

Kierstin Homblette Appointed New Youth Ministry Consultant

Hello, Metro New York District!

My name is Kierstin Homblette and I will be arriving in New York City soon to work as your new Youth Ministry Consultant. I'm really looking forward to meeting and working with many of you, in your congregations and on the district level.

As a former UU youth myself, I am excited to serve the youth community and help provide all District UUs with resources and assistance to do the same. I know the importance of intentional, collaborative ministry with youth and young adults. I am a life-long UU, raised in the First Unitarian Church of Orlando. While at the University of Pittsburgh for undergraduate studies, I helped found a Campus Ministry group as a joint program between the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, my university, and Carnegie Mellon University. The fellowship and community that our campus group provided me is the reason I was able to stay committed to and involved in our faith throughout college and successfully make the transition from youth to young adult within our denomination.

After college, I took a position with the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy, as the Clara Barton Legislative Assistant for Women's Issues. While at the Washington Office, I lobbied Congress and the White House on issues including reproductive health and family planning, comprehensive sexuality education, and bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues. I also conducted advocacy trainings and issue-based workshops in congregations, district-wide meetings, youth groups, and at General Assembly.

One of the best parts of my job was organizing a four-day Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT) for youth, young adults, and adult allies, including education and skills training in lobbying for better sex education in public schools. It was amazing to see UU youth putting their values and power into action, lobbying their representatives in Congress on sexuality education legislation! SEAT is still an annual event put on by the Washington Office for Advocacy in collaboration with the United Church of Christ, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and Advocates for Youth. Check it out at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/comprehensivesexuality/27418.shtml> !

I've spent the last two years in the Peace Corps, living and working in a small village in Senegal. It was an amazing experience and an incredible growth opportunity for me, as well as a chance to work with some of the most giving, accepting, and wonderful people I've ever met. I'm still adjusting to being back, but I'm also excited for the next step! I'll be starting at Union Theological Seminary in the fall, working toward a Masters of Divinity, and hopefully UU ministry in the (distant) future! I'm very much looking forward to moving to New York, working for the District, and getting to know you and your congregations. Please feel free to contact me at kierstinhomblette@gmail.com.

Peace,
Kierstin