



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELLSWORTH

The NUUS

MARCH 2025 VOLUME 57, NO. 3

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

AND CHOOSE TO BE A PART OF UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS
IN OUR UUCE COMMUNITY

COME SING IN THE CHOIR

with Meg O'Dell Directing!

Sundays, March 9 and 23 at 9am

Sing in worship with choir on March 23!

Reach out to Tori Bell, toribell14@gmail.com,

if you want to receive choir emails.

COME TO RE CLASS this Month

*with Charles Betancourt & Jess Hill, RE
Assistant!*

Sundays, March 9 & 16, 10:30am

(Time for All Ages in worship, then Religious
Exploration Classes!)

Contact Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator,
Uuce.re@gmail.com, for more info! We'd love to
get to know your kiddos!

JOIN THE WOMEN'S DRUMMING CIRCLE

Two Saturdays: March 8 & 22

from 1-2:30pm in the UUCE Sanctuary

Contact Mary Murray (marydmurray@comcast.net)
to learn more & all are welcome!

A MONTHLY ADVENTURE IN

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!

In the Community Room at UUCE

Thursday, March 27, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

A JOYFUL DAY OF BEING IN LOVING

COMMUNITY Saturday, March 29

In-person at UUCE!

Details about this event are being dreamed up now
and more info will be forth-coming.

In brief, we're wanting anyone and everyone
who's feeling vulnerable, fearful or isolated
to come and be part of this day of connecting
with others in fun & soul-nourishing ways!

We know Joy is Resistance and living well
with new friends and old is part of what helps us
stay open-hearted, strong and engaged in justice
and making more compassion in the world!



trust

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, MAR 2, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
...We see you and we're here with you
through this rollercoaster of a year

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

3rd Quarter Plate Split to benefit Maine Multicultural Center
Justice Ministry Conversation 12-1:30pm in sanctuary & on ZOOM
UU Wellspring Class from 2-4pm

3/02 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

This month in worship, we explore the theme of TRUST. Reverend Jen Bailey of the Faith Matters Network has said "Social change happens at the speed of relationships. And relationships move at the speed of trust." Given that we live in a time of eroding trust – think current threats to our democracy!—this service asks: What would it take to cultivate a speed of trust in our lives and communities?

SUNDAY, MAR 9, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Train Yourself to Always Show Up

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Marta Riemant, Worship Associate

UUCE Choir Practice at 9am
RE today
RE Committee Meeting from 12-1:30pm in person at church

3/09 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

It may seem counter-intuitive and risky, sometimes too risky to try, but still, when our hearts are broken open by grief or loss or loneliness, the act of showing up and entrusting our pain to our community helps. In this sermon and service, we'll explore how it's both an expression of love and a sacred responsibility when we turn to another person in their time of struggle or anguish and say we'll stay and see you with relentless love. What does that look like in community and why does it matter?

SUNDAY, MAR 16, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Inner Voices

Rev. Mark W. Harris, Guest Worship Leader
Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

RE today

2/16 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

Do you ever talk out loud to yourself about what decisions need to be made in your life? I seem to do this most frequently when I am playing cards with my family, and talk to myself about which card to play. What should I do? Do we trust our inner voices to do the right thing?

Rev. Mark W. Harris is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister who lives in Owls Head. He is minister emeritus of the First Parish of Watertown, MA, where he and his wife, the Rev. Andrea Greenwood, both served in one capacity or another (minister, co-minister, spouse, etc.) for nearly thirty years.

SUNDAY, MAR 23, 2025

Multi-Platform Multigenerational Worship at 10:30am

...another spring to woo loss into song

Rev. Sara Hayman & Charles Betancourt,
Worship Leaders

3/23 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
[https://uuma.zoom.us/
j/5157959121?omn=97126018386](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386)
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

UUCE Choir Practice at 9am & sing in worship

Just a few days after the Spring Equinox, in worship today we'll listen for the wisdom teachings of this turning season— that life does return and rebirth is real; that growth and change begin slowly and often underground; that loss and love at work in us do sometimes become song, especially when we're making room to listen and dare to trust more and let go.

SUNDAY, MAR 30, 2025

Multi-Platform Multigenerational Worship at 10:30am

Hearing & Holding Hard Stories

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Marta Rieman, Worship Associate

3/30 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: [https://uuma.zoom.us/
j/5157959121?omn=97126018386](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386)
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

In worship today, Rev. Sara & Marta Rieman share stories about their respective experiences making civil rights pilgrimages to the South last year. How does engaging “hard” stories and truths about our country’s history help us to grow and change as individuals and as a country? How can we, as a UU faith community committed to anti-racism, become more active learners engaged in reconciliation, healing and rebuilding trust among and between us.



