

Celebrating 25 Years

Inside Emerson



How Emerson UU Chapel
works ~ who's who and
what's what
2009-2010



Everything you wanted to know about the
inner workings of Emerson UU Chapel.
Est. 9/9/84

Rev 1/30/10



About Us

Emerson UU Chapel...

is a vibrant and growing Unitarian Universalist congregation in west St. Louis County with many members and friends, all with various gifts they contribute to create a thriving spiritual home. Emerson UU Chapel is a proud member and supporter of our association of congregations (www.uua.org), our Central Midwest District of the UUA (www.cmwd-uua.org) and local cluster of congregations (St. Louis Area UU Council, SLAUUC).

Find Your Passion...

We have places in the Inner Workings of Emerson just for you. As with all congregations, each and every volunteer job in our congregation plays a significant part in the success and daily flow of life at Emerson UU Chapel. Because interests vary and there are so many different roles, you are encouraged to try more than one group. If you are interested in any particular group, please contact the committee chair or group convener listed.



Our Location...

Emerson Unitarian Universalist
Chapel
73 Strecker Road
Ellisville, MO 63011
636-256-7393
Located on the web at...
EmersonUUChapel.org

Our History...

began when a small group of UUs in the greater St. Louis area, with the (then) ministers of First Unitarian Church in St. Louis and Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, founded Emerson UU Chapel in 1984. In the early days, members and friends met in people's homes, in schools (including LaPetite Nursery and Logan Chiropractic College) and at Kol Am Congregation.

In the summer of 1992, we purchased this beautiful home and grounds. In the summer of 2002, the congregation completed construction on our wonderful new sanctuary and renovation of our original facility.

In 2005, we called our minister, the Reverend Krista Taves. We also hired a new Director of Religious Education, Lauren Lyerla to grow our education programming for our children and youth.

Our goals are to
maintain our intimate



and friendly environment, enhance fellowship through participation in chapel functions and social outreach projects and grow the number of new members and friends.



Committees and Groups

Program Committees are set by the board, usually with some level of funding (dependent upon the canvass outcome) and charged with providing program(s) for our community (e.g., Religious Education, Adult Education). There is room for additional program committees (e.g., Social Justice, Movie Night). Anyone is invited to share their interests and gifts with a program committee. Some of our committees are:

- Membership—Care and Concern (all current members)
- Membership—Welcoming (new members)
- Music
- Religious Education – Adult
- Religious Education – Youth
- Worship

Standing Committees support board work, talk with our minister or the president of the congregation, and may not be open to everyone. Often, these are elected or appointed positions: Nominating Committee (appointed by the past nominating committee), Finance Committee (appointed by the board), Human Resources (appointed by the board, currently this committee function is assumed by the board itself), Audit Committee (elected by the congregation), Committee on Ministry (for this specific committee, please talk with the minister; nominated by minister and appointed by the board), and Canvass Committee (you might want to talk with a past canvass chair, after you've talked with the president and treasurer or chair of finance committee). Support committees (often funded) support the work of our congregation. These are open to anyone with interests/skills or the desire to develop these skills.

- Building
- Aesthetics
- Grounds
- Focusing the Beacon (Long Range Planning)
- Marketing/PR

Reflections of clouds in our west sanctuary window



Fellowship Groups (or fun groups) are groups which anyone can attend (perhaps need not even "join") and they may have a programming function, but provide the members of the group affiliation with like-minded Emersonians. These are open to all—and all are encouraged to find friendship and fellowship in one or more fun groups!



- Movie Matinee
- Choir(s)
- Circle Supper
- Reader's Circle
- Garden Club
- Womyn's Web

Covenant Groups (small group ministry) are open to all who wish to share more deeply with a group of 8-10 fellow Emersonians. Once you have visited a group, you must decide whether to join it. These are open, but require a promise of participation and sharing (called a covenant).

- Spiritual Journey
- Emerson Men
- Wings (New UUs)
- Women's Groups

The Maags receiving the Unsung UU Award at District Assembly, 2003

Committees...

