"Putting First Things First"

A Commemorative History of
the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
1953 - 2003
Mission Statement

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a religious community of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and fellowship.

We shall through our fellowship nurture and support each other both in our human needs and in our search for spiritual fulfillment.

We shall provide a place for learning and the sharing of values and memories within and between generations;

We shall seek to guide the next generation in its search for meaning.

We shall strive to maintain a diverse membership that respects differing views.

We shall foster action in the interest of justice, honesty, and understanding in our community and world.

THUS, shall we serve as a visible example of a tolerant religious community welcoming others to join.

Approved by the Membership June, 1993
Remarks made at the Dedication Service of
the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Fellowship
in Springfield, March 29, 1953

“Organized religion of today, as in the days of Lincoln, devotes too much time to the ‘secondary purpose’ and too little effort to the ‘heart of the matter’ – expressed in Jesus’ two commandments, to love God and man.

If we are to give (Lincoln’s) name to a religious society, it must be with a soul searching and indomitable resolve to keep it from ever losing the perspective that puts first things first and keeps secondary things in their proper place.

Lincoln’s spiritual life was as profound and powerful as that of any of the great pioneers and leaders of our American democracy ....

Lincoln never joined a church, because organized religion had let itself become so entangled with non-essentials that it had neglected the few things that are really essential. The churches that came into existence to serve the spiritual needs of all sorts and conditions of men, as Jesus taught, had become servants of mere institutionalism or mere intellectualism or the status quo of society, made doubly objectionable by the atmosphere of piety that gave offense to Jesus himself because it seemed the expression of sheer hypocrisy. Not every church, of course, had fallen to this depth; there were then, as now, many exceptions. But the picture as a whole was bad – as it is today.”

- Rev. Frederick May Elliot,
President, American Unitarian Association
September 22, 2003

Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, IL 62707

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes to you as you celebrate your Golden Anniversary. It is quite a history to have grown as you have from the 100th fellowship to having just called a fulltime minister. I wish I was able to attend your celebration on such an auspicious occasion, unfortunately, I am committed to speak elsewhere.

May your congregation continue to flourish as you provide a place that will welcome all, challenge and nurture all, and be a home for those who aspire to a theology of liberal religious thought and belief.

Congratulations and blessings on your anniversary and your ministry together in Springfield.

In faith,

William G. Sinkford
Rev. William G. Sinkford
President

Affirming the Worth and Dignity of All People
On behalf of the Central Midwest District and its 76 affiliated and emerging congregations, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to members and friends of Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation on the celebration of your 50th anniversary.

The 50th anniversary is known as the Golden Anniversary and you are certainly in a golden time. You have just successfully completed two years of fulltime interim work. You have called your first fulltime settled minister. You are gaining clarity regarding your liberal religious identity in the larger community that treasures the heritage of Abraham Lincoln and engages with the challenges of state government. You are also gaining visibility as additional churches locate to this part of the city. You were ahead of your time!

Now is a time for celebration, to be followed by a time for determining your collective vision as you live out your identity in the Springfield area.

Know that the almost 12,000 members of our Central Midwest District congregations and the staff will be here to lend encouragement and support as you begin your second 50 years. You have demonstrated a strong commitment of stewardship toward the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and to the Central Midwest District and that generosity is returned in our support for you.

Again, congratulations on staying the course your first 50 years. Savor this special time as you share the Blessed Community of this congregation.

In faith,
Angela Merkert
Congregational Services Director
Central Midwest District--UUA
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UU Ministers who have served ALUUC

- David Parke
- Harold Marley
- Berkley Moore
- Sylvia Howe
- Mary Moore
- Alex Holt
- Martin Woulfe

Mr. William Horton
M/L PT Student Minister
1953 - 1954

Mr. David Parke
M/L PT Student Minister
1954 - 1955

Rev. Harold Marley
Part-time Minister
1956 – 1960

Mr. Fontaine Allen Wells
M/L PT Student Minister
1964 – 1966

Rev. Berkley Moore
Part-time Minister
Minister Emeritus 1995

Mr. Wes Hromatko
M/L PT Student Minister
1972 – 1973

Mr. Andrew Kennedy &
Mr. Bruce Marshall
M/L PT Student Ministers
1973 – 1974

Mr. William Holway
M/L PT Student Minister
1974 – 1975

Ms. Patricia Bowen
M/L PT Student Minister
1976 – 1977

Rev. Brad Currier
Part-time Minister
1976 – 1977

Rev. John Robinson
Part-time Extension Minister
1978 – 1979

Rev. Rudy Nemser
Part-time Extension Minister
1980 (six weeks)

