

June Worship Calendar

Services begin at 10:30 am
Child care available.

June 5

Transitions

Rev. Diane Rollert with Lay Chaplains Nicoline Guerrier, Ann Beer and Shoshanna Green.

Parts in Peace Choir led by Sandra Hunt.

This is also **Flower Communion Sunday**:

bring a flower to exchange with others during the worship service.

Note: Claremont closed for Tour de l'île.

See page 2 for more details.

June 12

God's Problem

Rev. Diane Rollert

Musician Sandra Hunt, with additional music

by **JAMS** (Jessica Burpee, Ann Cascarano, Margo Ellis and Shawn Dohring)

June 19

Trust the Dawning Future

Rev. Diane Rollert

Musician Sandra Hunt, with special guests

No More Blues

June 26

Passing It Forward into Summer

Rev. Diane Rollert and Kirstin McKeown.

Annual Service in Westmount Park

followed by a potluck picnic

Message from Rev. Diane Rollert

Joy in the Love of Two Mothers

On May 15, this congregation dedicated a beautiful baby girl as she gurgled and kicked her legs, dangling from her mother's arms. Beside her stood her other mother. "How wonderful," both mothers said, "that we should dedicate our daughter the Sunday before the International Day Against Homophobia." How wonderful, I thought, as I looked at the smiles on the faces of the gathered community. No one thought twice about the event. This was simply a family, like any other family, welcoming their beloved child and grandchild into the world.

For those who asked, here is my meditation from the morning

Oh, spirit of life,
what promise of a child!
What joy in the love of two mothers
who have chosen this life
to become a family,
to be surrounded by a wider family,
by a loving and accepting community.

With roses and water
we dedicate our children,
and with hope we dedicate
our love to each other,
seeing the light in each other's eyes,
of the promise still there
even as we have aged
long beyond childhood.

Continued on page 3

Memorial Flowers

June 5 – Edna and Bill Mills
and Mabel and William Thomas

June 12 – Mary and Len Picard

June 19 – Lydia Howell-Fisher

June 26 – Annual picnic so no
flowers in the sanctuary.

Please contact Maychai Brown 514-487-3236; or Christine Rourke 514-761-0669 if you would like to remember a friend or loved one in this special way. The cost of the flower arrangement is \$50.

UCM - Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2011, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

Officers for 2011-2012 will be confirmed, the annual financial report will be presented, and important updates on governance will be discussed.

Several important motions will be brought forward. Further information on these is available ahead of time from the office. Please call Verna at 514-485-9933.

All congregants are welcome to attend, although only registered members may vote.

Act out your affirmation of the fifth principle; be part of the democratic process!

Slate of nominations for elected positions is on page 3.

Welcome and Nurture

Welcome Unitarians

Sunday Service Greeters are always in demand.

If you have not been a greeter before, don't worry. There are easy-to-follow instructions available. Please contact Petrina Lee Poy, membership coordinator, at 514-485-5555 or put your name on the sign-up sheet in Phoenix Hall near the back door.

Thank you, Java Jivers!

Coffee Hour is a cherished part of Sunday morning. Thanks to you, the coffee gets made and served. Java Jivers are needed for June. To find out how you can help out, and to get paired up with an experienced Java Jiver, sign up on Sunday, or email Andrea at aj_reichert@videotron.ca

Caring Network

We always need more volunteers to act as chauffeur, to visit house- or hospital-bound members or to make and/or deliver food. If you are interested in having your name added to our list of volunteers OR if you would like to apply to join our convivial group of coordinators, please call Janine Cobb at 514-938-9617.

The **Caring Network coordinator for June** is **Ginny Thomas**, 514-494-0283.

Membres du Groupe francophone, svp communiquez avec Francine Desmarais au 450-332-3994.

Share the Plate

Each Sunday, all the unidentified cash in the offertory is given to the designated charity of the month. Recent recipients have been most appreciative of your support.

In June, we'll share the plate with **St. James' Drop-in Centre** (on City Councillors) which caters to people dealing with issues related to homelessness, mental illness and/or addiction.

