

PROGRAM COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS
APRIL 2026

INTERIOR COMMITTEE
April 14, 2026
Submitted by: Roxie Morison, Chair

MISSION:

“The Interior Committee’s mission is to ensure a welcoming, comfortable, functional, and aesthetically pleasing place in which to meet and worship.”

MEMBERS:

Jeannie Lennon; Michelle Masson; Carrie Bogart; Joan McCulley; Barby Brothro; Roxie Morison, Chair

ACTIVITIES:

- Continue rotating seasonal decorations in sanctuary, lobby and Dobkin Hall
- Work w/ DRE to optimize use of RE rooms
 - o Added white board, clocks
- Work w/ Jimmy Reeves, Buildings and Grounds Chair, in consultation role to plan renovations of bathrooms
 - o Assisted in recruiting his task team
 - o Met with flooring, painting, and bathroom stall companies for estimates
 - o Chose wall colors
 - o Chose vinyl flooring and cove molding
 - o Holly Wilkerson is an *ad hoc* member of team in planning and execution bathroom renovation
- Purchased metal storage cabinet for cleaning supplies; relocated the mop bucket, mop and brooms that were in men’s bathroom and were hazardous
- Continue monitoring storage opportunities for optimization
- Continue decluttering lobby and Dobkin Hall as needed
- Work w/ Generous Life Team
 - o Donor recognition artwork
 - o Photo of Lloyd Dobkin

NEXT MEETING:

- After estimates for bathroom flooring, paint, plumbing and stalls have come in.

Coffee hour Hospitality

Coffee hour Hospitality has been offered regularly, although Pauli and Dot are carrying more of the load as volunteers seem to be aging out, enjoying spring, and getting busy with other UU activities. Sign Up Genius is helpful, but recruiting volunteers personally seems to be a constant task. We're looking at reducing the amount of snacks since help is less available.

We're not able to attend today.

Dot Hodder

Pastoral Care Program

Since the last Program Council meeting two members of the three-person team have resigned. Rev. Alyssa will use this time as an opportunity to reframe and reshape the PCP program to better suit/reflect what she sees as the need for assistance with Pastoral Care. Look for more information at the next Program Council meeting in June.

Hospitality Special Events Report:

Not much going on right now. I'm planning a Mother's Day special event as I will have Hospitality duties on May 10th. It will be mostly finger food. Tea sandwiches, salads, and desserts.

Then the annual picnic, which will be at the church again this year.

I will be putting together my plan in the next couple of weeks.

Just a note:

We are planning a "TASTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN" fundraiser on June 5 or 6th. Thea will be co-hosting with me.

I will be getting out info and flyer soon.

Thanks,
Dennis

MET bimonthly report

On March 21, MET invited 28 people to attend a New Member Recognition Ceremony, and 23 new members were officially welcomed into the congregation. Several of our new members had previously attended one of the two four-hour workshops conducted in January and February. Approximately 30 people participated in these workshops, facilitated by MET. In addition, six circle dinner groups were organized and have begun meeting, a chili cookoff was held, there are bios and pictures of several of them hanging on our bulletin board in the hallway. At our next meeting, we will discuss plans for future workshops in the 2026-2027 church year, and the church picnic to be held on June 14th.

Green Sanctuary Team

Members: Kathryn Waple, Chair, Holly Wilkinson, Kami OKeeffe, Martha Brophy, Beth Hansen, Dave Pollock

We continue to collaborate with other teams in the following areas:
Hospitality, Soup Sunday, Worship, Social Justice, RE

We have requested a budget for a composting contract which will enable UUCW to use compostable dishware.

For Joys and Sorrows: We are now using sand in the containers; In the Digest we will present the pros and cons of switching from candles to shells and stones and then conduct a survey to assess congregational preference.

We will erect signs and email renters about UUCW being a smoke-free campus.

During the Work Party on April 18th, we will assess the native plant garden and determine what are the next steps in plant acquisition and maintenance.

Thank you,
Kami

Safety Team

The Safety Team has enlisted several volunteers to cover our Sunday Safety supervision. John Grigsby has been helping Elizabeth Casey and me, and recent members Dirk and Jessica Horncastle and Juan Rodriguez have joined the team. We have a Sign up sheet for coverage and procedures in place. We plan to have a meeting in the next few weeks to review procedures and training.

