



A MESSAGE from the LUF BOARD MEMBERS

"OUR VISION for 2006": October 2005

(prepared by Pyteke Blaauw, LUF President) A document for discussion

It is an honour and a pleasure to serve as a director on the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship's board. With the arrival of our part time ministerial consultant, Julie Stoneberg, the pace within the Fellowship has quickened and overall enthusiasm is palpable. Director of Religious Education (D.R.E.) Rosemary Burris is facilitating an energetic Religious Education Program for our children. The youth group (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is active and vibrant. The office administration is in the capable hands of clerk Heidi Wahl, and the services of bookkeeper Jeff Gibson are invaluable.

So what more do we want?

Your Board has dreams for this Fellowship, a vision of sustaining and growing the presence of liberal religion in this community. Our goals for 2006 fall into six focus areas:

1. Sunday Services. Worship is the central experience that brings our community together. The Sunday Services are engaging, inspiring and spiritual. It is also hard to find a place to sit. Before purchasing another building we may consider holding two services. We seek to grow because we believe that Unitarian Universalism has something essential to offer people. Two Sunday Services may also offer some diversification in worship setting and style.
2. Leadership: Recruiting volunteers — asking members and friends to act their faith is both rewarding and challenging. Strengthening a team spirit between staff and volunteers enriches all of LUF's programming.
3. Membership: Every year a host of visitors come through our door. Many already know a lot about us because of the website: www.luf.ca and because they have heard about us from you. Making connection with the visitors, staying in touch and making them part of the LUF community is a focus for 2006.
4. Programs: Community events are almost as central to our Fellowship's lives as worship. We learn together in midweek discussion groups for adults and youth, the religious education programs for children on Sunday morning, Chalice Circles etc. This small group ministry helps us to define who we are and how to make sense out of it all.
5. Space: We will need to find another space. A capital project is planned and possibilities continue to be explored.
6. Social Justice projects: Organizing study groups to envision and create systemic change combined with hands-on projects puts our faith into action to create justice in our relationships and in the world around us. Linking with other religious and secular groups makes us stronger and the agent of change more effective.

(continued on back — with more photos from the American Thanksgiving dinner held on Friday, November 25th, 2005)

This is our dream list, our vision. May it resonate within you.

We look forward to engaging conversations with you about your visions and dreams for LUF. As we enter the 2006 campaign, please embrace this place by generously sharing your money so that together we can make LUF a beacon in our community.

Pyteke Blaauw, president,
Suzanne Hansen, vice president
Shawn Allaire, secretary
Christine Meronyk, treasurer
Carol Ann Brumpton, past president

Paul Acree, director at large
Bruce Hyer, director at large
Pat Morgan, director at large
Shannon Duchesne, director at large

