



Unitarian Universalists of
Central Delaware

Annual Report
of Committees & Teams

2026

Table of Contents

1. President's Letter
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Audio-Visual Team
4. Caring Committee
5. Communications
6. Covenant Group
7. Fellowship & Hospitality
8. Leadership Development
9. Membership
10. Minister Search
11. Religious Education
12. Social and Environmental Justice
13. Stewardship
14. St. Jones River Lotus Sangha
15. UUA Denominational Connections
16. UU Congregations of the Delmarva Peninsula
17. Worship Committee
18. Conclusion

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Secretary: Ricky Shehorn

Trustees at Large: Susan Guiteras, Elaine Lockwood, Valerie Miller

Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware

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Worship: 340 N. Queen Street (at Congregation Beth Shalom), Dover, DE 19901

1. President's Letter

It has been quite an eventful year for Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware (UUCD) since I began my term as the President of the Board of Trustees last July. Here is just a glimpse of the past year:

"Boldly into the Future."

1. We said goodbye to our minister, **Rev. Kim D. Wilson**, when she retired in **June 2025** and UUCD launched into the new congregational year searching for a **quarter-time minister**. While we did not find a new minister we had a **successful year all-around**. The **Minister Search Committee** did an amazing job surveying the congregation and preparing the packet to describe who we are and what we are looking for – they will continue the search for a new minister for the coming year. Thanks go out to the **Search Team!**
2. Our **Worship Committee** rose to the challenge of planning and providing a **variety of services every Sunday** throughout the year – thanks to **guest ministers and lay leaders** stepping up. I invite any who are interested to join our Worship Team to help with tech, be a worship associate, make suggestions for services, etc. Kudos to the whole **Worship Team!**
3. Under the leadership of your Board of Trustees, a **strategic planning process** was initiated last fall with two workshops (**September and October 2025**) facilitated by long-time UUCD friend and supporter: **Rev. Dr. Richard Speck**. Our theme was **"Boldly into the Future"** which led to the development and release of a **Strategic Plan** in **winter 2026** which outlined our dreams, hopes, and more specific goals and action plans. We have already begun to carry out some of the activities outlined in the plan and will focus on more in the coming year. Exciting times!
4. Our **Stewardship Team** launched the annual campaign in March focused on raising funds in line with our strategic goals, in particular including in the proposed budget the funds to support a **half-time minister**. The campaign was quite successful due to the **generous contributions of members and friends**. Thanks go out to all for meeting the challenge!
5. Our **Social & Environmental Justice Committee** exhibits renewed enthusiasm this year and while continuing many ongoing projects have also initiated some new ones – check out their activities in the Annual Report. **Together we flourish!**
6. We have been intentional about having more **fellowship and social gatherings** this year – on Sundays and at other times. This strengthens our bonds with each other and makes UUCD a stronger and more supportive spiritual community. **Thanks to the FUUN & Fellowship Team!**
7. The Board has worked with **Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)** to provide more opportunities for joint projects as well as social gatherings with UUCD and CBS together. The planting of a **Peace Pole** last **October** was but one example.
8. Providing **pastoral care** to each other has been essential as we have had some losses and illnesses throughout the year. Thanks to our **Minister Emeritus Rev. Greg Chute** for stepping in to do a memorial service after the loss of charter member **Phil Troxler** last summer. We remember Phil and his longtime commitment to social justice by naming the **Book Club** in his honor.

The list above just gives a few highlights – be sure to look over the reports of each committee/team to get a more complete picture of the many facets of UUCD. The Annual Report will be sent by email and will also be available at the **Annual Meeting on June 14, 2026**. I eagerly await **what we will accomplish together in the coming year**.

Faithfully yours,

Wendy B. Pickett

Wendy B. Pickett, Board President

2. Treasurer's Report

This being my first year I would like to thank **Honey Young and Wayne Kling** for their assistance as I took over the financial duties for the congregation. They have been most helpful.

During the congregation's fiscal year (**July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**) there have been several accomplishments within the congregation's finances.

