

# Chalice Circles Annual Report – 2019-20

Submitted by Chair Ginny Preuss

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

1. Two groups formed to meet twice a month from October – May (14 sessions)
2. Four 20s/30s drop in circles were held
3. Seven one-time circles were held, coinciding with the monthly Worship themes.
4. Four Newcomers Circles were held, focused on the UU seven principles.

Chalice Circles have continued in virtual format since the Social Distancing began. Feedback from participants indicate they have been very effective.

There were fewer 14 session circles, than in prior years. This could be a result of many factors, including the growth in women's circles, the lack of facilitators for a Sunday circle, the significant commitment to participate in the long program and the fact that many people have been in the program in the past. The availability of childcare was an enabler for some people to participate who would not have been able to in the past.

The program continues to be valuable to participants and the UUAA community, particularly in its ability to engage newcomers.

The steering team will be reviewing our offerings for next year, given the shift in interest, and in order to respond to the conditions that may exist in response to Coronavirus.

Steering team: Karen Hale (co-chair), Ginny Preuss (Co-Chair/Registration/one-time circles), Cathy Olson (Newcomers Circle), Rich Donner (Evaluation), Shelley Stoll (Service Projects), Nicki Scholtz (Writing Team), Anne Ramsey (member at large).

Facilitators: Steering team, Cindy O'Connor, Suzanne Benloucif, Sam Lewis, Margaret Loebe, Kaite Kendall