

**50 Years of Accomplishment
Community Initiatives and World Outreach
Davis United Methodist Church
1961-2011**

*The Davis United Methodist Church founded Yolo Suicide Prevention in the 1960's, with DUMC's Max Rothe, Betsy Marchand, and Zoe Alderman serving as the first organizers. Suicide Prevention is now a state and national model for training and overseeing community volunteers to address the problem of suicide.

*DUMC founded the Davis Short Term Emergency Aid Committee (STEAC) also in the 60's, another model effort that continues to assist local people who are in immediate need of social or economic assistance.

*In 1965, Rev. Phil Walker of DUMC provided strong leadership in the community by organizing and joining a number of Davis residents in the March for Black Americans' Voting Rights from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

*At about this time the church sent teams of congregants to work on "Self-Help Housing" for Yolo migrant workers, and was instrumental in creating a dental clinic for their children. Later the DUMC established a camp for foster children. The church youth raised money for the camp and served as counselors. It was later expanded as other churches joined in.

*At the initiation of Rev. Darrell Darling, DUMC founded Davis Community Meals in the late 1970's, which went on to become a community non-profit agency, received a City award for excellence in 2008 and just celebrated 25 years of providing food and shelter to the homeless and destitute.

*Also in the '70s, the Vacaville Prison ministry "Friends Outside " was started by DUMC. Our people went into the prison to care for the children while prisoners visited with their spouses. They also brought toys for inmates to give to their families at Christmas.

*The church provided sleeping space on the sanctuary floor about 1971 for many marchers headed to Sacramento from the Bay Area in protest against the Vietnam War. Peace activities have continued to be a prime focus of many congregation members.

*Under Rev. Lefty Schultz' vital leadership in the 1980's, members of the congregation helped establish Yolo Hospice, now a fully-licensed health agency for the elderly. Lefty also established the church's continuing active involvement in Amnesty International.

*Also in the 1980's, DUMC member Roberta Rothe served as the first President of the Board of Citizens Who Care, an organization providing support and family respite for the frail elderly. DUMC has for many years contributed volunteers and funds to the work of CWC.

*Rev. Pam Cummings' DUMC members spearheaded creation of Yolo County's affiliate of Habitat for Humanity in the 1990's, which continues to finance and build low-cost houses in Davis and Woodland for low-income families. Marcus Clark, Mary Philip, Diane Wagstaff and other DUMC members have served on the Habitat board.

*DUMC became the first community of faith in Davis to adopt a statement welcoming all persons regardless of sexual orientation, voting in June 1997 to become a Reconciling Congregation. While many churches might claim to have "always been welcoming", DUMC was the first to join the Methodist grassroots movement for full inclusion, greatly inspired by the groundbreaking work of Rev. John Moore, and continuing today with the open, embracing ministry of Rev. John Oda.

*Under Rev. Eileen Lindsay, with direction by Cindy Burger, DUMC founded Grace in Action in the 2000's, providing social aid and shelter for homeless persons and families. This effort was enhanced in summer, 2009 with the founding of Grace Garden. Led by Cid Barcellos, the Garden is a faith-based ministry to feed the hungry of our community.

*This church later partnered with several other religious congregations to create the Rotating Shelter for the Homeless, providing help to people who need an immediate roof over their heads.

*Over the years, many Church members have assisted Davis Rev. John Pamperin in his "Street Ministry" outreach to the troubled and disadvantaged.

*When many citizens of Davis organized to attend the March 2003 demonstration in San Francisco to protest the Iraq war, six buses left from DUMC's parking lot.

*The congregation has long supported various activities to advance environmental protection and sustainable living, including the Church community garden started by Marcus Clark and the "Care for God's Creation" work of Helen Roland and others. The current Grace Garden is growing vegetables, herbs and flowers, and feeding the soil through the use of sustainable practices.

*In the wake of Middle East tensions and the 2001 terrorist attacks, DUMC was one of the founding congregations to organize a unique "Celebration of Abraham" in Yolo county. Responding to the need for tolerance, trust, and understanding among all persons of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith, the Abraham gatherings continue annually.

*Over the years, individuals and teams from DUMC have embarked on aid- and community-building trips, including to villages in India, Africa and Central America, and to New Orleans following its devastating 2005 flood. Mary Philip in particular has contributed greatly with her famous fundraising meals. The children's ministry has long been involved in mission projects that help people across the world, including Heifer Project, Pennies for Peace, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Imagine No Malaria.

*Rosa Washington-Olson and other members of DUMC's United Methodist Women organization have for many years worked and advocated to assist women and children in need.

*Jean Becket and other congregation members have long been actively involved in efforts to support and protect refugees from Central America through the Religious Committee for Sanctuary, raising contributions for aid to victims of poverty and oppression including the El Salvadoran village of Rutillo Grande (which in 1996 became a Sister City to the City of Davis), and opposing assistance and military training to dictatorial regimes, particularly as provided by the School of the Americas.

*For many years the DUMC has nurtured, assisted and encouraged students at the University of California, Davis, particularly through its support of the activities of the Cal Aggie Christian Association. Many church members have worked at and made contributions to the campus CA House, including gifts by Andy and Mary Jean Burke and many others. Rev. John Moore led CA House for many years, establishing it as a caring institution emphasizing personal student growth, and bridging the worlds of academia and faith. Rev. Kristin Stoneking as current Methodist campus pastor has expanded CA House into a vibrant multi-faith student resident community.

*Rev. John Moore and Barbara Moore were recognized as Human Rights Citizens of the Year by the Davis City Council in 2001. Cindy Burger received the City's Civil Rights Advocacy Award in 2008. Jean Becket, Mary Philip and Clara Robison were also Davis Humanitarian Award recipients. When Davis citizens of minority races or creeds have suffered discrimination or attack, DUMC has stood with other faith and secular organizations in strong condemnation and with positive action. When Hillel House was attacked in 2002, DUMC members were prominent at the community-wide service of response at Congregation Bet Haverim.

*Including school board service by two DUMC pastors, Phil Walker and Darrell Darling, and service by Phil Walker as Yolo County Director of Health, the congregation has nurtured many community leaders including Betsy Marchand (long-time Yolo County Supervisor), the late Howard Reese (Davis City Manager), and Ken Wagstaff (Davis Mayor).

The Davis United Methodist Church is proud of its achievements and those of its members. We have strived to be true to our Mission Statement, which states in part that as a congregation, we actively express God's message of love for all by addressing the needs of one another, our neighbors, our community, and the world.

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