...in alphabetical order...

Aesthetics (Support Committee)
 Profile: The committee works on the aesthetics of the interior of the chapel building. This includes planning of exhibits and helping to keep the sanctuary looking presentable.
 Background: Provides framework to insure a presentable and aesthetically pleasing sanctuary.
 Co-chairs: Phyllis MacLaren and Marcy Saphian

Audit (Congregationally Elected Standing Committee)

Profile: Provides the annual audit of the Chapel's final financial statements, and other audits as necessary.

Background: The Audit Committee is elected annually by the congregation, and reports to the board (ultimately to the congregation) by mid-September the audit of the fiscal year-end financial statements (fiscal year ends June 30).

Chair: Open
audit@emersonuuchapel.org





Building (Support Committee)

Profile: Coordinates and facilitates maintenance of the Chapel.

Background: This committee is responsible for overseeing the general maintenance and upkeep of Emerson Chapel including interior maintenance and safety issues. The committee is responsible for setting and managing an annual budget to cover interior cleaning service, and miscellaneous repair and replacement of parts.

Chair: Stan Herman

building@emersonuuchapel.org

Tim Martin, Building Safety

Care and Concern (Program Committee)

Profile: Communication with members/friends of Emerson in times of need, offering assistance when possible as needed.

Background: This committee contacts individuals and friends as needed to offer care and support. Assists with monitoring phone messages for urgent care during times when the office is unstaffed.

Chair: Jo Myers, Mary Miller and Carol Jose.

membership@emersonuuchapel.org

Committee on Ministry (Standing Committee)

Profile: Supports the Ministry of the congregation.

Background: The committee meets monthly with the minister. Members are nominated to the board by the minister, and the board makes the appointment. The meetings of this committee are confidential.

Chair: Dorothy Newell

COM@emersonuuchapel.org

Finance (Appointed Board Committee)

Profile: Advises the Board on all financial matters affecting the church including fundraising, stewardship and annual canvass.

Background: The Finance Committee consists of members of the Chapel and the church Treasurer. The committee provides a budget review to the Board of Trustees. In addition, responsibilities include overseeing the annual operating canvass, and the grocery certificate sales. This committee also determines if other fundraisers are needed and recommends policy to the Board of Trustees regarding planned giving, endowments, memorials and other financial policy matters

Chair: Treasurer

finance@emersonuuchapel.org



Grounds (Support Committee)

Profile: Coordinates and facilitates maintenance of the Chapel property. See also Garden Club.

Background: This committee is responsible for overseeing the general maintenance and upkeep of Emerson Chapel including exterior maintenance as well as the surrounding grounds. The committee is responsible for setting and managing an annual budget to cover interior snow removal, lawn mowing, landscaping and maintenance of trees.

Sally Armontrout, Chair
Grounds@emersonuuchapel.org

Human Relations (Appointed Board Committee; Currently the Board acts as "Committee of the Whole" in this function)

Profile: Insures Emerson UU Chapel ministers to its staff by maintaining all salary/wages and benefits within guidelines established by our association.

Background: This committee oversees recommendations of pay and benefits to the board, as per the Guidelines of our Association.

Chair: President of Congregation
President@emersonuuchapel.org



South Courtyard,
Memorial Garden

Long Range Planning, called Focusing the Beam (Board Appointed Support Committee)

Profile: Considers and evaluates the long-term plans for the growth and development of Emerson Chapel including facility expansion and ministry.

Background: This committee is responsible for drafting and updating 5- and 10-year long-range plan for the Chapel. Periodic surveys and congregational meetings provide direction for this committee.

Chair: Shawna Lyonfields
FTB@emersonuuchapel.org



Marketing, Public Relations & Communication (Support Committee)

Profile: Responsible for all internal/external communication about the Chapel.

