

The Humanist Study Group (HSG)

2020-21 Annual Report

By Bruce Gibb, April 10, 2020

The HSG is an official subgroup or ministry of the UUAA for those who are interested in or have a humanist philosophy. We have over 100 registered members; more or less 20 are active in each of our zoom meetings. We meet from 2:00PM to 4:00PM the first and third Thursdays and from 7:00PM to 8:30PM the first and third Mondays of the month. Bruce Gibb facilitates the Thursday meetings; Hal Breidenbach leads the Monday meetings.

We revised the HSG mission: The Humanist Study Group provides a forum for members to explore and deepen their understanding and application of Humanism. We actively affirm and promote Humanism in the UUAA and Ann Arbor community. We carry the flame of Humanism in the UUAA.

We embody all of the UUA Principles in both the content and the processes we follow in our meetings. We use all of our Sources in our meetings but have an emphasis on Humanist teachings, direct experience and current affairs. We studied in depth 60 articles or books during the 2020-21 year.

We have and continue to advocate for becoming a Freethinking Friendly welcoming congregation. We actively engage with the Shared Ministry Team and Board of Trustees to consider improvements in governance so that as a Congregation we use democratic processes and structures.

The LOV team met with us to explain their mission. Twelve of our members are contributing to a scholarship for a participant in the University of Michigan Alumni Association's LEAD program.

Our goals for the 2020-2021 year were:

1. To continue to build and sustain a pluralistic community where free thinkers can feel safe and be supported.
2. To give a voice to humanists, atheists and agnostics through discussion, constructive activism, education, and philanthropy.
3. To support building the UUAA community using democratic principles and the active pursuit of the separation of religion and government.
4. To use our human capacities of empathy, compassion, and rational thinking as the foundation for ethical behavior.