

## **Chalice Circles Annual Report – 2017-18**

Submitted by Chair Karen Hale

The Chalice Circle Program provides 14 facilitated sessions to small groups (8-10 members) from October-May that offer opportunities to grow spiritually, connect as individuals, and build beloved community within the circles and within the congregation. This program has proven vital to connecting people in this large congregation through small group ministry. The program is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year.

1. Four Chalice Circles were offered at UUAA. Participation included 38 participants and 8 facilitators.
2. A three session Newcomers Circle was offered mid-winter. We intend to offer this more frequently next year with Newcomers Welcome volunteers being trained as facilitators to conduct them.
3. There is interest in using the Chalice Circle format and applying it to other lay ministry groups. The Chalice Circle Steering Committee will evaluate how to proceed with spreading this style of ministry without diluting its effectiveness.
4. Facilitator training for both new and returning facilitators was held in September.
5. Investiture of facilitators was held in November in recognition of their lay leadership role.
6. Each Chalice Circle completed a Service Project for the congregation.

We struggled this year to recruit volunteers for steering committee and especially as facilitators. The continued success of the program will depend on attracting and training committed volunteers and evolving to meet the needs of the congregation. The number and type of chalice circles offered each year is based on the number of volunteer facilitators. Without them, we would not be able to achieve the program's goals and meet the needs of the community at UUAA.

The steering committee is comprised of the chair, Karen Hale (Writing Team chair), Ginny Preuss (Registration), Cathy Olson (Newcomers Circle), Rich Donner (Evaluation), Shelley Stoll (Service Projects), and Anne Ramsey.