

NUUSLETTER

The Newsletter of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
always available online at www.hvuuc.org

The mission of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is to promote spiritual growth, religious freedom, and ethical action.

January 2023

PO Box 8383 Johnson City, Tennessee 37615 (423) 477-7661

Headlines

- [Minister's Note](#)
- [Religious Education News](#)
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- [Social Justice](#)

Up to date church info is always available at www.hvuuc.org

Save the Date

Jan 6—Women's Group
Jan 9—Brunch Bunch
Jan 15—Path to Membership
Jan 20—Game Group
Jan 23—8th Principle Workshop
Jan 29—Social Justice Fair

Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

January 8, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp

Our Living Tradition: Article 2 Proposed Revisions Part 1

The Unitarian Universalist Association has been re-imagining our foundational documents. This Sunday we will take a look at the history of Article II, what changes have been proposed, and what the rest of the revision process will look like.

January 15, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp,

Love is Central: Article 2 Proposed Revisions Part 2

The central value in the proposed changes to Article II is Love, and much of it is influenced by Martin Luther King Jr's ideas around the Beloved Community. Martin Luther King Day seems like an appropriate time to look at these proposed core values of Unitarian Universalism

January 22, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp,

Religion as a Coping Mechanism

How is religion used as a coping mechanism, and is it a healthy or unhealthy way to cope? And is Unitarian Universalism exempt from the follies of spiritual bypassing? The answers are complicated but we can dive into asking the questions together, and learn how our own ability to practice discernment comes into play.

January 29, 2023

Social Justice Sunday

The Social Justice Committee will bring to the pulpit, a message of inspiration, hope and an invitation to engage in 2023. In one year, our Committee has grown from 9 members to 16 – and we are organizing to include many other church members in our collective activities. The service will be followed by a "Social Justice Fair." We want to hear from you about what YOU want to see HVUUC standing for.

The kitchen is currently closed due to damage from a burst water pipe. Coffee hour and events needing kitchen facilities are canceled until further notice. Thank you for understanding.

Sign up for daily or weekly news and event emails at our website here: <http://ccpurl.com/c7GW3H>

Our work around our Principles and Values

In November I shared with you how the Unitarian Universalist Association is considering revisions to Article II of our bylaws, which includes the listing of both our Principles and our Sources, and is suggesting seven values instead.

This month I want to offer you an update on what that Revisions team has done, tell you what we have planned for the winter and spring around this work as a local congregation, and put it all together in a timeline.

The work of the Article II Commission

In November the Article II Commission had a series of feedback sessions where they received feedback on their proposed revisions from hundreds of interested Unitarian Universalists: both laypeople and clergy alike. These sessions were open to anyone who wanted to attend them, and links to those sessions were provided in our November newsletter.

In December the Article II Commission reviewed the feedback from the session and gathered from feedback forms. From that work they offered a new round of revisions, which included changing one of the seven proposed values from "Evolution" to "Transformation." (See the attached image for all 7 values as they stand now). They will be sharing the updated proposal with the Unitarian Universalist Association Board soon as the next step in the process for bringing these proposed changes to General Assembly for a vote this summer.

For the specifics about how the proposed revisions will be brought to a vote, please see the timeline below.

How Is Our Congregation Looking at Article II?

Sunday, January 8th and Sunday, January 15th we are going to have a two-part sermon series on these Article II revisions. If this is something that interests you, I hope you can either come to the service or watch it on YouTube afterwards.

On Sunday March 5th after the service I will lead an interactive workshop where we get to explore these proposed revisions in more detail. And then we will have the same workshop online as a Zoom meeting the following Tuesday, March 7th.

Sometime this spring our Board of Directors will select our delegates for this summer's General Assembly. They will pay special attention to making sure that delegates are selected that are committed to representing us, their congregation, in this General Assembly vote.

After then workshops, we will have a feedback form that you can fill out to share your feedback directly with our General Assembly delegates

Please see the timeline on the next page.

