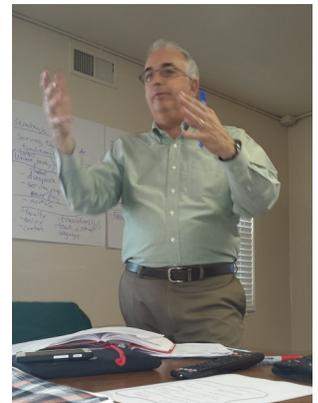




BOARD RETREAT

A board retreat was held at UUC's office on February 10-11, 2014. Dr. Jim Downey, a board member, led the board and staff through the process of strengthening and improving UUC organization in the light of new developments in leadership theories and practices. The board had a chance to revisit UUC's mission, core values and strategic anchors.



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APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

In a special meeting on Feb 12, 2014, the Board of Directors of UUC approved the appointment of Rev. Dr. Fletcher Tink to serve as the new Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer.

Dr. Tink received a PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1994 with a concentration in Theology and Anthropology, MA in Missiology at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1984, MA in Romance Language and Literature at Harvard University in 1983, ThM in Christian Mission and World Religions at Luther (Northwestern) Seminary in 1977 and MDiv at Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1973. He is an ordained minister of the International Church of the Nazarene with 16 years of experience as a local church pastor. Dr. Tink has 45 years of teaching experience at institutions such as Asuzu Pacific University, Fuller Theological Seminary, Nazarene Theological Seminary and five years of experience as a college dean. He is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, has traveled to more than 100 countries, and has taught in 41 countries around the world.

Dr. Tink has been serving as the dean of English School of Theology since January 2014 and now advances to the new position to replace Dr. Tu Truong. Dr. Truong is now handling international operations, focusing on the language schools, and continues to work alongside Dr. Tink in academic issues until UUC achieves accreditation.

*Board Retreat (continued)***Why We Exist**

To enable the Great Commission

Our Values

- Core Values
 - * Whole Gospel
 - * Access
 - * Passion for homeland and language
- Permission to Play
 - * Integrity
 - * Innovation
 - * Humility
 - * Faithful to the Lord
 - * Courage/Risk Taking
- Accidental Values
 - * Sacrificial
 - * Respond to Now
 - * Nimbleness
 - * Flexibility
 - * Perseverance
 - * Survival
- Aspirational Values
 - * Financial Sustainability
 - * Quality of Education

What We Do

UUC is a Christian educational institution committed to overcoming language, immobility and financial barriers through an online distance learning methodology designed to prepare students who serve God effectively in their locations and vocations.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**Authority to Forgive**

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

Mark 2:5

It is my understanding that in Jesus’ time, people considered a disability or a chronic illness or a devastating misfortune to be a sign of God’s disfavor and punishment. In John’s gospels the disciples ask Jesus whose sin it was that caused a blind man to be born blind (John 9:2). In that way of thinking someone with a brain tumor, or paralysis, or blindness was paying the price for sin, either his own sin or someone else’s. Jesus disagrees with that thinking: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, that he was born blind” (John 9:3).

Nevertheless we can assume that in the story of the paralyzed man in Mark 2, people thought that his paralysis was connected to his sinfulness, perhaps his extraordinary sinfulness since the punishment was harsh. One of the remarkable things about this story is that the paralyzed man has at least four friends who, whatever they believe about the connection of sin and paralysis, have not rejected him. They still love the man enough to carry him to Jesus; and still believe or at least hope that this famous rabbi will help their friend rather than condemn him.

Do we love well enough that we don’t abandon even those people who we believe have committed terrible sins, sins deserving God’s severe punishment? And when the way is blocked that would bring them to God, do we persist, as the friends did, until their friend was in the presence of the Lord? I sometimes wonder how

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Message from the President (continued)

much our experience of discipleship would change if, instead of condemning people for bad behavior and moving away from them, we committed ourselves to bringing them into the presence of Jesus, in our prayers and in whatever other ways are possible. And also committed ourselves to believing or at least hoping Jesus will heal them.

