Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another. Prairie's Bond of Union

2010 Wheno Dr
Madison, Wis. 53711

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Volume 23, Number 8 April 9, 1985

CALENDAR
FRIDAY, APRIL 12
7:00 p.m.--Prairie Youth Group Spring Party. Call Linda Lewis, 271-

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
7:30 p.m.--Playreaders at Birongs, 599 Glen Dr., call 233-5995 for info.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
10:00 a.m.--"TOUGHING IT OUT" ON THE COLORADO PLAINS by Dodie Chapru
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
7:30 p.m.--Board meeting: home of Mike Briggs

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
10:00 a.m.--ADULT DAY PROGRAMS FOR MADISON'S EMOTIONALLY DISABLED PEOPLE by Roger Backes of Support Network and Marcus McCoy from Off The Square Club
10:00 a.m.--R.E.CLASSES, baby & child care

MONDAY, APRIL 22
5-7 p.m.--Program committee at Mary Mullen's, 4337 Milford Rd. Potluck.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26
7:00 p.m.--SERVICE AUCTION AT PRAIRIE See Story!

SUNDAY, APRIL 28
10:00 a.m.--FROM THE BELLY OF THE WHALE: SAGA OF A BLACK FAMILY by Pat Watkins. See story.
10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby & child care

TO CHANGE ADDRESS OR STOP PRAIRIE FIRE, PLEASE CALL 838-8055

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: APRIL 21

Toughing it out on the Colorado Plains will provide a glimpse of the people, events, and moral values that shaped the life of Prairie member Dodie Chapru. Dodie's paternal grandparents, both of English descent, were Baptists from Binghampton, N.Y., who founded a Baptist church in Peyton, Col. Although they were rigid fundamentalists (no baseball on Sundays, dancing is evil at any time) they believed in a loving god who didn't seem to mind a little gossip at the dinner table after church.

From England, Dodie's maternal great grandparents brought their County Durham variety of Methodist and Quaker beliefs. Her great Grandpa Madison organized a Sunday school in the neighbors' house near the family homestead in eastern Colorado. Dodie's maternal grandmother and grandfather, a Farley of Scotch-Irish descent, spent more time living their beliefs than talking about them.

Life on the homestead was harsh and took its toll on mental health. One grandparent on each side of Dodie's family dealt with stress by working to ease tension and encourage optimism. The other two, in varying (continued on page 2)
Toughing It Out (from page 1)

degrees, took their frustrations out on their
families and, in one case, produced sniping,
ill-tempered children. This was not in keep­
ing with their ideals.

Despite extreme poverty and teenage
depression, Dodie’s mother developed a gentle
ness and optimism worthy of sainthood and
emulated by her daughter "only on good days."

Once churches were established in their
homestead communities, Dodie’s grandparents
and their families were exposed to reviva­
lists, circuit riders and Bible fundamenta­
lists. According to Unitarian writer A.
Powell Davies, frontier preachers "left the
nation a curiously mixed legacy."

"On the one hand, they preached the reli­
gion of fear with a vigor seldom surpassed.
The terrors of hell were rarely absent from
their sermons. But on the other hand, they
were nonconformists, and within the area
limited by ignorance, conspicuously indepen­
dent-minded. The Methodists, for instance,
were as determined to throw off the yoke of
Calvinism as they were to preach a superna­
tural salvation. Moreover, these frontier
preachers could in many cases barely read or
write. Not many alternatives to their own
theology (except atheism) had ever been pre­
sented to their minds."

"Wherever they went, they were confronted
with lawlessness and disorder, and this their
preaching helped to remedy. No other preach­
ing was as yet available. A liberal movement
that might sweep New England and be swiftly
planted through the eastern coastal area
would move more slowly when it crossed the
Alleghanies. Not many Boston divines were
avid for the frontier."

"It is notable, however, that almost from
the first, the frontier - West if not South -
was as active in debating fundamentalism as
it was in preaching it. Resistance took the
form of atheism and agnosticism, which were
widespread by the time of Lincoln. Freedom
for such debates was stubbornly insisted upon.
Furthermore - and it is in this that the
foundling principles were represented - agnos­
tics and revivalists were frequently united
in the same ethical emphasis, the same pro­
gram for social reform."

