

District Board Appoints Andrea Lerner as Acting District Executive

The Metro NY District Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Andrea Lerner has accepted the role of Acting District Executive for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Andrea has been our Religious Education Program Consultant for four years and in that role has served as one-half of the Executive Team under our Policy Governance system. During the coming year Andrea will report to the board as sole executive for the District. She brings to the position an impressive combination of proven leadership skills, commitment to our faith, familiarity with our congregations and our leaders, and knowledge of Policy Governance.

Andrea will work closely with Rev. Harlan Limpert, UUA Director of District Services, to arrange for auxiliary staffing in the District to ensure that the varied needs of our congregations and our professional and lay leaders continue to be met. She is also committed to exploring innovative ways to better serve our constituents. Among first steps in that direction will be the creation of “Consultant Teams” in the District to address congregational needs for Right Relations, Stewardship, and Ministerial and Staff Transitions. These teams will enhance the variety and depth of services to our congregations and help identify and develop potential leaders in the District.

Andrea will also work cooperatively with the staff of three other UU districts (Joseph Priestly, St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville) in a pilot regional group in partnership with the UUA, focusing on ways to share expertise across district boundaries to improve congregational life. She is currently a member of the Design Team for the partnership's first joint project, the upcoming UU Leadership Team Institute, an intensive week-long workshop with five “leadership tracks” or areas of concentration. Look for future exciting innovations from this new partnership.

Andrea, her husband, Ira, and their four children live in eastern Pennsylvania, where Ira is a volunteer for the Joseph Priestly District. Andrea is a graduate of Penn State University and attended graduate school in psychology at Fordham University. Before joining the UUA District Staff, she served three congregations, ranging in size from 250 to 700 members, as Director of Religious Education and also served as a mentor to several religious educators from small congregations. She served on the board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) for five years and on LREDA’s Professional Standards Task Force and its Integrity Team, which worked to dismantle institutional racism and oppression. She has been a UUA Renaissance trainer for nine years and was also trained to facilitate the Covenanting process. Andrea has completed the Alban training course, Consulting for Vital Congregations, as well as the Healthy Congregations training course.

In the coming months, the Metro NY Board will make decisions regarding long-term staffing for the District. Further announcements will be forthcoming as decisions are made. In the meantime, last month’s call for nominees for a search committee for a Congregational Services Consultant is postponed.

In peace,

Jerry Muntz
Metro NY District President