

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

August 2011

Minister's Reflection

Part I

By the time you get this newsletter, I, along with my three feline companions, Mommy Girl and Oscar and Ying, hopefully will have started to settle into our new home on Laneville Drive in Ingleside. When I was in Grayslake in June looking for a place to live, after looking at many houses to rent and with only two possible places meeting my needs, I half-jokingly said to Leo Wazlo's sister, Janet, who was helping me find a house, "Janet, we're not really looking so much for a place for me but rather for a place where my cats can be happy and safe." She smiled but I could tell she wasn't quite sure if I was being serious or not. I was being serious. You see, my feline companions have always been indoor/outdoor cats. For the four years I lived in Stockton, Illinois (from August 2006 to July 2010), I lived on a rural road, and this past year I've lived on a dead-end road. Both houses had very few cars going by and there were open fields with lots of field mice for them to catch and they were very quiet areas. So, I was looking for a place here that had very little car traffic, had some green space and didn't have a lot of traffic noise. We hadn't found a house that met those needs by the time I had to return to Bozeman. So I asked Janet to continue house-hunting for me and she did find this house in Ingleside that I think from all of the pictures I saw fits almost all of my needs . . . or should I say my feline friends' needs.

Part II

When I am pensive about something or praying for insights, song lyrics or melodies often come to me. Sometimes it's easy to understand how the lyrics or melodies playing through my mind are related to what

I am pondering or praying about. At other times, it is harder to discern the connection. During my last week in Bozeman, I was emailing back and forth with the Music Team about possible hymns or songs to use with the August 28th service. While looking for possibilities, I came upon a really great find. I found alternative lyrics that Pete Seeger wrote for "Ode to Joy." They're beautiful! As I prepared to come to be your minister, the melody to, not the new verses, "Ode to Joy" kept going and continues to go through my head. It didn't take me long to realize how joyful I feel about coming to serve you.

Good people, I look forward to meeting you at Sunday services or other activities and places along the way.

Bright Blessings,
Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler



Upcoming Services

All services are held at **9 a.m.** unless otherwise noted. Sunday service topics may change without notice at the discretion of the speaker or because of other circumstances. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

August 7th

Deepening Your Spiritual Expression

Bhante Sujatha

Access inner guidance for health, relationship, career and other important areas of your life. Create a safe, quiet mind to achieve clarity for decision making.

August 14th

Resources in our Spiritual Traditions That Can Pull Us Out of "The Dumps"

Rabbi Herbert Bronstine

Rabbi Bronstine's reflection will address the worries and uneasiness that are present in the world today with the resulting diminished hope and fear of the future.

August 21st

Amazing Grace How Sweet It Is . . . The Unitarian Universalist Way

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler

Most Unitarian Universalists don't believe in the primary operational definition of grace held by traditional Christianity. So does that mean that Unitarian Universalists are plum out of luck when it comes to experiencing and receiving grace? This reflection will explore the beautiful ways grace manifests itself in life for those who do not accept the Christian version of grace's purpose or workings in the life of humankind.

August 28th

Music Sunday

Music has been a strong part of social action movements throughout history. Join the Greater Choir in singing songs and hearing

members speak of their personal experience in various movements.

Our Caring Circle

During this past month family joys were expressed by:

- Tonia Becker VerShaw for her parents' recent visit
- Petros Petridas for the children's lemonade sale and for Kadi's mother's return from Liberia
- the Dewitt family as Rowan and Kess leave for a one-week stay in Kentucky
- Tempest McKenzie who is leaving for camp,
- Deb Reinemann when her entire family, including seven grandchildren celebrated the July 4th holiday weekend
- the Klick Family celebrating son Loren's 23rd birthday and the family visit to Czech Republic
- Juanita Cruz appreciating her daughter's business integrity

Concerns were expressed by:

