

Track 1 - Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Nominating Chairs

Humble Audacity: the Spiritual Journey of Leadership Development Who says there are no miracles in Unitarian Universalism? Come explore how your own role as an elected leader of the congregation is fulfilling the values of our faith. Take a peek at the raw creative power you possess and identify what keeps it channeled toward good and not evil. Find out why leaders are at greater risk than others if they do not clarify the principles that guide their lives. Discover the humble audacity of living your faith through leadership. Douglas Zelinski, Leadership Development Consultant for the Metro New York District of the UUA. **Presenter: Doug Zelinski** has been the Leadership Development Consultant for the Metro NY District since 2007. His leadership development skills were honed during 20 years of organizational development work with nonprofit agencies and with city and county government in Columbus OH. He is familiar with congregational lay leadership – its rewards and challenges – because he has occupied a number of leadership positions at the First UU Church of Columbus. Currently, he lives in Wayne NJ, and his partner of 17 years, Steve Schack, still lives in Columbus. He loves his job, the metropolitan New York area, and Unitarian Universalism. He is committed to helping provide the tools, know-how, and inspiration to create healthy vital congregations.

Track 2 - Ministers, Professional Religious Educators and Seminarians

Title: Spiritual Accountability in the Real World Once again, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman will share her insights and experience as she challenges religious professionals to take an accounting of their faith and their spiritual practices as individuals and as partners. Who is responsible for defining and proclaiming the saving message of our faith? How do we find that message and discern its impact on our own lives and the life of our congregation? As religious professionals, what is our role in saving the souls of our lay leaders and all who might share our liberal religious values? **Presenter: Rev. Laurel Hallman** has just completed her tenure of 22 years as the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. She is a leader who fosters Unitarian Universalist spiritual development, institutional strength, and effective action wherever she goes. Laurel is the author of *Living by Heart: A Guide to Devotional Practice* (DVD and workbook), and *Reaching Deeper*, a book of sermons from her ministry in Dallas.

Track 3 - Treasurers, Finance and Canvass Chairs

Best Practices for Year-Round Stewardship We will address the spiritual component of all the work we do around finances and fundraising. Stated differently, how do we bring meaning to the often thankless task of raising, spending and accounting for the moneys we work with? From another direction, what keeps our activities around money from feeling like a part of our ongoing spiritual journey? What are the ethical issues we face around money and how do we respond to those issues? And what are the best practices we can identify around finances and fundraising? **Presenters: Harry Green** served 13 years as a District Executive in Prairie Star and Metro NY districts; two years as Director of the Office of Church Staff Finances; five years as a Consultant with the UUA Fundraising Office, and oft-times as treasurer of nonprofit organizations. Harry is a UU Minister, currently serving the First Unitarian Society of Rockland County in Pomona NY. **Jim Sanders** has been a member of the UU Church at Washington Crossing for 19 years. Jim has served on the church's Endowment, Finance, Auction, Canvass, and Personnel committees and Board and has managed the last capital campaign. Jim sings with the church's Crossings Chorale and co-facilitates two OWL modules. Jim has served for the past five years on the Annual Program Fund Committee and currently is the committee's general chair. In his professional life, Jim is the Director of Development for Renew Theaters, Inc. **Thomas S. Howard** has been a member of the Unitarian Church in Summit since 1994. He chaired the congregation's capital campaign, raising over \$2.1 million, co-chaired the annual fund drive, served as president, acted as moderator for the Council for Committees, chaired the Membership and the Long Range Planning committees, facilitated a Covenant Group, and is now completing a term on the Board of Trustees. In the rest of his life, Tom is a lawyer with a five lawyer firm in Hackensack NJ.

