

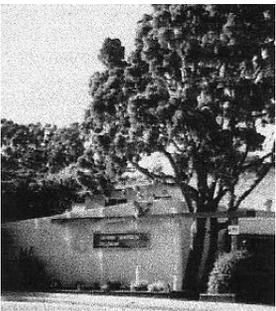
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

A Short History



Our congregation was developed to serve as an open forum for tolerant discussion during the restrictiveness of the McCarty days. We were accepted into the American Unitarian Association in the early 1950's and met in private homes. During the subsequent 20 years, membership grew slowly, and with constant turnover. A few stalwart individuals always remained.

The Unitarian Universalist Association was formed in 1961, a consolidation of the American Unitarian Association established in 1825, and the Universalist Church of America established in 1866. By 1965, our Fellowship's emphases were on issues of desegregation, disarmament, nuclear power protests, Vietnam and war protesting in general, and fair housing.



The first minister was called in the late 1970's. And in 1989, after meeting in rented facilities, the Fellowship was able to purchase its own building on Foothill Blvd in San Luis Obispo. However, we soon outgrew this facility even after adding a second story with classrooms, bathrooms, and office space. During Rev. Helen Carroll's tenure 2001-2010, we sold the Foothill property and bought 2.75 acres in old Edna to build a new green sanctuary.

After settling a prolonged lawsuit begun by our next door neighbor at Edna, the congregation continued assessing the opportunities on the Edna property while also searching for other possibilities. In late 2011, the Meadow Park Church of Christ came on the market and was successfully purchased by the congregation. Following a celebratory march from the rental facilities to our new facilities on Lawton Avenue, the first service was held on March 25, 2012.

In 2003, a mission statement was created by the Imagining Our Future Committee and approved by the congregation to serve as a guide for future plans and activities. The Mission Statement reads as follows:

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County is a diverse religious community providing a nurturing environment where individuals are encouraged in their search for truth and supported in acting on their beliefs. We welcome all who would share in our open, challenging journey.

Rev. Rod Richards, our current settled minister, joined us in August 2012.

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