

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF FMUU CHURCH

Early 1880's	Several attempts to organize liberal religion in the F-M area
1884	William Ballou comes to Dakota Territory
1887-1889	Ballou attends Universities of Michigan and Minnesota to prepare for the ministry
June 16	William Ballou gives first lecture at the Fargo Opera House
Late November	F.H. Irons, W.A. Scott and A.E. Nugent agree to form the Unitarian Committee
December 22	An Executive committee is chosen
February 18, 1890	The First Unitarian Society is incorporated with 52 members
June	The American Unitarian Association of Boston helps the new congregation and appoints William Ballou as the minister. He remains the full-time minister until 1919
Late 1890	Organized religious education begins
1891	William Ballou is ordained on December 20
February 1892	Literary Teacup Society is formed; perhaps the first women's study club organized in Fargo
June 1	Mr. Thomas Baker, Jr. President of the Board of Education, signs the deed conveying the school property to the Unitarian Society for \$2000
December 11	First Sermon in the church building Hancock Brothers are the architects J.J. Bowers & Sons are the contractors
1893	Publication of <i>Tea Leaves</i> by the Literary Tea Cup Society
1897	William Ballou resigns temporarily to study at Cambridge
1897-1899	Rev. Dr. Richmond Fisk is sent to Fargo by the Unitarian Society of Boston to replace William Ballou during his sabbatical
1904	Eleanor Gordon, a product of the Iowa Sisterhood, serves in the pulpit

1904	William Ballou returns as the full-time minister
1915	Olivia Dahl marries William Ballou. Madame Ballou gives concerts and has other social gatherings at the church
August 29, 1919	Prominent socialist, Max Eastman speaks against the draft and the war. Rioters break the church windows. Mr. Eastman narrowly escapes a lynch mob by crouching on the floor of Mary Weible's carriage on the way to Dilworth to board the train The First Unitarian Society disbands because of their unpopular Socialist and pacifist convictions William Ballou purchases the building from the First Unitarian Society for use as a music studio. Rooms are rented to artistic-minded people
1919-1941	William Ballou maintains the church as a cultural center featuring musical and artistic events and noted speakers of the day
1930	Madame Ballou dies
1941	There is a fire in the church
May 14	William Ballou dies
July	The building is sold to Jewish community leaders to be used as a Jewish Community Center (Beth El Center)
1952-1954	A Unitarian Fellowship in Fargo is approved by the American Unitarian Association. Meetings are held in the Fireside Room of the old NDAC "Y". There are ten charter members
1954-1958	Meetings are held in the Improvement Building and Metropolitan Savings and Loan in Fargo. Religious Education is held in member's homes
1958-1960	Meetings are held in the Opportunity School at 1620 16 th Ave. S, Fargo
1960	Meetings move to Jefferson Elementary School, 315 16 th St. S., Fargo
May 22, 1961	Unitarian Fellowship of FM is incorporated

- 1962 The American Unitarian and Universalist Associations merge in the Unitarian Universalist Association
- The Unitarian Universalist Women's Alliance is founded
- 1965 UUs publicly oppose the distribution of Gideon Bibles to 5th & 6th graders in the Fargo Public Schools
- 1966-1967 Meetings are held in the former Moorhead Post Office at 523 4th St. S., Moorhead
- 1966-1970 Millie Treumann serves on the Prairie Star District Board of Directors
- March 15, 1969 A mortgage note is signed on a building at 18 8th St. S., Fargo with help from Charles and Linda Moses
- 1972-1978 The UU Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) open a coffee house in the basement of the Fellowship for themselves and their friends
- 1975 The Fellowship host a Religious Education workshop for small UU churches
- 1977 Two floors are remodeled and meeting space is made available to various community groups who are in accord with our principles
- The Fellowship hosts a Prairie Star District Cluster Conference
- The Religious Education Committee offers the UUA's *About Your Sexuality* classes for the first time and invites other religious communities to participate
- 1979-1980 Through the UUA's Weekend Ministry program, Rev. Paul Johnson visits four weekends
- 1980 The UUA invites our Fellowship to participate in the Extension Ministry program to facilitate growth
- August Rev. David Phreaner arrives to help us prepare for the extension minister. Committee structure, leadership training, housecleaning, circle dinners
- March 1981 We mark the Canvass Drive Kickoff with a festive pig roast

August Rev. Lucy Hitchcock, our Extension Minister, arrives for a three-year stay. We share her ministry with Bismarck, ND. More training, nearly everyone's on a committee!!