- Dayle Kozlowski for the cancer diagnosis of a long time friend and care giver
- Joanne Almaney for her niece's recovery from a serious illness
- Juanita Cruz for the high rate of suicide among veterans returning from active duty and for the economic conditions our country is facing
- Penny Sue McKenzie on her father's lung cancer and giving strength for her mother to honor dad's end-of-life wishes
- Fred O'Donnell on his sadness for the loss of friends relocating to Florida

Caring and healing wishes are extended to:

- Fred O'Donnell recovering from a kidney infection
- Rory Klick who fell and injured her hip

Expressions of appreciation by:

- Duane Shaneyfelt for congregational support during lifetime challenges he is experiencing
- Diana Fox for being able to find housing for clients during recent power outage

Birthday joys were shared by Diana Fox for Tonia VerShaw's birthday and by Myrna Jaffe for Paul's birthday.

Joys were conveyed by Diana Fox and Duane Shaneyfelt in welcoming our newly hired transitional minister, Jackie Ziegler, whose first PCUUC sermon is scheduled for August 21st.

Let us each be filled with the joys and sorrows of our PCUUC family.

If you have a joy or concern to be published, contact the Caring Committee at: Caring@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



The Greater Choir is Back!

*"Let there be music in my life,
Intruding upon my tired spirit, uplifting the
weary soul,
Letting me know my life is yet a song to
sing."
Richard S. Gilbert, UU Minister*

You all are invited to share in the collective pleasure of making music together. No matter your experience, join the Greater Choir this summer for a low-commitment, musically good time.

There will only be three Thursday evening practices. Come to as many as you are available for - Aug. 11th, 18th and 25th. Then, on August 28th, the Greater Choir will lead Music Sunday. This service will celebrate the music of our social action movements.

Please contact Joyce DeWitt with your interest at:
847-393-7769 or
choir@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Social Action News

PADS Family Center – Waukegan

The PADS meal was prepared and served on July 17th. Approximately 25 people at the shelter enjoyed a nourishing dinner. Thanks to all who volunteered! The next PADS meal is scheduled for October 16th.

Music Sunday

The Social Action committee is joining the Greater Choir in preparing for Music Sunday on August 28th. Songs based on social action causes will be selected and members of the congregation have volunteered to share social action anecdotes.

Annual Church Picnic

The Hospitality Committee has invited the Social Action Committee to collaborate in planning picnic activities based on this year's theme – Celebrate the Earth. A joint committee planning meeting is scheduled for August 14th after the service.

International Dining at Lunch

Enjoy Mexican Cuisine on the lake on Saturday, August 13th, at 5:00 p.m. Our August ethnic dining adventure will take place at the El Puerto Restaurant on the shore of Fox Lake. To avoid the Saturday night rush, the dinner has been scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 10th, so that we can assure your place at the table. Sign-up sheets will be available after the service or reply to Leo Wazlo at 847-548-5732 or lwazlo@yahoo.com.

The address, phone number, menu and directions are available at the restaurant's web site:
www.elpuertorestaurant.net.



WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL YOUR MINISTER?

by Reverend Jackie Ziegler

Experience tells me that many church members do not know under what circumstances they should contact their minister. In the past, I've often found when I casually ask someone how they're doing or what's happening with them, that's when I first find out that they are or had experienced some major problem or joy in their life. When I asked them why they didn't call me they say in all sincerity, "I didn't want to bother you; you're so busy." Now let me say that although that's a very considerate reason, it is not a criterion that should be used to guide a person in making a decision as to whether or not to get in touch with me. So, as we start out on this new adventure, I want you to know that what is happening to you is something that matters to me. Please let me know what's happening in your life - regardless of it being happy, joyful, sad or depressing.

Below are some guidelines for you to use in deciding whether or not to call me. They are adapted from an article that my colleague, the Rev. Andrew Kennedy, wrote to help the members of his church decide when to call him.