Track 4 - Administrators, Webmasters, Newsletter Editors

Can I bloggerize my second twitter face space? How does social media relate to our congregational communications programs? We'll walk through various trends in social media, from Twitter to Facebook to Blogging, to see how these avenues of communication might influence how our congregations relate to the outside world. We will explore ways to locate conversations that are important to our communities, become involved in the discussion, and finally begin to create these discussions on our own in a wider

context. We'll learn how to analyze our successes and reevaluate our outreach to make sure it's inline with the wider goals of each congregation. We will also look closely at how our faith and principles affect the ways we communicate online where a lack of risk and a sense of anonymity often make it easier for us to forget our values. **Presenter: Ben Goodwin** is an owner of Graphyte Design, a New York City based graphics and web development studio. He is a practicing Buddhist, retired youth advisor for the Central Unitarian Church in Paramus NJ, and currently lives in Rutherford NJ with his wife Laura Beth Brown, the DRE or the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood.

Track 5 - Worship Associates and Worship Chairs

Call to Worship! Developing and deepening the worship experience for Unitarian Universalists

We believe that worship is the central spiritual practice of Unitarian Universalism. Though carefully planned and crafted, ultimately our hope in worship is to allow participants an opportunity to be spontaneously moved – emotionally, but also so as to act for greater justice in the world. This experiential workshop will explore the meaning of worship; offer ways to develop specific themes through the liturgical year as well as in individual services; and explore best practices of a shared ministry model (worship committees and/or worship associates) for organization, training, and giving and receiving feedback.

Presenters: Sue Penny is a long-time co-chair of the UU Congregation of the South Fork's Worship Committee and the **Rev. Alison Cornish** serves the UU Congregation of the South Fork. Together they bring significant experience of a shared ministry model in creating Sunday worship services.

Track 6 - Musicians

Music as the Doorway Music has the capacity to simultaneously bring us out of ourselves and to take us into the deepest part of ourselves. How can this process aid us in our spiritual growth? How can we engage music in community building and connecting to each other? This presentation has both theoretical and practical aspects. There will be singing, talking, listening, and demonstrations. Find out how music can nourish us personally as well as build community and spawn community growth. The Women's Choir from the Westport congregation will be on hand to sing and demonstrate! **Presenter: Ed Thompson** holds a Master's Degree from the Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Hartford. Thompson's involvement with the Unitarian Universalism began in 1978 when he was appointed Director of Music at the Unitarian Church in Westport. In 1997, the church ordained him as a Minister of Music in recognition of his ability to engage people in music as it serves their spiritual development. He is on the Adjunct Faculty at Meadville Lombard Theological School and is the District Liason for the UU Musician's Network. He has accompanied dozens of singers and instrumentalists and, as a composer, has received numerous commissions. His new symphony, "Five in Fairfield," has been given its premier by the American Chamber Symphony.

Track 7 - Committees on Ministry and Right Relations

The Committee on Ministry (COM) In Practice This workshop will examine different congregational experiences implementing the Committee on Ministry as part of their governance structure. We will examine some common COM policies and practices based upon a survey of congregations in the District. There will be opportunity to ask questions and learn from each others' experiences as we work towards a shared understanding of COM best practices. **Presenter: Frances Sink**, Ph.D. is the District' Consultant for Right Relations, a clinical psychologist, and a candidate for UU ministry. She assists congregations in developing practices that promote interpersonal trust and encourage their spiritual communities to thrive while also learning to manage the conflicts and changes they encounter.

Track 8 - Membership and Growth Chairs

Growing From the Inside Out: Leading Your Congregation in Faith Development When we think of growth in our congregations, we generally think in terms of numbers of visitors and potential members. Growing our faith, becoming deeply committed to Unitarian Universalism and its principles, is often a more effective and permanent way to grow the congregation. It not only can get your visitors to come back in through the front door; it can help to prevent your members from walking out the back door. This interactive and entertaining session will explore ways in which leaders can help foster growth through a deepening of their own faith and through encouraging a deepening of the faith of others. **Presenter: Mark Bernstein** is the District Regional Growth Consultant and Director for Growth for the Joseph Priestley District. He is a native Long Islander and has carefully cultivated the his UU faith for the last 15 years.