December Christmas Pageant "St. Martha and the Dragon" three day wonder! Paper Mache dragon is constructed by adults and children together

1982 We look at two building for possible purchase and hold a renovation workshop for 18 8th Street South

March Annual Canvass Kickoff—Mark Chekola emcees hilarious entertainment, including the *Dance of the Seven Veils*

May The Annual Meeting includes enthusiastic kudos for committee chairpersons and other members, very celebrational!

November There is a combined mortgage burning and 30th Anniversary party

December Our second Christmas Pageant is "The Ice Queen".

1983 Service Auction. Members donate goods and services. Bidding is fierce; excitement is high!

December The Christmas Pageant is an adaptation of "A Christmas Carol".

1984 We grow to 103 members and 40 children

April Lucy presents a memorable sermon at Prairie Star District meeting, sharing her understanding of the prairie landscape and how it shapes those who live here. Repeats for congregation

Lucy is called back to Boston early by the UUA. We are on our own to search for a minister

1985 Rev. Catherine Vaughn is called to be our minister; new challenges, elation, disappointment, loss—we're on our own again. Membership declines

After a period of deep grief, we regroup; decide to become more polished in our Sunday services. A Long Range Planning committee is formed and begins to search for other buildings to purchase

- 1987 Carolyn Monzingo is hired for the newly created position of Administrative Assistant
- 1989 Millie Treumann is honored as a Prairie Star District Unsung Hero
- Jane Bovard receives the Prairie Star District Social Responsibility Award
- 1991-1996 Glen Morken serves as FMUU Church President, completing the longest term of any president in FMUU Church history. His term is distinguished by an improved consistency and quality of programming as well as a move toward finding a permanent home for FMUU's
- 1992-1994 Rev. Mary Beth O'Halloran, UU minister from St. Cloud, leads our Sunday services once a month
- Programming becomes a paid position filled by Laurel Elstrom
- The Fellowship hosts a small church Religious Education workshop
- April 1994 We sell our storefront building at 18 8th Street South, renew dedication to growth and change. There is excitement and fear at this major turning point.. We number 43
- We complete the year in the Seventh Day Adventist Church in North Fargo
- Sept. 1994 We rent the Methodist Chapel for Sundays and office space in the Congregational Church. Programming improves, new people attend. We mature and grow strong
- 1995 Carolyn Monzingo becomes our Commissioned Lay Leader
- We explore the building design process with several NDSU architecture students and their professor. It would be a costly venture to pursue

- 1996 Skip Wood is president of the FMUU Church. As board president, Skip is most proud of signing the papers to buy the new church building. Skip also spends many hours working on the accessibility ramp with Steve Anderson and others
- Long Range Planning works diligently to find us a building
- April 1997 We rediscover our roots and purchase the Unitarian Church built in 1892. Community building work parties beautify the sanctuary and make it ours. UUA President John Buehrens comes to dedicate our building. We grow again to 70 souls!
- May 1998 The FMUU Church Board of Directors unanimously and enthusiastically approves applying for status as a Welcoming Congregation
- July The Capital Campaign to expand and revise the existing church building begins. Goals are to improve accessibility and increase both religious education and community space
- Fall Ramp construction for interim accessibility begins on the south side of the church
- 1999 Mark Sinner becomes president of the FMUU Church
- Cindy Palmer is hired as Office Manager
- Peggy Neill steps in as Program Coordinator
- 2000 The Social Action committee asks the YMCA to broaden its definition of “family” in regards to its membership policy
- April 2001 Carolyn Monzingo retires after 6 years as our church’s Commissioned Lay Leader, having performed dozens of “rites of passage” rituals and having served invaluable to the church in both spiritual and non-spiritual ways
- Spring Linda Boyd Coates accepts the newly created position of Volunteer Music Coordinator, re-establishing a high quality of music programming
- Over the years, Nancy Harris, Paul Severson, Bob Olson and Doug Neill have also been valuable contributors to our Sunday music

