

# Building on Our Founders' Legacy

**We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to  
nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth and  
build community**



# Fall, 1952

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato

- Founders:
  - John and Jane Foster
  - Grace L. Burnell
  - Wm. F. and Harriet Hinrichs
  - Louise Roth
  - G. S. Arnold
  - Ethel Ann Devaney
  - C.J. and Dorothy Arnold
  - GS Peterson



John & Jane Foster



Mary Kelley & Louise Roth

**“When I look back I see our Fellowship as making it possible for a group of professional people to live happily in this small, somewhat fundamentalist community, rear our children, and stand for something and at the same time contribute something.”**

- John Foster, Founder (1983)

# 1952-1961

- **Primary focus was on religious education for children, led by Louise Roth.**
- **Active Wednesday evening Speakers Forum**
- **Strong social action focus**
- **Membership was 24 members and \$136 budget in 1953**
- **Fellowship met in**
  - **people's homes**
  - **rented space at the YWCA**
  - **the Town Hall**
  - **a house which Jim Maslon helped us find on the Honeymead property.**

# 1961-2005

## 114 Pohl Rd Home

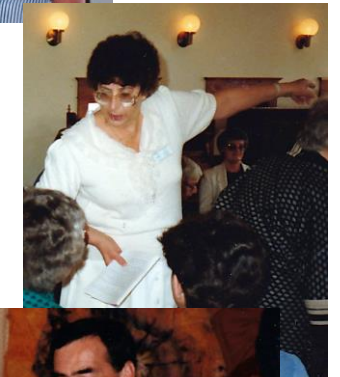
- 1961—42 members & friends, \$1635 budget
- Purchased house at 114 Pohl Rd with a \$60,000 mortgage
- Core of initial religion/theology library donated by Beacon Press
- Membership grew to about 60 people, with regular attendance at Sunday services of around 45 people





# Presidents, 1961-1985

- 65-66 Marcia Schuster
- 67-69 Dr Bernard Hughes
- 69 Bob Smith
- 69-71 Kilian “Pete” Molitor
- 71-72 & 82-83 Joan Christensen
- 73-74 & 76-77 Jane Foster
- 74-76 Lew Holden
- 77-78 Chuck VanBuskirk
- 78-79 Helmer “Bud” Engh
- 79-80 Lisa Cook
- 80-81 Chuck Higgins
- 81-82 Peter Nash
- 83-85 Dave Schostag



# 1985

- Meeting room added, at cost of \$60,000



- Mary Kelley revives children's religious education program

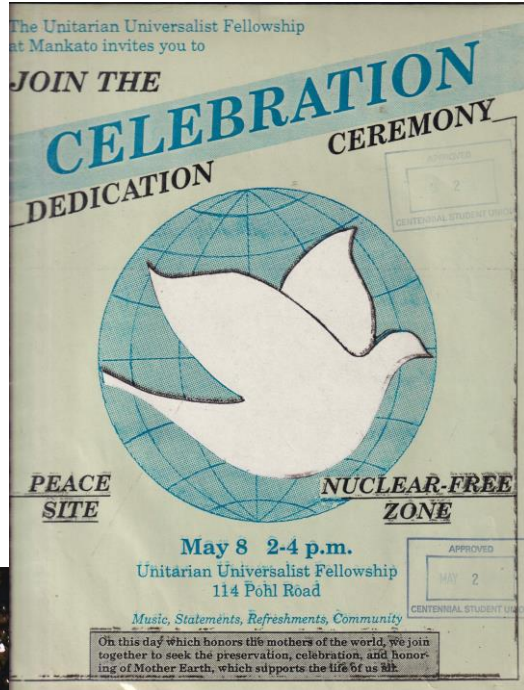




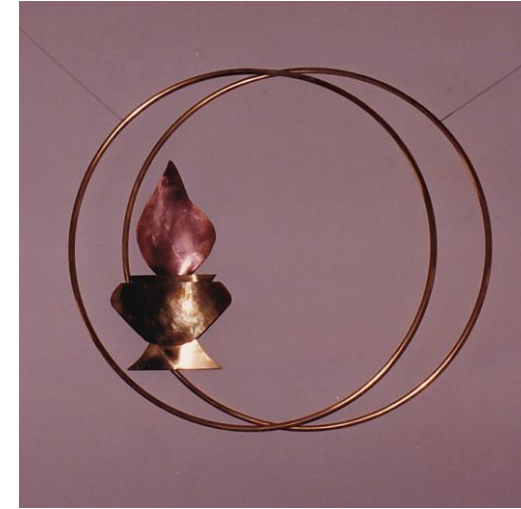
# 1988—First Professional Staff Part-time Interim Minister Lee Green



