

# CARES & CONCERNS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010

by Jackie Brown

Submitted May 11, 2010

## MEMBERSHIP

*UUCare Bears*

Alicia Addeo *
Ann Myers
Ann Scott
Barbara Shimer
Bill Loomis
Carol Heichel
Clara Morabito *
Cindi Smith
Del "Scotty" Scott
Denise Seeber
Dorothy Gardiner
Dorothy Terpenning
Eliseao Santana, Jr.
Frank Tedesco
Jackie Brown
Ken Bliznick
Ken Suggs *
Lucille Odeaneal
Pat McGiverin
Terry Henderson *
Susan Allen
Vasant Surti
(* Inactive)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The committee remains fairly stable. Currently, we have 22 members. Several (\*) I've marked as "inactive" because they have not contributed this church year, mostly due to health issues. However, they wish to main on our committee. I have removed Carol Mathiesen's name because she is only active during a short winter stay, and then only on an "ask her" basis.

Our members have cartoon bear stickers attached to their nametags for easy identification by the congregation. Very few are voluntarily consistent in their participation; but typically are responsive if personally asked to help in a given situation. Considering my rich resources, this "ad hoc" system seems to meet the needs of our congregation.

**ACTIVITIES:** We have not as much of an active year as in times past. We have had a number of members who have required long-term monitoring. Mostly we dealt with life transition issues, major illnesses hospitalizations or people in rehab, people with deteriorating health, and in supporting caregivers. I do "well checks" on people of concern, and maintain contact with those who can no longer attend UUC and encourage the committee to visit or make contact with them. I send out Christmas cards to those who are left our church but know they would appreciate being remembered. We have had no cause to host memorials as other resources were utilized.

We are willing to provide meals during crises, take people to medical appointments or home from a rehab or hospital, and in general try to assist where special circumstances show a need and we have the resources. We are interactive with visitors and new members in the social hall.

The Minister is in the process of structuring a special sub-unit of this committee to compensate for the loss of one minister this next church year. We have come up with a list of members we feel would be strong candidates to be in the *Pastoral Associates Program*. Training is to begin this month.

**COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION:** The Chair sends out, either by mail or email, reports to everyone on the committee, the board president and the ministers, keeping everyone updated about current issues. Not all information is shared with all on the committee. This year, more than usual, the information has been confined to those who need to know. That may mean only the ministers, and sometimes just the ministers and me. We always respect the wishes and confidentiality of our congregants. The committee is charged with responding as they choose (or not) to information they receive and to keep the Chair advised. They do not have to report phone calls or cards/notes. At times, the Chair or the Minister will assign a committee member with a particular role that best suits the needs of the individual in need of our help. I publish an updated committee phone list several times a year for the Board President, Minister(s) and committee members' use.

**JOYS & SORROWS SEGMENT:** We keep notes of what is said and by whom so that the Chair can respond either with a note, card or phone call if required. Any situation that needs special attention will be included in the weekly report.

**APPRECIATION:** Normally, I would try to plan a member gathering in April to facilitate fraternity; but I have been unexpectedly cast into a caretaker role with my boyfriend so it did not happen this time. It is my goal to be able to do this later in the year. There has been no committee "special appreciation" award this year; but I did submit Dorothy Terpenning's name for UUC's monthly honor roll, and it was approved. Dorothy is one of my most diligent UUCare Bears even though she has been dealing with her own health maladies.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** A requirement of our committee! The ministers know what I know, but not everything is shared with the committee at the request of the person/people involved. Some information is carefully censored for the same reason. It is important to have permission when the information is personal, sensitive; and to discern if the individual does/does not want information broadcast.

**VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Chair puts "ads" in our Octagram at times to inform people who we are and what we do. Announcements are also made in UUC's weekly email about a situation (if it is deemed necessary). Useful information is put on the "White Board" when people are in a hospital or rehab so that the members know how to contact them. At times, we request special announcements from the pulpit.

**MEETINGS:** The Chair attends Program Council meetings, Pathways to Membership meetings, and the annual meeting of the Board & Committee Chairs. I brag that we have no formal meetings, if at all possible. Email and phone makes this possible. I keep hard copies of all reports, and they will always be available for review, if necessary. I hosted a dinner party at my home this past winter for a large number of new UUCare Bears (and three ministers) to disguise the fact they really were in a “meeting” to introduce them to what it is that we do.

**SPECIAL MINISTRY:** We arrange for the Blood Mobile to be at UUC every October. It is in honor of Florence Cohan-Austin, once a Care Bear, who made this one of her dying wishes.

**CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED:** I have discussed in previous years about deleting hosting of Memorials from the duties of the Cares & Concerns Committee. I have found that no one on my committee wants this job, and I do not. This year we’ve not had to deal with this issue as other parties have stepped in to host memorials. I still wish this would be formally removed from our responsibilities.

The tenure of the current chair is assured for yet another year. However, I believe a backup person should be selected by the minister in the event I am not in town, or otherwise incapacitated for a period of time. To my knowledge, there never has been a designated person