

PROGRAM COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS
FEBRUARY 2026

QUEST TEAM REPORT

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.

Process for Becoming a Regular Quest Facilitator

Those who lead discussions for Quest include a core group who do so on a regular schedule, outside speakers and those who lead a discussion 1 or more times a year on an ad hoc basis. The team has developed the steps and criteria for those interested in becoming a regular quest facilitator.

Criteria

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

Steps

- 1) Facilitate a Quest with moderate assistance and support of a core team member.
- 2) Facilitate a Quest with minimal to no 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.
 - a) Attend monthly meeting
 - b) Participate 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. This was true for the very well-attended Quest on the topic of Friendship skillfully facilitated by Jimmy Reeves.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM REPORT

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/Instagram).

Updates

The Communication Team will be working on the annual team assessment on the 22nd after the Service

We have submitted budget information to the Board for \$1,000 to cover any expenses we may incur from website updates and new pages like one for Endowment.

Need Help

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.

We are also in need of help with our community outreach effort to the wider community.

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 and Instagram page UU Wilmington (uu wilmington)

RE COMMITTEE REPORT

RE Committee Members:

Twink Barr (BOT Rep.), Kathy Gillcrist, Blair Middleton, Brandie Ragghianti (DRE), Alex Spillane, Sylvia Quinn (chair)

Set-up the holiday tree and placed it in the sanctuary. Implemented an ornament making session after a Sunday service for all ages of the congregation.

Welcomed Brandie Ragghianti as DRE in January. We continue to support Brandie as she transitions into her new role.

Generous Life Team Program Council Report February 8, 2026

Eight members attended the January meeting.

1. GLT has a new member. Ryan Oneill joined the group in December.
 2. GLT is in high gear to finish planning for the upcoming pledge drive. We are seeking cooperation and coordination with worship and with our music teams. The pledge drive formally kicks off on March 29 to avoid conflict with the Easter Sunday service on April 5.
 3. GLT is beginning a long-term plan to build up the church endowment. We are looking at ways to recognize our donors. We are in discussion with Facilities on how to best achieve this.
 4. GLT continues to monitor fundraising activities. The "Evening with Andrew" had to be rescheduled due to ice and snow. In addition, we have a Murder Mystery night planned.
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Social Justice Ministry Program Council Report February 10, 2026

The December SJM 2025 meeting had 8 attendees and the January 2026 meeting had 12 attendees. Meetings are open to all.

SJM Events/Actions:

1. Since the last Program Council meeting, SJM has been involved in 7 congregational or community social justice actions or programs: (1/8) Vigil for Renee Good at Innes Park*; (1/10) ICE Out for Good Rally at Innes Park*; (1/14) Siembra NC Vigil at Federal Building*; (1/18) Siembra ICE

Watch/4th Amendment Workplace Training*; (1/23) Stand for Minnesota Action at Target; (1/30) ICE Out Protest at Novant Hospital/CBP Office*; (2/7) Young People's ICE Out Protest on S. College Rd. We served as **ILM Peace Monitors** at 6 of these events (starred *).

2. SJM coordinated community workshop ("**Tools for Resistance**") on Feb. 17th, facilitated by Rev. Kaleb Graves of UU Justice NC in the UUCW Sanctuary. 39 attended in person; 8 on Zoom.
3. SJM provided **special social justice Sunday service** on monthly theme of "practicing resistance." Rev. Kaleb Graves of UU Justice NC was guest Worship Leader and members of the SJM sub-committee planned and participated in all aspects of the service.
4. SJM coordinated UUCW presence at New Hanover County **NAACP MLK Breakfast** on Jan. 24th. Provided Silver Sponsorship of 10-person table with half-page colored ad in event program.
5. SJM recruited **20 UU members** to participate in **UU Side With Love "Phone Blitz"** aimed to make 3-minute calls to targeted members of Congress urging them to withhold additional funding for ICE/CBP. This effort involves 80 hours of continuous phone calls over two weeks. UUCW is slotted from 2:00-3:00 pm on Feb. 12th.
6. Members of SJM's Immigrant Rights Work Group continue to do work in two major areas.
 - a) **4th Amendment Workplace Initiative** (*Siembra NC* program) – We continue to recruit canvassers and trainers to provide information/training to local businesses and organizations to equip them deal with interactions with ICE and other federal agents. Provide Saturday "Resource Hours" at UUCW to support volunteers engaged in this effort.
 - b) **ESL Program at UUCW**. We began the second 10-week ESL class on Jan. 12th; increased numbers of both adult learners (10) and children (7) for whom we are providing childcare while their parents attend class. 8 UU members volunteer to provide either class instruction or childcare.
 - c) Members 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 UUCW Faith Action ID events.
7. 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 spoke at the Board of Education meeting on Jan. 6th.

