

*Spring
Congregation Presidents
Roundtable*

Saturday, March 23, 2005

Community Church of New York
40 East 35th Street



**Unitarian Universalist District of
Metropolitan New York**

Lynda S. Bluestein, President

Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:30 In- Gathering – get coffee/ juice a bagel or muffin, get a name tag and pick up your handouts- mix and mingle
- 9:30 – 9:45 Opening Worship led by
The Reverend Bruce Southworth, Senior Minister with
Gerald A. Brown, Director of Music both from the
Community Church of New York
- 9:45 – 11:00 Keynote Speaker – UUA Moderator Gini Courter
- 11:00 – 11:15 Break
- 11:15 – 12:15 Small Group Exercise # 1 – who are all these leaders?
- 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch - provided by the District and prepared by our chef, Jennifer Hampshire
- 1:15 – 2:45 Facilitated Conversations
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 Closing Worship led by
Reverend Harry Green, Congregation Services Consultant and
Andrea Lerner, Religious Education Program Consultant

Who is here today?

Metro NY District Congregational Leadership

Elizabeth Bain (President, Morristown)
Richard Bock (President, Shelter Rock)
Lee Brown (President, Skylands aka Hackettstown)
Robert Carroll (President, First Unitarian Society of Westchester aka Hastings)
Creighton Clay (President, White Plains)
David Coddington (President, Garden City)
Sharon Copeland (President, Princeton)
Joan Christos (Secretary, Englewood)
Linda Curtis (VP, Poughkeepsie)
Josh Davies (President, Mohegan Lake)
Steve Dezego (Board, Garden City)
Leslie Dotson (Co-President, Middletown)
Wayne Eastman (President, Orange, NJ)
Gerri Farrell (Vice President, Huntington)
Art Freedman (Vice President, Poconos)
Sally Freedman (Member, Poconos)
Carol Goldman (Board, Mt. Kisco UUFNW)
Paula Greenspan (President, Poughkeepsie)
Mary-Ella Holst (President, All Souls NYC)
Lisa Horton (President, Paramus)
Jill Hueckel (President, Staten Island)
Stuart Lowrie (Co-President, Water Mill)
Rebecca MacLean (Board Member, 4th U)
Janice Maffei (President, Montclair)
Jerry Muntz (District President-Elect (!) Summit)
Jenny O'Grady Giddy (President, Kingston, NY UCC)
Matt Powell (Princeton Pres Elect)
Beth Putnam (President, 4th U)
Karen Reed (President, Westport)
Marty Rothfelder (President, Summit)
Jim Russell (VP Ridgewood)
Frank Srani (President, Pomona)
Marilyn Travis (President Community Church of New York –our host)
Joe Uhrhane (VP, Morristown)
Sabine Von Aulock (Board Secty, Montclair)
Nikki Willard (President, Huntington)
Winifred Zubin (VP at Community NYC)

Metro NY District Board and Staff Members: Lynda Bluestein, District President, Doug Ford (Somerville), Kris Henrickson (Ridgewood), Linda Hudson (Westport), Hope Johnson (Garden City's minister) and Nancy Ruckes (Community NYC) and Congregation Services Consultant Harry Green, Religious Education Program Consultant Andrea Lerner and District Administrator Laurie Golson.

Honored Guest and Keynote Speaker: Gini Courter, UUA Moderator



**UU Congregational Presidents
Metropolitan New York District 2004-2005***

Congregation Location	Name	E-Mail Address
Baptistown, NJ	Ernest Symanski	evsymanski@earthlink.net
Bayshore, NY	Anne Beyer Atlihan	angelkisses@rcn.com
Bayville, NJ	Carol Wooley	cwoolley @msn.com
Beach Lake, PA	Rea Stein	reart01@earthlink.net
Bellport NY	Chris Capobianco	Cappy59@optonline.net
Brooklyn, NY (First)	Jennifer Stevens	Jennifer C Stevens@yahoo.com
Brooklyn, NY (All Souls)	Kim Barra	Kimba524@aol.com
Croton on Hudson, NY	David Morkal	smurfdave@att.net
Danbury CT	Linda Spione	spione@ureach.com
New Brunswick NJ	Karl Andersen	karl@perfectway.com
Englewood, NJ	Michael Meyers-Jouan	michael@meyers-jouan.name
Flushing NY	Pauline Soo	paulineamerasia@aol.com
Freeport, NY	Steve Lester	smlester@aol.com
Garden City, NY	David Coddington	Coddingtons3@aol.com
Hackettstown, NJ	Lee Brown	Lbrown4@lucent.com
Hastings on Hudson, NY	Robert Carroll	president@westchesteruu.org
Hollis, NY	Alma Negron-Martinez	almalao@aol.com
Huntington NY	Nikki Willard	nwillard1@verizon.net
Kingston, NY	Jenny Giddy	jenny@giddy.net
Lincroft, NJ	Lisa Bredbenner	elb@comcast.net
Manhasset, NY	Richard Bock	rbock@optonline.net
Manhattan (All Souls)	Mary Ella Holst	MEHolst@aol.com
Manhattan (Community)	Marilyn Travis	marmette@aol.com
Manhattan (Fourth Universalist)	Elizabeth Putnam	bethp@rcn.com
Middletown, NY	Leslie Dotson	ldotson@hvc.rr.com
Middletown, NY	Michael Hughes	Mjth47_99@yahoo.com
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Morristown, NJ	Elizabeth Bain	elizabethbain@hotmail.com
Mt. Kisco, NY	J. Scott Dyer	scott.dyer@verizon.net
Muttontown, NY	Frank Oliva	
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Plainfield NJ	Peter Jones	president@fusp.org
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Princeton, NJ	Sharon Copeland	Sjbc1@ix.netcom.com
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Rock Tavern, NY	Jim Kirk	jkirk@majormarketnews.com
Southold NY	Susi Young	susi@optonline.net