**Celebrating the sacred, we
gather in loving community
to nourish souls and live
justice into the world.**

MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Happy March, Beloveds and welcome to this month's NUUS!

I wonder if you can feel the beginning of the change of the season – more birdsong in the mornings and light lingering outside longer, now until 5:30pm?! After missing two in-person worship services due to snow in February, it's a relief to feel spring beginning to arrive.

Below is a new favorite poem of mine by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, I have so many! This poem speaks to the longing I feel to be part of strengthening loving-kindness and democracy building in our hurting country and world. May we keep calling to each other to embody more courage and accountable, loving actions rooted in community with others that help us create the world we want to live in here and now. We need you, and each other, and all of us.

Yours, in our shared ministries centered in love,

Rev. Sara



“In a Dangerous Time,”

by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

I think of the bones
of the unsung rib cage,
how they protect
the heart. How bone,
too, is living, how it constantly
renews and remakes itself.
I think of how ribs engage

with other ribs
to expand, to contract,
and because they do
their solid work,
they allow the heart to float.
This is what I want to do:
to be a rib in this body

of our country,
to make a safe space for love.
There is so much now
that needs protection.
I want to be that flexible,
that committed to what's vital,
that unwilling to yield.



UUCE JUSTICE MINISTRY



Help us bend the arc of justice! UUCE'S Justice Ministry invites all to join us to respond to this challenging moment and to live our faith into the world. Collectively, we can take a stand to promote justice, equity, acceptance, love, freedom and rights for all people.



Sat. 3/1. 16 Counties For Courage at Ellsworth City Hall. Peaceful demonstrations will be held statewide this weekend in support of Governor Mills' resistance to unconstitutional authoritarian threats and in opposition to the Trump administration's recent actions harming Mainers from farmers to federal workers. Faith and community leaders will speak, and there will be peacekeepers. Bring your voices, your signs, and your energy! FMI [Facebook Event Page](#)

Sun. 3/2. UUCE Justice Ministry Gathering 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This week's gathering will be breaking into small groups in order to address what actions we can take in direct aid, protecting people, protecting our democracy and building community. There will be an update about a recent UUA call on Sanctuary. We hope you'll join us.

Help stop voter suppression. A number of bills are in the works for the Maine 132nd Legislature to restrict

voting rights. Check out the [Advocacy Day resources](#) from the League of Women Voters with talking points for submitting testimony and communicating with your legislators.

Stay updated! Check out the UUCE Justice Ministry bulletin boards and literature rack in the Community Room. The Justice Ministry is working to provide ongoing information about different justice working organizations in Maine, actions and events, and valuable information, ways to plug into various activities. Join our **Justice Ministry Signal group chat** where we share more updates and ongoing conversation. Contact Barb Acosta, lanikai75@pm.me if you'd like an invitation to the Signal group chat.

If you want to share information or have a question, at this time, reach out to Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com or 207-347-9008, who will make sure someone on the Justice Ministry Planning Team will respond to you.



UUA Joins Lawsuit Against Trump Immigration Policy

The Unitarian Universalist Association joined more than two dozen Christian and Jewish religious denominations and associations on February 11 in filing a lawsuit against the Trump Administration's new policy that allows immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement actions at houses of worship.

Filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., the case, Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al., was filed on behalf of the religious organizations by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University Law Center.

"As Unitarian Universalists, fighting for justice and liberation for all people is at the heart of our faith tradition, which recognizes the spark of the divine inherent in every person," said UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald. "Our sacred spaces must continue to offer sanctuary to those who face oppression, violence, or alienation, including immigrant communities."

[Access the full story at uuworld.org.](https://uuworld.org)



IT'S TOMORROW NIGHT! SEE YOU ON ZOOM

march into spring!

Goods & Services Auction

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Online Silent Auction ends at 5 pm

Live Zoom Auction begins at 6 pm

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION runs February 8-March 1

<https://auctria.events/MarchAuction>

LIVE ZOOM AUCTION

Zoom link for live auction

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97613871497>

online
catalog
access



Join us and bid on African Safari packages, week-stay at oceanfront cottage, massages, dinners, handiman services, and more!

