

Brief History of Live Oak UU Fellowship

2008

- First gathering for worship and fellowship November 23. We originally thought we might have 30-35 people attend, but were delighted with a turnout of more than 60. Decided to meet again for worship in January.
- In December, we did not have a worship service, but met to share holiday spirit: singing carols, doing holiday crafts, playing dreidl. We also shared hot cider and cookies. About 30 people gathered.

2009

- More than 70 people attended our January worship service and meal.
- On February 22, we held our first congregational meeting. The group of 20 attendees voted to affirm to *“create a new religious community, to help it grow, help it sustain itself, as we are all individually capable of doing.”*
- Chose to have worship and fellowship time (potluck) one Sunday a month at 4:00 p.m.
- From the start Live Oak has encouraged and received donations in our Sunday collection plate for local non-profits (People’s Grocery, Alameda County Food Bank, e.g.)
- Began working toward becoming a 501(c)(3). Granted effective May 28, 2009.
- Selected our name (Live Oak UU Fellowship), 22 people signed our new membership book (March 22)
- Created a website: uuliveoak.org
- Elected Board of Trustees
- Met with our District Executive for the first time (Aug. 2)
- Bylaws approved (via internet vote)
- 27 people came together to identify and create our Shared Ministry (Vision & Passion)
- Began meeting for worship & fellowship twice a month (Sept.)
- Our letter and questions to the UUA resulted in legal research and new info being sent to each District about new regulations for becoming a 501(c)(3)
- First appearance in public media: Oct. 8, 2009 Alameda Sun (Article about Faith Communities Coming Out, Coming Together walk and celebration)
- Carrying our new church banner, 15 members & friends walked with other faith communities for the Faith Communities Coming Out, Coming together walk and celebration. 4 Live Oak singers sang with the interfaith choir.
- First Stewardship Campaign demonstrated our commitment to Live Oak and our generosity. Thirty-one individuals or families pledged more than \$40,000.
- Collected \$825 for a UU minister in Transylvania to help renovate a playground. (The money was sent through UU Partner Church Council)
- The fellowship purchased one hymnal (*Singing the Living Tradition*) in the name of every *“founding member”* of Live Oak UU Fellowship. Each founding member was then able to choose the words for a bookplate for one hymnal.

2010

- Instead of just childcare, we began offering two R.E. classes for children (0-4 years and 5+) after the story for all ages at the beginning of the worship service.
- First “annual” meeting held for elections, budget approval, more (Jan. 10, 2010)
- Surveyed the fellowship on social activities to begin.
- Offered our first Adult RE class, cooperatively with neighboring congregations.
- In April, 13 people attended a workshop on cultivating the children’s program and building community with people of all ages. Led by Carol Bodeau.
- A poet who is a member of Live Oak donated copies of her book, *Boulevards & Blind Alleys* to the fellowship to be given to people who donate \$20 or more as our first fundraiser.
- We began recording worship services regularly and posting parts on our website.
- In our collection plate, we are now able to accept cash as well as checks intended for the charities we support.
- The Board held a very helpful, successful Congregational Listening Meeting.
- Selected a part-time choir director.
- Men’s movie group formed.
- Seven adult members (and one child) attended District Assembly (and were proud to have Live Oak on our nametags).
- First group hike held at Tilden Park. Eight people attended.
- Recognized as an “emerging congregation” by the Pacific Central District of the UUA and by the UUA (June 12).
- Live Oak Board President attended UUA’s General Assembly in Minneapolis.
- Designed and began wearing Live Oak UU Fellowship t-shirts.
- Created our own bookmarks to help market Live Oak UU.
- Participated in Alameda’s Fourth of July parade (float with our choir singing, walkers handing out bookmarks with UU information and our name and website).
- Had our first pulpit exchange (Rev. Ben Meyers).
- Received award from UU Ministry for the Earth for our support of their work.
- Members attended Dr. Ysaye Barnwell’s “Raise Your Voice: A Day of African American History in the Oral Tradition of Story & Song.”
- First Circle Supper held.
- Posted our first upcoming event on uuba.org.
- First (annual) Thanksgiving day meal together.
- First holiday concert (a huge success).

2011

- Started Small Group Ministry program
- Initiated a Mission Discernment program with District Field Staff’s assistance
- Hired a ¼-time Director of Religious Education