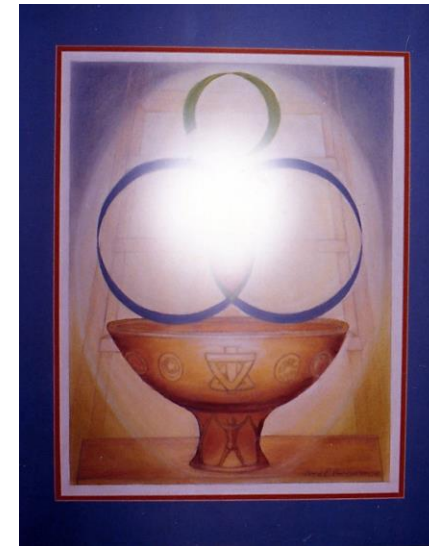
## 1988 Peace Site



## Ralph Jacobs Chalice Sculpture



## Joan Christensen's Chalice Drawing





# **¼ Time Shared Ministry with Nora Church Hanska**

• 1990—Rev. Mary Kapper

• 1991-2003 Rev. Sarah Oelberg

# Other Professional Staffing

- **1996—Choir begun by Michelle Sturm**
- **2002—Gerry Tostenson, first paid Office Administrator and RE Coordinator**



# Intergenerational Projects

## Mitten Tree



## UU "Saints"

Linda Ridlehuber

as Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Roy Cook as  
Theodore Parker  
& Mark Twain





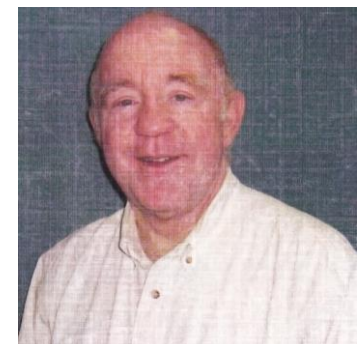
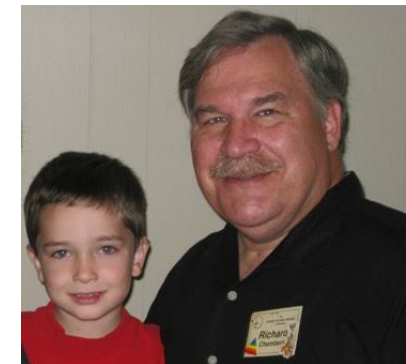
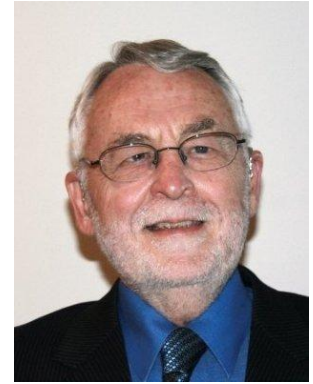
# Chocolate Extravaganza Fundraiser



**Lew Holden on Harmonica**

# Presidents, 1985-2004

- 85-87 Roy Cook
- 87-88, 89-90, 94-95 Mary Kelley
- 88-89 Sandra (Tanner) Walberg
- 90-91 Loretta (Johnson) Burns
- 91-92 Dennis Siemer
- 92-93 David Allan
- 93-94 Barbara Keating
- 95-96 Dennis Cramblit
- 96-97 Christine (Kile) Frances
- 97-98 Maggie O'Connor
- 98-99 Wilbur Frink
- 99-01 Joan Christensen
- 01-03 Dick Chambers
- 03-05 Del Jackman