For information email: emmaus117@gmail.com or eatrue9@gmail.com



Hello Congregants and Friends, **RE**

Two months down, 10 months to go. Starting off our third month of 2025 with the Soul Matters theme of “The Practice Of Trust”.

What is trust to you? Is it something that you can easily quantify or is it something that is more nuanced and drawn out? What about the concept of trust are we hoping to learn during these upcoming trying times?

As I write these questions I am hoping that I may get answers to them from you, the congregation of this organization I have the privilege of working both for and with. Although our beautiful church building was dedicated in 1973 the liberal religious beliefs of the faith in this congregation began back in 1835. 190 years of building love and trust together.

We are entering a time in our lives that we are going to need to pull on the trust and love that has been being built by each person that has come to

our community. The spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions is one of the six sources that UUs pull their faith from. Paganism, one of those Earth-centered traditions, uses the phrase “In Perfect Love and Perfect Trust”. This phrase carries weight to congregational experience and this is how congregants should enter in covenant with each other. This phrase and attitude is what our church has been building within itself this entire time.

Not only do we need to focus on the trust we build between each other and our greater UU Community, we need to focus on trusting ourselves. We need to do the right thing even if the right thing is uncomfortable or not-instinctive. We need to be able to rely on ourselves and trust we can make it through.

I want to close this letter out with a short poem from up and coming poet Grant Chemidlin, a Lambda Literary Award winner.

Little Hymn III

If there really is a god up there, I hope she'll answer just one prayer
Please O lord, Persuade me to believe not in you but myself.



Brightest Blessings,
Charles A Betancourt



A MONTHLY ADVENTURE IN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!

UUCE COMMUNITY ROOM

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

It was SO MUCH FUN, we're doing it yet again again! Come to church to share a lunch, get to know others, do a little dancing maybe, play some cards, and have some fun! Making time to connect with others helps us feel bit less lonely and more filled with hope.

Lunch and snacks will be provided, along with coffee, tea, and water. If you would like to bring something to share, we would welcome that!

We love the prospect of spending some time with you, our church family!
Jeff and Sara

D R U M



C I R C L E



WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

Saturdays, March 8 & 22

1:00 - 2:30 at UUCE

Sharing drum songs, improvisational rhythms, chants and raising energy. No prior experience needed. We have drums to share. Contact Mary Murray for more information marydmurray@comcast.net

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

I just came in from shoveling our back deck of its wet, heavy snow and am happily in front of my computer with a cup of hot chocolate!

Today was our 2nd Food, Fellowship & Fun lunch gathering and it was even better than last month's! Food was eaten, games were played, postcards were written, and fun was had! Thank you to all who participated and especially **Jeff** and **Rev. Sara**, our FFF organizers! And two is not enough! Join us on Thursday, March 27, 11am-1pm, for our 3rd FFF - woo hoo!

When I came upstairs to my office and said to Lise, "What should I write about this month?" she said, "Tell everyone to say 'YES!' when the 2025 Elections Committee approaches you and asks if you'd like to run for an office." Soooooooo, say YES! when **Jana** or **Suzanne** or **Lise** asks if you'd like to run for an office, please and thank you!

We had just about picture-perfect weather for the Winter Wonderland gathering at our place on Toddy Pond - cold enough to appreciate the "Winter" part and bright and sunny enough to not freeze our butts off. We had a big 'ol fire down by the pond, meanderings out on the ice, and lots of snacks and hot chocolate and chai to warm our insides. Thanks to all who made it and thanks to **Rev. Sara** for all the planning and providing and shoveling!

Thank you to **Ellen Sedgwick** who's leaving after 2+ years as our admin assistant. We will miss you, Ellen! (And if anyone knows of anyone who's looking for a 10-hour/week admin assistant job, please contact Rev. Sara!).

Details are still being worked out, but mark your calendars for Saturday, March 29 for a Joyful Resistance fun day at church!

And if you happen to be in the neighborhood of the Blue Hill Library during March, go up to the second floor and see Lise's exhibit of ~40 of her paintings. Better yet, come to her opening reception on Saturday, March 8, 3-5pm!

And last but definitely not least, March kicks off with our "March into Spring" annual auction! Join the fun early with the silent auction items and then join the fun on Saturday, March 1 at 6pm when **CJ Lammers** and I will again be your live auction auctioneers. And the live auction is on ZOOM so anyone, anywhere can join in the fun! Hope to see you all there!