As has been reported elsewhere in the proposed budget we have ended the year with a **significant surplus** due to the fact that we were not able to hire a ¼ time minister.

We also switched to using the **Zeffy online donation platform**. This has allowed us to **avoid credit card fees** associated with online donations.

We have established **Certificates of Deposits (CDs)** to invest our bank balance that is in excess of what we need for day-to-day operations. So far, we have established **3 CDs**. Current interest rates are **3.5% for 3 months**. Interest rates fall precipitously for longer terms. One CD is for the Endowment in the amount of **\$2,759** and two are from the checking account valued at **\$3,706** and **\$3,701**. Combined these CDs earned **\$134 dollars in 6 months**. We will be looking at the establishment of additional CDs.

Fundraising with **Equal Exchange** has been another change for the year and has resulted in **\$294** being raised for the congregation from the four orders I have placed so far. Keep buying so I can place more orders.

*Respectfully submitted by **Roy Simonson**, Board Treasurer*

3. Audio-Visual Team

Comprised of **Wayne Kling, Kerry McElwee, and Allan and Heather Potter**, the A/V Team provided support for **all worship services** by amplifying speakers at the podium, projecting videos and slides onto the sanctuary screen, and connecting via **Zoom** with those participating remotely.. A **projector donated by the UUs of Southern Delaware**—no longer needed after they upgraded their equipment—significantly improved the quality of the projected images. For some summer services and meetings, the team also set up equipment in the small sanctuary, using the wall-mounted flat-screen display instead of a projector.

UUCD also participated via **Zoom** in the **Fifth Sunday Fellowship (Collaboration)** for shared services in **November 2025 and March and May 2026**. This collaboration involved five other congregations: the UU Church of Petoskey, Michigan; the UU Church of the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania; UUs in Liminal Space, Maryland; the UU Fellowship of Newark, Delaware; and the Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The collaboration has been successful for all involved, with each congregation contributing various elements of the worship service and rotating responsibilities on each fifth Sunday. **UU World published an article** about this collaboration in **February 2026**.

*Respectfully submitted by **Wayne Kling***

4. Caring Committee

The Caring Committee's mission and guidelines continue to remain unchanged from previous years. The Committee addresses community needs on a case-by-case basis. Currently, there are **about 15 people on the**

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caring team. **UUCD's Lotsa Helping Hands** website is used to generate and schedule requests for help and assistance when needed. **Gloria Gross** serves as the site coordinator. **Jana Gee** sends out cards (get well or condolence) upon notification from Gloria and/or other committee members. People have been approached to provide rides as necessary, and several volunteers offer meals when needed. **Rides, meals, and cards** have been provided to members throughout the year in cases of illness or bereavement. Members, particularly committee members, strive to stay informed about illnesses, deaths, and other life events, so that support can be offered and an appropriate card sent.

Budget support for this committee is essential to cover the costs of purchasing cards, postage, and gifts for those who lose close family members. **Jana Gee** has generously donated her **handmade cards**, which are not only beautiful but also reduce the cost on our budget.

*Respectfully submitted by **Wendy Pickett** on behalf of Gloria, Jana, and the Caring Team*

5. Communications

Weekly and special announcements continue to be sent via the **eBloom email communication** to all UUCD Members, Friends, and Interested People in our Gmail contact list (**41, 19, and 126 respectively, as of May 2026**). Weekly worship service announcements are also sent to the Worship Program Leaders of the **seven other Delmarva UU congregations**.

Requests for information sent to **UUCDContact@gmail.com** were answered, and new contact information was added for future eBloom mailings. When individuals expressed interest in our worship services, their contact information was forwarded to the **Membership Committee** for follow-up. Church-related questions and other requests for information were directed to the appropriate individuals as needed. In addition, **special eBloom notices** were sent to highlight important time-sensitive information. The eBloom's purpose is to provide reminders and **Zoom** connection links for virtual meetings, generate interest in and provide information about UU activities, and serve as a "go-to" source for information about UUCD and **UUA** activities. Wayne Kling handled these tasks in his role as **Volunteer Congregation Administrator**, with **Judy Kling** proofreading all eBlooms and **Orders of Service** before distribution.