It is doubtful that much spirited intel­
lectual debate took place in churches on the
Colorado plains. Instead, church reinforced
the existing moral values of hard-working
homesteaders and provided the only social al­
ternative to hanging out with people describ­
ed by Dodie’s parents as "crude," "wild char­
acters," and given to "much swearing."

To this day, the need for social order in
plains and Rocky Mountain states has made
strange partners of atheists, agnostics, lib­
erals and fundamentalists. In smaller commu­
inities religious liberals attend whatever
church is available, cloistering their beliefs,
or they don’t attend at all. However, in con­
trast to earlier years, more alternative
social activities take place in smaller towns.

Although the trappings of frontier funda­
mentalism seem binding to an inquiring mind,
the underlying values are of utmost relevance
today. The most prized characteristic in
Dodie’s family was that of being trustworthy.
Her grandfather ran for public office with
the slogan "Not Machine Made." Although he was
blackmailed at the polls and lost the elec­tion,
he refused to compromise his principles.

Without frontier cooperation there could
be no harvest and people would starve. A "dog­
eat-dog" attitude wouldn’t get a person
through a day’s worth of threshing.

Unselfish homesteaders shared their food
and supplies with people in need and could
expect caring in return. Folks passing
through who became ill were given home rem­
edies, a cup of peppermint tea, a place to
sleep and an invitation to drop by another
time.

Dodie’s parents and grandparents had
great respect for the law and a strong sense
of social responsibility. Without such folk
frontier towns might have been chaos given
the unruly nature of many adventurers first
attracted to the West.

Hard work was both a religious value and
a necessity. Dodie’s father wrote, "Our
parents were products of protestant work
ethic which dictated that one who does no
work is evil. We learned to work hard early
and have always done so. If the adage is
true, we can’t be very evil."

For Dodie, transition from Baptist/Meth­
odist/Quaker was, in retrospect, a very small
step. The best values of all these religions
were instilled in her homestead families and
she has not shed them by joining an associ­
ation that encourages free inquiry.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A UU GA DELEGATE?

Delegates to the UU General Assembly in
Atlanta, GA in June will be appointed at the
Spring Parish Meeting. If you are interested
in volunteering to be a delegate, please con­
tact Les Lyons, no later than April 21.
SERVICE AUCTION AT PRAIRIE, FRIDAY, APRIL 26

The Service Auction at Prairie on Friday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. will be your chance to acquire those much desired services offered by your Prairie friends.

Marty Drapkin will manage the bidding on a wide variety of interesting and creative good deals. For instance, children's art classes in mask making, lapidary, or weaving will be offered. Or how about a weekend retreat in scenic western Wisconsin? Others include home repairs, a weekend of child care and entertainment, dessert of the month, and dinners served at your home. A great variety of other services will be up for bids.

Do you know of a service you'd like to bid on? Contact Brent Haglund (837-0713) so he can find a talented person to offer it.

Whether or not you have firm plans to bid on the fine services offered, you are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be available.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR PRAIRIE OFFICES

The Committee on Committees has completed its slate of nominees for Prairie offices, to be presented at the April parish meeting. They are as follows:

- President: Rick Rueking
- Vice president: Barbara Park
- Secretary: Pat Watkins
- Treasurer: Megan Christensen
- Denominational affairs: Casey Steinau and Barbara James
- Finance: Brent Haglund
- Housing and property: Rachel Siegfried and Dan Laux
- Long range planning: Jack Jallings
- Membership: Ann Reardon and Judy Spring
- Program: Mary Mullen
- Religious Education: Sharon Scrattish and Robynne Martin
- Social action: Leland Bullen
- Committee on committees: Ann Reardon
- Ceremonies: Dorothy Wetherby
- Publicity: Barry Heist
- Hospitality: Fran Remeika

SOVIET - U.S. CONFLICT: Origins & Solutions

A full-day conference to be held Saturday, April 27 at the Wisconsin Center, will offer four speakers and 20 workshops, addressing both the causes of and solutions for this conflict. Co-sponsored by the UW Extension and School of Medicine and Physicians for Social Responsibility, registration is $10 (deadline April 19). Call 256-8241 or 238-5092 for information brochure.

MADISON'S EMOTIONALLY DISABLED PEOPLE

Support Network is a psychosocial rehabilitation center for adults who have long term and severe mental health problems and is a unit of the Dane County Mental Health Center. It is located at 148 East Johnson and serves about 250 people annually.

