

UUC Memorial Committee Annual Report 2020-2021

Purpose of the UUC Memorial Committee is to maintain, enhance and regulate the use of a memorial garden space for the UUC to be used as a long-term repository for cremains and as a peaceful area for meditation and remembrance. The Committee keeps a Registry of persons memorialized in the Garden and provides a Book of Treasures in which are recorded the origins of gift items that are visible on the premises.

Board-Approved Members: Bobbie Littlefield, (Chair & Registry); Dick Bauman, (Congregation Liaison); Arthur Snoke, (Treasurer & Web); Susan Baker, (Grounds Caretaker); Tim Pickering, (Installation/ Scattering Caretaker). Isabel Berney, (Founder, Book of Treasures, General Oversight)

Achievements/ Activities.

1. The Memorial Garden Committee's primary achievement this past year has been the installment of a cemented, and hoped to be permanent, replacement for the entry pathway. The new walkway was extended to the nearby picnic area in order to make that area more easily accessible by all MG visitors as a place to share food and to reminisce. (One member informed Bobbie that she had been incapable of visiting The Garden until this renovation.) Susan provided oversight during its planning and construction as it was important to minimize lawn damage. We are grateful to Extreme Cement for reducing the path's price by a little over \$2,000, following Susan's efforts to make it affordable.
2. Committee members paid for two pavers to contribute to UUC's annual fundraising event.
3. In Column II four more niches were purchased this past year, (one was filled).

Our Contribution to the Mission of this Congregation:

The Memorial Garden is a designated place to bring to mind individuals and ideas that have impacted our members perspectives in their life journeys. Its location within our larger UUC grounds gives emphasis to our sense of close connection with our home base, Mother Earth.

Future Plans

1. Continue oversight of the Garden's maintenance and advise members regarding its use.
2. There are 24 niches available for purchase and room for many more pavers. The contact person is Dick Bauman, who will set up informational materials close by the minister's office; uuduo2@gmail.com (540) 629-0497. Our web pages contains our history, policies, fees, and forms: <https://uucnr.org/memorial_committee/>
3. At our June 4th meeting, we reviewed our records keeping habits and their easy availability to congregational members as well as our back up plan when we are unavailable. We have been given space on the Congregation's web storage. We'll let it be known that ideas from others will be welcomed about The Garden, including offers to join the Committee.

Budget and Amount Used:

Our biggest expense was was \$7,500 for the entry path. Garden maintenance expenses this year were \$ 268.32. There is a balance of \$5,613.87 in the Memorial Garden Fund. It appears likely that the sale of niches, pavers and scattering fees will cover the long-term needs of the Memorial Garden.

Report completed by Bobbie Littlefield, then submitted to The Board, with revisions, on June 9th, 2021