~ **Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler, 847-629-5868**

Guidelines for When You Should Call Your Minister

- When you don't know me but would like to
- When you have problems or concerns you'd like to discuss -- problems with your job, children, partner, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might be help. I do not do long term counseling or therapy, but many find it useful to sit and talk with me. I can usually provide referrals when it is necessary.
- When someone close to you has died, is suicidal, or is critically ill.
- When you'd like to make advance plans for your funeral or memorial service.
- When you're planning to be married.
- When you have given birth to a child.
- When you wish to have a child dedication and naming service.
- When you're pregnant, but wish you weren't.
- When you have a friend or neighbor who would like more information about Unitarian Universalism.
- When you're considering joining the church, but you still have some questions.
- When you'd like to include the church in your will or make a special gift, but you're not sure how.
- When you'd like to help in committee work or church school teaching.
- When, for some reason, you're angry with me.
- When you'd like to talk about religion and spirituality.
- When you need help, but you're not sure who to call.
- When you've been arrested.
- When you're chair of a committee and you don't know where to start or what to do next.

So call me when any of these guidelines fit the case for you. Since this list does not exhaust all possibilities, please feel free to call me even if you're in doubt!



PCUUC Celebrates the Earth and a New Church Year!

Each year, PCUUC holds a summer picnic to celebrate the end of one church year and the beginning of another. This year's all-church gathering is Sunday, September 11th, following the service, at 11:30 a.m., at Nippersink Forest Preserve, Shelter D, in Round Lake. All church members, visitors and their families are invited to participate.

PCUUC has made a commitment to become a "green" church. To honor that, this year's picnic theme will be "Celebrate the Earth!" Participants are encouraged to bring a dish made from natural, organic or locally grown ingredients. Also, if they submit a recipe card for their dish, the recipe will be entered in a drawing for a gift card to an earth-friendly restaurant! Two prizes will be given away. In addition, the recipes will be included in PCUUC's Recipe Book forthcoming this fall!



The Hospitality Committee is collaborating with the Social Action Committee, Children's Religious Education and individual church

members to make this truly a planet-loving event. Resources and information on sustainability practices will be available. There will be a guided "Un-nature Trail" and "Camouflage Trail" as well as earth-fun games and education for both adults and children.

The church will provide beverages as well as veggie and naturally-raised meat patties and hot dogs. Earth-lovers' music, as well as a few songs in memory of 9/11 victims and their families, will play in the background.

So, don't miss out on an opportunity for good food, good company and good stewardship! Please RSVP to Teresa at Social_Events@PrairieCircleUUC.org. A sign-up sheet for food also will be available at the front table during services throughout August.

Keep PCUUC and Stone Soup Dinner and Auction in Mind this Summer

We hope you are having a great summer. November seems like a long time away, but it will be here before we know it. And that's when PCUUC will celebrate its annual Stone Soup Dinner and Auction Fundraiser. You'll hear more about this important event in the coming weeks and months but, for now, as you enjoy summer recreation, whether locally or in travels, keep in mind donation possibilities from the goods and service providers you patronize. For example:

- Do you go to a great resort (near or far) each year? See if the manager is interested in donating a two-night stay package or stay 6 nights and get the 7th for free deal, etc.
- Do you or a friend have a time-share? Consider donating a stay to auction off.
- Really liked a restaurant you tried? See if the manager will donate a gift certificate.
- Enjoyed some outdoor recreation, event, concert, festival? See if the organizers will donate passes for a future event.

Keep in mind that we can also sell advertising space in the Dinner and Auction program. On the church website, there are letters you can use in any conversations you may have. Here's the link:

<http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/category/help-with-fundraising/>

Questions? Call Tonia Becker VerShaw (847-224-9809) or Rich Fendrych (847-624-3763) or send an e-mail to: fundraising@prairiecircleuuc.org.

Treasurer's Corner

by Chris Kozlowski

In this quarter's update, I want to review the church's finances for the full 2010-2011 church year and recap the budget decisions we made at the June 5th, 2011, congregational meeting.

2010-2011 Financial Review

For the full church year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), we ended with a surplus of \$11,566. The primary reason for the surplus was the committees spending less than they budgeted. You can see the month-by-month income and expenses in the graph below.