I am still not confident that we have the assisted mobility equipment piece (i.e. where are the devices stored during the service so they can be easily accessed in an emergency) solved so we will address that in our next meeting.

We await word from the BOT as to which of the initiatives on the Safety Task list will be funded so we can plan some implementation.

Stephen Ax

Worship Team

The Worship Team recently met for a Team Retreat on April 4th, 2026 from 10AM to 2PM. We had a number of substantive discussions on the quality and variety of Worship Services being presented, working with other committees and groups to maintain consistent offerings of meaningful Sunday Services to our Congregation. This includes our work with the Green Sanctuary Team and the Room Vergers to explore small changes to materials used during Sunday Services. We've also planned a Worship Associate Training Day for Mid-September, to more fully standardize and strengthen this sub-committee of valuable volunteers that make our services more manageable and friendly for the Minister or Service Lay-Leaders.

We've had a few guests on the Chancel in the last couple of months - further expanding the variety of Sunday Services. Folksinger Greg Greenway, Amanda Hensen and poet/author Cheryl Wilder have recently shared their insights with us. We continue to coordinate with the Music Team, to expand the types of music enjoyed during our mornings together. In addition, we continue to review how we can make our Sunday mornings more seamless and meaningful. We look forward to exploring The Virtual Hymnal (a new UUA Music subscription) with them going forward!

Submitted by Thea Hagepanos, for the Worship Team (Danielle Poppie, Mike Hensen, Thea and Rev. Alyssa)

Committee for Ministry (CFM)

April 2026

Thanks to the diligent and thoughtful work of the committees, CFM has finally compiled the self-assessment forms for UUCW's operational committees. It's amazing, and heartening, to see how much the volunteers are contributing to the health of this congregation. You all are the best!

As we discussed in our February 2026 PC meeting, we wonder about sharing these bimonthly reports with the larger congregation. It would seem to be a good way for congregants to have a deeper understanding of what UUCW has to offer and to appreciate all the many volunteers are doing. They might even want to jump on board with some of it. We're not sure the best way to do that: posting of bimonthly reports on each committee's link on the web site; a PC link on the website with each bimonthly compiled report summary; a digest link to a repository (on the web or google drive); or other ideas. We'd like the PC members to weigh in on this.

We also discussed the committee fair:

- Do we do it in the fall with 20+ committee tables as we did last year?
 - + People seemed to enjoy the event. Committees were able to connect with congregants. Some committees identified others who were interested in working with them
 - It takes a lot of work—to reach out to committees, figure out spacing and timing, gather gift baskets, coordinate the Saturday set up. All the tables were crushed together with some groups having insufficient space for their materials. Some felt it was a bit of a mob scene with folks rushing around (which limited more in-depth conversations). Some of those staffing tables were unable to visit other groups. Regular hospitality and RE in Classrooms 1 and 2 were disrupted.
- Do we break it up a bit (e.g., 4-6 committees every quarter) to make it a bit more manageable for committees, for CFM and for congregants?

+ We'd have a more relaxed environment in which congregants could spend time with interested visitors. We would not need to set up on a Saturday or disrupt RE or hospitality hour. We could group each quarter with like-kind groups (e.g., social, operational, worship/music, etc.)

- It would not be a major event with prizes and celebration. CFM would be managing four (smaller) events a year rather than one large one.

What do you think?

**Religious Education (RE) Committee Report
Program Council Meeting
April 14, 2026**

Committee Members: Twink Barr (BOT Representative), Kathy Gillcrist, Alex Matthissen-Spillane, Blaire Middleton (Parent Representative), Sylvia Quinn (Chair)
Brandie Ragghianti (DRE)

The RE Committee has initiated and/or completed the following actions:

- Four new youth registered in March.
- The first JOYS (Join Our Youth Sundays) was initiated on March 1st during Time for All Ages (TFAA). Congregants contributed to a collaborative bulletin board.
- The Interior Committee has continued to make improvements to our classrooms.
- A collaboration between Green Sanctuary and the RE program was implemented in March, where youth learned about the trees that grow on our campus.
- We collaborated with the Music Committee to perform a song during (TFAA).