The Combined UUA & HVUUC timeline

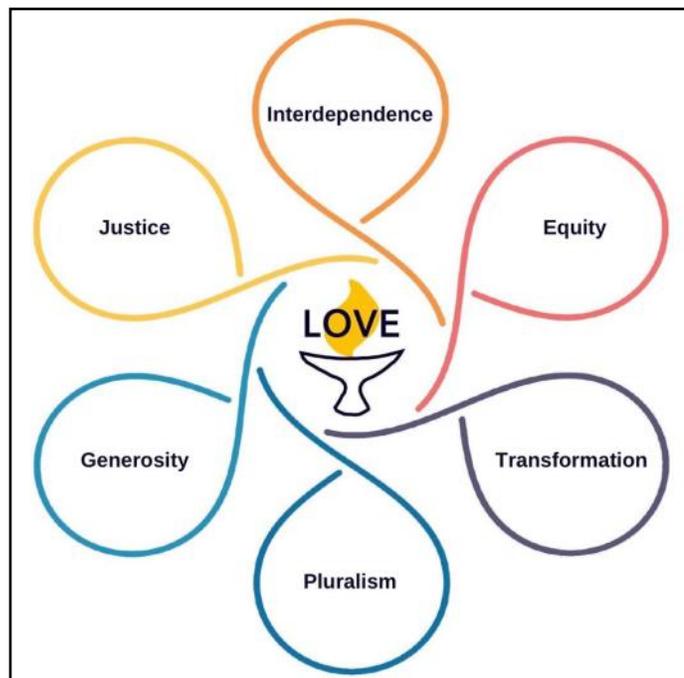
Here's a list of what has already been done, and what will be done, related to these proposed changes:

- **Fall 2020, UUA:** Article II Study Commission Convened in response to bylaw stipulation that says we revisit and revise Article II every 15 years
- **Spring 2021, UUA:** Commission begins panels and surveys to gather input
- **General Assembly (June) 2021, UUA:** Article II study process introduced in a General Session and focus groups were held
- **Fall 2021, UUA:** Congregational resources developed and shared
- **Winter/Spring 2021, UUA:** Focus groups, individual interviews and surveys. Draft Language prepared
- **General Assembly (June) 2022, UUA:** Draft language shared. Focus groups and surveys.
- **November 2022, HVUUC:** Newsletter article outlines this revision proposal and congregation begins to think about it
- **November 2022, UUA:** Feedback sessions and surveys about drafts
- **January 2023, HVUUC:** Two part sermon series invites us to think more about these revisions
- **January 2023, UUA:** Draft submitted to UUA Board
- **March 2023, HVUUC:** Article II workshops on 3/5 and 3/7. Congregational feedback forms made available
- **Spring 2023, HVUUC:** Board selects General Assembly delegates and charge them to take on the responsibility of reviewing congregational feedback forms and representing the congregation
- **May 2023, UUA:** Mini-assembly for GA delegates is held prior to GA, delegates may offer amendments to the proposed revisions
- **General Assembly (June) 2023, UUA:** Delegates vote on final version with amendments made by Board and in Mini-assembly. The revisions will have to have a simple majority in this first GA vote to move forward for a year of contemplation and experimentation with the new Article II if it passes.
- **General Assembly (June) 2024, UUA:** Delegates vote again on final version approved during 2023 only if it passes in 2023. Requires a 2/3 majority vote for adoption. Any amendments proposed during this year would require a 3/4 majority for adoption.
- If either the 2023 or the 2024 vote fails, a similar proposal cannot be made or considered for two years.

This is a lot of information to process, which is why we are approaching it from so many different avenues: articles, sermons and workshops.

Thanks for sticking with us as we take a look at what these proposals are and what they might mean for us!

Rev. Tiffany



Religious Education News

Dear Ones,

It is officially the end of the “first semester” of Religious Education, post-COVID closure. We have had a lot of wins, and several challenges. I think it is important for the congregation to have an understanding of what HVUUC Religious Education has experienced since reopening in August.

Once we knew that the church was cleared to re-open in Spring of 2022, preparations began to launch RE for Fall (August). The first step in this was to offer listening circles for families so we knew what families were wanting out of Religious Education. What we heard was important to families:

1. OWL! Families wanted their children to participate in OWL. And since our OWL schedule was “off” due to COVID, we needed to offer multiple classes to try and catch the wide age groups.
2. Curricula that didn’t require weekly attendance to benefit
3. Curricula that didn’t require a lot of prep from volunteers
4. Emphasis on social justice issues

The RE Collaborative met to discuss what programming we could offer knowing these desires from families. We determined that we would offer Makerspaces for our K-5, a Tapestry of Faith curriculum focused on a social justice project for our Youth class, OWL for our 4-6th graders, and Stellar Sex Ed for our 9-12th graders. This was an enormous undertaking due to the amount of volunteers we would need.