# 2003-11 Rev. Lisa Friedman





# 2005—937 Charles Ave. (Former Victory Life Church)





# Making the New Space Our Own



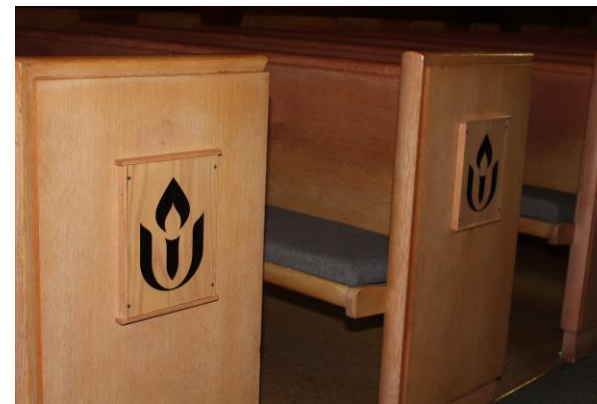
Cascade by Sandra Walberg



Flowing Life by Scott Them



Chalice Quilt by Catherine Smith Olsen



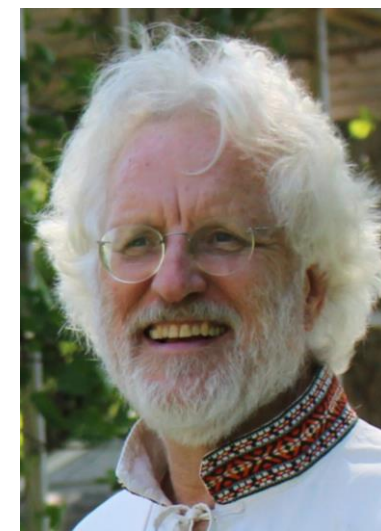
Chalice Plaques by Dennis Siemer



Chalice Stand & Story Box  
by Ken Davey

# Presidents, 2005-2019

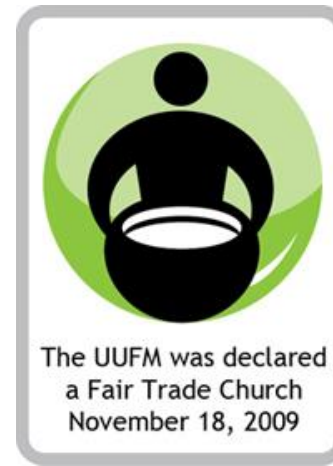
- 05-07 Cheryl Lee
- 07-09 Sue Chambers
- 09-11 Laura Bealey
- 11-13 Jane Schostag
- 13-15 Dennis Cramblit
- 15-16 Carrie Rice
- 16-18 Nancy Cramblit
- 18-20 Tony Filipovitch





# Social Action

- 2006—UUFM designated as an LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation
- 2009—UUFM designated as a Fair Trade Church
- 2010—UUFM designated a “Breakthrough Congregation” at UUA General Assembly
- 2012—UUFM provides space and volunteers supporting regional organizing for marriage equality
- 2015—UUFM designated as a Green Sanctuary
- 2019—Solar panels installed on roof and fixed lighting converted to LED
- 2006-2019—Second Collection has contributed @%57,000 to community
- UU Micro Lending has made @3300 loans worth @\$83,000





# Community Projects



Pedal Past Poverty



PrideFest Parade



Community Garden



Memorial Garden



# UUFM Lecture Series



**Phil Reitan**



**Elias Chacour**



**Ava Adams-Morris**



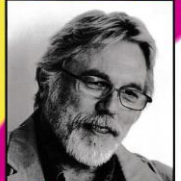
**Tim Penny**



**Judge Bernard Boland**

**Forgiving Ourselves,  
Forgiving Others**  
*Different Faith Perspectives*  
**Saturday, October, 18**

**Kent Nerburn:**  
Key Note Speaker 2:00 P.M.



- \* Minnesota Author of "Calm Surrender: Walking the Hard Road of Forgiveness"
- \* Author of eight books on spiritual values and Native American themes.
- \* B.A. in American Studies - University of Minnesota
- \* Ph.D. in Theology and Art - Graduate Theological Union in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley.
- \* Developed /directed Project Preserve, an award winning oral history project - students collected and published the memories of tribal elders

**Panelists of Different Faiths 3:15 P.M.**  
Reaction and discussion (through the eyes of their culture, faith tradition or both) to excerpts from PBS movie "The Power of Forgiveness"

**Soup Supper to follow**

This project is funded in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism  
the public is welcome without charge  
CHILDCARE PROVIDED

**Humanity Series**  
*Periodic Provocative Presentations*  
at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato  
in West Mankato at 937 Charles Ave.



# Children's Programs



**Our Whole Lives**



**Blue Skunks**



**Community Garden Planting**



**Pancake Breakfast**



# Gratitude for so many volunteers Among them....



Sue Wiltgen on Pohl Rd



Sue Wiltgen on Charles Ave.

Scott & Barb Thiem & John Knox



Margaret Preska



Kathy Adams Doty



Steve & Vicki Dunn

# 2013-14—Rev. Laurie Bushbaum



- Part-time interim minister
- Helped us work through the growth from a “family-sized” fellowship to a mid-sized congregation



# 2015—Capital campaign



Old Entry—2011



New foundation--2012

- Raised \$213,000
- Lift to make lower level mobility accessible
- New entryway and office



# Fundraisers



Rummage Sale



Silent Auction



Shop with Scrip Program



# 2015-17—Rev. Don Cameron



- **Our first full time minister (on an interim assignment)**
- **Led us to take the leap and call our first full-time settled minister.**

# 2018—Rev. Dr. Rita Capezzi



- **First full-time, settled minister**
- **Congregation of around 120 members**
- **Paid part-time Religious Education Director, Office Administrator, and Choir Director**
- **Operating budget of \$211,000**



**And now...**  
**Building on our Vision,**  
**Growing into the future**