Entre Nous

Debbie Blythe suffered a bad leg fracture on May 7 when cycling with Sylvia McVicar, Wolfgang Schneider and Mimi Testart as part of a BidNite outing. She is recovering slowly but could use help with light housekeeping, heat-and-eat food, calls or notes.

Congratulations to **Alusine Bah!** Alusine, a former child soldier in Sierra Leone, foster son of Bob Wright and sponsored by the UCM to come to Canada in 2003, will receive his BA from Concordia on June 20. Way to go, Alusine, and all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you, Fresh Air Ambassadors!

Over the past year, the following people have warmly welcomed people before entering church: Alison Hall, Denis Barsalo, Jack Cobb, Bob Edgar, Aurélian Guillory, David Kersulis, John Paxman, Patricia Philip and David Rollert.

Gardeners needed! as well as a knowledgeable person to supervise one of our spare custodians in the summer maintenance of the grounds. Do you have some spare time to weed and tidy up the flower beds? If so, please contact the office by phone at 514-485-9933 or by email.

Alison Hall appreciated all the support from UCM members for her 8th annual Perennial Sale fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Over \$2000 was raised despite the cold, damp day.

Apartment for rent

Bright and sunny renovated 6-1/2 upper apartment (interior staircase) with 38-foot long open-concept living room/dining room/kitchen, two closed bedrooms, a large study and two balconies. Located on a quiet street, steps from the du Collège metro (orange line). One off-road parking space available. Non-smoking, Unitarian-friendly occupants without pets preferred. \$1,350 per month, heated. Appliances negotiable. Available July 1.

Contact Nancy Kleins at 514-855-0005

TAKE NOTE!

Claremont Closed Sunday, June 5 for Tour de l'Île

Claremont Avenue will be closed between NDG Ave. and de Maisonneuve from 8:40 am until 1 pm for the annual Tour de l'Île de Montréal. This will require detours for many UCM members and friends. You can find information about other streets affected by calling 514-521-8356, Ext. 380.

Message from the Minister

Continued from page 1

Yet our hearts can be heavy
knowing that there is so much
yet to fix in this world,
to make it safe for our children,
to make it safe for ourselves.

Each day there is more to do,
a mountain of expectations to climb,
a valley of disappointments to cross,
sweetness to be tasted,
bitterness sharp on the tongue,
both quickly washed away
in the rising and falling of life,
of being human.

For one brief moment of silence,
may our sanctuary be home
to each one of us here,
a place to find our deepest dreams,
a place to come back to centre.

So may it be,

Diane

Nominating Committee Update

Slate of officers

for 2011-2012 as of May 25, 2011

Officers will be voted in at the Annual General Meeting on
Monday, June 6, 2011, 7 pm.

President: Marlo Turner-Ritchie

Vice President: Margo Ellis

Treasurer: Nancy Kleins

Secretary: Rodriguez (Rod) Solano-Quesnel

Past President: David Kersulis

Associational Affairs: Amber Dawn Bellemare

Building: John Dealy

Communications: vacant

Congregational Programs: vacant

Membership: Petrina Lee Poy

Religious Education: Susan Gyetvay

Social and Environmental Concerns: Christina Duvander

Worship: Deirdre McCay

Moderator: Margot Hovey

Nominating Committee:

David Kersulis (chair), Prue Rains, Petrina Lee Poy
(Membership chair), Sylvia Heuckendorff (Warden).

Taking Action in the World

Envoy Cym Gomery attends UU-UNO conference in NYC

Cym reports from the
UU-UNO (Unitarian
Universalist United Nations
Office) Intergenerational
Spring Seminar, **Empowering Women for a Better
World**, April 28 to 30, which she attended (along
with Senior Youth, Trevor Juhl) in her role as Envoy
for the Unitarian Church of Montreal. She says she
came away from the conference with the reinforced
conviction that the fate of the UN is strongly linked
to the fate of the world, and that there is much
more we could be doing in our congregation to
understand the UU-UNO and its work.

To receive a copy of Cym's full report please
contact her directly (*contact details on right*) or go to
<http://www.ucmtl.ca/gomeryuu.html>.



We are a Blue Ribbon Congregation!