Information sources included items submitted by UUCD members, other Delmarva congregations, and the **UUA**. Additional information was occasionally drawn from UUCD Members and Friends Facebook postings, newsletters from other Delmarva UU congregations, weekly worship service scripts, and Zoom meeting schedules.

Wayne also prepared printed **Orders of Service** each Sunday and addressed envelopes for Stewardship and Congregational announcements that are mailed. In addition, Wayne handled the formatting, printing, and mailing of all **Annual Meeting announcements**.

*Respectfully submitted by **Wayne Kling***

6. Covenant Group

One active Covenant Group met monthly throughout the **2025-2026 church year** focusing on **aging, physical challenges, and health**. The group was co-founded by **Gloria Gross** (Caring Committee Chair) and **Sheryl Winsby**. Sheryl usually facilitated the weekly **Zoom** meetings with others stepping in as needed. Anywhere from **4 to 6 people** generally **Zoom** in each session.

All of us are growing older and that fact presents many challenges along the way. The support of a community

helps us weather these challenges and feel that we are not alone in confronting them. Membership in this Covenant Group was open to anyone willing to listen respectfully to others and to be open enough to share some of what they are going through. This group began meeting in **January 2023** and has been ongoing since then, **initially meeting weekly and now meeting monthly.**

*Respectfully submitted by **Wendy Pickett***

7. Fellowship & Hospitality

UUCD has been intentional this year about offering **more opportunities for members and friends** to participate in fellowship gatherings, some after Sunday services and others during the week. Some of the events have been arranged and coordinated by the Board of Trustees, some by various committees, some by **Congregation Beth Sholom**, and others by individuals.

UUCD members who have been especially instrumental in planning various events/gatherings include but are not limited to: **Ricky Shehorn (FUUN & Fellowship Chair), Elaine Lockwood, Theresa Simonson, Roy Simonson, and Honey Young.** Special thanks go to **Debra May, Arden Wellington, and Theresa Simonson** for their continual help coordinating Sunday hospitality and to **Roy Simonson** for **Fair Trade coffee/tea/chocolates** as a fundraiser and as part of our Sunday coffee service. Many other members brought goodies for coffee time so we often had fresh fruit, homemade cakes, cookies, and bread, and other delightful snacks.

In-person social gatherings that were conducted by UUCD this past year, some in concert with **Congregation Beth Sholom**, include the following:

- **Coffee and conversation after Sunday services** – nearly every Sunday in 2025-2026
- **Lunch gatherings and Potlucks after Sunday services (some with guest ministers)** – various dates throughout 2025-2026
- **Circle/Potluck Suppers** – periodically beginning in Fall 2025
- **Book club discussions sponsored by the Social & Environmental Justice Committee (5 total including one on the UUA Common Read)** – fall 2025/winter 2026
- **Delmarva UUs Family Day at Killens Pond** – July 19, 2025
- **Delaware Coastal Clean Up** – September 9, 2025
- **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanups** – October 4, 2025 and April 18, 2026
- **Peace Pole Dedication and Reception** – October 26, 2025
- **Labyrinth Painting Party** – November 19, 2025
- **Potluck Supper and Game Night** – December 3, 2025
- **Joined Congregation Beth Sholom at their Annual Hanukkah party** – December 14, 2025
- **Christmas Eve carol sing and cookie/sweets potluck** – December 24, 2025
- **Team Trivia Quiz (joined by a team from Congregation Beth Sholom)** – March 15, 2026
- **Monthly book/periodical exchange** – last Sunday each month beginning in April 2026
- **Center for Neighbors in Need** – serving dinner at the People's Church in Dover, once a month beginning in April 2026
- **Dover Days Celebration and Parade** – May 2, 2026
- **Delaware Pride Day at Dover Legislative Mall** – June 6, 2026
- **Potluck Picnic at Silver Lake Park** – June 28, 2026

