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**To:** Greg Nichols <[gspolitic@yahoo.com](mailto:gspolitic@yahoo.com)>; Reverend Amy Petrie Shaw <[revamy@ucdsm.org](mailto:revamy@ucdsm.org)>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2021, 09:52:03 PM CDT

**Subject:** Requesting Endorsement from First Unitarian Board of Trustees

Hello Greg,

... I am following up from our conversation to request a time that I could attend a Board of Trustees Meeting to request that the Board endorse First Unitarian becoming a member of Iowa Unitarian Universalist Witness Advocacy Network, a member of CUUSAN, Coalition of Unitarian Universalists State Action Networks. I have talked with Rev. Amy about my request and I am ccing they on this email, to help all of us be aware and informed of decisions and future steps and agreements.

Terry Lowman helped start IUUWAN around 2014. Terry and I currently represent our congregation on the IUUWAN Board. I view Terry as the person who has the connections and knowledge of the larger UUA groups, and I am the person who leads from behind, and along side members of our congregation to help build connections with other UU's in Iowa so that together we become a larger more unified voice for social justice in Iowa. To learn more about IUUWAN, you can visit the website at IUUWAN.org. CUUSAN also has a website that offers information about UU State Action Networks.

IUUWAN recently hired a part time social justice organizer. His name is Kirk Witzberger, and he is a member of the UU Society of Coralville. His duties include:

- Strengthening ties / **Build Relationships** between IUUWAN and social justice teams / church boards in each Iowa UU Congregation
- Assess each congregation's current social justice endeavors and their interests and goals
- Collaborate to create a short and long term plan for organizing all UU groups into a collaborative social justice advocacy movement in the state
- Develop a communications plan for IUUWAN including email notifications, Facebook postings, web page and bi-monthly newsletters.
- Introduce IUUWAN to other liberal religious organizations and other relevant social justice groups and strengthen or begin to form collaborative partnerships
- Organize a conference related to the social justice goals of UU Congregations
- Introduce IUUWAN to Iowa State legislators and organize a UU Advocacy Day related to the social justice issues of most concern to UUs.

I am requesting that the board endorse these efforts and encourage and support members of social justice efforts at First Unitarian in working collaboratively with IUUWAN and specifically Kirk to build a more organized UU presence and movement in Iowa.

The IUUWAN By-laws request that churches who endorse IUUWAN, pay \$1.00 per member to IUUWAN. First Unitarian has not endorsed being a member, but now that IUUWAN has an organizer, I believe becoming a dues paying member is now warranted.

As a representative of First Unitarian, I am energized and excited about the possibilities an organizer may offer us. Although I have not met Kirk, I hear very good things about him and am hopeful he can help strengthen the voice of Unitarian Universalists in Iowa and help us put our seven principles and proposed 8th principle into action. This endeavor will be an ongoing evolution, and I look forward to hearing the voice of the board so that we are working together in building relationships and advocating for justice in Iowa.

I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting with the Board of Trustees,

With gratitude and respect,

Linda Lemons

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