

## **Pastoral Care Committee**

We are a fairly new church initiative that is feeling our way into a role common in many UU and other churches. Our intent is to be available to individual church members and friends who might wish to have someone to share with as they experience one of life's difficult issues and their happier times. Our interim minister, Rev. Olivia Holmes, helps guide our committee, and we try to support her in her primary role of pastoral care giver. We hope that our next minister will also choose to collaborate with our committee.

We have followed up with members and friends as we have heard about situations either through Joys and Concerns on Sundays or by speaking with people. We start with a phone call, introducing and identifying ourselves as being with the Pastoral Care Team. We then ask how the individual is doing and progress from there. Sometimes we reach out with a note via the mail just to let someone know we are thinking of them.

In the fall of 2013, Rev. Holmes led a workshop called Remember Me which explored different types of memorial services and different order of services. She explained traditional services and trending services. Handouts included example of obituaries. Hopefully in 2014-2015, this effort can be continued where there will be group time to write final wishes and to write down plans for memorial service and obituaries. A workshop covering living wills, advance directives and powers of attorney is also being considered.

In the fall of 2012, several members of the committee attended the Creating and Supporting Lay Pastoral Care Teams that was sponsored by the Clara Barton and Mass Bay District of UU Congregations. This workshop provided us with great information starting with defining the difference between pastoral care and parish care. The committee is looking for other workshops and learning experiences to help us better serve the needs of our congregation.

The committee was initiated in September 2012 by Rev. Steve Edington, with Cecile Bonvouloir as its head and Fred Shirley her assistant. Eileen Herring took over Cecile's leadership when Cecile Bonvouloir and Laurie Goodman were elected to the Ministerial Search Committee, requiring their full-time commitment on that important task.

Current committee members are:

Kathy Fletcher  
Eileen Herring  
Olivia Holmes  
Fred Shirley  
Elaine Thomas  
Sherri Woolsey  
Lori Lerude  
Joan Connacher