Going once, going twice ... SOLD! to YOU, the highest bidder! 💜🌶️



Keeping our Doors and Hearts Open to All



SHARING OUR
RESOURCES
TO MAINTAIN
SANCTUARY
AND FOSTER
SOLIDARITY

The Stewardship Campaign for the fiscal year 2025/2026 begins on April 2, 2025.

If you would like to pledge online using an ePledge Card,
please reach out to Doug Bird
at birddoug137@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY MORNING MATINS AT 8 AM



Are you longing for a more intimate space to connect with others in our UUCE community? Do you enjoy poetry, music of all kinds, reading, silence and time for sharing in community? If so, please come! All are welcome to be a part of this ½ hour weekly, contemplative gathering on ZOOM where we companion each other with love and gratitude into the day. We hope you will come!

Wednesday Morning Matins Zoom Invite:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96669607701>
Meeting ID: 966 6960 7701
Phone: 646-876-9923

UUCE's annual **NAME YOUR OWN PRICE**



SAVE THE DATE!!
SAVE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS!!
SAVE THE PLANET BY
RE-PURPOSING YOUR
UNWANTED ITEMS!!!

UUCE's Annual "Name Your Own Price" Yardsale is coming Sooner than you think!!
Literally!! (It's scheduled for one week earlier than last year!)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025
FOR THIS YEAR'S SALE!!

(We can take donations almost anytime,
but let's wait until the weather is nicer, okay?)

Questions? Contact [Jeff emmaus117@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffemmaus117@gmail.com) or 573-340-4677
Your Yard Sale Co-Chairs Jeff Jeude and CJ Lammers thank you!



WE'D LOVE YOU TO COME SING IN UUCE'S CHOIR!

We are so lucky to have Meg O'Dell as our Choir Director again this year! Come join the choir that meets twice a month on Sundays at 9am before worship to practice and then sing one Sunday a month in worship. Everyone, of all ages and abilities, is welcome to be a part of this soul-nourishing singing community! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Tori Bell, chair of our Music Committee, who also sends out reminders each month about choir practice. You can reach her via email at toribell14@gmail.com.

Here are the Choir Dates for the next couple of months so you can mark your calendar now:

March 9 (practice) & 23 (practice & sing in worship)
April 6 (practice) & 4/13 (practice & sing in worship)
May 4 (practice) & 5/18 (practice & sing in worship)
June 1 (practice) & 6/15 (practice & sing in worship)

ADD SOME COLOR TO YOUR MARCH!
ALL ARE INVITED!!!

THINK OF ALL THE *color* STILL IN THE WORLD...



An Exhibition of Paintings by Local Artist

LISE WILLIAMS

Opening Reception

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 3-5 PM

On display through the
month of March at the
Blue Hill Library

FMI 207.274.0177 or
lisewilliams.com



Dr. Wayne H. Smith
UUCE Historian

TWO UU SNOWMEN SNOWMANS

[Names underlined and in bold face are those of people with known connections to the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth (FUSE), the First Unitarian Church of Ellsworth (FUCE), or the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth (UUCE)]

I wrote last about the case for “UU Royalty” at the Ellsworth church, referring to the large representation of members of the Royal family among the members of the First Unitarian Church of Ellsworth (FUCE). Two individuals mentioned in that connection had married into the Royal family, but were themselves Snowmans. I’m speaking of **Ruth M. (Snowman) Royal** and her younger sister **Thurley M. (Snowman) Royal**.

Ruth Snowman married first M. Clarence Chapman on Nov. 14, 1931, then married second **Raymond H. Royal**, son of **Edwin L. and Grace M. (Raymond) Royal** on June 23, 1944. They had two sons, Richard Royal and **John N. Royal** who were undoubtedly raised in the church. Quoting from her obituary, “Ruth was a life-long member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. She was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.” Ruth was active in the Unitarian Women’s Alliance as early as the mid-1940s, even serving for a time as treasurer of the organization. She was still active in the Alliance in 1978 when she was in charge of the “Fancy Work” table at the annual summer sale. Rev. Mark Worth said that she and her sister were among the members who arranged for a ramp to be installed at the front entrance of UUCE for the use of Tom Stipe’s wheelchair. Ruth’s husband Ray died on March 17, 1989, and Ruth passed 15 years later on Nov. 21, 2004.

Ruth’s sister **Thurley M. Snowman** married her brother-in-law Ray’s brother **Robert L. Royal** in 1943. Thurley began working for the florist M.