2011-2012 Preview

At the June 5th congregational meeting, we voted to implement a deficit budget for the 2011-2012 church year. The projected deficit will be approximately \$20,300. We have reserves and accumulated surpluses to cover this for the current year but, as

discussed in the congregational meeting, this is not a sustainable budget for the long term.

I have included a summary of our major revenue and expense categories for the 2011-2012 church year below:

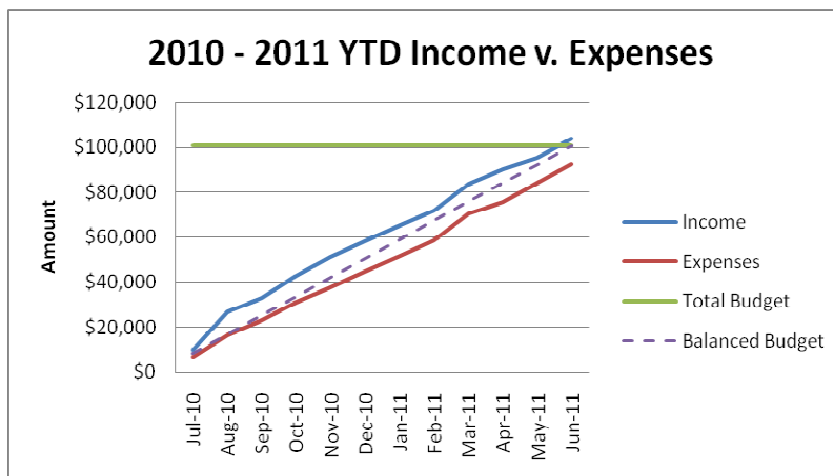
Category	Amount
Pledges	\$98,032
Loose Plate	\$6,800
Fundraisers	\$14,000
Donor Restricted	\$480
Total Income	\$119,312
Staff	\$95,365
Committees	\$15,347
Rent	\$12,555
Office/Misc.	\$10,046
Denominational Support	\$5,846
Donor Restricted	\$480
Total Expenses	\$139,639

Finance Committee

The finance committee welcomes new members who are interested in the church's finances. We generally meet the 2nd Sunday of each month before church services. If you have any questions about the church budget or would like to attend an upcoming Finance Committee meeting, please email me at:

Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

- Chris



August Board Meeting

This month's Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11th, at 6:45 p.m. at the Grayslake Public Library. Please contact Andrea Mills, Church Administrator, for more information:

office@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Get Involved with Gleaning to Help Provide Produce for those in Need!

Help us share the harvest for the hungry by helping to plant, weed or harvest in a generous agreement with the people who own community gardens at CLC and Avon. Whether it is a just a few hours for one time or weekly, we welcome volunteers to be part of this important hands-on effort to help provide nutritious food produce to the needy in Lake County. There are two places to volunteer:

College of Lake County (CLC)

- Sundays through mid-October, from 4 to 6 p.m. for harvesting and washing
- Monday mornings through mid-October, delivering to the Avon Township Food Pantry.

Rory Klick, the coordinator at CLC, will announce when she plans to have her orientation and training date.

Avon Township Food Pantry (433 E. Washington Avenue, Round Lake Park)

- Tuesdays through October 11th, from 4 to 7 p.m. for weeding and harvesting,
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays through October 15th, from 9 - 11 a.m. for weeding and harvesting

Painless Prairie Giving

While cutting corners has become important to us all, we also want to continue supporting what is important to us. If PCUUC is important to you, consider the "painless giving" options.

Did you know there are ways you can give to PCUUC without writing a check or putting money in the basket on Sunday? Support our church by searching or shopping online!

Good Search

<http://www.goodsearch.com/>

You Search...We Give! ... a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine and help raise money for our church! Simply type in "Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Grayslake, IL" on the home screen to begin your search. You may also download the goodsearch toolbar for searching ease.

Prairie Pennies

Did you know you can raise money for PCUUC by using gift cards purchased through our Prairie Pennies program? We all purchase food, gas, clothing, books, etc. so why not do so with a Prairie Pennies scrip gift card? A percentage of your purchase goes directly to PCUUC. Stop by the Prairie Pennies table for the full list of participating retailers or visit:

<http://www.shopwithscrip.com/>.