Background: Develops marketing and advertising efforts to attract potential members and increase the awareness among the public of programs and activities at Emerson Chapel. This includes our newsletter (editor@emersonuuchapel.org), and through our chair (see end) bulletins for Sunday Services, flyers, articles in local news journals

as well as selected paid advertising. In addition this committee maintains and updates our website: www.emersonUUchapel.org (webster@emersonuuchapel.org)
 Chair: Barb Brown
marketing@emersonuuchapel.org



Emerson Community

Music (Program Committee)
 Profile: Schedules musicians for performances on Sunday mornings during the regular church-year.
 Background: While our pianist accompanies us for our hymns, and occasionally provides extra music for our service, additional musicians are scheduled monthly to reflect our wide interest among our members.
 Co-Chairs: Phyllis MacLaren
musiccomm@emersonuuchapel.org

Nominating (Standing Committee)
 Profile: Recommends to the congregation candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees, the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee.
 Background: The committee generates a slate of nominees to fill open Board positions and the Audit Com-

mittee for the following church-year. The slate is voted on by voting members* at the Annual Congregational Meeting. [* a voting member is defined in our Bylaws and is someone who has signed our book 90-days prior to the meeting and has given a gift of record.]
 Chair: Susan Stafford
nominating@emersonuuchapel.org

Religious Education – Adult (Program Committee)
 Profile: Coordinates religious education programming on various topics of interest.
 Background: This committee plans programs that promote and encourage learning, questioning, and personal growth. These Programs are usually presented on Sunday mornings, or on evenings during the week.
 Co-chairs: Alan Schwab & Nancy Russell
adultre@emersonuuchapel.org

Religious Education – Children & Youth (Program Committee)
 Profile: Creates and supports religious education programming for children and youth.
 Background: This committee works with the Religious Education Director to determine and meet the religious education needs of the children. They choose curriculum, coordinate



teachers, and work with the Worship committee on intergenerational services.
 Chair: Laura Davidson
REChair@emersonuuchapel.org
 Youth Coordinator: Barb Brown
youthcoord@emersonuuchapel.org

Welcoming (Program Committee; formerly a part of Membership Committee)
 Profile: Greets Sunday morning guests and helps them find meaningful connections to Emerson Chapel.
 Background: This committee maintains and staffs our guest table, works with our minister to plan and facilitate classes and social events for newcomers, and coordinates new member ceremonies. Committee members work closely with our minister to guide newcomers on their paths to membership.
 Chair: Jeff Gidday & Marilyn Ortinau
Welcome@emersonuuchapel.org

Worship (Program Committee)
 Profile: Provides coordination and leadership in the planning and presentation of all services.
 Background: Committee members identify and contact speakers, liturgists, and musicians necessary for each service and work with the Religious Education Committee to plan intergenerational programs.
 Chair: Claudia Hall
worship@emersonuuchapel.org



Emerson Choir

Fellowship & Fun

These groups are open to all, and everyone at Emerson is encouraged to join in. If you are unsure about whom to contact, see anyone with a yellow name tag on Sunday morning, or contact our minister or our chapel office.

Choir
 Profile: Provides choir music to our congregation about once a month. There are two different groups, in addition to any music provided by our children. Additionally, this is where the organization of those helping our congregation sing morning hymns.

Emerson Singers
 Background: These fellowship groups share ministry through their music and fun.
 Chair/Director: Camille Herman
music@emersonuuchapel.org
 Song Leaders and Walden Pond
 Chair/Director: Barb Brown
Walden@emersonuuchapel.org

Circle Suppers
 Profile: Fosters friendship and fellowship among members through a series of rotating dinners in members' homes.

Background: These popular dinners consist of groups of 8–10 people who meet 4-5 times during the church year at each other's homes or in the hearth room at the chapel. The host supplies the main course, other attendees bring the salad, desserts etc., and all contribute to a lively conversation. A great opportunity to meet new friends or refresh current friendships!

Chair /Coordinator: Susan Stafford
circle@emersonuuchapel.org
Emerson Band

Profile: A small group of musicians who bring their musical gifts on Sunday mornings.

