

2020-2021 UUAA Men's Fellowship Report

Submitted by Glenn Kime

The UUAA Men's Fellowship comprises UUAA congregants who identify as men and who participate in the activities sponsored by the Men's Council. The Men's Council consists of 9 men who serve three-year staggered terms and are elected by members of the fellowship. The council provides leadership and support for activities which are designed to enhance friendships, spiritual growth and positive community engagement.

The membership of the 2021 Council includes:

Pat Herbst, Tim Miller, Kenji Yano
Glenn Kime, Glenn Harris, John Russell
Tom Chettleburgh, Jim Schaefer, Gregg Peterson

Highlights: Nurturing a supportive community of men, now and in the future

- In this pandemic year, the Men's Circle and its sponsored activities were challenged to adapt. We met this challenge virtually, keeping safety in mind while fostering the connections and activities so important to our community
- This year marked the 21st anniversary of the UU men's retreat. Thirty six men started the one-day event in zoom breakout rooms discussing the theme of "Change". Optional in-person events followed including afternoon hikes, kayaking, biking and evening campfires in appropriately socially distance groups. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and a welcome relief from the pandemic lock down.
- In June, 35 men participated virtually in our annual men's dinner via zoom. Groups of 6-9 men used the breakout room feature to discuss one of the following topics: "The impact of the pandemic on your well being and plans for the future", "Unexpected Joys and discoveries" or "Lessons learned: Public policy and Social Justice".
- Eight active circles continue to provide ongoing mutual support to 80+ men of the congregation. This work has continued via virtual meetings at an even greater pace since the beginning of the "stay-at-home" orders.
- Monthly breakfasts provide an additional avenue for men to gather in community. The monthly breakfast remains a *weekly* online virtual gathering in light of COVID-19.
- The Council is actively working on a way to financially sponsor initiatives from our younger male congregants.