***UCH Worship Circle Annual Report: Church year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026***

*Chair: Susan Morrison Hebble*

*Members: Rev. Beth Johnson, Julia Beckman, Anita Jencks, David Lloyd, Tony Meadors, Elizabeth Piskorski, Linda Rio, Gene Schafer, Paula Sejut-Dvorak, Ron Solberg; Jamie Pastman, Pam Fodor.*

The Worship Circle meets monthly to review past services, to plan for upcoming services, and to discuss and collaborate on worship service-related issues. The Team also meets for intensive retreats twice a year, one at the beginning of the church year and one at the end of the church year.

We consider concerns and needs for maximizing the positive impact of each service, such as coordinating with the tech crew, helping to set up the joys/concerns table or other displays or activities for a particular service, and implementing creative elements for worship. We draw from the Soul Matters Monthly Theme Program which is also used in Religious Education and Small Group Ministry.

During the "regular" church year (Sept. – mid-June), members of the Worship Circle participate in Sunday services as Worship Associates and in other supportive roles. For Sundays when Rev. Beth is not in the pulpit and we don't have a guest speaker, members of this Circle plan and lead services individually or as a team; on Sundays when we have a guest speaker, one or more of us provide support for set up and presentation of the service. This year, the Worship Team also worked with Intern Minister Swamini Saraswati, which we found especially rewarding.

The Worship team is responsible for determining a theme for Summer services and for scheduling those services (mid-June – August). Rev. Beth takes some leave time in the summer, and we support her services when she is in the pulpit in the summer. When Rev. Beth is on leave during the summer, Worship Circle members coordinate and lead the summer services, a commitment which involves creating the message, selecting readings and hymns, working with a Worship Associate (usually another member of the Circle), coordinating music, producing and copying an order of service, and working with the tech folks. We also work with the Hospitality team to set up each summer service, outdoors (weather permitting) or indoors. At our Worship Circle retreat on May 16, we affirmed our Summer 2026 theme to be **"A Canopy of Care: A community of safety and spiritual grounding fostering radical imagination to live into UU Values."**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Morrison Hebble, Chair