UUCOB HISTORY

EARLY FORMATION

In 1985 a group of Unitarian Universalists began meeting in private homes to discuss the possibility of starting a church. This resulted in the formation of the Unitarian Universalists Congregation of the Outer Banks (UUCOB) which held its first service in the pavilion in Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve in 1986. The first purchase was a keyboard so that music could be provided at our services. The church became a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and in January 1987 held its charter service in the Ghost Fleet Art Gallery in Nags Head. Twenty-eight people signed the membership book.

A CHURCH IS BORN

In 1987 an old house on Herbert Perry Road in Kitty Hawk Village on one-and-a-half acres of land was headed for foreclosure. Resources were pooled and the mortgage assumed. After raising substantial new capital, renovation of the building began with many industrious members doing much of the inside labor. An attractive home for UUCOB was completed in October 1988.

For ten years the UUCOB existed as a lay-led congregation that met regularly for services on the first and third Sundays of each month. During that time, the congregation grew to about 60 active members and friends.

Meaningful Sunday services were developed, some with outside speakers. There was music at all services, and a budding religious education program. A monthly newsletter kept members and friends informed. Book clubs and potlucks began. Children were dedicated and arrangements were made for both wedding and memorial services. Dues were paid in full to the UUA and TJ District and, along with some extra offerings, help was given to members and friends in need.

UUCOB became a Welcoming Congregation, providing a safe home for people of all sexual orientations.

The members were exceptionally active in the community, with many involved in The League of Women Voters, Hotline, Girl Scouts, various conservation groups, and family support groups.

The adjacent lot was purchased to insure space for church growth. Later a section of the lot was offered to Feline Hope, the only no-kill animal shelter on the Outer Banks. Visibility in the community has been and continues to be a strong tradition.

A NEW MEETING HOUSE

In early 1998 the UUCOB received a substantial gift from a member's estate. After examining our goals and priorities, it was decided to enlarge our building and conduct a major capital campaign. The plan included constructing a beautiful new meeting house with a minister's office, kitchen, two bathrooms, and a committee room. A vital part of this plan was to lease the entire original building to the Heron Pond Montessori School on weekdays. The school opened in September of 1999 and continues to operate. The excitement was great as we held the first service in the lovely new meeting house February 6, 2000.

Our church began to be leased more widely for use by community organizations: a Jewish community, Al Anon, Weight Watchers, and a Food Co-op.

After years of operating as a lay-lead Congregation, UUCOB welcomed ministers, each of whom have helped our congregation grow in countless ways.

OUR MINISTERS

1995 - 1996	**Edward H. Piper, Interim Minister**
1996 - 2001	**Rev. Anne Buehler**
2001 - 2006	**Rev. George Smith**
2006 - 2012	**Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch**
2015 - present	**Rev. David Morris**