Rev. Sylvia Howe
Part-time Minister
1981 – 1984

Rev. Mary Moore
Part-time Minister
1985 – 2001

Rev. Alex Holt
FT Interim Minister
2001 – 2003

Rev. Martin Woulfe
FT Settled Minister
2003 –
Our Houses of Worship

215 West Elliott Street
1963 - 1976

514 North Walnut Street
1976 - 1995

745 Woodside Road
1995 - Present
Unitarian Universalist Principles & Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

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 congregations 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.

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love

Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
The 1950's

1950
Two different fellowships, Unitarian Fellowship of Springfield (UFS) & the Unitarian Fellowship of Sangamon County (UFSC), are organized.

1952
Conversations focused on the merger of two fellowships begin: Dr. Jack Hayward, of Meadville Theological School, lends organizational assistance. In October, the first Unitarian children’s Sunday school class begins meeting at the Hines School of Business with 10 students and 4 teachers. Herb Hines was a charter member of the UFSC. A library is established. One member wrote, “Thus far we have held classes only and have established no routine of service. We are exceedingly informal.” Another member, Robert Stierer, wrote, “We Springfield Unitarians are encouraged by the outlook for the coming year, and progress to date. Our membership is growing; we had three sermon or lecture meetings and three discussion meetings last spring from April through June; we began a Sunday School for the younger children, and plan to expand to include older children this fall; formal organization as a fellowship will be accomplished in the near future ....”

1953
February 11 is the chosen date for the official founding of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Fellowship, which becomes the 100th Unitarian Fellowship in the United States.

Mr. William Horton, a student at Meadville Theological School, is selected to serve as the fellowship’s first part-time minister.

March 29 marks the Dedication Service of the new Fellowship, which is held at the Washington Park Pavilion in Springfield. The service began with a congregational song still used by ALUUC:

From all who dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with Love arise,
Let beauty, truth and good be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

The new fellowship received a letter of congratulations from former Governor Adali Stevenson, himself a Unitarian:

You begin with two distinctions: one, the fact that you are the 100th such fellowship to come into being; and the other, that you bear the name which has become synonymous the world over with the mystical heights of strength and beneficence to which it is possible for the character of an individual human being to rise.

1954-55
David Parke, a student minister from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago held services for the Fellowship on weekends. Later he became the UU World editor.
1955
A committee was formed to find a permanent home for the Fellowship that had been meeting at various places, including the YMCA, the B'rith Sholom Temple, the Springfield Theatre Guild, and the Urban League.

1956-60
A letter of support and funds were sent to Rev. Martin Luther King during the Montgomery bus boycott (1956). Also, Christmas gifts were collected & distributed to minority children.

The Fellowship engaged the services of Rev. Harold Marley, a Unitarian minister who was employed with Illinois state government in Springfield. The Fellowship adopted a schedule of alternating pastoral sermons with lay-led forums that survives today in a modified form.

From the pamphlet, “100 Unitarian Fellowships”
American Unitarian Association, March 1953

Plans were made to celebrate on March 29, 1953, the founding of the 100th Unitarian Fellowship as a milestone in the advance of Unitarianism in the Western Hemisphere. The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Fellowship of Springfield, Ill., was the 100th unit to become affiliated with the AUA. The road to Unitarianism in the capital of that state was not easy. From the first advertisement in a Springfield paper in 1950 to the present group in 1953, there were many stones to be overturned. Early efforts were frustrated until March, 1952, when a reorganized group, encouraged by regional director Randall Hilton, began conducting regular meetings. Four ministers of nearby churches gave their services. Dr. John Hayward of Meadville Theological Seminary became the group's "big brother." The Springfield Fellowship, like so many others, was to be the product of co-operative effort on the part of many dedicated Unitarians — both ministers and laymen. Discussions were held on what Unitarians believe and how they try to practice the ideals they preach. The concepts of liberal religion with its free search for truth, its insistence on democratic methods, its appreciation of the great men and great ideas of all religions -- all these were the subject of earnest meetings in the Illinois capital whose governor, Adlai Stevenson, was himself a devoted Unitarian ....