*Respectfully submitted by **Wendy Pickett** on behalf of the Fellowship & Hospitality Teams*

8. Leadership Development Committee

The Leadership Development Committee identified a **slate of proposed candidates** to be voted on at the **Annual Meeting in June 2026** for the following positions: **Board of Trustees Treasurer, one Board member-at-large, and two members of the Leadership Development Committee.** The committee was unable to identify a candidate for **Board Secretary** although several people were approached about the position. All candidates elected in June will **serve two-year terms.** All candidates will begin their office terms on **July 1, 2026.**

*Respectfully submitted by **Wendy Pickett** on behalf of the Leadership Development Committee for 2025-2026 – Debra May, Kerry McElwee, Erv Schleifer*

9. Membership Committee

During the 2025-2026 year, UUCD received **one (1) new member**, originally on the Friends list. The Membership Committee held just **1 Newcomer Orientation class in April 2026.** Over the past year, several members were removed due to lack of pledge, request to be removed, or inability to return correspondence. Our current membership count is **41 members.**

Our committee maintains the **Membership Directory as a Google Doc** that is refreshed after each membership class and after the Annual Meeting.

This committee also coordinates greeters for each Sunday service. Our current greeter team has **7 volunteers.** Greeters keep a sign-in notebook for in-person attendees as well as listing **Zoom** attendees, keep a record of first-time attendees, and make name tags for new attendees when requested. Because of the security system at **Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS),** greeters are responsible for opening the locked entrance door for service attendees, and remain in the lobby throughout the service. **Membership Committee** follows-up with visitors who sign our “New to UUCD” visitor form. Currently we have **6 visitors** who have requested name tags - **4 who attend services fairly regularly.** The Membership committee plans to offer a newcomer orientation class every year in the **fall and spring.**

*Respectfully submitted by **Judy Kling** and **Sara Russell**, 2025-2026 Membership Committee Co-chairs*

10. Minister Search Committee

The Search Team includes **Roy Simonson, Valerie Miller, Sara Russell** and **Judy Kling. Wendy Pickett** attended our first few meetings and helped us with updating our **Congregational Record.** The Team met via **Zoom** on **September 2, 9, 16, 23, October 2, 7, 14 and Nov 4, 2025.**

Our Team's work included agreeing on a covenant, appointing a facilitator, appointing a notetaker, and listing our responsibilities that included:

- I. Completing our profile on the **UUA's Minister Search Portal;**
- II. Establishing timing for our **“Open Search”**, which was as soon as possible;
- III. Fielding any inquiries as they came in; and
- IV. Reporting to the Board of Trustees and Congregation.

After reviewing the **UUA's Ministry Search Handbook** and **Congregational Record** on the Minister Search Portal where all information on our congregational history, how we conduct business, information on our

congregation and what we are looking for in a minister is included, we accomplished the following tasks:

- We composed a **Congregational Survey of 6 questions** which was distributed and compiled.
- We all attended the **Long-Range Planning Event (in fall 2025)** and discussed any pertinent information that was shared. We would eventually use this along with the survey results to formulate our job description as a reflection of what we as a congregation are looking for in a minister.
- We updated all information on the Portal, announcing our job by the **end of October 2025**.
- We received an interest in the position, formulated questions for a Zoom interview, and interviewed the individual on **November 19, 2025**. We were **unanimous in agreement to hire**. However, on **November 23**, the candidate removed themselves for consideration due to a change in life circumstances.

As of **May 2026**, our **¼-time position** still resides on the portal. We hope that our **2026-27 budget** will reflect an increase in funding to advertise for a **½-time minister**, which we think will attract more interest.