- An Easter egg hunt was conducted after the service on Easter Sunday. Our youth gathered to find eggs, followed by a cookie and juice social.
- Kathy Gillcrist has agreed to conduct two training sessions for CPR on Sunday, May 17 (one session before church and the second session after church). She can accommodate 12 individuals at each session. Watch the Thursday Digest for specific information and to sign-up, if interested.
- We are developing an RE lending library in response to feedback from families. This project is in the planning stages. Brandie has an MLIS and a public library certification and will manage this project.
- A job posting for the assistant position for the Seekers Classroom has been shared with local professors at UNCW & Cape Fear Community College and has also advertised via Indeed. At this time no applicants for this position have been received.
- Director of Religious Education (DRE) Brandie Ragghianti attended a nationwide Green Sanctuary 2030 meeting via Zoom in February and learned about Green Sanctuary and RE collaborations. She also attended a NC UU Professionals Gathering in Winston-Salem in March. She networked with DREs from other congregations and joined a cluster of RE Professionals that meet monthly and discuss ways that congregations can collaborate with one another on training and youth programming.
- Brandie and Sylvia developed a proposal for a Lifespan Faith Exploration (LFE) Committee that will serve as an umbrella for our current RE Committee (which will be changed to a sub-committee) and a new Adult RE sub-committee. The Program Council had requested an Adult RE committee be created. Brandie will not be involved in the Adult RE sub-committee once it is formed. She will attend meetings of the full LFE committee to support intergenerational programs. Six individuals (all experienced and/or credentialed in adult learning) have agreed to serve on the Adult RE sub-committee. This group is expected to meet for the first time in the next few weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Quinn

LFE Committee Proposal

Structure

The Program Council has asked the RE Committee to act as an umbrella committee for all UUCW NC Religious Education programs, including Adult RE. The Director of Religious Education and current Religious Education Committee have collaborated to propose the following structure for this new committee:

LFE Committee

- An umbrella committee consisting of the Youth RE Sub-Committee (the current RE Committee) and the Adult RE Sub-Committee (new)
- Meets quarterly to find points of collaboration and create consistency throughout the LFE program.
- With the support of the DRE, plans and implements intergenerational programming.
- A representative for each sub-committee will co-chair the LFE
- Note: the DRE is an ex-officio member of this committee and is available to support the planning and implementation of youth and intergenerational programs, but not adult programs.
- This committee may need a budget for intergenerational programming or a cost sharing agreement between the Youth RE Program and Adult Programs.

Youth RE Sub-Committee

- Meets monthly.
- Supports the DRE, who is ultimately responsible for program planning and implementation.
- The DRE is an ex-officio member of this sub-committee.
- This sub-committee does not typically have a budget, as programs are funded through the RE budget.

Adult RE Sub-Committee

- Meets monthly.
- Responsible for planning and implementing Adult RE programs.
- The DRE is **NOT** an ex-officio member of this sub-committee, as it is not in the DRE's job description and would require the DRE to be moved to a ¾ or full-time position.
- This sub-committee will need a budget (likely the combined budget for current Adult RE Programs). In the future, adult programs could be included in the overall RE budget as a separate line item.

Liaisons

- Each Sub-Committee will have its own liaison to the board.
- The Parent Liaison serves on the Youth RE Sub-Committee
- The Adult RE Sub-Committee may wish to have additional liaisons (by generation, from various programs, etc.), to be determined by its membership
- Green Sanctuary, Social Justice, and other committees and ministries are encouraged to collaborate with us and may assign a liaison to LFE.

Communications Support Team Report – April 2026

The Mission of the Communications Support Team *is to work with our church leaders and administrative staff to ensure all internal and external communications provide succinct, accurate, relevant, engaging and up to date information.*

Team Members: Carla Johnson (Website Assistant), Heidi Kaufman (Coordinator, editorial assist), Jimmy Reeves (posting services to YouTube, web/editorial assist, liaison Board), Art Nelson (event photographer and videographer, posting images and videos to Facebook).

Updates

The Communication Team completed the annual team assessment.