The choice of the name for the Springfield Fellowship was significant in itself, for Abraham Lincoln was a friend of Unitarians and of Unitarian thought. Though he never joined a church, the Unitarian Church of Bloomington, Ill., is today known as "The Church of Lincoln's Friends" and the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Conference is also named for the President who had said: "When any church will inscribe over its altar, its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Saviour's condensed statement of the substance of both Law and Gospel, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself,' that church will I join with all my heart and all my soul." The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Fellowship, believing that Unitarianism is the kind of religion that Lincoln meant, has chosen his name as a guide for its own future.
The 1960’s

1960
The fellowship had grown to 55 adult members and had 36 children in its Sunday school. The goals of the Children’s Religious Education Program were as follows:

*Four classes from pre-school through junior high age use the Beacon Press series to aid in developing a constructive philosophy of life that can function in the modern world. The best from the world’s great religions past and present plus a knowledge of the world about them helps each child develop for himself a religious and ethical outlook.*

1963
The Fellowship acquired a two-story brick residence in the 200 block of Elliot Avenue that served as the fellowship house until 1976. It was dedicated on November 22, 1963, the day of President Kennedy’s assassination. One report given on that date mentioned that “our average attendance at meetings has risen and fallen but within rather narrow limits from twenty to about 32 ... over the years our program has become stabilized. Some of our members have leaned toward the traditional religious service, others to discussion. Now we use both.” Participants recollected that while the dedication program was in progress, many excused themselves for short absences so they could follow the day’s events on television.

That same year, a Woman’s Alliance was formed, a precursor to our current Sisters Group.

1966
The by-laws were amended to change the fellowship’s name to the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to reflect the merger of the Unitarians and Universalists on a national level. That same year, more than 100 people signed the guest book for a Spring Art Exhibit at the fellowship. ALUUC continues our once a year art exhibit to this day.

During the 1960’s the fellowship engaged in the following activities to promote social justice: authorized the Peace Information Center and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom to use the fellowship hall; worked for equal housing legislation with the Springfield Human Rights Committee; and worked with Jesse Jackson and Operation Push.
Richard Prine (ALUF Board President), Rev. Harold Marley, Mrs. Paul King (Treasurer) and guest speaker Rev. Ellsworth Smith, Executive Director of the Western Unitarian Conference in February, 1960.

Lincoln is to be seen, not as one who uttered perorations about democracy, but as a tough-minded liberal realist. His attention was upon realities, his approach the opposite of doctrinaire. This fact gave added value to the content of his thought or the trend of his philosophy, in which the main emphasis was upon the liberal outlook and credo.

—J. G. Randall, "Lincoln the Liberal Statesman"

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Fellowship

*One cannot say that present factors are the same as those of Lincoln's day, but there is a timelessness about progressive and humanitarian principles which causes those of us who hold such views to feel a genuine harmony of understanding with Abraham Lincoln.*

Unitarians do not have an easy religion

It permits and demands that people think out their beliefs for themselves, and then live those beliefs.

The stress is placed upon living this life nobly and effectively rather than on the preparation for an after-existence.

Mail this coupon with 10s to UNITARIAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
Dept SPP-1 23 Beacon St, Boston 8, Mass.
Please send me booklets on Unitarianism

Name _______________________________
Address __________________________

SPP-3
1970
Rev. Berkley Moore, an ordained Unitarian Minister, who had moved to Springfield to take a job with the state Environmental Protection Agency, began preaching once a month at the Fellowship, which was also served by numerous student ministers from Meadville/Lombard Theological School.

1971
A new group for youth, LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) was formed. Within a year, the teens began publishing their own magazine, LEROY. This magazine was funded by a grant from UUA; the editors anticipated publishing 2,000 copies of each edition.


1973 - 74
On March 25th, the congregation officially celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Sermons delivered during 1973-74 included the following: “For Whites Only – Or is it?,” “The New Religions,” “Political Morality,” “Unemployment & the American Dream,” “The Great American Death Conspiracy,” and “Gagging, Garroting and Guillotining the Press.”

The Children’s RE Program was led by Barbara Weathers, who reported in 1973 that average attendance was 7 children in the nursery, 8 in the class for 5-8 year olds and 4 in the 9-12 year olds.