Good Shop

Did you know that a percentage of on-line purchases made at Good Shop earns money for our church? From the GoodSearch page:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/>,

you can click on GoodShop to help our church even more. At this online shopping mall, you'll find hundreds of great stores like Target, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble.

For more information check:
www.prairiecircleuuc.org/giving

Questions? Send an e-mail to:
Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Household Battery, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb and Inkjet Cartridge Recycling Couldn't Be Easier

Household batteries, (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V, rechargeable and small disc batteries), compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and inkjet cartridges are harmful to our environment when disposed of improperly. We can work together to protect our environment by keeping these toxic items out of the landfills. PCUUC has a recycling box located on the table near the entrance. Just bring in your depleted batteries, CFL bulbs and inkjet cartridges to church on any Sunday, drop them in the box and you can be assured they will be properly disposed of.

Nearby locations that provide additional opportunities to properly recycle other toxic household items such as car batteries, automotive fluids, used tires, household electronics, computer components and accessories can be found by visiting:
<http://search.earth911.com/>
and entering your zip code in the search box.

Covenant Groups

A covenant group is a small group that meets to discuss topics of interest and develop bonds of friendship. Interested in starting a new covenant group? Contact the Director of Religious Education, Julie Palumbo, for more details:
re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Mother/Daughter Group

There has been interest in forming a mother/daughter based on the book "The Mother/Daughter Project: How Mothers and

Daughters Can Band Together Beat the Odds and Thrive through Adolescence". If you have a daughter of any age and would be interested in forming a group, please contact Julie Palumbo at:
re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on select Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is August 9th at Mike Merritt's home. The group will also meet on August 30th with the location to be determined later. Check the website calendar for updates:
www.prairiecircleuuc.org/news-events/calendar/

The location rotates among member's homes and topics are varied. New members are always welcome. Contact Rich Fendrych if you have any questions:
membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Father/Son Group

If there is any interest in a Father/Son group, please contact Julie Palumbo at:
re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Monday Night Prairie Women's Covenant Group

The PCUUC Prairie Women's group meets once a month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. although there will not be a meeting in August. Check the website calendar for updates on the September meeting:
www.prairiecircleuuc.org/news-events/calendar/

The location rotates among member's homes and topics are varied. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Norine Fendrych at nativeheart27@scglobal.net or Sally Merritt at merritt69_99@yahoo.com.

Lifespan Religious Education

We are in the process of planning our next academic year for religious education for 2011-2012! The Religious Education Committee and Director of Religious Education have met laying out next year's curricula as follows:



4-year olds and Kindergarten – 1st Grade

It was suggested by the committee to utilize some of the resources we have drawn from in the past for this age group along with introducing them to Judeo-Christian stories. The curriculum DRE will be drawing from which has already developed lesson plans is *"God Images"*. The ancient stories will be drawn from *"Timeless Themes"* text.

2nd through 5th Graders

This age group we will be focusing on world religions. However in addition to that, we will be zeroing in on what Unitarian Universalism is as well. We will be using resources that have been useful from drawing from in previous years such as the developed lesson plans included in, *"Walking the Rainbow Path: Celebrating all the colors of love"* and *"Carry the Flame"* and also drawing from *"Articulating Your UU Faith"*.

6th & 7th Graders

This age group is for junior high school students. DRE will be choosing already-developed lesson plans from *"Neighboring Faiths: Exploring Religions with Junior High School Youth."*

Parent Meeting

We will be having a parent meeting open to everyone interested post-service in the courtyard behind the Barn on August 14th to share ideas and express any suggestions.

Teacher Orientation

A new teacher orientation will be offered on August 28th for people interested in volunteering to teach one of the above age groups. A sign-up sheet has already begun on Sundays by the windows next to the Religious Education Board. WE NEED TEACHERS!!! Lesson plans are discussed with each teacher a week prior to the Sunday they will be committing to. All supplies are gathered by the DRE and set up. If you have any questions regarding teaching, please contact Julie Palumbo at RE@prairiecircleuuc.org for more information.

