

# Chalice Circles Annual Report

Submitted by Co-Chairs Anne Ramsey and Karen Hale

The 2016-2017 Chalice Circle Program continued to provide meaningful facilitated sessions that offered opportunities to grow spiritually as individuals and build community within the circles and the larger program. This year, the program continued to develop and mature, building off the robust structure previously put in place.

The 2016-2017 program year realized the following results:

1. 6 Chalice Circles were offered through the Church. Four of the Circles were held at First UUAA, one at a satellite location in Tecumseh, one at a satellite location in Chelsea. Participation this year included 58 participants and 11 facilitators.
2. A new "Newcomers" Circle was established with a shortened schedule of four sessions which took place in the fall. The purpose of offering the Newcomers Circle was to introduce the Chalice Circle program for those new to the church.
3. We continued to offer One Time Chalice Circles as a way to introduce people to the program without a 14 week commitment. This also provides an opportunity to experience a Chalice Circle to those who are not able to participate in the regular program. Four One Time Circles were held in February, March, April, and May.
4. The scheduling process was very effective, managing the number of circles offered and working to match members with the number of available sessions.
5. An investiture of the facilitators was held in November in recognition of their lay leadership role and responsibilities to the congregation.
6. Two facilitator training opportunities were provided. New facilitator training was held in June and training for all facilitators was held in September.
7. Each Chalice Circle that met at the Church completed a Service Project to benefit the Congregation. These projects included newcomers welcome dinner and First Friday Fun Night dinner and the teachers appreciation brunch, as well as assembling the notebooks which the 2017-2018 Facilitators will use. The Tecumseh satellite Chalice Circle completed a project at its host location, as did the Chelsea satellite Chalice Circle.

The steering committee is responsible for the operations and program implementation. This key committee was led by the co-chairs and comprised of Dixie Hibner (Writing Team), Ginny Preuss (Registration and One Time Chalice Circles) and Shelley Stoll (Service Projects).

The program's continuing success is due to the passion and integrity of its participants and lay leaders. It would be difficult to continue the program without their dedication and commitment to Chalice Circles. Without them, we would not be able to achieve the program's goals and meet the needs of the larger faith community at UUAA.