Goals and Priorities for the year

UUCWNC Webpage:

- Improve communication within the congregation and the outside world and especially for newcomers or those interested in visiting us.
- Most web pages maintained as Evergreen (consistent information) with weekly updates to information for Sunday services, Quest, music and upcoming events.
- Expanding visibility of music

Social Media

- Attract and inform newcomers with focus on younger visitors
- Support and facilitate member and friend connections
- Provide up to date information, photographs and videos of recent services, choir/house musicians, past and upcoming events.

Weekly Digest

- Continue to provide comprehensive news about everything going on at UUCW

Help Needed

Need Help with Website and Community Outreach

We are actively looking for more website assistants who can help update pages as needed. Familiarity with WordPress is desired, but training will also be available.

Reminder for our present website project requisitions system:

All requests for updates, additions or changes to web pages will be sent to the Communications Support Team email address: communications@uucwnc.org

Whoever takes on the project will arrange for a time to discuss project goals, expectations and estimated time of completion with the person who put in the request.

Our Social Media

To stay up to date on what's happening as well as see images and videos of the most recent events be sure to check in with our Facebook page [\(20+\) Facebook](#) .

QUEST Team Report for April 2026

Team Members: Betsy Randall-David (facilitator), Heidi Kaufman (coordinator and facilitator), Carl Middleton (facilitator), Jimmy Reeves (facilitator), Robert Demko (facilitator)

Meeting Dates, Times and Place: Quest meets most Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 in Dobkin Hall.

Topics: Quest continues to engage participants in a variety of topics. We encourage participants to provide their own topic ideas at any time throughout the year.

A compilation of Quest topics for the previous year and up to February of this year are attached.

We recently created a process for becoming a regular Quest facilitator

Criteria are: Frequent attendance to ensure familiarity with and commitment to the Quest discussions and -revious experiences with public speaking, group discussion facilitation or teaching.

Steps: 1-4

1. Facilitate a Quest with moderate assistance and support of a core team member.
2. Facilitate a Quest with minimal to no need for assistance of a core team member.
3. Facilitate a Quest 2 or more times during the year
4. Join the Quest Team as a regular facilitator attending monthly meeting and -articipating in the regular facilitation schedule

Attendance

Attendance continues to range between 20 and 50 participants per Sunday. The number of times it reaches 45 participants has increased this year.

We attribute this to popular interest in the topics being discussed and the number of people who have been added to our Quest list.

Quest Announcements on Website Homepage In addition to the Digest and Quest email list, the descriptions for upcoming discussions are now available on the website homepage under Sunday Worship.

Social Justice Ministry
Program Council Report
April 14, 2026

The SJM meeting in February had 9 attendees, the March meeting had 8 attendees, and the April meeting had 8 attendees. Meetings are open to all.

Since the last Program Council meeting, SJM has been involved in **13** congregational or community social justice actions or programs:

SJM Events/Actions:

1. 2/11/26: **UU National Phone Blitz:** Organized 20 UUCW members to make calls every 3 minutes to legislators at designated time slot to urge no more funding for ICE.
2. 2/12/26: **Siembra NC ICE Watch Training @ Zion AME Church** (1 Peace Monitor; 50 participants)
3. 2/15/26: **Breakfast at Anchor Church @ 106 S Water Street** (4 SJM members provided breakfast for this early Sunday gathering for unhoused community)
4. 2/16/26: **ILM Peace Monitor Organizer Meeting** (3 UUCW members participating)
5. 2/22/26: **SJM Action Table** focused on early voting – before/after Sunday service
6. 2/22/26: **Ukrainian Rally @ Innes Park** (1 Peace Monitor; 50 participants)
7. 2/28/26: **Ice & Trump Out: Sunbath @ 1898 Memorial** (2 Peace Monitors; 40 participants)
8. 3/14/26: **Siembra NC ICE Watch and 4AW Training @ UUCW** (40 participants)