A. Clark around the time of their marriage and she continued working there for 53 years, after which she served as a part-time floral arranger at Ellsworth Florist on Main Street alongside the owners Edwin Kidder and his partner Robert Hasham who opened the shop in December of 1995.

Both **Ruth** and **Thurley** were extremely active in the creation of the thousands of Maybaskets that the Women’s Alliance sold at the Maine Coast Mall for years. The sale of these Maybaskets provided funding to the Alliance for its many activities over the years.

Rev. Sara Hayman officiated at the Memorial Service for Thurley on March 10, 2013. Among the things that she mentioned about Thurley were the following:





Ruth and Thurley (Snowman) Royal shown with some of the thousands of Maybaskets that they, along with the members of the Unitarian Women's Alliance, made for years to sell at the Maine Coast Mall around Eastertime.

"**Thurley** was 100 years old when she died. She was one of twelve children. Her parents worked very hard. She met her husband, Bob, while she was working behind the lunch counter at the Grand Theater. Soon after they met, her sister **Ruth** married the other Royal boy, **Ray Royal**, and their lives were woven tightly together. They were neighbors to each other and it was almost as if **Ray's** son **John** had two sets of parents. **Thurley** worked for M. A. Clark Florist for 53 years. It was one of the biggest greenhouses in all of downeast Maine. When she retired, they had a big party for her and presented her with a letter from the President, thanking her for all of those years of service. She loved flowers and

gardening. Barb, John's wife, said that **Thurley** could simply look at a plant and make it grow. Her knowledge of organic gardening was endless, and her shelves were full of reference books. She was composting long before it was fashionable and she grew much of the food that her family consumed. Even just a week before she passed, she and Barb were making plans for that year's garden. She would move the seedlings from place to place in the house so that they would get the advantage of the sun's rays wherever they came in. **Thurley** never stopped living. That's a piece of the beautiful aspects of her life. She loved people unconditionally. She and Bob never had their own children, but she loved John and Barb and their family, and also loved her many nieces and nephews.

Thurley read the Bangor Daily News every day. She loved the sunflowers that grew near her home. She would take excursions down to the Union River and sit at the picnic tables there and wondered why more people didn't take advantage of the beauty there. She did her own grocery shopping, although she did require a ride from family or friends. She would have preferred to drive herself, even into her 90s. She was full of life and her life will continue to bear meaning to those who knew and loved her."

Thurley's husband Bob Royal died on Feb. 11, 1989, and Thurley passed 24 years later on Feb. 28, 2013 at the age of **100!**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Administrator vacant uucellsworth@gmail.com	Children's Religious Education Coordinator Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
Minister Rev. Sara Hayman rev.sara.hayman@gmail.com	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Beth Pepper to 2025 (207-610-4070)	Vice President: Jill Jeude to 2025
Treasurer: Kate O'Dell to 2026	Secretary: Bob Francis to 2026
Trustee: Tori Bell to 2026	Trustee: Jana Robinson to 2027
Trustee: Doug Bird to 2026	Moderator: Gary Shellehamer

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Adult Committee on Education: vacant	Membership: Liz True
Aesthetics: Gary Shellehamer	Music: Tori Bell
Auction: Jeff Jeude & Liz True	NUUSletter Editor: Lise Williams
Building & Maintenance/Safety: Susan Opdycke	Pastoral Care Ministry: Kay Hansen
Charitable Giving: Rev. Sara Hayman	Peace and Social Action: vacant
Choir Director: Meg O'Dell	Pianist: Paul Kelly
Collaborative Ministry: inactive at this time	Publicity: Susan Opdycke
Committee on Ministry: Karen Volckhausen	Children's Religious Education: Charles Betancourt
Congregational Engagement: Hannah Adams	Small Group Ministry: Mary Murray
Cookie Walk: Kate O'Dell	Stewardship: Doug Bird
Eggroll Project Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Murray	Ushers: Beth Pepper
Ferry Beach Coordinator: Anne Ossanna	Technology Coordinator: vacant
Fiscal Matters: Charles Betancourt	Wayside Pulpit: Nancy Guy
Flower Ministry: Linda Tarlow	Website: vacant
Green Sanctuary: Paul Kelley	Worship Arts: Marta Rieman
History/Archives: Wayne Smith	Yard Sale: Jeff Jeude
Hospitality Ministry Coordinator: vacant	Youth Advisor: vacant
Landscaping and Grounds: Bronwen Day	

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605



March 2025



Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

MARCH 2025

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We covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every human being;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement
to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
within our congregation and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.