

## **Memorial Garden Committee**

Annual Report 2016/17

(Manual: p. 42)

*Composition: minimum of 3 members.*

### *Purpose:*

*1. Maintenance of the physical condition of the Memorial Garden, the area just above the Williams Garden and immediately surrounding the oak tree, and the plaques designating those interred within the Garden and elsewhere.*

*2. Designation of Interment sites and provision of memorial markers within the Garden and engraved plates for the memorial boards.*

*3. Administration of records and materials associated with those interred within the Memorial Garden and of expenditures from the Memorial Garden's restricted funds for maintenance and improvement of the Garden. (Note: UU Board approval is required for expenses over \$1,000.)*

*It is understood that regular coordination between the Memorial Garden Committee and the Landscape Committee will occur to assure consistency with the overall landscape concept and site plan of the church.*

Continuing on track from our energized re-start the previous year (2015/16), our committee this past year (2016/17) has three major accomplishments to its credit creating and carrying out a vision for an outdoor space appropriate for memorial to interred members and friends who have passed away and a resting place for their ashes.

The first significant act, in early summer, was the hiring of Carolyn Thayer, an experienced, professional landscape designer, to help us create a long-term planting plan, one that reflects the site's natural setting and relies specifically on plant material that is both indigenous to the State of Michigan and is non-invasive. Now it remains for us to diligently carry through in its fulfillment in the present year and those in the near future.

By mid-summer, having received the plan and accepted, with minor adjustment, its comprehensive and very specific planting design, we took our first steps in its implementation. Before the onset of Winter, three specimens of small trees (serviceberries) and a cluster of potentilla (a perennial) had been set in place. All have successfully made it through to the present Spring. We are now focusing on identifying species of moss to use as ground cover in the immediate area specifically designated for interment. We hope to have this in place before June.

Thirdly, we have staked out and preliminarily graded a pathway on the east side of the garden, which will allow barrier-free access to the garden. We have reached conceptual agreement on a permeable paving material and hope to have this component installed by mid-summer.

This past year has thus far seen the interment of four members and friends within the garden, bringing the present total interred on site to thirty.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Miller, chair  
April 27, 2016

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