

Feb. Membership committee report to Coordinating Council:

At the February meeting of the Membership Committee, we reviewed the recent Welcoming Social for Newcomers, members and friends of BUU. We decided to rebrand the event, held at least twice a year, to Connections, as that seemed the overall value of the experience for all who attended this time and in past gatherings.

We explored expanding ways to connect with newcomers and each other in a more intimate way on Sunday mornings after coffee and will try Coffee in the Library with BUU friends for the next several weeks. Stay tuned...

We spent time reviewing what we knew about the February 17th What's It All About? orientation morning, again for newcomers, and for anyone who is curious to learn more about UUA, UU history, and the context for the UU Liberal Religion. Rev Igne has presented twice and will lead this session. We explored ideas for future Orientation opportunities that might be enriched by some of our BUU members. You'll be hearing from us.

There are always minutia that need attention, light for the visitor's table, folders, communication among team members around the newcomers and how to greet and connect with them, etc, that don't merit attention from the CC but do take time/energy from Team members.

Finally, we had a first conversion after some of us had reviewed three 15-minute videos focused on how to retain newcomers and integrate them into the community. Practical steps, some of which we do well at BUU, and some we could grow into. Most importantly, it seemed the presenting congregation, in the words of its minister, had adopted Welcoming as a Spiritual Practice that touches every aspect of how we show up in our congregation, our programming and our personal connections. An identity and commitment and practice that goes well beyond what we do well on Sunday mornings. Food for thought here in packaged form, ready for an individual congregation to reflect up and choose options that might enhance our community's stability and leadership interest.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Macauley