**UUSD Long-Term Plans for a Memorial/Meditation Garden**

**November 2022**

This information is provided as background so that the Board is aware of what is currently being considered by the Landscape Committee. A memorial/meditation garden has been discussed since we bought our property. There is only room near the chalice sculpture for several memorial shrubs to be planted; going forward, we need a larger dedicated area, not only for plantings but possibly cremains. The Landscape Committee would *not* take on the responsibility of planning and installing such a garden; we suggest that an Ad Hoc group be formed to undertake this project, *after* member interest is assessed.

**Current Thoughts about Need and Location**

* A place to memorialize our aging congregation seems a logical project to undertake, as many UU congregations have done.
* Our property is large enough to accommodate such a garden.
* There are several reasons why the back southeast edge of our property would make the best place to establish a meditative spot:
  + Quiet; away from noise of traffic, building use, and neighbors
  + Peaceful
  + View of the pond could be created
  + Area would not be needed for future building expansion.
* One possibility, to avoid issues with the pond flooding the garden, would be to design the garden as an elevated boardwalk with seating, like those found in wetland preserves.
* The spot could be used for small ceremonies, group gatherings.

**Potential Funding Sources for the Garden**

* Faithify (UUA Crowd Sourcing website)
* Grants
* Include costs in operating budget, spreading project over several years
* Include in Capital Campaign for expansion
* Take deposits from members who wish to have a spot in the garden

**Next Steps**

* Survey the congregation to determine:
  + Level of interest in having a memorial/meditative area with ability to honor members & friends
  + Should cremains be allowed & if so, scattered or buried? (Note: DE allows cremains to be spread on private property.)
  + Who’s willing to join an Ad Hoc group to plan a memorial/meditation garden project?
* Consultants from area public gardens could be hired to assess feasibility, share best practices
  + Mt. Cuba
  + DE Botanic Gardens