

UUAA Men's Fellowship
2016 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 men and boys that enhance friendship, spiritual growth, and positive community engagement. This mission aligns with UUAA 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, Rajeev Batra, Craig VanKempen, Mark VanKempen, Jeff Surfus, Steve Schewe, Neal Foster, Mike Muha, Tom Reischl, Dave Borneman, Russ Blaesing, Gregg Peterson, and James McCargar.

The year's highlights:

1. Coming of Age Boys Weekend – hosting a community dinner and facilitating the welcoming initiation on May 2-3.
2. Men's Retreat – The retreat was held at Judson-Collins Center on Wamplers Lake on September 25-27, at Judson-Collins. Over 60 men attended.
3. Men's Circles – Five active circles involve approximately 70 men. We are working with interested men to form a new circle.
4. Men's Dinner – The 2015 Men's Dinner occurred on May 8, 2015 and featured Professor Woody Neighbors speaking on "Man Up, Man Down: What "Real Men" (should) do in Times of Trouble." Over 60 men attended. The 2016 Men's Dinner will occur on April 16 and will feature Domenic Tamborriello, who will speak on "Healthy Masculinity: Oxymoron or Hope for the Future?" This year's dinner is open to everyone and we expect a large turnout.
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 council is in conversation with the Accessibility Committee regarding some potential improvement projects.

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