*Respectfully submitted by **Judy Kling**, Minister Search Team Facilitator*

11. Religious Education (RE)

During the **2025-2026 church year**, we **did not offer any formal children's programming**. We did offer childcare every Sunday with **two paid childcare providers**; children's attendance varied week to week. A working group for Children's RE comprised of **Susan Guiteras, Elaine Lockwood, Roy Simonson, and Theresa Simonson**, met in spring 2026 to begin planning for a **restart of the RE program** to begin in **Fall 2026** on a **weekly basis**. They will meet again in late summer to do more detailed planning and prepare announcements for the weekly eBlooms in anticipation of the resumption of Children's RE in the fall.

*Respectfully submitted by **Wendy Pickett** on behalf of the Children's RE Working Group*

12. Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ) Committee

The Social and Environmental Justice Committee members have continued to pursue a variety of activities in **fiscal year 2025-26**. In particular:

- **Ongoing:** We keep a current list of **"Heroes of Democracy"** to write gratitude postcards to.
- **Ongoing:** Periodically, we bring out postcards to be written to our Democracy heroes.
- **Ongoing:** We encourage members & friends to add **non-perishables** to **Congregation Beth Sholom's** food bank boxes in the foyer.
- **Ongoing Sundays:** An **SEJ picture frame** will continue to advertise the various projects of the committee.
- **Ongoing:** Various members of the committee are involved in either **UUDAN, Central East Region of the UUA, or Indivisible** (or a combination) and keep the SEJ committee up to date with legislative initiatives as well as educational opportunities (lectures, Zooms, etc.) We (the committee) will continue to send out information in the eBloom and on the SEJ table regarding projects the congregation might be interested in supporting.
- **September 9, 2025:** Three members took part in **Delaware's annual Coastal Clean Up**. We concentrated on the **Little Creek Wildlife Management Area**. **Citizens Climate Education** is our Share-the-Plate recipient for **October**.
- **September 28, 2025:** The first gathering of the **Phil Troxler Book Club**. We decided to concentrate on books with a social justice emphasis. The first meeting, we each discussed a book Phil might have read.

- **September 28, 2025:** The first gathering of the **Phil Troxler Book Club**. We decided to concentrate on books with a social justice emphasis. The first meeting, we each discussed a book Phil might have read or one adopted from his extensive library. Follow-on books were **Boy Erased** in **November 2025**, **Sold** in **January 2026**, **Social Change Now** in **February 2026**, and **Last Night at the Telegraph Club** in **April 2026**.
- **October 4, 2025 & April 18, 2026:** Cleaned up all of our adopted **two mile stretch of Pearson's Corner Road. (Adopt-a-Highway)**.
- **November 2025:** A variety of members and friends donated funds for **seven wreaths** to be placed on **Native American Veteran tombstones** as part of the **"Wreaths Across America"** program.
- **December 13, 2025:** Three committee members volunteered to place wreaths on veteran tombstones for **"Wreaths Across America"**. The **Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware** is our Share-the-Plate recipient for September.
- **Fall 2025 "Circle Suppers":** Although started by SEJ, they are now under the auspices of the FUUN committee.
- **February 1, 2026:** UUCD hosted a team of **15 persons (four from UUCD)** from all over Delaware to create **50 Dignity Back Packs** for **Returning Citizens/Formerly incarcerated persons**. These packs contain essentials for a person who has served his/her time, and leaves prison with nothing. For example: a wallet, bus passes, wipes, cold weather items, shampoo, soap, washcloths, condoms, feminine products, etc. The **Dignity Back Packs Project** is our Share-the-Plate recipient for May.
- **Spring 2026:** UUCD renewed its **Welcoming Congregation certification**. We have been **certified since 2010**. The Pride Council is our Share-the-Plate recipient for June.
- **March 18, 2026: Legislative Lobby Day**, sponsored by the **ACLU**. Volunteers met with various legislators at Legislative Hall to advocate for **protections for immigrants** (documented or not) in sensitive public places, so that ICE cannot arrest them at schools, hospitals, and courts. The **ACLU** is our Share-the-Plate recipient for February.
- **April 21, 2026: First meal prepared & served** at the **People's Church** for **"Neighbors in Need."** **Yolande Jackson** and **Arden Wellington** are the leads on this monthly project. Meals on **May 18, 2026** and **June 15, 2026** will round out our fiscal year. It will definitely be an **ongoing project for FY 2026-27**. The number of meals prepared will vary depending upon the seasons. In the colder weather, more meals will be needed. We need **many hands to make the work lighter**.
- **May 19, 2026: Roy Simonson** consulted with **Chief Dennis Coker** regarding **streambank protection** on their Denny's Road property. Chief Coker has promised to invite our congregation to **future work parties**.
- **May 19, 2026:** Three SEJ committee members volunteered at **ILYA's graduation celebration** for **foster youth who are aging out of the Delaware system**. We plan to have a **continuing relationship** with this worthy cause. **ILYA** is our Share-the-Plate recipient for July.

