

PCD Growth Committee

Annual Report, Spring, 2008

Chair: Rev. Grace Simons, Modesto

Members:, Mary Helen Doherty, Sacramento Community Church; Rev Laura Horton-Ludwig, Stockton; Rev. Victoria Ingram, Los Gatos, Bob Jones, Napa; Margaret Sequeira, Kensington; Rev. Greg Stewart, San Francisco; Karen Urbano, Hayward; plus Kären Akerman, Santa Cruz/Aptos; Ed Massey, San Jose; Mary Ellen Morgan, and Dave Vallerga, Redwood City, representing the PCD Board.

Ex officio: Cilla Raughley, District Executive

Your PCD Growth Committee continues its efforts to encourage the growth of Unitarian Universalism in our region. People all across our district are seeking a liberal religious path and the personal acceptance and transformation we offer. We know that our faith has much to offer our communities and our culture, especially in times when strident voices claim that only one path toward goodness and truth exists. Our principles guide us in valuing diversity, finding many sources of truth and inspiration, and affirming compassion and interconnection. Our congregations transform lives. We are much needed.

This year, we have seen more than usual change in Growth Committee membership, and the group is larger than in recent years. We've worked hard to help our new members develop familiarity with their roles and with the growth resources available in the Pacific Central District. We welcome PCD UUs who are committed to work with our congregations to promote the spread of Unitarian Universalism in our region.

The committee's work has continued to reach out to PCD congregational leaders and to our ministers. **Our liaison system** now communicates with nearly all of our churches and fellowships. Each year, as our membership changes, liaison assignments change. As committee members become familiar with "their" congregations and congregational leaders they are able to act as a friend and resource in congregational efforts to grow. Committee members are knowledgeable about growth-related strategies and resources, so they are able to offer advice – or find someone who can. This year's **growth conference**, featuring the Rev. Larry Peers, was well received, though attendance was smaller than last year.

The Growth Committee also administers **several grant programs**. Grants range in size from \$500 or less (PCD Extension Grants) to Chalice Lighter grants, which have sometimes surpassed the \$15,000 mark. The first Chalice Lighter grant for this year went to support our Napa congregation with efforts to expand their reach into the surrounding communities. Our Reno congregation received the second grant for a project to continue and expand their marketing efforts. We are happy to announce that the year's spring Chalice Lighter appeal will support

Many thanks go to all our PCD Chalice

Lighters, who have responded so generously that we are now often able to fund larger projects than ever or actually support two projects. What a difference we are making for our congregations!

This year, the committee awarded District Growth Grants for public relations efforts linked with the Bay Area Marketing Campaign to “commuter congregations” – Sacramento Community Church and to a joint project from our Modesto and Stockton congregations. A small marketing grant also went to our Mendocino Fellowship.

We continue our efforts to strengthen the Chalice Lighter program. Our goal is “**One Out of Two at Ten.**” It’s ambitious – but both our Chico and Napa congregations have surpassed the 50% mark. Reaching this goal in all our congregations will open up whole new possibilities for Chalice Lighter projects and programs. Over the past seven years, **twenty of our congregations and the Regional Marketing Group** have received Chalice Lighter grants. We are always glad to see new proposals designed for a congregation’s particular needs and context. Congregations should file an “Intent to Apply” form in advance. The Committee liaison will then work with leaders to refine the proposal. Deadlines are available from the PCD Office.

In an effort to come fully into the 21st century, we are asking that all applications be submitted electronically. Forms are available from the PCD office or from the chair, Rev. Grace Simons (minister@stanuu.org).

If you are interested in joining with other dedicated UUs to encourage the spread of our faith, we hope you will consider joining the PCD Growth Committee. Talk with any of the current members.

Ever in hope,

Grace

Rev. Grace Simons, chair
PCD Growth Committee