8. 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.
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Our last major event is the picnic in June. However, I am considering teaming up with MET to host a brunch or dinner in May as an end-of-year celebration.

I haven't organized the details yet, but I plan to meet with Kathy Gillcrist soon to discuss the possibilities.

Working with Sunday Hospitality to begin going green with our events.

CARING TEAM

Members and responsibilities: Diane Halley - Chair; Jeannie Lennon - rides; Michelle Masson - rides and celebration of life receptions; Kami O'Keeffe - meals.

Caring Team has continued to fulfill our mission by arranging for rides to medical appointments and meals as needed, and requesting cards from the Card Volunteers. We submitted a budget request for 26-27FY. The team will be conferring in the next week or two in order to complete the committee self-assessment. It's been a relatively quiet couple of months.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Members: Diana Allen, Eileen Barley, George Griffin, Maggie Griffin, Jane Linn, Melton McLaurin, Sandra McLaurin, Tina Schenk, Kathy Gillcrist (chair)

Meeting Time: Third Tuesday of the month, 1:00 pm

The Membership Engagement Team has been busy preparing and presenting (and rescheduling) Newcomer's classes. On January 15, fourteen prospective new members attended the first part of the two-part program, and the second part was presented on Sunday, February 8th. Due to scheduling conflicts and prior commitments, we were not able to gather everyone together for the second part, but we are reaching out to them in hopes that they don't "fall through the cracks". On February 21, there are currently 13 people signed up to come for another session.

More than 40 people have signed up to participate in Circle Dinners, which are being organized by Eileen Barley. They will start in March.

In hopes of promoting intergenerational membership engagement, MET is teaming with GLO to sponsor a Chili Cookoff before the concert scheduled for 2/21. Admission is free. We hope people will want to bring chili, taste chili, and vote for their favorite.

Pastoral Care Partners (PCP) updates

Members: Rev. Alyssa, Betsy Randall-David, Robin Middleton and Jeanette Koshar

- **Pastoral Care Outreach Team (PCOT)** This is a pilot program started in October 2025 in response to a growing need within our congregation for light, relational support, particularly for congregants experiencing loneliness, isolation, or simply in need of more connection. The four PCOT members are flexible in how and when they meet with their congregant based on their and congregants' needs. They rely on telephone contact and/or in-person visits. Three of the four matches are thriving. The other congregant is doing well, has a large support group, and does not need this service. We will continue this program.
 - **PCP:**
 - Decided to keep our PCP lay ministry more informal including not asking people to sign contracts.
 - Betsy (PCP) and Diane H (Caring) communicate regularly and share information and ideas for people who might need some additional support either for themselves or as caregivers.
 - Bulletin Board: We change topics every two months. The January/February topic is Stress. March/April: Rev. Alyssa and Jeanette will provide community resources for our younger congregants/families.
 - **Referrals:** If you know any congregants that you think might benefit from our services please contact Rev. Alyssa: revalyssa@uucwnc.org.
 - Please make sure you have an updated **Emergency Contact form** on file (<https://uucwnc.org/serve/emergency-contact-form/>)
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WORSHIP TEAM

Committee Members: Danielle Poppie, Mike Hensen, Thea Hagepanos and Rev. Alyssa Lee

In keeping with our commitment to evaluate and “fine-tune” aspects of our Sunday Services, to provide memorable, comforting and thought-provoking experiences - our meetings are providing ideas to expand our reach within the Congregation to invite in creative, willing voices.