This is the **Share-the-Plate** list approved by the committee for the **2026 calendar year**:

- **January** – Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research
- **February** – American Civil Liberties Foundation of Delaware, Inc.
- **March** – Planned Parenthood of Delaware, Inc.
- **April** – Friends of Bombay Hook
- **May** – Dignity Back Pack Project, under the auspices of The Way Home
- **June** – Pride Council, under the auspices of United Way
- **July** – ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults) under the auspices of 1st Unitarian Wilmington
- **August** – Irreverent Warriors
- **September** – The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, Inc.
- **October** – Citizens Climate Education (non-lobbying arm of the Citizens United Lobby)

- **November** – Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
- **December** – World Central Kitchen

*Respectfully submitted by **Theresa Simonson**, SEJ Chair, Assistant SEJ Chair **Sara Russell**, and SEJ Secretary **Valerie Miller***

13. Stewardship Committee

UUCD's Stewardship Committee this year was comprised of **Judy Kling, Wayne Kling, and Wendy Pickett**. The stewardship campaign resulted in **31 pledge units** (representing **36 members** out of our total of **41 plus 3 friends**) and **\$60,000 pledged**, an increase of **\$12,200** compared to **last year's pledge total**.

The letter sent to members and friends noted a pledge goal for the campaign of **\$66,000** to meet the goals of the recently released **Strategic Plan** including increased support in the new year's budget for a **minister from ¼ time to ½ time**. The response of members and friends to this request was **overwhelmingly positive** with **24 people increasing their pledges** this year as compared to last year.

The Stewardship Committee is appreciative of the generosity of UUCD members/friends who have contributed so much of their time and talents to UUCD as well as with their financial pledges to UUCD for the upcoming fiscal year.

*Respectfully submitted by the Stewardship Team – **Judy Kling, Wayne Kling, and Wendy Pickett***

14. St. Jones River Lotus Sangha

The St. Jones River Lotus Sangha continues to meet **weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** over **Zoom**. Over the past year the attendance has included a total of **about ten individuals**, with attendance each week generally ranging between four and eight. Some of the regular attendees participate from outside the immediate geographic area. The teacher of the sangha is **Abby Miller** and the point of contact for UUCD is **Wendy Pickett**. Each session consists of following the teachings of **Thich Nhat Hahn** in the **Plum Village tradition**. This sangha is officially recognized in the **Mindfulness Bell, a publication of Plum Village**. The sangha plans to continue to meet on the present schedule on **Zoom** for the foreseeable future.

*Respectfully submitted by **Wendy Pickett***

15. UUA Denominational Connections

Wayne Kling has been responsible for alerting those who may benefit from programs offered by the **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)** and the **Central East Region (CER)**. Various Board members have participated in webinars and training sessions periodically throughout the year; some were live events, while others were recorded sessions available through the **UUA's LeaderLab**.

Roy and Theresa Simonson served as delegates to the **UUA's 2026 General Assembly (GA)** in **Baltimore, MD**. In addition, **Judy and Wayne Kling, Wendy Pickett, Sara Russell, Ricky Shehorn, Rev. Kim Wilson, and**

Stephanie “Honey” Young attended the **June 18–22, 2025, General Assembly** in Baltimore.