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office
(UU-UNO) has awarded the Unitarian Church of
Montreal "**Blue Ribbon Congregation**" status for
2010-2011 because we've been so supportive of the
body that plays an advisory role to the United
Nations. A plaque and ribbon were presented at the
CUC meeting in Toronto on May 21.

The Unitarian Church of Montreal fulfilled the
following criteria:

- has an envoy to the UU-UNO
- holds an annual UN Sunday Service (October)
- gives the UU-UNO an annual budget line or
collection plate
- 5% of the congregation (or 15 individuals)
maintain UU-UNO membership

For more information about the UU-UNO and
becoming a UU-UNO member, please contact our
UU-UNO Envoy, Cym Gomery at 514-369-8933.

What's going on...

A Special First Friday Potluck and Lecture June 3, 6 pm in Phoenix Hall

If you missed **Rev. Diane Rollert's Confluence Lecture** in Toronto, you can hear her in Montreal. Bring a dish to share, or something to drink. It doesn't have to be elaborate! Lecture at 7 pm.

Answering Paul Bramadat: A Minister's Reflection on Post-secularism, Expanding Dialogues and the Value of Myths. Where do we stand in a world that is becoming increasingly religious and anti-religious at the same time?

Carmina Choir Concert Saturday, June 4, 8 pm UCM Sanctuary

Carmina Choir and guest performers invite you to "brush up your Shakespeare" with part of the program devoted to our own version of Cole Porter's 'Kiss me, Kate!' -- called "Very Tragical Mirth." Our concert also includes music by Verdi and Mendelssohn. Suggested donation \$10.
Info: 514 843 6497

Music for a June Afternoon If I had a Hammer - Fundraising Concert Sunday, June 5, 2 pm, Sanctuary

Please join us for a delightful Sunday afternoon concert with Vanessa Russell, cellist, Matthew Russell, trombonist and Sandra Hunt. Enjoy a varied selection of composers, and wine and cheese at intermission.

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 seniors, students and children under age 12 are free.

Contacts: Sandra at 514 484-5559
or Caroline at 514 485-3920.

Come Celebrate our UCM Community! Sunday, June 12, Pot Luck and Improv after the service

Potluck lunch and improv by the **Playback Theatre** troupe. Tell a story and have it played back to you on the spot! Children are welcome. Child care also available. Chef Shawn will be making his tantalizing tandoori chicken. Ice cream cones will be served for dessert. Please call Nancy Kleins at 514-855-0005 to let her know what finger food you would like to bring and share. **Sponsored by the Steering, Membership and Hospitality Committees** to thank you for your fellowship (foodie and otherwise!) in 2010/2011.

A Night of Indian Food and Music at the UCM Friday, June 17

Emma McLaughlin, now in Grade 7, is hosting an evening of delicious Indian food and music to raise money for a cultural exchange that her school, Royal West Academy, is doing with India. Half of the proceeds will go to Child Haven, which provides food, clothing, shelter and education to destitute children, women and seniors in Tibet, Nepal, Pakistan and India. The organization was started by Unitarians Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino.

Adults: \$20 Students: \$15

Contact: Emma McLaughlin 514-485-3633

Upcoming...

Sunday, July 10

North Hatley Unitarian annual picnic

Come for the service at 10am and the picnic afterwards. Bring food for your family, or food to share, frisbees and soccer balls, bathing suits, musical instruments. But most of all bring yourselves. Music will be provided by "JAMS" : Jessica Burpee (vocals, ukulele & bass), Ann Cascarano (vocals & mandolin), Margo Ellis (vocals & guitar), and Shawn Dohring (vocals & guitar) – all are members of UCM's Music Collective.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Parts in Peace Choir rehearsal

Mondays, 7:30 pm, optional potluck at 6:15 pm

Remember to bring a black binder and a pencil.

Contact: Sandra Hunt at 514-484-5559

In the fall, the first Parts in Peace get-together will be Thursday, September 8. Practices will be on Thursdays, instead of Mondays.

Play Group

Tuesday & Thursday, 10 am to noon

Last session is Thursday, June 9, to resume on September 8.