Many of our UUC family live in tough situations, in circumstances of unfairness, oppression and poverty. Often there are people who intentionally make those circumstances worse instead of better. How do we respond to such people? Perhaps we tend to think of them as sinners and enemies, and there is truth in that. But is our hope and prayer that God will punish and destroy them, so that we might be free of their evil? Or is it our calling as disciples of Jesus to love our enemies, to do our best to bring them to Jesus, to hope for the day when the Lord will not only forgive their sins, but will also set them free of their blindness or spiritual paralysis? Can we find authentic ways to act as friends toward them instead of being so ready to condemn? If we can do so, it will sometimes be harder for us, at least for a time. But it might also be better for the kingdom of God.

So the friends bring their friend to Jesus, and when Jesus sees *their* faith (not the faith of the paralyzed man, who may have had no faith), he says to the man “Son, your sins are forgiven.” The word “son” translates literally as “child.” What a different way of seeing this man! Not as a horrible sinner whom God is punishing with paralysis. But as someone not yet mature, not capable of functioning as an adult in the adult world; as someone in need of compassion and help.

Can we learn to see those we most quickly condemn, or those who burden us with troubles every day, in that way? Can we say in our hearts, “Child, you are forgiven; Child I hope for the best for you”?

The teachers of the law who were present and who heard Jesus’ words were critical of him. They said he was blaspheming, since only God can forgive sin. And Jesus, *so that they would know he has authority on earth*

to forgive sins, said to the man “Stand up, take up your mat, and go home.” And the paralyzed man immediately did what Jesus commanded.

So we know this: Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins. Our life, of course, depends on Jesus having that authority.

In John’s gospel, we learn that Jesus has given us the same authority to forgive sins. “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven” (John 20:23). He gives his disciples this authority to forgive in connection with his giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. It is not our natural inclinations to forgive or to condemn that is authoritative. Rather it is the Holy Spirit in us. When we listen accurately to the Holy Spirit within us, then we have God’s own authority to forgive. And if our life, even our eternal life, depends completely on the forgiveness of our sins, surely the Holy Spirit desires to teach us how to use effectively the authority to forgive.

As we join together this month to pray for the UUC community, let us also pray for forgiveness for those who act like enemies to members of our community, for those who oppress, for those who oppose the gospel, for those who deny opportunity, for those who confiscate Bibles and hymnals and burn churches, for those who threaten and who act with violence toward pastors and church leaders, for those who are in the majority and make life difficult for the minority. Let us pray for them the words of Jesus, “Forgive them, for they do not understand what they are doing;” or the words of Stephen, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” The scriptures encourage us to pray in this way for those who oppose us because of Jesus.

And let us also use the authority to forgive that Jesus has given us. We have been forgiven much. Let us also forgive much in Jesus’ name. And pray that the use of our authority to forgive those who act against us may become a powerful force for change and healing in the world.

Rev. Dr. Dale Sewall
President

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UUC DAY OF PRAYER

UUC's
Board of Directors
invites UUC students,
faculty and friends
to join them
in prayer for UUC on
the **first Monday**
of the month.



www.uuc.edu

NEW UUC TEAM MEMBER



Shirley Akers is a native of a small rural community in Minnesota. She loves spending time with her five daughters and five grandchildren. Shirley has lived on the West Coast for several years, most recently in Seattle, WA, where she worked as the Student Coordinator for Bakke Graduate University. Shirley has traveled the world building relationships and helping students experience the global church. Shirley joined the staff of UUC in December 2013 as Associate Director of Admission and Student Services for the English School of Theology. Shirley has now relocated to Westminister, California where she is enjoying the sun and warmer days.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for God's protection for the classes held in the remote regions of Vietnam
- Pray for the beginning of the English program at the end of March 2014
- Pray for the accreditation process
- Pray for the long term financial sustainability of UUC

SUPPORT UUC

Union University of California is able to provide scholarships to our underserved students primarily through the love and generosity of individuals like you. We welcome all levels of support, whether it is a one-time gift, a monthly donation, or a full scholarship for one of our students in need.

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