

# **UUMF Annual Report for the Year June 2023 - May 2024**

The Unitarian Universalist Men's Fellowship (UUMF) is an affiliated group of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

## **UUMF Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to support men in the quest for lives of compassion, integrity, responsibility, and balance. We are a caring, intentionally diverse brotherhood, committed to social justice and offering opportunities for intimate sharing, personal growth and spiritual deepening. Through mutually supportive work, our fellowship seeks to help men in their development as sons, fathers, brothers, companions and members of society.

## **UUMF Membership:**

UUMF is an active and vital organization of not only men who are members and friends of FUU and also men who are part of our greater community who honor our values and who aspire to do men's work. We welcome all straight, gay and trans, who self-identify as male.

## **UUMF Activities:**

- Regular "Fourth Monday" meetings which include a potluck and a discussion on a topic pertinent to men..
- Special "Fourth Monday" meetings which include:
  - An annual Yule Log meeting in January to look back on the previous year and to acknowledge the men who have departed.
  - A Welcoming Banquet in February in Bard Hall to spread the good news of the Men's Fellowship.
  - Three summer barbecue picnics, usually at Morley Field in Balboa Park.
- UUMF sponsors Men's Support Groups, of five to eight men, that meet at least twice a month in member's homes, on Zoom or at church. Currently, there are about 60 men actively participating in fourteen such groups.
- Two Major Men's Renewals. Note, these are called "Renewals" rather than "Retreats" because we are not retreating from our community. Our Fall Renewal is held in Julian, CA and our Spring Renewal is held at Camp deBenneville Pines. Attendance for the Fall Renewal is mainly from the immediate San Diego area and it draws about 30-45 participants. The Spring Renewal draws from a wider area. This year we had 73 participants including over 20 first time participants.<sup>1</sup>
- Renewal Planning: Our planning sessions are a significant collaborative process with brainstorming and sharing to settle on a theme and key questions and to hammer out the details of hosting our Renewals . They are held both in person and over Zoom and they are open to all interested men.
- Our steering committee meetings are open to all members of the UUMF.

- The UUMF patio table serves as a great place to greet new visitors to FUU and to let them know about our programs. Our intention is to greet and welcome men every Sunday at the Hillcrest Campus.
- Our mailing list of approximately 100 local men serves as the primary communication link to the fellowship.
- Our full mailing list for activities such as our Spring Renewal at Camp deBenneville Pines has about 390 men who have direct connections with FUU or who have participated in UUMF sponsored events such as our Bi-Annual Renewals.

### **UUMF Integration with First UU Outcome Statements:**

The mission and purpose integrates well with the many of the stated outcomes of First UU. Specifically:

- We are an intentionally diverse, multicultural and welcoming community where gifts can be discovered, nurtured, and shared.
- We provide programs that appeal to our hearts, minds and values of our members.
- We maintain respectful, caring safe spaces which foster individual and group growth in spirit, knowledge, compassion and service.
- We are generous with our resources of time, talents and treasures to First UU and to others in need.
- We recognize the importance of mutual support.
- We cherish the compassionate relationships that can be forged through a fellowship of men.
- We are committed to care for and support each other in times of joy and sorrow.

### **Support of our Strategic Plan:**

As a caring, inclusive community, the UUMF compliments the overall work of First UU to provide welcoming opportunities for socialization and service. Our annual banquet and summer picnics often serve as a first introduction to our fellowship of men.

We have done work projects to maintain and improve the Hillcrest campus and to help Camp deBenneville Pine. We have several men who support the work at the South Bay Food Pantry. We also provide peer support through our men's support groups. Also, UUMF members have been strong financial supporters of FUU and Camp de Benneville Pines.

The UUMF supports the work of the Welcoming Committee by having our UUMF Table on the patio after services and by greeting as many men as possible.

During our Renewals, we form into small "Kinship Groups" to facilitate confidential, respectful listening and sharing. This means that we have a cadre of experienced

Kinship Leaders, many of whom volunteered as Listening Circle Facilitators, who can be asked to assist the ministerial team when needed.

The UUMF receives support through the administrative staff and the use of church facilities without cost but the UUMF does not receive any funds.

### **UUMF Goals for the next one to three years:**

- To actively solicit suggestions and new ideas from younger men.
- To welcome younger men into leadership positions.
- To work with the FUU Young Adult Coordinator to see how we as “elders” can meet the needs of younger men.
- To continue outreach to other UU men in the San Diego cluster and encourage them to participate in UUMF activities.
- To continue to assist other communities outside of the San Diego area when they seek to start or expand a men’s fellowship in their community.

### **UUMF Leadership:**

- The current Co-Conveners for the Men’s Fellowship are Chris Guelich and Les Vivian.
- The steering committee, which is open to all men, includes Travis Anderson, Denny Braun, Mike Dorfi, Ron Evans, Andy French, Chris Guelich, Brandon Hall, John Keasler, Armin Kuhlman, Josh Ludtke, Neal Resch, Bob Riger, Derek Staats, Les Vivian and Peter Woodbury.
- Our Treasurer is Peter Woodbury.
- The Mens’ Support Groups are organized by Armin Kuhlman.
- The UUMF Patio Welcome Table is maintained by Mike Dorfi.
- The 4th Monday meetings are coordinated by Les Vivian with technical support from Andy French.
- Our 2023 Spring and 2024 Fall Renewals were planned by a large planning committee and led by Mike Dorfi, Andy French, Chris Guelich and Brandon Hall, registrar.

Report submitted 05/16/2024  
by Les Vivian, Co-Convener

# UUMF Spring 2024 Renewal Camp deBenneville Pines