We welcome children under five on a drop-in basis accompanied by a (grand)parent or caregiver. Pack a snack for your child(ren). Coffee is provided. Open to all, whether church members or not. No charge but a donation of \$3/session per family is suggested.

Mindfulness Meditation Is finished for this season and will resume in the fall. Contact: Allen Lobo at 514-484-3014

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Vendredi, 3 juin à 16h30

Réunion du comité groupe francophone dans la salle Thomas. Bienvenue aux intéressé(e)s afin de préparer des activités en français.

Vendredi, 3 juin à 18h

Auberge Espagnole : Souper 'potluck' dans la salle Phoenix. Apportez votre plat favori à partager avec des ami(e)s cinéphiles.

Exploring the Intangible

Sunday, June 5, 12:30 pm, Darwin Room

Contact: Christine Rourke or 514-761-0669

Seeking the Sacred in Stories will resume on Tuesdays in the fall. See you then!

Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, June 8, 6 pm.

Annual potluck and planning session. Come with your food contribution, an appetite and suggestions for next year's book selections. RSVP Valerie at (514) 488-4670 for location, and to help menu planning. Contact: Kathy at 514-488-9608.

Family Picnic/BBQ

Saturday, June 11, afternoon

In Mont-St-Hilaire. See page 6 for details in English.

BBQ/repas-partage

Le samedi après-midi, 11 juin

Afin de finir l'année « RE » en beauté, les familles, bénévoles et employés du RE sont invités chez Elizabeth Charbonneau à Mont-Saint-Hilaire, qu'il pleuve ou qu'il fasse beau. On demande à chaque famille d'apporter un plat à partager, ainsi que les boissons pour votre famille et ce que vous voulez cuire sur le BBQ (le BBQ est fourni). Amenez votre costume de bain et une serviette si vous aimerez vous baigner dans la piscine.
Info : Elizabeth Charbonneau, silverpen@silverpen.ca ou 450-464-3597.

Social and Environmental Concerns Committee

Sunday, June 12, 12:15 pm, Thomas Room.

Monthly committee meeting. All are welcome!
For information, please contact Christina or call 514-630-7523.

Midday Meal and Music

Wednesday, June 15

Bridge or Scrabble at 10:15 am, lunch at 12:30 pm followed by music at 1:30 pm. We are changing the reservation process. If you attended the May lunch,

Need to Book Space for your Group?

If you now have a group which meets at UCM please reconfirm your space needs for Fall/Winter 2011 with Administrator Verna Litwack by email at office@ucmtl.ca or phone at 514-485-9933

If you would like to start a group, please check with the office for time/space availability as well as suggested guidelines.

Also remember that it is important for your group to have an official 'keyholding' member to allow more flexibility for those evenings when there is no custodian on the premises.

you do not need to register for the June lunch. Only people who cannot attend need to phone Ruth diGiovanni at 514-934-4956.

Visitors are always welcome.

If you have comments or suggestions you can contact Elizabeth Anglin at 514-937-4095 or email her.

Drumming Circle (third Thursday of every month)

June 16, 7:30 - 9 pm, Phoenix Hall

Open to all. If you have no drum, we can lend you one.

Contacts: Ann Beer at 514-426-1204 or Aldyth Harrison at 514-739-3830

Dimanche, 19 juin à 12h30

Réunion du comité francophone afin de préparer nos activités pour l'année 2011-2012. Un goûter sera servi.

OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

Gathering of Men

Camp Unirondack, Lowville, NY.

June 10, 11, 12

Men have been returning for this weekend for years. Optional workshops, hiking, canoeing, or just sitting by the boathouse and relaxing, shared cooking/clean-up chores, a talent show Saturday night to which you're invited but not required, to share music, poetry, storytelling, standup routines, shaggy-dog stories alone, or with others. Weather permitting, there's usually a bonfire afterwards, and often there's drumming. Mostly, there's the company of men much like yourself -- thoughtful, aware, and wondering. If you're interested, contact John Pike.

Notes from DRE Caroline Balderston Parry

The RE office will be winding down in June, although there will be child care throughout the summer. The Water Communion/ Ingathering service on Sunday, September 11, will be the first day of RE in the fall.

