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