

## Search Team Update

Thanks to all of you who showed up for our focus groups! We had 75 people participate, and your input was invaluable.

As we mentioned last week, we are hard at work on the Congregational Record. There are over 50 questions we need to answer about our church and our vision for our congregation's future.

We are doing our very best to express the vast opinions that you gave us—sometimes a majority of us expressed similar views, but since we are Unitarians, you can imagine that many questions had a variety of answers!

We are expressing what we feel the majority of the Congregation feels about our church, but we are also making sure that minority opinions are represented as well. After all, we have to let the ministerial candidates know the variety of thoughts and feelings held by members of our Congregation.

We estimate that it will take us over two hours to write out the answers to each question—and that doesn't count the hours we will spend exploring an online thesaurus to determine just how to phrase things. Each member of the Search Team is drafting answers to about ten questions. When that process is complete, Roxanne Willis the privilege—if you can call it that—of editing all the answers, so we speak with a clear and consistent voice.

By mid-November, we should have this monster of a document completed, and we will move on to creating images, a video, and other complementary materials for our ministerial candidates to use to help decide if they want to take on the crazy, diverse, caring, and very lovable group of us here at UUSG. We feel pretty confident that they will.

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## **UUSG Holiday Party for Incarcerated Youth**

For over 20 years, UUSG has provided support for the young men at the Illinois Youth Center by holding a holiday party for some of the youth who do not receive visitation. Traditionally we have purchased an item for their Rec Center or needed items for the young men, such as socks or body wash. Without these things life for these young men would be pretty bleak, especially at the holidays.

The party will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 1:00 to 3:00. You must be at the Center by 12:30. UUSG has a long history of brightening the holidays for the young men at the Center and those who have helped out in the past have found it to be both rewarding and thought provoking.

**In order to participate, you must submit your date of birth and social security number to Melissa Auer before December 1, as the Center will do a background check.**

For more information contact Melissa Auer at [ityc@uusg.org](mailto:ityc@uusg.org) or [630-338-2519](tel:630-338-2519).

### **Holiday Food Drive**

It's time for our 6th Annual Food Drive to support Humanitarian Service Project's holiday programs! Pick up a brown paper bag in the Common Room on November 10 & 17, and bring it back filled with non-perishable food on November 17 & 24. Only non-expired food, please!

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