Off the Square Club is modeled after the internationally famous Fountain House in New York City which has club house models throughout the world. Madison's club has grown to close to 400 members and will soon move into larger quarters. It primarily serves people aged 19-35 and is made possible through the cooperative efforts of public and private sectors.

The Sunday service on April 21 will have representatives from these two organizations to talk with us about the adult programs that are offered.

SUNDAY SERVICE, APRIL 28: FROM THE BELLY OF THE WHALE

It was 1976 and Pat Watkins was one of our Lay Ministers. Her theme was called "The Belly of the Whale," and promised us a look at the side of things we often forget, neglect, or simply have never bothered to investigate. That was also the year of Alex Haley's best seller, ROOTS. Pat, knowing some patterns in Black families different from the commonly known and sometimes stereotypical ones, put together this program for Prairie, she was asked to repeat it for other groups in Madison, including First Society and several classes in the Afro-American Studies and English Departments at the University. She has agreed to take it out of mothballs and do it for Prairie once again. In addition to slides of old and rare photos, the program will feature Odetta's music and readings by the Prairie Playreaders. We hope those of you who saw this program nine years ago will come to it again; those who have joined Prairie since that time won't want to miss it.

GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

The Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association has garden plots available in Marlborough park. If you would like to reserve a garden plot or get more information, call Karen or Jerry Meise at 271-5922. Plot sizes available are 12'x 25': $5.00; 25'x 25': $8.25; 25'x 50': $12.50; 25'x 75': $16.00; and 50'x 50': $20.00.

Proceeds from the rental are used for park equipment and landscaping.
MUKWONAGO'S HISTORIC UU CHURCH

On Easter Sunday the Bullens visited the approximately 110 year-old church which they occasionally attended before moving to McFarland. The church, built by a Universalist congregation, still retains most of its original appearance both inside and out.

The service, conducted by the minister, Max Patrick, included four lengthy Bible readings and a couple of Baptist-sounding hymns, but the sermon and a short discussion afterward did treat the crucifixion and resurrection narrated in the readings as myths which illustrate truths.

The congregation had as its part-time pastor Olympia Brown, first woman minister in the United States, and a Universalist.

You're invited to come to a POTLUCK to meet some OLDER WRITERS from the HEARTLAND JOURNAL and listen to their stories, poems, and articles.

It's to happen SUNDAY afternoon, April 21st, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the First Society Meeting House. Bring a dish to pass--Have your friendly heart with you. Call Faith Miracle or Sparrow Senty (238-3976). (Younger children welcome if they're good listeners)

SPRING PARISH MEETING (Annual Meeting)
Sunday, April 28, 1985
7:30 pm
Prairie Society

AGENDA

I. Minutes of the Fall Parish Meeting (attached; please read in advance and come prepared to approve or amend)  
II. Reports of Officers and Committees (committee chairs are asked to submit written reports for the files).  
III. Elections
   A. Officers (see attached slate of officers)  
   B. Member of the Committee on Committees  
   C. Delegates to the General Assembly  
IV. Resolution: Be it resolved that Prairie re-affirms its commitment to support the Sanctuary Project organized by the St. Francis House in Madison, Wisconsin.  
V. Other Business.

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN - UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

MINUTES OF FALL PARISH MEETING
Sunday, November 18, 1984

MEMBERS PRESENT: 26 members (see sign-up sheet with file copy of minutes): Barbara Barley, Mike Briggs, Megan Christiansen, Carol Dopp, Bob Dopp, Rosemary Dorney, Marty Drapkin, Lance Green, Betty Jallings, Jack Jallings, Lynda Lewis, Les Lyons, Nina Mattarella, Alison Mckee, Mel Micke, Mary Mullen, Linda Nelson, Aileen Nettleton, Al Nettleton, Marybeth O'Halloran, Anne Reardon, Fran Remaika, Rick Ruecking, Rachel Siegfried, Peg Stevenson, Pat Watkins.

OTHERS PRESENT: unknown  

I. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:52 pm at Prairie Society by President Mike Briggs.
II. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** (which had been printed in Prairie Fire) were approved as printed and submitted.

III. **TREASURER’S REPORT**
   A. Report was merged with and presented as part of the budget report submitted by the treasurer and the chair of the Finance Committee.

IV. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
   A. President Briggs reported that the Board will be working with the results of the Growth Workshop, and will report at the Spring (Annual Meeting) Parish Meeting.
   B. The By-Laws Committee will begin meeting in November, and will report at the Annual Meeting.