On January 18th, UUJustice NC's representative Rev. Kaleb Graves delivered an impassioned sermon here at UUCW. While the February 1st Service featuring Amanda Hensen's insights was postponed due to snow, we're looking forward to re-scheduling that at her and Danielle's earliest convenience. Folk Singer/Social activist Greg Greenway will be presenting a sermon on Compassion, entitled "What We Are Handed (and what we do with it)" on 2/22, after his Concert the preceding evening.

We've also discussed changing up the Time for All Ages, with more Story-Telling (versus Read material) and Music as Message. We've also focused on Prelude and Postlude Music as an opportunity to create "bookends" on a complete Worship experience.

Rev. Alyssa and Thea met with Gary Barnes on January 9th to offer ideas and support for the upcoming Canvass/Pledge Drive - whose theme is "Today's Commitment/Tomorrow's Community". We determined that since Easter was so early this year, the initial introduction to the Pledge Drive might be best on 3/29. This may include some Congregational History and Music from the Choir and Music Team. We will be reaching out to a couple of folks as possible speakers for 4/12.

The Worship Team was also asked to see if we could get a QR code posted in the slides for the Weekly Offering, so that congregants and friends can simply photo it and download a way of giving if they don't have cash on hand.

We're also exploring the idea of adding Written Joys & Sorrows (possibly using note cards) to the service (still in the "contemplation phase"!))

Rev. Alyssa is also exploring a Worship Associate Training program, offered as a first step in creating opportunities for folks interested in becoming Worship Associates, so that we can develop a larger pool of folks comfortable in assisting on the Chancel. From there, those trainees could continue on to Worship Leader Training, to become proficient in creating and leading services on Lay-led Sundays.

Rev. Alyssa and Andrew have also spoken about ensuring we have Hymn Leaders available every Sunday, to assist the Congregation in getting comfortable with (possibly unfamiliar!) new hymns.

CFM REPORT

CFM is currently working with committees to update their self-assessments (last compiled in 2023). These assessments offer committees an opportunity to step back from their activities to consider their purpose, direction and processes. Forms have been sent out to all committees and, thus far, we've received a few completed forms. Though there's no hard deadline, we are hoping to complete the process by the end of February.

NOTE: In last night's Program Council (PC) meeting it was suggested that we share the committees' work with other members of the PC. Reading over others' work could assist in coordination and might even offer new approaches that committees want to consider.

INTERIOR COMMITTEE REPORT

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, Joan McCulley, Carrie Bogart, Deb File, Barby Prothro, Roxie Morison, Chair

PROGRAM COUNCIL UPDATE

RE Rooms:

- Painted all classrooms including trim.
- Completed successful "Small Circle Fundraiser" to pay for professional painters, Comprehensive Painting, LLC. They came in on time and under budget, donating extra paint and labor.

Decorating: decorated building for holidays with live greenery and red ribbon

Bulletin Boards: Installed unbleached muslin on all bulletin boards to lighten and add continuity

Repairs and Storage: Bill Hodder and Richard Maxted repaired drywall in hallway, installed shelving in closets, chair railing in classrooms, bulletin boards and white boards after painting was complete.

In consultation with Jimmy Reeves, Chair of Buildings & Grounds, recommendations for 2026-27 B&G budget:

- Both bathrooms need new floors & paint
- Men's bathroom: new adult urinal
- Classroom #3: build walk-in closet in nook in Nursery (also consulted w/ DRE Brandie, Rev. Alyssa, Bill Hodder)

ONGOING 2025-26 PROJECTS

- Met w/ Rev. Alyssa to share her thoughts on seasonal themes for building.
- Add improvements and upgrades to RE rooms
- Barby Prothro, a professional storage consultant met with Holly W. met to assess our storage situation. Barby is developing an inventory and will make recommendations for the best use of our space.