Background: This group plays in worship about once a month. There is no chair or convener. If you are interested, please contact a member of the band, or our minister.

Band Leader: Kevin Horth
Garden Club

Profile: A group which shares its love of all things green, brown and other living things.

Background: This group is responsible for some of the gardens around Emerson. Contact Grounds Chair for more information about when they meet, as summer heat may cause changes to meeting times or days.

Chair: Sally Armontrout
grounds@emersonuuchapel.org

Movie Matinee

Profile: An organized daytime opportunity to view and discuss current movies.

Background: The group meets 15 minutes prior to the selected show the first Wednesday of every month. Following the movie, a discussion takes place at a nearby restaurant over drinks and snacks.

Co-Chairs: Janie Fowler & Pat Baker
movie@emersonuuchapel.org

Reader's Circle

Profile: Provides a forum for discussion and interpretation of selected books.

Background: Book lovers meet monthly at the chapel, to share ideas and opinions about a pre-selected book. Group members choose the selections several months in advance. Selections have included modern literary fiction, memoirs, and classics.

Convener: Pam Foresman
reads@emersonuuchapel.org

Womyn's Web

Profile: Promotion of fellowship and friendship among the women of the church.

Background: This group meets the first Monday of every month home to embrace and honor the feminine spirit while providing a sounding board for ideas and concerns in an informal setting. Two annual retreats are also planned—a winter pajama party and a summer retreat.

Convener: Susan Gottlieb
womyn@emersonuuchapel.org

Covenant Groups

Profile: Covenant groups are small, supportive discussion groups open to everyone at Emerson.

Background: We call them "Covenant Groups" because the central feature of each group is the promise members make to one another to build trust, share openly, and care for one another in the highs and lows of our individual lives. The groups are made up of 6-12 people, who commit to meeting once or twice a month – some at Emerson (E), some in member's homes or other places (O). They are opportunities for spiritual deepening and building friendships. Some groups focus on study topics and reflections; others get out and do things!

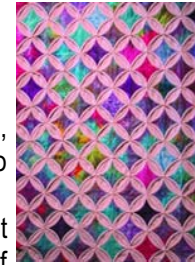


Explore one or more of the current groups, or talk to Rev. Krista Taves about starting a new one.

If no email contact is provided below, contact the chapel office to find the CG convener email our Office Administer office@emersonuuchapel.org.

Living the Journey Covenant Groups

In our Living the Journey Covenant Groups, discussion begins with a reading that will bring up some topic of



One of two quilts hanging in our sanctuary, designed by member Bette Elmore and made by members of the congregation

spiritual significance, and then it will go where it will! The topics will bring up different religious viewpoints, and give each person a chance to talk about their personal response to that topic. Each group meets with a facilitator who keeps the discussion loosely focused, and pays attention to building group trust and caring. To contact a facilitator for ANY group, please contact our chapel administrator office@emersonuuchapel.org

- Living the Journey at Emerson will meet Tuesdays (check the web calendar for which Tuesdays) at 6:30 at the Chapel.

- Unitarian Universalist Wings meets once a month in September through May. and will offer participants the opportunity to explore more deeply Unitarian Universalism and their own expressions and experiences of spirituality. For more information, contact our Minister, who will be leading this CG.

Topical Covenant Groups

Emerson's other covenant groups use the same general format as the Living the Journey Covenant Groups, but the subject matter is more defined.

Topic: Men

This group is open to all men members and friends of our chapel. The group meets at Emerson from 7-9:00 P on 1st & 3rd WED.

Topic: Women

●M&Ms (Mindful Midlifers) has grown! This group has divided and now meets according to your home location (the division is east or west of Clarkson Road). Both meet at members' homes from 7:00-9:00 P on 2nd & 4th MON. (Only 2nd MON In May) And, quarterly, both groups will meet at Emerson for a joint meeting. (Contact facilitators Pam Foresman (west) or Linda Giddy (east) for more information, or, as always, our Minister.)