V. **REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
   A. Though not present at the meeting, the editor submitted a written report explaining the increase in the newsletter budget, which report is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   A. **Religious Education Committee:**
      1. Chairperson Aileen Nettleton reported that the Sunday School was averaging 38 children each Sunday since Sept. ’84, and that the R.E. Program was having space problems.
      2. The new R.E. Director, Marybeth O’Halloran, was introduced.
      3. The chair reported that two paid helpers were hired: Kathy Butz and Beth Price-Marcus.
      4. A youth group has just gotten started.
      5. Two R.E. staff people have been trained to teach About Your Sexuality next year, and there will be a training program for parents this spring on the program content.

   B. **Membership Committee**
      1. Chairperson Marty Drapkin reported ten new members since the 1984 Annual (Spring) Meeting.
      2. A brief discussion of the definition of membership ensued in conjunction with the problem of the Texas couple who joined Prairie for marriage purposes, thus making us liable for their UU membership fee.
      3. Because the membership questionnaire indicates that some members wish to become inactive, it has been impossible to come up with the exact membership figure to date. Until that figure becomes available, it was decided to use the last valid membership figure of 111.

   C. **Program Committee**
      1. Chairperson Mullen reported on the past summers programs and the programs for the coming year.

   D. **Housing and Property Committee:**
      1. Chairperson Ruecking reported that $150 worth of work was done on the windows, instead of replacing them, as had been planned. The timer on the thermostat is due by January 1st. Work has recently been done on the plumbing. Mail boxes for committee chairs will soon be installed.

   E. **Social Action Committee:**
      1. Chairperson Green reported the moving of Social Action funds from M & I Bank to Randall Bank (due to M & I’s stance on foreign investments).
      2. Chairperson Green announced that he was the official UUSC representative.

(continued on page 6)
(Minutes, 1984, continued)

F. **Long Range Planning Committee:**
   1. Chairperson Jallings reported that the committee will be working with the Growth Workshop Book and the question of growth during the coming year.

G. **Denominational Affairs Committee:**
   1. Chairperson Lyons requested that thank you letter be sent to Carol Ruxton, with cc. to the District Executive and the Chair of the Extension Committee.
   2. Written report of this committee is appended to the file copy of the minutes.

H. **Finance Committee:**
   1. Chairperson Dopp presented the 1985 budget (copy of which is attached to file copy of minutes).
   2. Chair presented the following comparison chart:

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<th></th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Spent</th>
<th>Operating Income</th>
<th>Pledged</th>
<th>Average Pledge</th>
<th>Pledging Units</th>
<th># Members</th>
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<td>14,034</td>
<td>16,986</td>
<td>12,835</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>11,650</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>118</td>
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   a. Aileen Nettleton moved to add $700 to the R.E. budget for social security, for a total R.E. budget of $5375. Seconded and passed unanimously.
   b. Al Nettleton suggested that we consider unemployment insurance and workman's compensation. Peg Stevenson moved to refer this to the Board. Motion for referral was seconded (Aileen Nettleton) and passed.
   c. Rachel Siegfried moved to add $474 to the budget for janitorial help to be hired at $6.00 per hour, 4 hours per week for 36 weeks. Motion was seconded (Watkins), and lost (15 nays; 3 ayes; 5 abstentions). Watkins moved to divide the motion into (a) motion to hire a janitor. Amended to read "... hire a janitor weekly." Motion was seconded and passed (8 ayes; 6 nays). A motion to refer to the Board how the budgeted money and the hiring of the janitor should be implemented. Seconded and lost (eight ayes; nine opposed). Motion was made to add $200 to the Housing Budget; Seconded and passed (11 ayes; 5 nays). Moved that the Housing and Property Committee be authorized to hire paid janitorial help from the $590 which had already been proposed; seconded and passed (4 opposed).
   d. Lyons moved that the Finance Committee be given a budget of $100. Seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Chairperson moved to establish a capital fund based on income from the following five sources: Pro-seeds, Fundraisers, Interest from bank accounts, gifts and bequests so designated by the donor, and additional monies.
   a. Motion to amend: to include $3600 held in a Prairie account. Motion to amend seconded and passed. Motion to change "Fundraisers" to "Capital Fundraisers". Motion to amend seconded and passed. Motion was passed as amended.
   b. Lyons moved adoption of the budget; seconded by Micke. Motion passed; budget was adopted unanimously.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
   A. None

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
   A. None

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Watkins, Secretary
BYLAWS
of
THE PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
of
MADISON, WISCONSIN
(Amendments proposed April, 1985)

ARTICLE I: NAME
The name of this society shall be the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison, Wisconsin.