In 1974, the fellowship took part in both an “experimental project” to “acquaint the different generations in the church family.” Members were involved with raising consciousness about sexism and human rights in connection with local jails and courts. A Transcendental Awareness Group was formed, recycling efforts began and the congregation offered to let the IL Gays for Legislative Action meet here.

1975
Sermons from the year included, “A Generalist’s View of the Addiction Process,” “Concepts of God in the World’s Great Religions,” and a service to honor the 400th anniversary of the Edict of Toleration promoted by Unitarian Francis David.

Other sermons during these volatile years focused on inter-racial education, abortion, and the issue of war, which one speaker called “the greatest crime of all.”

That year, members were involved with the “Hunger Relief Project.”
1976
On September 22, 1976 the fellowship purchased the church building at 514 North Walnut Street for $70,000. The fellowship had been obliged to move due to the deterioration of the facility on Elliot Street.

Many traditional activities were begun during the 1970’s, some of which have continued to the present day while others have not: fellowship Annual Retreats at Lake Jacksonville, Round Robin Dinners, Brown Bag Lunches at the fellowship, the first goal setting group as part of the Sharing the Growth Program, the Ecology Committee to promote recycling, Adult RE, music in services, the first annual Weingart’s Hayride and Cookout on October 23, 1971.

1978
The Fellowship directors designated that year as “A Year of Consciousness,” to “re-awaken the congregations ‘self awareness’ ... and relating that self-awareness to the community around us.”

As the decade closed, the fellowship took part in the Weekend Ministry Program, which brought the Rev. John Robinson from Eliot Chapel in St. Louis for several Sundays.

During this decade, members of the fellowship were active in supporting the Women’s Rights Movement and tutoring Laotian refugees. Additionally, an Ecology Committee was organized.
1980’s

1980
As the decade began, the Rev. Rudy Nemser of the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, N.Y. came to Springfield as part of the UUA’s Minister on Loan Program. Rev. Nemser spurred the fellowship into analyzing their long time goals and looking for change. He apparently even turned the pews around and then wrote in the newsletter:

       I want not only minds to be unfettered,
       But free minds to be exercised.
       I hope I will always be a pew-turner
       And the Unitarian Universalist societies always have moveable pews.

That same year, our current pianist and Choir Director, Bonnie Ettinger, joined the fellowship and began playing the piano on Sundays.

1981
The fellowship voted to call Rev. Sylvia Howe as ALUUF’s part-time minister. Rev. Howe also conducted a service once a month in Macomb.

1982
ALUUF members participate in a huge pro-Equal Rights Amendment rally and host a reception for visiting UUs afterwards. Rev. Howe was active in various pro-choice efforts in Springfield as well as interfaith activities, which included an interfaith seder.

1983
The director of the UU’s United Nations Office gave an address at ALUUF; one of the results was that Phil Salisbury organized a local community-wide Peace Group. The congregation also supported the Sojourn Domestic Violence Shelter.

1984
Our Director of Religious Education, Telia Murphy, helped the youth to create a banner illustrating famous UUs in history. The youth went national as their picture appeared in the UU World with their banner. Rev. Sylvia Howe leaves to serve a congregation in Florida.

1985
ALUUF called Rev. Mary Moore as a half-time minister, sharing her ministry with the UU fellowship in Decatur. The congregation at the time has been described as, “a group of eighty adults and fifteen children gathered in a cement block, not-completely handicapped-accessible building perched on top of a 20 foot high concrete retaining wall topped by a 6 foot chain-link fence.”

1986:
ALUUF and congregations around the country declared themselves Nuclear Free Zones.
1989
ALUUF hired its first paid part-time Director of Religious Education, Jenni Dahl. After Jenni’s tenure the position was filled in succession by Mindy Miller, Jenene Grace, Traci Somers and Clare Lynd-Porter.

1988
A Future Home Task Force was convened to deal with the growth in the congregation, particularly the children’s program that was bursting at the seams.

At the annual Congregational Retreat, an updated Mission Statement was drafted.

