

The Humanist Study Group (HSG) 2021-22 Annual Report

By Bruce Gibb, April 1, 2022

The HSG is an official subgroup or ministry of the UUAA for those who are interested in or have a humanist philosophy. We have over 100 registered members; more or less 20 are active in each of our zoom meetings. We meet from 2:00PM to 4:00PM the first and third Thursdays and from 7:00PM to 8:30PM the first and third Mondays of the month.

The Humanist Study Group provides a forum for members to explore and deepen their understanding and application of Humanism. We actively affirm and promote Humanism in the UUAA and in the Ann Arbor community.

We use all of our Sources in our meetings but have an emphasis on Humanist teachings, direct experience and current events. We studied 65 articles or books during the 2021-22 year.

We developed and implemented a Dialogue program to engage with the Congregation and Board of Trustees to consider improvements in governance so that as a Congregation we use democratic processes and structures.

To support our vision, twelve of our members are contributing to a scholarship for a minority participant in the University of Michigan Alumni Association's LEAD program.

Our goals for the 2021-2022 year were:

1. To continue to build and sustain a pluralistic community where free thinkers can feel safe and be supported.
2. To give a voice to humanists, atheists and agnostics through discussion, constructive activism, education, and philanthropy.
3. To support building the UUAA community using democratic principles and the active pursuit of the separation of religion and government.
4. To use our human capacities of empathy, compassion, and rational thinking as the foundation for ethical behavior.

In 2022-2023 in addition to these goals we plan to develop and lead a Dialogue session on each of the current and proposed UUAA Principles.