ARTICLE II: BOND OF UNION
We, the members of Prairie, wish to associate ourselves together in a religious community which affirms that we share a common humanity, that we need one another, and that our futures are inescapably bound together. Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences, and deepen our emotional sensitivities. We would sharpen our ethical awareness and broaden our sense of social responsibility. We would stand tall in our quest for integrity of life, yet not at others' expense.

As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another.

The bond of union may be revised by a two-thirds vote at a business meeting, provided that the proposed revision has been used and identified as a revision in a Sunday morning service at least six weeks prior to the business meeting. When the proposed revision is published in the official notice of the business meeting, it shall be accompanied by any alternate proposals submitted to the President prior to the date of the notice. No further amendments shall be in order at the business meeting.

ARTICLE III: AFFILIATION
The Society shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and of appropriate subdivisions thereof.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP
A. Members of the Society are those persons sixteen years or older who have signed the official Membership Book.

1. Active Members are those who, during the present and/or previous Church Year, have participated in the activities and programs of the Society.
   a. A Church Year shall be the period from September through June.
   b. Only Active Members may vote in business meetings, and be elected to office.
   c. The Membership Committee shall maintain a list of Active Members. When uncertainty exists on the active status of members, their names may not be removed except by a majority vote at a business meeting.

2. Inactive Members are those not on the Active Member list, due to their lack of participation in the activities and programs of the Society for two consecutive Church Years.

3. Members may resign from the Society and have their names deleted from the Membership Book by submitting a written resignation.

B. Friends of the Society are those who have not signed the Membership Book, but participate in the activities of the Society or give evidence of their support.
ARTICLE V: BUSINESS MEETINGS

A. Business meetings may be called by the President or by the Executive Board at any time, or shall be called by the President or by the Board upon the written request of ten Active Members. At least two weeks' notice must be given for business meetings, except as specified in Article H.

B. Notice of the regular fall and spring business meetings and an invitation to the members to submit agenda items must be mailed to all Active Members at least four weeks before the meeting. The business to be transacted shall be specified in the final notice of the meeting to be mailed to all Active Members at least two weeks before the meeting. Items of business may include but are not limited to: budgets, elections, appointments, revisions to the Bylaws, committee reports, and resolutions dealing with social issues. The agenda shall be prepared by the President or Board and shall contain items of business originating from the President, Board, committees, and/or individual members. New business, other than Bylaw changes, may be raised at the meeting at the request of ten Active Members.

C. A quorum shall consist of twenty-five percent of the Active Membership or of thirty Active Members, whichever number is smaller.

D. No actions, unless delegated by the Bylaws of the Society, shall be official unless voted upon by a majority of the Active Members present and voting at a properly called business meeting. Any member may request inclusion of a minority report in the minutes and that public announcements of the action be accompanied by a statement declaring the existence of a minority position and the percentage of votes cast in support of the action.

E. Persons other than Active Members may speak at business meetings, but they may not vote.

F. Minutes of all business meetings shall be taken, signed, and retained filed by the Secretary of the Society. The official minutes and other records of the Society shall be available for perusal by members.

G. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held each year in April, at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Executive Board. The principal business shall be the election of officers, chairperson of the Ministerial Relations Committee, and members of the Committee on Committees.

H. All business meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. The officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and the elected chairpersons of the following standing committees--Finance, Religious Education, Program, Social Action, Housing and Property, Long Range Planning, Denominational Affairs, and Membership. These officers constitute the Executive Board.

B. Only Members may be elected to office. Officers are elected at the annual business meeting shall serve for a term of one year and shall not serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office. Officers and appointees shall assume office after the last Sunday of the Church Year at a duly meeting of the outgoing and new boards, to take place within four weeks of the election.

C. Any officer who fails to perform the duties of his/her office satisfactorily
or who ceases to be an Active Member may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote at a business meeting of the Society. Due process shall be observed.