We began recruiting for volunteers in the spring of 2022 knowing we would reopen in August. Recruitment was a challenge. Asking people to volunteer in RE during a pandemic with so many unknown variables was a hard ask. We adjusted to his challenge by requiring a minimum of 3 volunteers for our 2 K-5 classes instead of 4, and requiring the two classroom doors stay open so that the 3rd adult volunteer can float between the two classes.

Meeting the demand of offering sex education to our children and youth also presented a challenge. We had enough trained 4-6 grade OWL facilitators in our congregation, but did not have enough for our 9-12th grade level. To address the shortage of facilitators for the high school level, we collaborated with RISE: Healthy for Life. RISE trained several volunteers from our congregation in Stellar Sex Ed in late summer so that they could facilitate class during the fall.

Attendance for our Youth class has been very low since reopening. This is largely due to OWL and then Stellar Sex Ed running for these ages. However, we also have heard from the Youth that have been attending RE that they do not like the curriculum. They feel that it is dull and too much like school. Knowing this feedback, I connected with fellow DRE’s and discovered a program created by Kathy Smith that ties board games to our principles. Kathy generously gifted me her curriculum, and we purchased half of the required board games. This curriculum will start in January!

Our big win since reopening was our very first Halloween Trunk or Treat! This was a wonderful day with 10 “trunks” volunteering and dozens of children dressed up, enjoying the brilliant and creative trunks. I was asked multiple times if we could do this every year. I hope to see the event happen in 2023! It is a fun activity that has very little volunteer overhead.

I celebrate all we have accomplished with Religious Education since we reopened. We have two thriving Adult RE classes with average attendance of 10-12 every week.

We have average attendance of 10 kids weekly in our K-5 Makerspace class. And we have held two different sex ed classes for our youth! I am proud of our community for all we have done in four months after being closed for 2 years.

Sarah White

Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

New Member Ceremony Sunday, February 19

We will devote a segment of the service on February 19 to the induction and welcoming of new members.

If you have taken the Path to Membership class (recently or in the past) and would like to sign the book, become a member, and participate in this ceremony, please email membership@hvuuc.org by or before February 5. Include a three or four sentence (50 words) introduction of yourself to be read to the congregation.

For anyone who has taken the Path class and would like to join, but cannot or does not wish to participate in the New Member Ceremony, a private signing of the membership book can be arranged.

We are so pleased you have found this church. We welcome you to become a member of our congregation.

Game Nights Returning!

Game Night is friendly competition in a supportive environment, playing modern board (and card) games.

Please send RSVPs and questions to gamegroup@hvuuc.org

Details:

Location: lower floor of the REZ

Time: 6:30pm – 10pm(ish)

Dates (the third Friday of each month):

- January 20
- February 17
- March 17 (wear green)
- April 21
- May 19

December Treasury Report

As we end the second quarter of our 2022/2023 fiscal year, our income is \$2435 ahead of our spending thanks to your continued support and the conscientious use of our funds. The summary table of our finances for the second quarter is shown below.

Treasurer Summary Report - Second Quarter 2022-2023

	Totals through second quarter, actual	Budgeted amount through second quarter	Totals through second quarter, actual minus budgeted
Income	\$85,042	\$88,092	-\$3,050
Expenses	\$82,607	\$88,092	-\$5,485
Income minus Expenses	\$2,435	-	\$2,435

This quarter has been very active. Our annual auction raised more than \$20,000. We also raised \$1,294 for Hunger First and \$790 for the Langston Center in Johnson City. We celebrated Rev. Sapp's call to be our minister with an installation service paid from the Search and Sabbatical Fund. Money from the Capital Repairs Fund was used to install gutters and gutter guards to help prevent flooding around the church at a cost of \$2,500.

The full treasurer's financial spreadsheet is in the member's section of the church website. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at treasurer@hvuuc.org. - Deb Helmer.

Social Justice News and Initiatives

Undoing White Supremacy

- 1.) JAN 9: All are invited to the Black White Dialog, Monday, January 9th @ 6 PM at the Carver Center. All welcome to interact and/or observe. Please RSVP to Ed Wolff: bbwikff1927@gmail.com
- 2.) JAN 11: Wednesday, 7:00 PM: Worship service at St. Paul AME Church sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance of Johnson City.
- 3.) JAN 14: Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast at Wesley United Methodist Church at Carver Recreation Center (JohnsonCity.org)
- 4.) JAN 28: Community Building Roundtable at Jubilee World Outreach Church 10-2.

