

2017-2018 UUAA Men's Fellowship Report  
Submitted by Russ Blaesing

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 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, Craig VanKempfen, 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 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 roughly a 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.
7. Beer Night -- To foster more membership the council has established a beer night which has attracted numbers of 6 to 15 men, meeting at various beer halls in the area.
8. Brochure -- Last year significant time was invested in creating a brochure for the Men's Fellowship as well as a logo. Both have been well received and serve to promote the programs and provide a sense of professionalism, inclusion.

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