D. Duties of Officers.

1. The President is chairperson of the Executive Board and presides at all business meetings of the Society and of the Board. He/she is an ex officio member of all committees except the Committee on Committees, and is the official representative of the Society.

2. The Vice-President acts in place of the President during his/her absence and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed.

3. The Secretary keeps records of the transactions of all business meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board. All records of the Secretary shall remain the property of the Society. The Secretary is responsible for giving proper notice of all business meetings.

4. The Treasurer receives and safeguards all money and other property of the Society entrusted to his/her care, and may disburse the same under the direction of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall keep the Finance Committee informed on the financial status of the Society. He/she keeps a complete account of the finances of the Society, which shall be open for inspection at any time to members. He/she shall render a current statement at each regular meeting of the Board and of the Society. His/her statement for the fiscal year may be audited and certified by persons designated by the Executive Board.

5. Chairpersons of standing committees are responsible for the functions assigned to their committees (Article VII). They shall call meetings (at least once a year) and cooperate with the chairs of other committees, the Executive Board, and the minister(s).

6. All outgoing officers and appointees shall consult with their successors and invite them to participate in the activities of the officers during the time between election or appointment and taking office, to familiarize the successors with their duties. To this end, they shall convey a detailed list of duties and suggestions to their successors.

E. The officers of the Society constitute the Executive Board. The minister shall be a nonvoting member of this Board.

F. Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board shall be to:

1. Carry out the wishes of the Society.

2. Hold monthly meetings open to Members and Friends of the Society. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of a majority of the number of elected officers.

3. Call business meetings of the Society.

4. Determine and recommend, in coordination with the Finance Committee, the operating budget as outlined in Article XII.

5. Acquire, lease, and lend facilities and building space according to the wishes of the Society.

6. Appoint non-elected committee chairpersons and other officers as provided for in these Bylaws. During the months of April and May, the incoming Executive Board shall, in consultation with the retiring Board, appoint such chairpersons and officials for the coming Church Year.

7. Fill temporarily any office which becomes vacant in the second half of the Church Year, but any after the fall business meeting. Any office vacated in the first half of the church year which becomes vacant earlier shall be filled by special election.

8. Approve the hiring of all employees of the Society (except ministers), and fix their compensation.

9. Recommend a minister if the professional ministry option of Article VIII is in effect; or, select and appoint lay ministers if the lay ministry option of Article VIII is in effect.

10. Act at the direction of the Society in making official agreements and pronouncements. In general, the Executive Board functions as the executive power of the Society, always subject to the ultimate control...
of the Active Members, as specified in Article V, Section D.

4-E. Each member of the Executive Board of the Society, as heretofore defined in this Article, shall be a Trustee of the Society, and the Executive Board as a whole shall constitute the Board of Trustees of the Society. The Board of Trustees shall exercise for the Society the powers and responsibilities specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, Section 187.01 and Section 187.07.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

The voluntary participation of Members and Friends of the Society in the work of the committees is welcomed and persons are encouraged to inform the chairperson of their interest. Chairpersons must submit a list of recommended committee members to the Executive Board for confirmation. Committee meetings are open to Members and Friends.

Membership on all committees except the Committee on Committees is open to any Member or Friend of the Society. All Committee chairpersons and all members of the Committee on Committees must be Active Members. Committee appointments expire upon the installation of a new board.

The President shall be a nonvoting ex officio member of all standing committees except the Committee on Committees. The minister shall be a nonvoting ex officio member of all committees except the Ministerial Relations Committee and the Committee on Committees.

A. Committees with elected chairs serving on the Board

1. Finance Committee
   a. This Committee shall prepare a budget as specified in Article IX. It shall and supervise the raising of annual and/or special funds. It shall collaborate with the Treasurer regarding the financial condition of the Society.
   b. The committee shall recommend to the Executive Board the definition of an operating fiscal year.

2. Religious Education Committee
   a. This committee is responsible for the church school and shall carry out a program of liberal religious education. It shall become familiar with the long-range objectives of liberal religious education and realistic methods for realizing these goals; it shall always be ready to reevaluate these objectives and methods in light of available talents and resources; and it shall establish immediate goals and curricula of the church school.
   b. The committee shall recommend to the Board a religious education director, making clear in a written job description what his/her duties shall be. It shall assist the director in carrying out those duties.
   c. All church school personnel and arrangements are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

3. Program Committee
   a. This committee is responsible for planning Sunday morning services and other adult programs, in cooperation with the minister. It is responsible for seating and room arrangements for all programs.
   b. One member of the committee shall serve as chairperson of a subcommittee on Liturgy. He/she shall be appointed by the Program Committee chairperson, and he/she shall form a committee which acts as a conference group in suggesting elements of effective services.