●Wise Women covenant group meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:30 pm at members' homes. Please contact Nancy Russell for more information.



Now that you've read all about us,
Come in and join the fun!



Want to get involved? Need a place to start?

If you have an interest in any group mentioned, please feel free to talk with our minister, our board president, vice president or VP-elect, who all can help point you in the right direction. Are you still not sure whom to contact?

Send an email to program@emersonuuchapel.org and our current vice president, who chairs the program council, will be happy to assist you.



Emerson UU Chapel

To contact the following Emerson staff, board members, or committee chairs, click on these addresses or copy them into your e-mail address line. Please see next page for the Board of Trustees.

Email Contacts at a Glance
Simply follow each with
@emersonuuchapel.org

Leadership

Minister@

DRE@

Office@

President@

Secretary@

Treasurer@

Office@

Program@

Webster@ or Webmaster@

Newsletter@

Program Committees

Program@ for Program Council
Chair (VP of the Board)

REChair@ for Children's
Religious Education

AdultRE@ for Adult's
Religious Education

youthcoord@ High School

Madrigal@

Membership:

Welcome@

CareandConcern@

Circle@ (Circle Suppers)

MusicComm@

Worship@

Standing & Support Committees

Audit@

Building@

cleaning@

Grounds@

Finance@

AsstTreas@ for AsstTreasurer

FTB@ for Long Range Planning

Marketing@ for Marketing/PR and

Communications

Spring@ for spring fundraiser

Madrigal@ for Madrigal Dinner

(December)

COM@ Committee on

Ministry

Covenant Groups

men@

All other covenant groups are contacted by emailing either the office or minister

Fun Groups

Readers@

Womyn@

Movie@

MusicComm@

Grounds@ for Garden Club

Circle@

Sing@ or Walden@

Board of Trustees

If elected to board, the number following the person's name is their term expiration on the 30th of June of that year

President

Camille Herman ('11)
president@emersonuuchapel.org

Minister

Rev. Krista Taves
minister@emersonuuchapel.org

Vice President and Program Council Chair

Nancy Russell ('10)
program@emersonuuchapel.org

President-elect

Jim Lyonfields ('12)

Vice-President-elect

Marilyn Ortinau ('12)

Secretary

Rebecca Langrall ('10)
secretary@emersonuuchapel.org

Treasurer

Melissa Grizzle ('12)
treasurer@emersonuuchapel.org

Members-at-Large

Larry Foresman ('11)
Charlie Lewis ('10)



Emerson Governance

Our chapel is governed by its members, who in turn elect a board of trustees defined in our bylaws. Additionally, the board and congregation entrusts its programming and its ministry to paid and volunteer staff through its program council and program committees. Our bylaws and charter with the State of MO are posted on our website (see About > Members & Board).

A program council is entrusted to carry out, make decisions about, and provides support for the programming which the congregation is supporting and requesting. Additionally, to insure that programming doesn't conflict with major events occurring at our chapel, calendaring takes place. At Emerson, our Vice President is charged with chairing this oversight group.

Committees which attend program council:

- Religious Education-Children
- Religious Education-Adult
- Madrigal and other fundraising events sponsored by Emerson (Book Sale, Yard Sale, etc)
- Welcome
- Care and Concern
- Worship/Music
- Community Service

And, to support our work and ministry:

- Marketing/PR
- Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer



UU Governance

Our chapel is a member of our local cluster of UU congregations (St. Louis Area UU Council). Additionally, we are a member of the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together. The Association's polity is congregational; Association decisions are made by congregational delegates in business sessions at the annual General Assembly.

The UUA is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of District Trustees (elected by congregations in the various Districts), and at-large Trustees, (elected by congregational delegates to the General Assembly). The Board of Trustees meets quarterly.

For more information about our association and its governance, please point your browser to www.uua.org.