July	Cheryl Bergian becomes president of the FMUU Church, and proposes restructuring the Board of Directors with a three year cycle of President Elect, President and Past President
March 2002	FMUU Church is featured on the front page of The Forum newspaper. Three separate articles highlight the YMCA family membership policy and the FMUU Church itself. Cheryl Bergian expertly handles the ensuing public debate
Summer	A public hearing regarding the YMCA controversy is held, and shortly thereafter, the YMCA Board of Directors votes to change the family membership policy to be more inclusive. FMUU's cheer!
July 1	Laurie Baker becomes president of the FMUU Church Board of Directors. Word of the wonderful FMUU community has spread, and by fall services, attendance increases
November	FMUU Church officially celebrates its 50 th Anniversary of joining the AUA (now UUA)
November/December	FMUU Church is featured in the UU World Magazine regarding its role in the YMCA controversy.
February 23, 2003	Twenty one new members join FMUU Church at the annual ingathering, representing a 20% increase in membership. Our church numbers 86 now
April	Linda Coates is elected President of the Board of Directors for the coming church year
May 11	Ruth and Sid Morton are first recipients of Outstanding Service Award (2002–2003)
September	Congregation votes to conduct a “Closing the Gap” fund raising campaign to cover a shortfall in capital for the building addition
November	Construction of the building addition begins
2003–2004	Fall Ingathering: 13 new members Spring Ingathering: 4 new members
Mar 2004	Stewardship Committee sponsors Kick Off dinner for annual campaign

May 2004	<p>The building addition is completed and a dedication ceremony is held on May 23, 2004. Melissa Hutchison becomes President of the Board of Directors for the coming year.</p> <p>Nancy Harris is the first recipient of the Lifetime Service Award Cindy Palmer is recipient of the Outstanding Service Award (2003–2004)</p>
Oct	<p>Cindy Palmer, a much loved church leader and chair of the Stewardship Committee, dies</p>
2004–2005	<p>Fall Ingathering: 11 new members Spring Ingathering: 2 new members</p>
2005-2006	<p>Fall Ingathering: 5 new members Spring Ingathering: 13 new members Total membership: 101</p>
May 22, 2005	<p>RISES is introduced to congregation by Marcia and Jim Kowski</p> <p>FMUU Church involvement in anti-Prop 1 campaign and banner “Civil Marriage is a Civil Right”</p>
May 2005	<p>Jill Kent becomes President of the Board of Directors for the coming year.</p> <p>Bill and Millie Treumann are recipients of the Lifetime Service Award. Claudia English is recipient of the Outstanding Service Award.</p>
December 4	<p>Richard Bresnahan, maker of new chalice, speaks at dedication.</p>
2006-2007	<p>Fall Ingathering: 8 new members Spring Ingathering: 6 new members</p>
May 2006	<p>Phil Mouch becomes President of the Board of Directors for the coming year.</p> <p>Thom and Audrey Richmond are recipients of the Lifetime Service Award</p> <p>Linda Coates is recipient of the Outstanding Service Award</p>
October 2006	<p>Old part of Church building re-roofed</p>

January 21, 2007

Granary Girls Concert; fundraiser for recently completed roofing project. Approximately 100 in attendance and almost \$1000 raised after expenses.

May 2007

Brian Gibson becomes President of the Board of Directors for the coming year.
Total Membership: 96

Last updated June 6, 2007