



Who are the Dream Catchers?

“Dream Catchers” is the name of FUUSA’s strategic planning committee. The Board of Trustees charged the Dream Catchers with engaging our congregation in asking and answering questions about our future.

Members are Pam Collins, Dick Dana, Molly Daniels, Allison Lattin, Donna Meixner, Dave Munro, Director of Religious Education Leah Purcell, Committee Chair Peggy Sherman, Reverend Sam Trumbore, and Board President Linda Way.

What’s happened so far?

Four major themes for FUUSA’s future emerged from small group discussions with about 90 members and friends in the fall of 2008:

- Participants most frequently cited the **sense of community** as the most satisfying aspect of being part of our congregation. They also said they were seeking deeper connections with others in the congregation.
- In addition to deeper connections, participants told us that they were looking for **greater opportunities for spiritual engagement**, in Sunday service and at other times.
- Participants wanted FUUSA to spread our message and be the **beacon of liberal religion** in the Capital Region.
- And they felt we must engage in **social justice and service to others** and get involved in our neighborhood.

In February and May 2009, the Dream Catchers hosted three additional discussions about how the congregation should carry these themes into our future.

In addition, the Dream Catchers has interviewed a number of community leaders in Albany for their perspectives on community issues where FUUSA might make a difference.

How do I participate?

Share your ideas any time by sending them to dreamcatchers@albanyuu.org, or contact a member of the Dream Catchers.

What’s ahead?

Look for the Dream Catchers’ report to the congregation in May 2009. There will be additional opportunities to participate in the development of the strategic plan, scheduled to be presented to the congregation in the fall of 2009.

FUUSA's Future

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 15, 2008

How will we make sure that FUUSA's light shines into the future as a beacon for liberal religion in the Capital Region?

Our congregation dreamed, planned, worked and sacrificed to "build up, reach out." As construction proceeded, we committed to place a special emphasis on welcoming new people; providing the highest quality services and programming for all; and taking the values we hold dear out into the larger community.

The Board of Trustees believes that now our congregation must plan the next stretch of this journey. Through a strategic planning process, we will define our greater vision -- the future congregation that we want to be -- and chart our course. The Board will appoint a Future Committee* to lead and facilitate this process.

Charge to the Committee

The Future Committee will seek to capture the passions and imagination of our congregation in a plan that will move us through uncertain times and towards purposeful change. The Committee will engage members in an open process of discernment about our congregation, now and in the future:

- What are the aspects of our Society we cherish and wish to enhance?
- What opportunities and challenges are facing our Society?
- How can we maximize our effectiveness in our members' lives?
- How can we maximize our impact in the larger community and the world?
- How should we organize and govern our congregation?
- How best should we use and grow our resources to meet challenges and opportunities of the current and coming years?

Through this planning process, our congregation will explore the dreams and possibilities of what we could be. This process will take place over the next year, with numerous opportunities for conversation. The Committee's recommendations will be presented at the annual meeting in the spring of 2009. These recommendations will consider:

- Our mission;
- Our vision;
- Goals to guide how our Society develops programs and applies its resources;
- Specific objectives or initiatives and implementation; and
- Benchmarks and other ways to monitor FUUSA's progress