If you would like to hear more of Lowik's story from last month's newsletter, or to contribute to the 2011 Strong Kids Y Campaign, contact the RE Office for donation cards and envelopes.

Spirit Play Plans

Do You Have a Hero's Story?

Who are your personal heroes, alive or dead, from the recent or distant past, that you think all Unitarian Universalist children might be glad to know about? Who inspires you with wisdom or actions that might provide a model or lesson for our young learners here at UCM? Do you have an instructive anecdote about a minister you love and respect, like Charles Eddis or Diane Rollert, or a former congregational leader, like Diana Kleins or Roseann Millen -- or a current one, like Sue Montgomery, concerned about Haiti? Is there a story that you know about the founders of UU, or of other faiths, that you believe is seminal to your UU outlook on the world? Would you like to share this with our children?

We are searching for stories, and ask for your suggestions to help flesh out our plans for **Spirit Play** next year. More details follow, but first let me review a little bit of where our program is for you.

Spirit Play experience at UCM

In the spring of 2009, after the very successful continental Spirit Play conference which we hosted here, our Religious Education Committee and I decided to use Spirit Play as our approach with younger classes for a minimum of three years. Overall, we are pleased with the "culture" that has been developing -- our child-level classroom layouts for the Garden and Primers rooms, the quiet voices and bodies we cultivate, and the slightly longer class periods we have instituted, all contribute to a sense of sacred space and time. Within that, the stories told through props unpacked in a reverent manner, the use of wondering, open-ended questions about the story, and the art or "work" periods which follow the story, all give children ways to digest their own responses to the big life questions that are at the core of religion.

So far, in the two years of our experience using

Spirit Play methods and stories, we have grounded the program with the lessons that explain our seven UU Principles [known as "Promises" in child-friendly language] and the six UU Sources of our living tradition. In this current year, after a review of some "promise stories", we have expanded the children's exposure to the Sources. Next year we plan to focus in particular on our second Source which, in children's language is rendered as "Words and actions of wise and brave people that make us want to change things that are unjust or cruel, and to offer kindness and love instead." (*Betsy Hill Williams*)

Your stories for Spirit Play

This is where your stories come in! If you have an idea for us, we ask you to send in at least a short paragraph about the person or people you have in mind. Try to give us some dramatic, tell-able aspect of his or her life that could be the centre of the story.

You may create an entire script if you want, expand the explanation you have fully, or leave it to me to find a writer or editor for the whole, but please, give us and our children your thoughts! It could be there is already a written and/or illustrated story about this person: please draw it to our attention.

Ideally, send these special nominations soon, so the gestation and creation process gets plenty of time. I look forward to learning about a whole bevy of good people from all of YOU good people, and sharing their stories with our young ones!

End of year Family Pot-luck & BBQ

Saturday afternoon, June 11

To end the RE year, families, volunteers, and RE staff are invited to a BBQ potluck at Elizabeth Charbonneau's house in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, rain or shine.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, as well as drinks and food to BBQ for your family (BBQ provided). Bring your swimsuit and towel if you feel like going for a swim in the pool.

More details to follow in the RE weekly email, or contact Elizabeth Charbonneau at: silverpen@sympatico.ca or 450-464-3597.

Les activités de l'éducation religieuse en français

Le sortie à la cabane à sucre

Notre sortie à la cabane à sucre Makushan le 30 avril était un franc succès. Nos amis Métis, Archie et Pierrette avaient invité les familles « RE » et leurs amis à leur rassemblement annuel à Rigaud, ce qui complétait à merveille notre programme d'éducation religieuse en français sur le thème de la spiritualité amérindienne. Six familles, comprenant un total de 14 adultes et 7 enfants, ont eu beaucoup de plaisir en dégustant une expérience authentiquement québécoise, ainsi qu'une après-midi ensoleillée dans un endroit enchanteur à la campagne.

Notre série sur la spiritualité amérindienne

Nous avons complété les 10 leçons de notre série sur la spiritualité amérindienne, avec notre dernière leçon le dimanche, 15 mai. À l'automne, l'éducation religieuse se poursuivra, à raison d'environ un dimanche par mois, débutant le 16 octobre.