Climate / Environment

PLANT A TREE! Once again HVUUC will be a pickup site for trees made available by the Tennessee Environmental Council. The trees will be available for pickup on March 18 from 9 am to 12 pm for a nominal cost of between 1.99 and 3.99 per tree. These trees will be varieties that are adapted to the local climate.

To place an order for your trees, visit https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTcwMDk5.

Planting these small trees will benefit the environment and provide pleasure for you as you watch them grow into larger and larger trees.

Homelessness

THE GIVING TREE in downtown Johnson City has been a resounding success!

It is heartening that not only did HVUUC supply many needed items for the homeless, community members and organizations also contributed without being asked!

Hunger

FEED THE HUNGRY! Please don't forget our food wagon! Donations are taken weekly to HUNGER FIRST in Kingsport by HVUUC angelic volunteers. Don't know what to bring? Hunger First makes FOOD BAGS from the following: individual packets of chicken and tuna; Vienna sausage; peanut butter crackers; trail mix; fruit cups; oatmeal cakes. Look in your cupboard and see if Mother Hubbard has some extra food.

Social Justice Sunday – January 29

SACRED ACTIVISM:
We are ALL in this together !

On Social Justice Sunday, we are going to celebrate HVUUC's 2022 social justice efforts and unveil our organizing for a powerful 2023 – inviting ALL members of our HVUUC family to step up even more to fulfill our individual and collective commitments to justice.

The Social Justice Committee will bring to the pulpit, a message of inspiration, hope and an invitation to engage in 2023. In one year, our Committee has grown from 9 members to 16 – and we are organizing to include many other church members in our collective activities. The service will be followed by a "Social Justice Fair." We want to hear from you about what YOU want to see HVUUC standing for.

This year, the scope of our work will be expanding to include peace work, health, disability access and democracy. What calls YOU? Come chat with our Committee.

Join us on January 29 for inspiration, message, and song. ...with an engagement "after- party."

Caring Team

JANUARY C.T. coordinator is Cynthia G. for assistance please call the church office at 423- 477-7661 or email us at caring@hvuuc.org

Also if interested to become a new 'caring' member... let us know. We need more good people on our team.

Special note of thanks to
Alicia C., December coordinator.

Kitchen of Hope

If you would like to help, please consider donating either money or food items that can go in a lunch bag. We serve once a month, but the Kitchen of Hope serves 6 nights a week.

To donate money:

Mail a check to - HVUUC PO Box 8383, Gray, TN 37615 memo: Kitchen of Hope

Via Paypal - <https://hvuuc.org/donate> (please indicate it is for Kitchen of Hope)

To donate food: Contact Kim at KOH@hvuuc.org

Website Member Log In

There is information on the website that you need to log in to see. Scroll to bottom of the home page and click on "Members Area". If you need the password, email office@hvuuc.org.

Once you log in, you can get a recent member directory, read the board policies and procedures and board meeting minutes, and get a reimbursement form or our tax exempt certificate.

Grocery Cards Available for Purchase

Food City and Ingles grocery cards are available and can be mailed or delivered to you!

Cards can be delivered to mailboxes in the Johnson City or Kingsport area, and possibly to others areas. Of course, the cards could also be mailed.

We will happily accommodate your needs so that we can continue to generate a wee bit of income for the church.

If you are interested, please contact Dottie and Richard at grocerycards@hvuuc.org.

Thank you for continuing to participate!

2021-2022 Board of Trustees

President: Ann Johnson president@hvuuc.org

Vice President: Dottie Blades vp@hvuuc.org

Past President: David Kashdan pastpresident@hvuuc.org

Treasurer: Deb Helmer treasurer@hvuuc.org

Stewardship Trustee: Charlie Miller stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org

Programs Trustee: Bryan Kleske programs@hvuuc.org

Facilities Trustee: Doug Chaffin facilities@hvuuc.org

Secretary/Historian: Michele Markstrom-Frisch boardsecretary@hvuuc.org

Membership Trustee: Cynthia Goodman membership@hvuuc.org

Minister

Rev. Tiffany Sapp: 477-7661 (office) minister@hvuuc.org

Director of Religious Education

Sarah White DRE@hvuuc.org

Music Director

Charis Carter musicdirector@hvuuc.org

Office Administrator

Jessica Bowman office@hvuuc.org

Submissions for each month's newsletter are due by the last day of month to newsletter@hvuuc.org.

Up to date information can always be found at www.hvuuc.org