4. Social Action Committee
   a. This committee shall keep the Society informed of local, state, national, or international issues on which the committee wishes to facilitate the formulation of Society policy and to enable the Society and its members to exert influence in behalf of worthwhile
b. The committee may:
   (1) make public statements or take public action only in its own name and by a vote of two-thirds of its active members.
   (2) take charge of the Society's local service activities, and coordinate the Society's service work with that of national and international service committees, including local fund raising for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
   (3) raise and disburse funds independent of the Society's control and regulation.

5. Housing and Property Committee
   a. This committee is responsible for the care and supervision of Society grounds, buildings, and equipment. It is empowered to arrange for and make repairs and to purchase supplies provided that funds have been budgeted for such purposes. Recommendations regarding improvements involving large expenditures should be made to the Board.
   b. The committee may hire, with the Board's approval, and supervise personnel for the care of house and grounds, and make the arrangements for heating and utility services. It is responsible for the regular inspection and inventory of all Society property and shall make regular evaluation of insurance programs, recommending changes where necessary. Rentals and use of all property usually come under its supervision.

6. Long-Range Planning
   a. This committee shall make recommendations regarding the long-range objectives of the Society, its services to the community and to its members in the years to come. Problems of expansion, building, location, and area extension come within its purview.

7. Denominational Affairs
   a. This committee shall maintain for Prairie Society regular relations with other Unitarian Universalist organizations. It shall inform the membership as to Unitarian Universalist concerns and events, conferences, meetings and camps at all denominational levels and display Unitarian Universalist pamphlets and literature.
   b. This committee shall plan orientation meetings to acquaint new and prospective members with Prairie Society and Unitarian Universalism.

8. Membership Committee
   a. This committee shall:
      (1) invite persons known to be interested in the Society to enter into a formal relationship.
      (2) maintain a list of prospective members, periodically inviting them to join, and help plan orientation meetings to acquaint new and prospective members with Prairie Society and Unitarian Universalism.
      (3) keep an up-to-date list of active, inactive, and Friends Members and provide this list when needed to committees and subgroups of the Society.
      (4) be responsible for preparation of a directory of Members and Friends.
   b. The committee shall:
      (1) periodically attempt to contact inactive Members to ascertain their interest in maintaining membership in the Society.
      (2) The Board may recommend at the next business meeting the termination of membership of those who have not responded to the committee's query.
      (3) When uncertainty exists on the active status of members, their names may not be removed except by a majority vote at a business meeting.
B. Committees with appointed chairs not serving on the Board:

1. **Publicity Committee**
   a. This committee makes public announcements of time, place, and topic of Sunday services. It arranges publicity about events, programs, purposes, personnel, etc., which would encourage those seeking a liberal religious organization to become acquainted with the Society.

2. **Hospitality Committee**
   a. This committee shall (in coordination and cooperation with the Program Committee):
      (1) provide the hospitality of the Sunday morning services.
      (2) take special care to greet visitors and new members and introduce them to others.
      (3) encourage social interaction among members by planning social occasions.

3. **Ceremonies Committee**
   a. This committee shall:
      (1) offer resources, advice and assistance for the planning of dedications, weddings, memorial services or funerals, and other rites of passage.
      (2) when requested, conduct or assist in the conducting of such ceremonies.
      (3) maintain a file of notes or transcripts of ceremonies that have been conducted, and other written materials for possible use in future ceremonies.
   b. In appointing the chairperson and members of this committee, every attempt should be made to provide for continuity through commitments to serve for more than one year and overlapping terms.

C. Special Committees

1. **Ministerial Relations Committee**
   a. The elected chairperson and two additional members, appointed by the Board in consultation with the minister(s), shall meet with the minister(s) or the Board when communication or clarification of concern to, or concerning the minister(s) seems important.
   b. The committee functions on the premise of strict confidence and deals with matters which have not, and perhaps should not, reach a formal Board meeting.
   c. Not less than once every three years during a minister's tenure, the committee shall review his/her tenure.