Nouveau tableau d'affichage

Vous pourriez voir le nouveau tableau d'affichage de l'éducation religieuse en français, près de l'ascenseur et des toilettes au rez-de-chaussée, inauguré avec un collage représentant ce que nous avons appris dans la série de leçons sur la spiritualité amérindienne depuis 18 mois.

L'avenir de l'éducation religieuse en français

Les regards tournés vers l'avenir de l'éducation religieuse en français, nous pensons à d'autres programmes pour compléter et étoffer ce que nous avons développé jusqu'à présent en français. Nous recherchons aussi d'autres sources de fonds pour cela.

Si vous aimez aider avec les classes d'éducation religieuse l'an prochain, ou si vous avez des idées en ce qui concerne des sources de fonds, veuillez contacter Elizabeth Charbonneau ou Hannelore Poncelet.

Il va y avoir une réunion du Comité francophone le 19 juin, et une autre pour tous ceux qui désirent aider avec le programme d'éducation religieuse en français, le 11 septembre, après le service.

Elizabeth Charbonneau

Low-cost Funerals Info Session

Bob Wright reports that the Information Session on low-cost funerals, mandates, wills and related topics, held on March 27 was very well attended. Funeral arrangements for about \$2500 are possible.

Apart from the advantages of having both a mandate and will drawn up by a notary, the advisability of a couple having separate bank accounts was made very clear. Both notary **Frank Catalano** (514-363-4130) and **Vincent Occhionero** from **Collins Clark MacGillivray White** (514 483-1870 Ext. 3360) can provide more information.

In addition, **Rev. Diane Rollert** has confidential forms to be completed for her files, specifying your wishes at a memorial service; **Bob Edgar** has information about bequests to the church; and **Sylvia Heuckendorff** (514-933-7601) can tell you about our Memorial Book.

Special thanks from McGill students

Under the supervision of archivist, Nancy Labonté, several teams of students from McGill University's Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) program worked on a system enabling full-text and subject searching which will make the church's rich historical resources accessible to scholars and amateur researchers.

Student volunteers Sarah Gibbs, Adria Seccareccia, Amanda Oliver, Lacy Lalonde and Nan Zhang contributed over 300 hours to the project and processed a variety of materials, from correspondence dating from the early 19th century to contemporary administrative records. They thank the church for its hospitality and the invaluable experience they've gained.

Hospitality Corner

Showcase chef for June: Shawn Dohring

Rita Izzi organized Hospitality's first-ever Easter breakfast of pancakes with a delicious berry coulis and bananas, juice and coffee before the service.

Carolyn St-Denis served her magnificent muffins on Mother's Day.

The Hospitality Committee is pleased to welcome **Prue Rains**. When asked why she joined, Prue said: "To thank you for supporting the art gallery opening and so that I can learn how to cook."

If you would like to work with a great group of foodie friends on the Hospitality Committee, contact Nancy Kleins 514-855-0005.

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Minister Emeritus: Reverend Charles Eddis
514-934-1535 eddis@ucmtl.ca

Church Administrator: Verna Litwack
514-485-9933 office@ucmtl.ca

Director of Religious Education (DRE):
Caroline Balderston Parry
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Office hours: Sundays til 2 pm, Tues. and Wed. 1-7pm

Assistant DRE: Victoria Schmidt
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Youth Coordinator: Curtis Murphy 514-481-0833
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Nicoline Guerrier 450-458-5860 nguerrier@hudson.net
Shoshanna Green 514-426-0843 shoshannag@gmail.com



To receive the electronic version of the newsletter by email, please send your request to Verna Litwack, office@ucmtl.ca

In the event of any concern related to sexual harassment, contact the minister or Carol Cumming Speirs (514-989-1397) or Jack Cobb (514-938-9617).

**Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, June 15**

Email submissions to: news@ucmtl.ca
Please include your name and phone number.

Steering Committee

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marlodiamond@yahoo.com

Vice-President:
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Moderator (Council):
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Council

Associational Affairs: Vacant

Building & Grounds: Vacant

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Congregational Programs: Vacant

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