



Strengthen our Community

Objective:

We are committed to deepening and exercising radical trust in God and one another by providing more opportunities and ways to engage with one another to reinforce, sustain, and grow our community.

Key Provisions:

A new **Programming Team**, designated by Council, will take the lead in developing regular and creative programming to build and support our community. Members of team will work with short-term contributors to any of its activities.

Action Plan:

Initial objectives: (Fall 2013-Winter 2014)

- **Inspire us:**
Working with UniLu Power and Light (stewardship), create an “ideas and opportunities fair” to inspire members of the community to share their talents and interests (e.g., artistic, musical, dramatic, marketing, academic, pedagogical, social, contemplative, poetic, financial, organizational, culinary, political, activist...).
- **Find the time:**
Establish task group to address Sunday morning scheduling issues to offer more variety and better meet the needs of families, students, and older adults.
- **Share the spiritual:**
Establish task group to plan opportunities for adult spiritual development, contemplative activities, and biblical study.

Follow-on objectives (2014 – 2016):

- Schedule periodic intergenerational social events, such as the YAGS vs. OAFs Soccer Death Match and potluck.
- Reestablish Breadbreakers program of shared and rotating meals in someone’s home.
- Form committee to secure a long-term solution to the parking challenges for events held at UniLu throughout the week.
- Form committee to support the Sunday School director and curricular development.
- Identify other objectives that are fueled by the imagination, faith, and energy of members who are committed to enriching the communal life of UniLu.



Develop Active Outreach and Social Advocacy

Objective:

Using our voices and power, we will embody acceptance, compassion and justice for our neighbor by expanding our awareness, understanding and support of and with those in the community around us.

Key Provisions:

Invent/foment/organize: A new **Outreach Team**, designated by Council, will take the lead in building our vision for an active outreach and social advocacy ministry to the community beyond our doors. Members of the Team will work with “self-starters” in task groups focused on specific objectives.

Action Plan:

Initial objectives (Fall 2013-Spring 2014):

- ***Get ourselves out there:***
Find the “idea people” and identify all the ways to create public awareness of UniLu’s programs and progressive principles – e.g. press releases, articles and advertising in print and online news media; film and photos for local CATV, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook; signage on the streets around and on the church property.
- ***Leverage the activities that already do or could occur at UniLu:***
Inventory the activities oriented to the outside community that UniLu members are already involved in, identifying ways to build on these activities as well as generate new ideas as a congregation.
- ***Build on existing and identify new actions in the community:***
Meet with Harvard Square churches, Cambridge city and community agencies, and University officials to identify current social advocacy programs and unmet needs, and identify opportunities for involvement by UniLu.

Follow-on objectives – Fall 2014 through 2016:

- Empower task groups led by the “idea people” to generate public awareness products on a continuing basis in each of the target areas identified in the initial brainstorming.
- Coordinate and expand outward-oriented programs at UniLu to 7 days/week – e.g. UniLu and outside speaker series, Bible study, gallery exhibits and talks, Stoop 66, poetry slams on social advocacy themes, outdoor art exhibits, shelter tours, concerts (including space rental events).
- Explore interfaith understanding including relationship building within GBIO, and joint programs with other churches including activities at other locations.
- Get involved with Cambridge community activities, such as Science Week and street fairs, and offer our building for community events and meetings.
- Demonstrate our beliefs through our actions – e.g. create a culture of environmentalism (climate change issues, solar energy, recycling), host LGBT activities, create programs addressing racism, day of service programs, shelter events, mission trips, etc.