

Presentation of Flaming Chalice by Lonnie Moseley to Victoria Bowen

Hello. My name is Lonnie Moseley, and I am honored today to present UUCB's Flaming Chalice Award to Victoria Bowen.

All of us know that there are incredibly committed people here at UUCB but one of the best kept secrets is Victoria Bowen.

Just like the physical pillars of our church building do not call attention to themselves and never fall down, that's who Victoria is: ever-present, solid, compassionate, organized and holding up more than you can imagine.

She is the person I talk to about new ideas and schemes and who also holds my head when I'm overwhelmed and floundering. Victoria's deep listening abilities are astounding.

As my partner welcoming on the doors of this church for years, I sometimes get the kudos for new people becoming members; but it is Victoria who listens to and shepherds new people and then helps them find their way in our church.

After Cordell was suddenly hospitalized some years ago, the day after he returned home, our doorbell rang, and it was Victoria standing there to check on us and discuss the health crisis. I had no idea that V was also a nurse consultant who donated her time to visit UUCB congregants and advocate for our care (while she was still working fulltime at her own hospital).

As our friendship deepened, I was captivated by her stories of growing up UU in Wilmington, Delaware and raising hell in the streets to fight against the Viet Nam war. She has continued to fight for decades against injustices. To this day, you will see Victoria in the crowds at detention centers, rallies for immigration rights and anti-racism and helping at GRIP.

In deciding to get more spiritual education, Victoria somehow found time to attend the Starr King School of Ministry and her ministerial skills are so evident in every activity she donates her time to. She participated on the Committee on Ministry for our emeritus ministers, Bill and Barbara. She brought our UU voice to the Chaplaincy program at Summit Hospital.

And at this very moment Victoria co-chairs Membership with me, is on the Leadership Team for Chalice Circles; has been a General Assembly Delegate more times than we can count; is on the Nominating Committee, the Program Council, and co-facilitates the "Widening of the Circle of Concern" Task Force.

But within Victoria's gentle soul is a very competitive ice skater and passionate teacher of skating. She is also a dancer who has choreographed and performed sacred dance at our church with dancer, Roger Dillahunt. In 2019 Victoria co-chaired with Melissa Rosales, the revival of liturgical dance at UUCB with the group, "UUCB Moves".

She is a mother, a sister, and a friend who can, just by a look, melt away anxiety and open you up to peace. I know. I've been so blessed to have her friendship and support.

Victoria, I am humbled and consider it a great honor to present to you the Flaming Chalice Award. Thank you for your love and commitment to UUCB.