High School Youth Program

The Religious Education Committee and Director of Religious Education are also spearheading PCUUC's first High School age Youth Program. This will involve the following:



Classroom Learning

Recent youth who completed our first Affirmation program and any other teenagers who are high school age will have the opportunity to attend a high-school based curriculum once per month beginning in September taught by Julie Palumbo

alternating with Laura Franz. Lesson plans will be drawn from the "Truth and Meaning": Questions about the western religious heritage Unitarian Universalism for High School Youth curricula as well as the "Sacred Threads" curricula. DRE will also draw from text, "*What do you stand for?*" which deals with getting along with others and developing a whole sense of self.

Religious Exposure

Inge Crowley has offered to bring youth once per month to various places of worship, meeting with various worship leaders to expand the youth's experience of world religious practices. She is in the process of coordinating contacts in the community with DRE for this fall.



Community Service

DRE and Inge Crowley will be spearheading getting the youth involved with assisting in needs-based activities in the community such as PADS meals, etc. ideally once per month. The next Youth PADS meal serving will be scheduled for the third Sunday in October.

Worship Service Involvement

Some of the youth expressed interest in getting more involved in worship services.

Intergenerational services are not the only exception. They expressed interest in doing readings or providing music. DRE and Worship committee chair will coordinate this with service leaders/minister.

Socialization

The youth have expressed interest in meeting either 1x/wk or 1/mo. to do have fun social activity time, i.e. basketball, bowling, ice skating, etc. DRE will design an event calendar.

RE Leadership

Some of the youth are interested in guiding the younger PCUUC youth as co-leaders on special Sundays of interest in RE program. DRE will explore with them specific ways they can get involved.



Book Club

Our youth suggested they might be interested in developing their own book club.

PCUUC Involvement

On 9/11 annual picnic, Hospitality Committee suggested youth can get involved in leading and organizing green-related games and activities. DRE had the opportunity to discuss this with some of the youth already, and they are interested.

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for the September 2011 newsletter are due by the end of the day on **August 25th**. The newsletter will be posted on the website at the beginning of September. Please send submissions as attachments to Andrea Mills, PCUUC's Church Administrator at: office@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



To Discontinue Receiving Monthly Email Notices of the Publication of the Newsletter:

Please send your request to the Office Administrator at office@PrairieCircleUUC.org and include your name and email address in your request. Thanks.



Visit PCUUC on the Internet at <http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org>

List of PCUUC Contacts

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler	Developmental Minister	minister@prairiecircleuuc.org
Tonia Becker VerShaw	Board President	President@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Kent McKenzie	President Elect	VP@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Donna Marshall	Secretary	Secretary@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Chris Kozlowski	Treasurer	Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Kadi Petridis	Trustee	Trustee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Scott Helmke	Trustee	Trustee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Andrea Mills	Church Administrator	Office@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Julie Palumbo	Director of Religious Education	RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Joyce DeWitt	Choir Director	Choir@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mark Wilson, Jim Cubit & Scott Helmke	Music Committee	Music@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Diana Fox	Worship Committee	Worship@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Laura Franz	Children's RE Committee	RE-Committee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mike Honegger	Adult Enrichment Committee	Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Inge Crowley	Social Action Committee	Socialaction@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Peg Fredrickson	Social Action Committee	Socialaction@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Rich Fendrych	Membership/Publicity Committee	Membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Ric Sarmont	Long Range Planning Committee	Planning@PrairieCircleUUC.org
	Nominating Committee	Nominating@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Teresa Aguinaldo	Hospitality Committee	Social_events@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Jan Kirch	Caring Committee	Caring@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Rory Klick	Transitional Minister Recruitment Committee	Minister_Recruitment@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Jan Kirch	Fundraising Committee	Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Steve King	Human Resources Committee	