2. **Committee on Committees**
   a. This committee shall consist of five members, who shall serve a term of one year. One member shall be from the outgoing Committee on Committees, to be elected by them just prior to and presented at the Annual Meeting; one member shall be from the Incoming Board, to be elected by them just prior to and presented at the fall business meeting; the other three shall be elected from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Should the committee be activated before the Board member is elected, until such election that position shall be served by the President, or, if the President is unable to serve, by the Vice President. Three shall be elected at the Annual Meeting; one appointed by the outgoing Committee on Committees from its own membership; and one appointed by the incoming Executive Board from its own membership. The Committee shall choose one of its members to be chair. Only the Committee on Committees member elected by that committee may serve a consecutive term, and that member may not serve a third consecutive year.
   b. Before the committee makes its nominations, it shall be encouraged to consult with the Board and other Active Members, soliciting their suggestions for nominees.
   c. The duties of this committee are to:
(1) nominate Active Members, with their permission, for each elected office and the chairperson of the Ministerial Relations Committee, for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

(a) The list of nominations prepared by the committee shall be included in the notice of the Annual Meeting.

(b) Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting, provided the consent of the nominee is obtained.

(2) encourage members of the Society to serve on committees according to their talents and interests, and to recommend such persons to chairpersons and to the Executive Board.

(3) if the lay ministry option of Article VIII is in effect, to solicit and interview candidates, and announce at the Annual Meeting the names, terms of service, and prospective roles of lay minister candidates for the coming year. These names, along with any additional recommendations from members, shall be passed to the Executive Board for approval.

d. Except for the one member it elects, this committee, as a whole, may not nominate its own successors.

ARTICLE VIII: MINISTRY

Style of Leadership: The Society shall determine by a majority vote which of the following options it prefers. The selected option shall remain in effect until modified or revised.

A. Professional Ministry

1. An ad hoc Ministerial Search Committee, elected by the membership, solicits and interviews candidates and makes recommendations to the Executive Board, which reviews the recommendations for the membership.

2. The minister shall be selected by a three-fourths vote of Active Members at a business meeting.

3. Once selected for the position, the minister need not be reelected yearly, but a review of his/her tenure shall be undertaken at least every three years by the Ministerial Relations Committee.

4. The minister may be dismissed by a three-fifths vote of Active Members at a business meeting. In the event of dismissal, the minister's salary and fringe benefits shall be continued for three months after the date of the vote to dismiss.

5. The minister must give three months notice when resigning.

B. Lay Ministry

1. When seeking one or more lay ministers for terms of not more than one year, the Committee on Committees shall solicit and interview candidates, and shall make recommendations to the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting.

2. These recommendations, along with and additional recommendations from members, shall be considered and acted upon by joint action of the old and new Executive boards at the first Executive Board meeting following the Annual Meeting.

3. The Committee on Committees shall follow the spirit of the 1972 report of the "Soul Searching Committee" in making its selections and recommendations.

4. A lay minister may be dismissed by a three-fifths vote of Active Members at a business meeting. In the event of dismissal, the minister's salary and fringe benefits shall be continued until the end of the appointed term or three months, whichever is shorter.

5. A lay minister must give three months notice when resigning.

C. Other options may be adopted if specifically set forth in a resolution adopted at a business meeting.

ARTICLE IX: BUDGET
In preparing and adopting the annual budget:
1. The Finance Committee shall prepare a tentative budget and fund raising plan for the coming fiscal year.
2. The Executive Board shall review this budget and adopt a proposed budget as a basis for fund raising.
3. On the basis of the response received during the fund raising the Finance Committee shall prepare a revised tentative budget.
4. The Board shall review the estimated receipts and expenditures and shall adopt a recommended budget for presentation to the Society.
5. The society shall adopt the operating budget for the fiscal year.
6. This process shall be completed before the beginning of the fiscal year, or as early as feasible.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

a. The Society may be dissolved by a majority three-quarters vote of all Active Members of the Society. Such a vote shall be taken at a business meeting. Notice of proposed dissolution must be mailed to members not less than one month in advance at least four weeks before the meeting.

b. In the case of dissolution, all property of the Society, both real and personal, subject to all just and legal claims upon it, shall vest in the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, to be held in trust for the furthering of the denomination in a manner determined by the Central Midwest District.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a business meeting. The written agenda for the meeting must carry a full statement of the proposed amendment.