

## **What is Unilead?**

Unilead Lay Leadership School serves congregations of the Metropolitan-New York and the Joseph Priestley Districts of the UUA. It is held just south of the Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania.

Unilead is a challenging and unique experience. We combine leadership training with the study of religious values, creative worship, and fellowship in a nurturing environment. Unilead is an experiential weeklong course that teaches and reinforces religious leadership skills for lay leaders and potential lay leaders.

## **What do we do?**

Unilead encourages and assists in the continuing search for, and development of, religious values and in exploring and testing new and old concepts. We use large-group presentations and small-group intensive breakouts, plus independent group work.

## **Learning and reinforcing leadership**

Unilead uses a developed leadership course. With the assistance of experienced facilitators, you will learn how different leadership styles work within a group, with opportunities to practice your own styles.

You will develop skills to communicate with those in conflict and to manage conflict.

Study groups work on typical problems faced by congregations. In learning the process of group decision-making, you will expand your own understanding of committee work, team building, and volunteer motivation.

We discuss and examine diversity in our congregations as well as within the denomination. We consider the impact of diversity on leadership within the running of church committees and programs.

## **Thinking about our religious values and beliefs**

We will explore our values and belief systems through lectures and small group sessions. These groups, of four or five participants and a facilitator, meet daily to share thoughts and to support one another. Specific topics are addressed in journal and credo writing -- topics that require introspection and personal deliberation.

## **Experimenting with worship**

In an experiential exercise, participants work in small groups to create and lead a daily worship service. Participants have a chance to immediately witness and practice the interpersonal skills they are studying. It also provides them the opportunity to experiment with different worship service formats, or to design their own.

## **Why you can benefit from attending Unilead**

We give you new information on leadership, and constant opportunities to engage in exciting yet thoughtful conversations that allow you to develop a new perspective on your prior experiences. We constantly present opportunities to put into practice what we are learning. The exchange of ideas and information goes by at a breathtaking rate. It is one of the best ways to learn how not to burn out. Still, there is some free time -- time for quiet thoughts, birdwatching, deep conversations, or a walk in the woods.

## **Cost and enrollment**

Prospective participants may be volunteers, or their Board or congregation may choose them. Anyone who is now in a leadership position or who is thinking about taking a leadership position is welcome. Although participants may be officers or committee chairs, this is not a requirement. Unilead provides excellent training for potential leaders.

The participant must be endorsed by a congregation official, and the minister. Congregations may be limited to sending two participants, and the school encourages that representation. More than two will be

considered after May 15, if there are openings. The cost for the week is \$775: a \$325 conference fee is paid by the congregation (exceptions can be made), and a \$450 room-and-board fee is paid by the participant, or shared between the participant and her/his congregation. **There are large discounts for congregations sending multiple members, and for congregations that have not sent anyone to Unilead since 1994.**

The amount of the conference fee plus an advance of \$150 on the room-and-board fee is due with the application by May 15. The balance is due by June 15. Cancellation after June 15 will result in only the room-and-board fee being refunded.

### **Tuition aid**

Cost is not a barrier to attending Unilead; if money is the problem, the problem can be solved. Some congregations will pay the entire fee for their members. You should check with your Board about this possibility. Unilead has scholarship assistance; please submit a request to Laura Shemick, Lshemick@comcast.net, or call her at 717-270-6047.

## **Application for Unilead 2005**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Eve phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Congregational activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Minister's signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Congregational official signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# **Unilead 2005**

## **Unitarian Universalist Leadership School**



for the

**Metro-NY and Joseph**

**Priestley Districts**

**July 17-23, 2005**

**At the Kirkridge Retreat  
& Study Center, in Bangor, Pa.**

[www.Unilead.org](http://www.Unilead.org)

**Metro-NY District Contact:**

**Janice Marie Johnson  
(718) 840-0415**