During the 1980’s, the fellowship engaged in various social justice activities: opposed military aid to El Salvador, participated in the Take Back the Night March to combat violence against women, held a public symposium on the Theology of Ecology, declared itself, by a unanimous vote, a Nuclear Free Zone thereby joining with more than 2,800 cities, buildings and homes that did the same, joined the Metropolitan Community Church in an interfaith AIDS vigil in our fellowship building, rented to MCC for their afternoon services, participated as a congregational commitment in volunteering at the St. John’s Breadline, served as a training group for Hands Across America. That event, a national fundraising event to publicize anti-hunger programs, was intended to join the hands of volunteers all across America. Many members of ALUUC stood in the line holding hands as it stretched across Springfield and the United States.

ORDER OF SERVICE
May 1, 1983

MUSIC FOR OPENING
DANCE OF THE CHALICE
SHARING OF PRAYERS AND CONCERNS
SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY
“Simple Gifts: The Shaker Years.”
KENTUCKY MUSIC “Come to Zion”
CONGREGATIONAL SONG “Simple Gifts”
SINGING: Shaker History and Philosophy
SINGING: Music in Shaker Life
LIFE AS A SHAKER
CLOSING: Communion Circle
We love to dance, we love to sing.
We love to taste the living spring.
We love to feel our union flow.
While round, and round, and round we go.

MUSIC FOR CLOSING
Sister Sylvie
Donnie Kilgore

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.
1990's

1990
In the fall of 1990, a $50,000 capital fund-raising campaign was launched with 10 percent dedicated to renovation of 514 Walnut Street and the balance to purchase a site for the building of a future home. The fund drive met its goal.

1992
The congregation voted to purchase 5 acres on Woodside Road for $45,000.

1993
ALUUF celebrated its 40th Anniversary Celebration. The congregation participated in Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build by providing meals for the volunteers; joined the Springfield Coalition to Promote Human Dignity and Diversity; sold apples at Springfield’s First-Night Arts Celebration; and participated in “AIDS Walk Springfield.”

That same year, ALUUC’s first senior youth group was organized. Also, our first part-time Administrative Assistant was hired.

At the Annual Meeting, the members accepted the report of the Building Committee to proceed with Phase 1 of the plan for development of our five acre “Field of Dreams.”

1994
A Capital Fund Drive to finance the new church was launched. In December, ALUUF members stood in the cold and rang hand-bells on Martin Luther King’s birthday to protest a KKK visit to Springfield. The next day, ALUUF carried the “Celebrate Diversity” banner (made by our children and RE leaders) in the MLK Day March.

1995
In a January meeting, the congregation approved a “New Home Building Project.” Groundbreaking for new church began in March.

Also, in recognition of his years of service to the congregation and community, Rev. Berkley Moore was named Minister Emeritus. The actual service was held on April 30th.

During this year, the congregation began to hold town meeting to discuss a name change, from ALUUF (Abraham Lincoln UU Fellowship) to ALUUC (Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation).

1997
The Bridge Group started. ALUUC began hosting meetings of Interweave, an organization focused on G/L/B/T issues.
1998
Members of ALUUC voted, at the annual meeting, to become a “Welcoming Congregation.” That same year, a newly designated “Women’s Group” held its first organizational meeting. The “Quilters” held their first meeting.

In 1998, ALUCC supported Lee School with supplies. That same year, Diana DeWeese created the beautiful “Tolerance” banner which is displayed in the sanctuary.

1999
In February, the ALUCC Women’s Group adopted its new name of “Sisters” and vows to get together socially - No Work!

During the early 1990’s, ALUUC joined the UUA’s “Partner Church Program.” Members sent books and funds to support an historic Unitarian Church in the Hungarian-speaking section of Romania. In 1999, April Jouse participated in a youth trip to Transylvania, the locale of that congregation.

During the decade, Easter Breakfasts were held at Douglas Park. Prairie Winds, the local chapter of CUUPs was formed, as were a Men’s Group, and a Christian Discussion Group. Annual Retreats were held at the 4-H Camp in Jacksonville. Members attended Fall Outings at the Weingardt’s farm. Among a myriad of activities, ALUUC hosted Game-Board Nights, TGIF Gatherings, Pot-luck lunches, Mystery Dinners, Dinners for Eight, Coffee Houses and Amateur Nights. In terms of Social Action & Community Service, the congregation opened its doors to dependency recovery groups, joined the Coalition to Promote Human Dignity & Diversity, and supported the St. John’s Breadline annual fundraiser.