Track 9 - Social Justice Chairs

Bringing the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign to Your Congregation The Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) campaign is sweeping through our movement. Learn the basics of the campaign, including tools to help your congregation get involved. This dynamic workshop will include the basics of bringing SSL to interfaith settings and working with the media. Come prepared to share your congregation's social justice and public witness work and how it can intersect and blend with the SSL campaign. **Presenter: Adam Gerhardtstein** is the Campaign Manager of the SSL campaign, a public advocacy campaign sponsored by the UUA that harnesses love's power to stop oppression. He was previously the Director of the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy. In 2001 he founded Ugali, an organization that supports communities and students in Western Kenya. He grew up in the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati and is currently a member of All Souls Unitarian Church of Washington, DC, where he is very active in its social justice ministries.

Track 10 - RE Chairs and DREs with Smaller RE Programs (under 50)

Leading Smaller Religious Education Programs This workshop will explore how to maintain an effective religious education program that has flexibility, depth, and action for multiple ages with limited resources. We will discuss how to prevent burnout of volunteers, provide a safe environment, and keep the interest of varying ages in a multi-age situation. Our beliefs determine our values and our values are reflected in our practices. So basic to this workshop will be the question, "What would our best practices with our children look like and how do we nurture spiritual growth in our children?" This workshop will be experiential, informing and reassuring for those serving small religious education programs. **Presenter: Reverend Carol A. Taylor** has recently retired as Director of Lifespan Faith Development for the Joseph Priestley District. Born and raised UU, she has spent most of her adult life as a DRE and an MRE serving six of our UU congregations. Her experience includes RE programs as small as 10 children.

Track 11 - Young Adult and Campus Ministry

A Church System That May Hold the Key: How a Thoughtful Approach to Young Adult Ministry May End Up Transforming Your Entire Congregation The lens of young adult ministry can be the key to make over your congregational life for all, not just the young adults you are trying to target. When you put on this lens you will see your congregation in a whole new way. Explore how generational, technological, and identity differences are the biggest hurdles to effective young adult ministry and how to open the doors to growth in spirit, connection, and membership for all. **Presenters: Andrew Mertz** is a third generation UU raised in the Washington DC suburbs. After a degree in Biology and an enlisted Army medic, he heard his calling to enter professional ministry for youth and young adults. Now in his third year at Meadville Lombard Theological School, he is Director of Youth and Young Adult Programs for the Joseph Priestley District. **Claire Sexton** serves part-time as the District Young Adult and Campus Ministry consultant. A lifelong UU originally from Texas, she moved to Brooklyn to pursue her Master's Degree in Visual Arts Administration at New York University. Because she has a passion for both contemporary art and multigenerational ministry, Claire also works full-time as Communications Coordinator for the nonprofit arts organization Art in General.

Track 12 - High School Youth/Advisor Teams (with an optional Friday overnight!)

Cooperative Leadership for Youth Programming There are three goals: (1) to provide basic leadership training to youth and advisors from each congregation or cluster of congregations to strengthen local programming; (2) to provide an opportunity for the establishment of clusters and increase networking throughout the District; and (3) to provide support to youth that the District has not typically served. **Presenters: Katie Parker** is the District Youth Adult Committee Senior Youth Co-Chair and a senior in high school. She also served on the Youth Ministry Working Group for the UUA. This particular training came from her original proposal. Sometimes we call it "Katie Con!" **Bob Fox** is currently serving as Interim Director of Religious Education at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca. Bob brings the experience of 10 years as a youth advisor followed by 10 years as a DRE serving three congregations in two districts. Bob helped plan and present more than 40 district youth conferences, served on the Central Midwest District Youth Adult Committee, served on the staff of Leadership School for Religious Educators, and leads the Ministry with Youth Renaissance Module.