



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

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ANNUAL REPORT

Report for: Membership Committee

Chair(s) John Daken

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Committee that occurred or developed during 2020-21:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this report on the activities of the Membership Committee. After a hiatus of several years, the committee was re-established shortly before last year's assembly and our president asked if I would serve as chair. I was joined by charter members Jone Johnson Lewis (Riverdale Yonkers) and Elizabeth Singer (New York) along with Sonja Kueppers and Bart Worden *ex officio*. We had the help of Pattie Arduini (Susquehanna Valley) in the fall and Jasmine Morris (Austin) in the fall/winter. More recent arrivals are James Croft, Ken Novak (Chicago), and Dorothy Dale (Triangle), with additional support from the AEU's new Program Support and Communications Coordinator Anna Orcutt-Jahns.

The committee has spent the past year building committee norms and connections as well as fleshing out the committee's roles and responsibilities. Broadly speaking, they are...

- Helping establish new groups, supporting their growth, and recommending qualified groups for admission to the union
- Supporting existing societies in terms of...
 - Programmatic excellence
 - Lay leadership development
 - Membership growth

Obviously, this is a broad mandate. We have big hopes, and our ability to achieve them will depend in part on our committee's capacity for its *own* growth and development. Thus, in early May we reached out to the President's Council to invite society Leaders to consider additional support to the committee in hopes that we can return the favor by supporting growth and vitality of societies across the movement.