Our sister church in Transylvania

Ground-breaking Day, 1995

Original founding members & long-time members gathered for a 40th Anniversary celebration in 1993
A New Millennium

2000
In May, ALUUC women assist with the first All-Women Habitat For Humanity building project in Springfield.


2001
In January, Rev. Mary Moore officially resigned. That same month, ALUUC held a special service to honor Mary for her years of contribution to ALUUC. A Ministerial Leadership Fund Drive was initiated with the goal of raising $35,000. A donation was received from Louise Giesecke to fund Interim and Full-Time Ministry. In April, ALUUC hosted the CMwD Annual Assembly. Later that year, the membership voted to accept a Congregational Covenant. Members also participated in Springfield Study Circles on Race Relations. In September, ALUUC’s new Interim Minister, Rev. Alex Holt began his ministry here. On September 11th, a vigil service was held in response to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. In the days and weeks following those attacks, ALUUC members participated in many interfaith activities to promote toleration, healing, and solidarity.

2002
In February, ALUUC participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Night Fundraiser. In May, trees were planted on the grounds; this was made possible by a gift from Louise Giesecke. During the summer, a Green Sanctuary Committee was formed. Also, ALUUC began sponsoring lunches for Heartland Peace Camp for Children; youth in the RE program adopted the “Heifer Project.” That fall, the congregation joined with the Peace Coalition in Teach-in for Peace.

2003
This year, ALUUC began hosting Retired Persons’ Potluck & Discussion Group meetings. On the eve of war with Iraq, a Prayer & Peace Vigil was conducted here. In May, the congregation voted to call its 1st full-time settled minister, Rev. Martin Woulfe, who began his ministry here in August. And of course, ALUUC began planning to celebrate its Golden Anniversary!

In addition to these activities, members participated in CropWalk, “Make A Difference Day,” World’s AIDs Day, Helping Hands, Contact Ministries, the Kummer Food Pantry, AIDs Walk, and the Giving Tree. Members also supported the Lincoln Memorial Gardens, Parent Place, local peace activities, and Alternatives to the War on Drugs.
Over the years, many talented & generous persons have contributed much in the way of beauty and warmth to our building, including the following:

**Tolerance Banner:** inspired from a Planned Parenthood pin given to her by Rev. Mary Moore to commemorate ALUUC becoming a *Welcoming Congregation*, this banner was made by Diana DeWeese. The pink triangle represents gender diversity, the Star of David represents religious diversity, the human face in several colors represents racial and ethnic diversity, the aid ribbon represents mental or physical diversity and the male/female/equal sign represents gender equality.

**Celebrate Diversity Banner:** made by the RE Children for the Martin Luther King March in 1994. The day before, members of ALUUF stood in the freezing cold and rang hand bells to protest the KKK’s presence in Springfield.

**ALUUC Banner in Frank Lloyd Wright theme, carried at UUA General Assemblies:** made by Diana DeWeese, Christine Fenner, and Tina Layer.

**ALUUC Flaming Chalice multi-colored banners:** made by Diana DeWeese, Christine Fenner, Celia Wesle, Margaret Hade and many others.

**Matisse snowflake and dove banners:** made in the 1990’s by Barb Bolser, Diana DeWeese, Penny Wollan–Kriel, and the Senior Youth Group.

**Embroidered Tablecloth with names of ALUUC members and friends:** sewn by the women of the congregation as a fundraiser for additional songbooks (2000).

**New maroon banners of the UU flaming chalice and symbols of the world’s religions:** made by Tina Layer (2003).

**50th Anniversary Banner:** made by Rita Stepp.

**Pen and Ink drawings of Springfield sites:** Drawn by Betty Work.

**Podium cloth:** donated by Louise Giesecke from her travels in Peru.

**Worship Table:** made by John Corcoran.

**Iron flaming chalice on top of the ALUUC building:** made by Debbie and Pablo Taylor in Ontario. Donated by Diane and John Fisk.

**Our flaming chalice:** made by a Clayville potter, Margie Emerson for the fellowship hall on Walnut Street.
A rational approach to religion

Logo designed by Janeen Burkholder

The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Cecelia Haasis, chair
Delinda Chapman
Caroline Ewart
Debby Hagan
Linda Kopecky
Rita Stepp
Tom Vaught
Rev. Martin Woulfe