

Men's Fellowship 2016-2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Tom Reischl

The Mission of the UU Men's Council is to provide leadership and support for the development and stability of programs for those who identify as men and boys that enhance friendship, spiritual growth, and positive community engagement. This mission aligns with UUA Core Values of Spiritual Life, Social Justice and Environmental Action, Community, Stewardship, and Culture. Serving on the Men's Council last year included Kurt Skifstad, Craig VanKempen, Jeff Surfus, Mike Muha, Tom Reischl, Dave Borneman, Russ Blaesing, Gregg Peterson, and James McCargar.

The year's highlights:

1. 2016 Coming of Age Initiation Weekend – The Men's Fellowship hosted a community dinner for the initiates and their mentors May 15. Some men participated in the boys' initiation events.
2. 2016 Men's Retreat – The retreat was held at Judson-Collins Center on Wamplers Lake on October 7-9. Over 50 men attended.
3. Men's Circles – Five active circles involve approximately 70 men. The Men's Council is working with interested men to establish a new men's circle.
4. Men's Dinner – The 2016 Men's Dinner occurred on April 16 featured Domenic Tamborriello, who spoke on "Healthy Masculinity: Oxymoron or Hope for the Future?" Over 100 men and women attended the dinner. The 2017 Men's Dinner was held on April 15 (before the posting of this report) and the program will feature the Neutral Zone's Music Programs.
5. Monthly Breakfasts – On the third Saturday each month at 8:30am, a mix of dozen men drop by to share stories and news of the day.
6. Church Property Activities – The Men's Fellowship paid for repairs to the brush mower and is planning trail improvement projects.

The Men's Council is discussing new ways to promote stronger friendships and more meaningful commitments to the UUA Core Values.