9. 3/15/26: **De-escalation & Safety Training by ILM Peace Monitors** (18 participants)
10. 3/22/26: Launched a **Coffee and Comment** campaign as part of the *UU Solidarity Initiative* to speak out against harmful rules proposed by the Dept. of Homeland Security that blocks asylum-seekers from obtaining a Work Permit – and therefore, surviving. (Goal is 100 comments; 58 submitted to date.) This campaign will continue until deadline of April 24th.
11. 3/25/26: **No Kings Day #3 @ Innes Park** (14 Peace Monitors; 8,000+ participants)
12. 3/31/26: **Trans Day of Visibility @ Thalian Hall** (2 Peace Monitors; 25 participants)
13. 4/12/26: **Anti-Immigration Hurts Us All** Workshop by DSA @ UUCW (25 participants)

Immigrant Rights Work Group Activities:

4th Amendment Workplace/ICE Watch Verifier Initiatives:

1. Have recruited 14 4AW workplaces in New Hanover and 4 in Brunswick County.
2. Continued canvassing businesses/organizations in Wilmington and started canvassing in Shallotte.
3. Completed trainings at YWCA, Cerro Grande, Why Coffee?, and Hope Harbor Home.
4. Continuing work to set up ICE Watch Training in Shallotte in April.
5. Held two 4AW Resource Hours at UUCW.
6. Led 4AW training in Southport March 7.
7. Hosted ICE Watch and 4AW Training March 14 at UU.

ESL Program at UUCW:

1. The second 10-week session was completed on March 18th. We have consistently had four kids in childcare and five adults in the in classes who are making progress in their conversational English language skills.
2. The next 10-week session began on Monday April 6th and continues until Wednesday, June 10th. Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm.

3. There is still a need for childcare volunteers; entails 1½ hours on either Monday or Wednesday evenings.

Members of the Immigrant Rights Work Group also continue to attend monthly meetings of the **Latino Alliance** and the **Latino Hispanic Commission** meetings and work closely with members of the **Immigrant Allies Forum**. Both core group and outer circle Spanish-speaking members continue to volunteer at local events, including the UNCW Faith Action ID events.

Additional Community Support:

SJM continues to facilitate UU involvement in ***Love Our Children's*** advocacy work for fair and humane policies at the monthly New Hanover County Board of Education meetings and Policy Committee meetings. Several UU members speak regularly at monthly meetings.

Contact:

We continue to reach out to the congregation with Weekly Digest articles, SJM "Call to Action Alerts," information on the SJM bulletin board, and staffing the SJM Action Table in Dobkin Hall or the outdoor vestibule on Sundays. We also reach out to our community partners through an active presence on social media and personal contacts.

Submitted by: Michael Sheridan, April 12, 2026

Caring Committee

April 2026

Acting in concert with the minister, members of the caring committee provide short-term support and assistance to UU members and friends who are experiencing illness, injury, or crisis. We provide cards, meals, rides, errands and visits We coordinate and host a reception following memorial

or celebration of life services. Personal information is always held in the strictest confidence.

Our teams of Caring Chefs, card writers, visitors and drivers continue to function well and we are coordinating with the Disability team with respect to certain categories of rides.

Members: Diane Halley, chair, and communications; Kami OKeeffe, meals; Jeannie Lennon, rides; Michelle Masson, celebration of life receptions.

Program Council Report of the Generous Life Team

April 11, 2026

Gary Barnes, Chair, GLT

The Generous Life Team (GLT) currently is focused on our annual pledge drive. After two weeks, we have raised \$160,660, or 57% of our \$280,000 goal. As of today, 56 households have contributed.

There is a note of caution that I want to share. Pledges are down significantly from last year. At this point last year we had raised \$197,076, which was 69% of our goal. Last year, 72 households had participated.

It is not clear why we are lagging behind this year, but the GLT is watching this trend carefully to see if it improves in the next two weeks.

I would like to request that each of us, as committee chairs, speak with the members of our committee and urge them to make their pledge as soon as possible.

GLT also is monitoring our fundraising efforts. As of now, we have raised \$11,684 from these events. Our goal this year is \$16,000. We have one more major event, the Mediterranean Dinner in June, which will help close the gap, but it is likely that we will not achieve our full goal. Still, this is a big improvement over last year.

GLT is exploring ways that we can encourage more fundraising over the summer, and ways that we can encourage fundraisers that bring in money from the community rather than just our congregants.