our first service at the PAC was Sept. 16. Our annual Water Ceremony and "goodbye" service was the Sunday before, at the UCC building, in which we bade farewell in a ceremony and

carried our chalice out of that sanctuary, to be moved to the PAC. We had our 2nd Canvass dinner at the Masonic Temple the spring of 2016. Marched in the Pride parade.

2017: Many adjustments and challenges occurred because of the move; committees grew in strength; task teams organized (hospitality, sextons, potlucks). Social justice committee became active. Many new visitors became members; we grew to about 60 by the end of 2017. We hosted a Pride Service and participated in the Pride activities all weekend. As a Partner of the PAC, we put on the Skamokawa Swamp Opera performance and the Darrell Grant New MJ Quartet jazz concert, as fundraisers for the PAC. We held potlucks for a time at the Elks club and then moved to the Masonic Temple across the street from the PAC. Our finances strengthened because of the lower rent at the PAC (offset by fundraising requirement). Attendance grew, RE stayed strong with Jan Horning and Adriana Caron as teacher and teacher assistant.

ADDENDA

Primary Crises during the 25 year history: deaths of members (Michael Link, Ruth Jensen, Dorothy Mason, Bob Nelson), members leaving the congregation, disruptive kids, a disruptive evangelical woman who wanted to be the minister, a domineering member's increasing effort to control Sunday services, the windstorm that took out the big window at the UCC building, concern for child with special needs (father's death particularly), a few interpersonal conflicts, an aborted effort to use a hired administrator. The 2004 election was particularly depressing.

Negative outcomes of crises: resentments, communication difficulties with UCC members, the stress of needing to make a decision about moving from the UCC building to another facility, grief associated with deaths and losses of members who left for a variety of reasons.

Positive outcomes of crises: moving to the PAC has turned out to be a pretty good decision, even with the need to set-up and accommodate other Partners' schedules, regaining control of worship services, learning to set limits on behaviors by disruptors, creating a regular structure for services.

Primary successes during the 25 year history: Three same-sex weddings, Welcoming Congregation work, financial efforts netted a solid several thousand nest egg for future use of some kind. Persistence toward the goal of having a minister, even though two attempts were not as successful as hoped. Sustained contact with PNWD, via retreats, a choir visitation, attendance at district and national events. Becoming a Partner for the PAC and finding that our presence was transforming the nature of the Partners organization, forcing other members to step up their involvement in order to keep the PAC alive. Becoming more visible in the community. Hosting a PRIDE service, walking the PRIDE parade each year, cleaning a highway, Circle suppers, creating teams for Sunday service hospitality, greeting, set-up, and creating a new directory, development of a CUUPs chapter (Coven of UU Pagans), offering a safe oasis for diverse groups (LGBTQI, disabled) and being a beacon for the community, children's garden.

STRENGTHS GAINED:

Learned to work successfully with a minister; resilience gained over years of handling crises pretty well; evolving into a Fellowship which supports members and friends in need, is active in social justice

work; a friendly, outgoing group; involved with PRIDE and other community organizations; in an easy-to-find location; lots of talent in the congregation; diverse backgrounds; discussion groups after service and in the summer; small outreach groups up and down the coast; having enough room at the PAC to grow; financial resources; good staff; strong SPIRIT; good socializing times; strong desire to continue to have a minister; discovering how important PUUF is as a stimulating presence at the PAC, potential for strong pledge increases as PUUF works toward being able to attract and support a minister, the ability to bend without breaking, a broader age range within the Fellowship.

WEAKNESSES TO WORK ON:

Sundays can be long days because of the length of the parish; many activities are scheduled on Sundays; increase number of families with children; better retention of visitors; signage for the social hall/green room; awkward to get to the Masonic Hall for potlucks; need to step up financial commitment in order to support a part-time minister; bylaws updates—bylaws were fine when membership was small, but now they need to be updated to work better with a larger group, good publicity/PR within the community, strengthening our membership process, better signage out front to increase visibility.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION THAT HAS BEEN CREATED FROM PUUF'S PAST, TO BE BUILT UPON?

The bricks that form the PUUF foundation, the qualities that can be relied upon to support the growth and blossoming of this UU Fellowship are solid and bode well for continued effectiveness, are listed here in part:

Connections between members and friends and with the larger community;
A diverse community in the Columbia/Pacific region;
A talented pool of members and friends;
A unique style of Sunday services, including participatory, social justice, minister, and all-congregation discussion;
Cooperation among members and friends;
FOOD---social hour, potlucks, circle suppers, happy hours, coffee klatches;
Candles of the Heart/joys and concerns;
A solid group of children and young families;
Involvement in congregational activities by a majority of members and friends;
Financial stability with potential for increased generosity in pledging;
Commitment of members and friends to the health of the Fellowship;
Progressive ideals and values, in covenant with the UUA;
Social outreach and Social Justice efforts (PRIDE, LCDC, LCHC);
Support of groups such as the local warming center, Helping Hand, LCHC;
SURVIVAL SKILLS! Having had ups and downs in leadership and size, PUUF survives!

WHAT IS THE METAPHORICAL BUILDING THAT PUUF MAY ESTABLISH GOING FORWARD?

Increased social justice activity;
Increased care for members and friends (sunshine committee);
Much greater financial commitment from members and friends (strong canvass committee);
Expanded musical programming;