Living Our Faith at Emerson

Each month, the generous members and friends of Emerson UU Chapel support outreach partners who we believe live our beliefs in the world. We do two things which support services outside our own doors:

- We bring food to support a food pantry in St. Louis County, Circle of Concern. We put together work parties as we can. See our website or newsletter for collection items for the Wheel Barrow in the vestibule. PB&J is always welcome!
- We give 50% of our Sunday collections all but one Sunday each month to one of our partners.

Living Our Faith through Outreach Partners

- Fortress Outreach (July)
- MO Healthcare for All (August)
- Habitat for Humanity (September)
- Circle of Concern, as well as food given weekly (October)
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (November)
- 100 Neediest Cases (December)
- Faith Aloud (January)
- Fortress Outreach (February)
- Missourians Against the Death Penalty (March)
- PROMO an advocacy organization for LGBT rights (April)
- Heifer International (May)



- Unitarian Universalist Assn Project (June) chosen for General Assembly.
- Using our Building for your Family's Life Passages**

Living Our Faith Internally

In addition to Sunday service and Covenant Groups (Small Group Ministry programs), and support by our Care and Concern group and our minister, Rev. Krista Taves, we also support our friends and members through a dedicated collection one Sunday each month, and Christmas Eve Service, to help directly those in our community who need direct assistance, please see our minister.



What are "Life Passages"?

- Marriage, union or other commitment or re-commitment ceremony between two individuals
- Child dedication or naming ceremony
- Memorial or funeral service

- Significant life passage (75th or greater birthday celebration, 50th or greater wedding anniversary)
- Retirement parties
- Coming of age events (Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Bridging Ceremonies, Coming of Age, etc.)
- Any other event must be approved by the Board of the Chapel.

Who can use our building?

All members and friends may use our building for life passages. Others may rent our spaces and information is available on our website. Members may rent our building for uses other than life passages. All use of the building is board approved. Check our website for more information, including our contract. www.emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

73 Strecker Road, Ellisville, MO 63011

636-256-7393

visit our website at

www.EmersonUUChapel.org

Emerson Staff

All staff may be reached by phone at 636-256-7393.

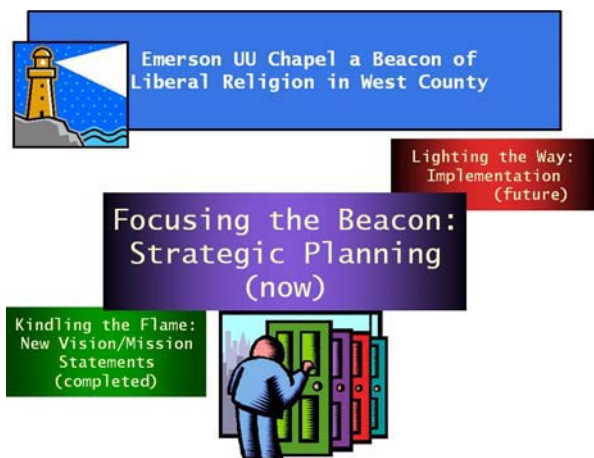
Individual email addresses are listed.

Chapel Minister
Rev. Krista Taves
minister@emersonuuchapel.org

Director of Religious Education
Lauren Lyerla
dre@emersonuuchapel.org

Chapel Administrator
Randy Whitman
office@emersonuuchapel.org

Pianist
Ron McGowan, Accompanist
music@emersonuuchapel.org



Long Range Planning: Focusing the Beacon

We are in the middle portion of a long range planning process. This portion, called Focusing the Beacon, will conclude in the Fall. Please see previously passed Vision/Mission statements on our website.

Join Us for Sunday Service and Religious Education

Service at 10-11 A Year-round

Religious Education September—May

Children's RE 11: 15 A -12:15 P and Adult's RE 11:30 A—12:15 P

For other celebrations and services, please see our website

www.emersonuuchapel.org

Emerson UU Chapel is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, Central Midwest District of the UUA, and the St. Louis Area Council of the CMwD.