The **UUA** congregation certification process, including periodic updates to UUCD leadership and membership data, was handled by Wayne Kling. Payment of the UUA Annual Program Fund is managed by **Roy Simonson**, Board Treasurer; UUCD is recognized as an **Honor Congregation**, having fully paid its assessment. Maintenance of UUCD’s designation as a **Welcoming Congregation** is handled by the **Social & Environmental Justice Committee**.

Respectfully submitted by **Wayne Kling**

16. UU Congregations of the Delmarva Peninsula

Representatives of the **eight UU congregations** on the Delmarva Peninsula (the “Delmarva Cluster”) have coordinated meetings approximately **every six weeks** to discuss solutions to common challenges, share successes and concerns, exchange resources, plan group activities, hear updates from the UUA, and enjoy camaraderie. The participating congregations include **five in Delaware** — UUCD, First Unitarian Society of Wilmington, UU Fellowship of Newark, UU Society of Mill Creek, and UUs of Southern Delaware — and **three in Maryland** — UUs of the Chester River, UU Fellowship at Easton, and UU Fellowship at Salisbury. Also participating are the UUA Central East Region Primary Contacts: Lenore Bajare-Dukes for the Delaware congregations and Rev Sana Saeed for the Maryland congregations. The Delmarva UUs have met regularly since first organizing in **October 2009** and are recognized by the **UUA** as a **model for local-level congregational collaboration**. Meeting participants include ministers, board trustees, congregational leaders, and interested congregants.

Wayne Kling has served as UUCD’s primary representative, with **Wendy Pickett** and other UUCD members occasionally attending. All interested members are welcome to participate in the discussions. Although the group no longer meets in person at **Congregation Beth Sholom** in Dover, as it did prior to COVID-19, meetings continue regularly via **Zoom**. Discussions have included how congregations are coping with issues such as audio-visual technology challenges, finances, children’s religious education, marketing efforts, and changes in ministry and staff.

During this fiscal year, major activities included a **Family Day at Killens Pond State Park** on **July 19, 2025** and participation in Dover Days and Delaware Pride – events in which the Delmarva UUs have participated for many years. Through resource-sharing efforts among the Delmarva congregations, contact lists for Worship Program Leaders, Social and Environmental Justice Leaders, and Marketing/Website Leaders have been assembled and circulated. UUCD has also continued using the **Delmarva Zoom account** for worship services and other meetings, **avoiding the need to purchase a separate congregational Zoom account**.

New this year is an initiative to apply for a **Chalice Lighter Grant** in **October 2025** to help fund a **coordinated marketing effort** among the congregations across the Delmarva Peninsula.

Participation in the Delmarva UUs continues to be a **rewarding and valuable experience**.

Respectfully submitted by **Wayne Kling**

17. Worship Committee

In Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) the Worship Committee presented **52 services without a minister on staff**. Of those, **nine were relaxed summer services** where members of the congregation ranging from a more traditional Blessing of the Backpacks to discussion groups on Early UU Presidents to a service on Meditation. There were **13 services with paid speakers, three services with the 5th Sunday Consortium**, and the **remainder were lay-led**. Of the lay-led services, **five used the Sermon of the Month** and at least **three used Soul Matters material**. Rounding the year out, there will be a “televised” service from the **UUA’s General Assembly** and **fellowship picnic in Silver Lake Park**.

*Respectfully submitted by **Ricky Shehorn** and **Stephanie “Honey” Young**, Worship Co-Chairs*

18. Conclusion

As this annual report shows, UUCD continues to be a congregation shaped by commitment, care, service, and hope. Across worship, religious exploration, social justice, stewardship, leadership, and community life, the work of this past year reflects the many ways our members and friends show up for one another and for the wider world. We have faced change with thoughtfulness, strengthened the foundations of our shared ministry, and continued living into our mission to nurture the spirit, grow community, and change the world. With gratitude for all who have given their time, energy, wisdom, and love, we look ahead with confidence and purpose as we move boldly into the future together.