

UUCG's Dream Tree Report

Winter, 2011



*Dreams pass into the reality of action. From the actions stems the dream again;
this interdependence produces the highest form of living. ~ Anais Nin*

2011 is a big year for UUCG. We celebrated our 30th anniversary and called Rev. Jan Taddeo as our full-time settled minister. It is a time for honoring our past and looking to the future.

Over the course of the stewardship drive for 2012 (approximately 3 weeks), young and old alike were invited to write their dreams for UUCG on leaves and attach them to the dream tree. By the end of the pledge drive the tree was covered with dozens of multi-colored leaves expressing hopes and dreams alongside green leaves of financial support from our congregants.

The dream leaves seemed to fall in fairly neat piles: Facilities (41%), Growth & Membership (17%), Social Justice/Faith In Action (15%), Music Programs & Music In Worship (9%), Religious Exploration (9%), and Congregational Life (8%).

The 87 dreams included broad aspirations as well as very specific wishes. Here are the dreams that were randomly shared by more than one person. We would like to point out that there was no voting on these dreams. The percentages simply reflect the number of times these dreams were articulated. The full list of dreams is provided at the end of this report.

Aspirations included:

- Every person in Gwinnett County knows we are here. (6%)
- Our good works are well-known and respected in the wider Gwinnett community (e.g., homeless, LGBT). (6%)
- Increase membership: the sanctuary is so full each Sunday with new and current members that we need a larger sanctuary with separate fellowship space. (5%)
- Robust Adult Religious Exploration offerings. (5%)
- Become a certified "Welcoming Congregation" (2%)
- Become a certified "Green Congregation" (2%)
- UUCG is involved in the community with ecumenical outreach (2%)

Specific dreams include:

- Separate sanctuary & fellowship hall spaces (8%)
- New, upgraded kitchen & serving area (8%)
- More and better parking (6%)
- Music Director is part-time paid position and expands music programs for children. (6%)
- Marketing team, budget, new website to get the word out about UUCG (5%)
- Complete the memorial garden (4%)
- Meditation space: room or garden (3%)
- Connect to sewer line (2%)

You are invited to think about these dreams. They are helpful as we revisit our vision for UUCG in this large, multi-dimensional Gwinnett community. Both “Who do we want to be?” and “What must we do to fulfill our mission?” are important questions for the congregation. Consider, too, how you would like to be part of this exciting journey. This is a great time to share your talents, learn new skills, develop deeper friendships, and progress on your spiritual path.

Namasté

Dreams	Mentions	87
Facilities	36	41%
Strategic Plan for our site for next 5 years	1	
Separate Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall Spaces	7	8%
New, upgraded Kitchen & Serving Area	7	8%
More and better parking	5	6%
Complete Memorial Garden	3	3%
Connect to sewer line (required for expansion)	2	2%
Meditation Space: room or garden	2	2%
Hymnals -- enough for everyone	1	1%
Establish a reserve fund to maintain our aging building	1	
Assistive-listening system for the hearing-impaired	1	
Videotape Sunday Services. Then put online for people at home to view	1	
New television	1	
Railing for few steps from parking lot to sidewalk.	1	
Repair our Peace Pole	1	
Fix up basketball court	1	
Industrial Strength Vacuum Cleaner	1	
Growth & Membership	15	17%
New & Improved Website	2	
Marketing team and budget to get the word out about UUCG	2	
Every person in Gwinnett County knows we are here! Our good works are well-known.	5	6%
Increase membership: retain members & add more. 2 packed-house services. Then we'll need a larger sanctuary, separate fellowship space & more classrooms because we meet spiritual needs!	4	5%
Solve the mystery of member retention. If we had retained even 50% of members over 30 years, we would have a membership of over 1,000.	1	
Become majority-Minority congregation	1	1%
Social Justice/Faith In Action	13	15%
Become a certified "Welcoming Congregation"	2	2%
Become a certified "Green Congregation"	2	
UUCG will be well known & respected in wider Gwinnett community for the work we do (e.g., homeless, LGBT)	2	
Community involvement & ecumenical outreach	2	
Service projects for adults (volunteer at food banks, shelters, enrichment classes for adults/women) Trips/retreat to the Mountain or other sites for adults/couples or individuals	1	
Pastoral Care Team training	1	
majority-minority congregation	1	
A Food Bank - a small building or store front where UUCG would give food away.	1	
Take a contingent down to the annual protest Nov 18th in Columbus, GA to close the School of the (Assassins) Americas renamed Whinsec.	1	

Music Programs & Music in Worship	8	9%
Music director become a paid part-time paid position with a true job description and point of accountability, so that the music ministry of the community can grow in faith & gifts in a larger capacity. More music programs for children.	5	6
Quarterly Poetry Open Mic Readings	1	
Sponsor Peter Mayer ("Blue Boat Home") concert at UUCG!	1	
Would love to see strong and upbeat music by choir and house band and/or others incorporated into services and events, and perhaps more so, if in keeping with that event's theme.	1	

Religious Exploration	8	9%
Robust Adult RE	4	5%
Scholarships for mountain camp for families in need	1	
A professional DRE -build a diverse youth program - expand our religious exploration programs for adults and youth.	1	
A Paid Youth Director	1	
For kids not to have pins but necklaces	1	

Congregational Life	7	8%
More Hugs from Rene'	1	
Rejoice in our young people	1	
Make UUCG a joyful occasion once again! I am going through a dark moment.	1	
Big fun playing on the hill in the front.	1	
A section in the weekly or monthly UUCG newsletter for "keeping up with the congregation" for items of significant joys or sorrows (with their knowledge and permission, of course).	1	1%
Good annual raises for all staff	1	1%
Pastoral Care Team training	1	1%