Stamford CT	Carole Ehleben	ehelben@optonline.net
Congregation Location	Name	E-Mail Address
Staten Island NY	Jill Hueckel	hueckel@si.rr.com
Stony Brook NY	Barbara Coley	coleyb@sunysuffolk.edu
Stroudsburg, PA	Gloria Finch	gfinch@ptd.net
Summit NJ	Marty Rothfelder	mcrothfelder@rothfelderstern.com
Titusville, NJ	Judith Mason Pool	jmool@earthlink.net
Water Mill, NY	Stuart Lowrie	slowrie@tnc.org
Water Mill, NY	Marilyn Mehr	marmehr@aol.com
Wayne, NJ	Karen Francois	
Westport CT	Karen Lowry Reed	reeder-ct@snet.net
White Plains, NY	Creighton Clay	cecray@aol.com

*As of 03/10/05 lsb

Interesting Stuff about our District's Congregations

Smallest congregation has 10 members; largest has 1,304.

This year (March 1, 2005) the District reported 9,712 certified adult members in its 52 congregations. (Last year we had 53 congregations – Trenton, NJ merged with another congregation in the Joseph Priestly District and the merged Dorothea Dix is now counted as a JPD congregation.)

In our history, the Metro NY District had its highest reported membership in 1978.

Our largest 9 congregations make up just over 50% of the membership in the entire Metro NY District. (Lincroft, Community White Plains, Community NYC, Montclair, Princeton, Summit, Westport, Manhasset and All Souls Manhattan.)

If every one of our congregations had maintained its highest ever *reported* membership, then the Metro NY District today would have 16,462 adult members. I use reported membership advisedly since from the looks of the numbers some people reporting certified members seemed to have done so while wearing very rosy glasses!

And since it's not all about numbers...

OLDEST congregation in the district is The Unitarian Church of All Souls in Manhattan, organized in 1819. Community New York came into being six years later in 1825 and 4th Universalist (excuse me, the Church of the Divine Paternity – its name in 1852) was organized in 1838.

In Connecticut the oldest congregation is in Danbury, organized in 1822 with Stamford a few years later in 1841.

New Jersey's oldest congregations are Plainfield (1889), Orange (1890), Englewood (1892), Ridgewood (1896) Paramus and Montclair both in 1897.

Congregational Presidents at GA in Fort Worth

Claiming the promise, round 2

Last year, we issued a special invitation to our congregational presidents to come to General Assembly... More than 300 congregations responded to our invitation.

The experience of being able to meet with so many congregational leaders for several hours on the Saturday afternoon of GA was deeply gratifying for both of us. But more important, the experience was potentially transformative for Unitarian Universalism. It got our congregational presidents into conversation and into relationship with one another. It was a first step in establishing them as a primary leadership group in our movement. This was a huge step forward in claiming the promise of the nonhierarchical way our autonomous congregations and our Association work together.

The term for this is congregational polity, and it is part of the very bedrock of Unitarian Universalism, dating back more than 350 years. Congregational independence was in no way intended to mean congregational isolation, but when we asked the more than 300 congregational presidents at GA how many of their congregations had a relationship with a neighboring church, only a dozen or so raised their hands. It was a sign of how isolated our congregations are from one another and from our larger family of faith. The gathering of those local Unitarian Universalist leaders at last June's GA, participating in the discernment and the decision making for this denomination, was a big step toward correcting the balance.

We want to continue the conversation with our congregational leaders... General Assembly is the coming together of the delegates of our Unitarian Universalist congregations to do the business of the Association: to make real the covenant that binds us. We want to use our time at GA to shape the direction for our future, to witness to our values, and to forge the relationships that are at the heart of our faith. Our elected lay leaders are without question the right people to conduct that business.

And so, with the agreement of the UUA's Board of Trustees and its GA Planning Committee, I want to invite you to join us from June 23 to 27 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Our congregational leaders loved being at General Assembly last June. What they loved best was not the programming, although they loved that; and not the worship, although they loved that. What they loved best was the opportunity to be in conversation with and to forge relationships with their peers. And when we asked them what they wanted from the Association, their response was that they wanted more.

Well, we're offering you more. Make your plans now. We need to see you in Fort Worth this June.

In faith,
THE REV. WILLIAM G. SINKFORD, President
GINI COURTER, Moderator

Who is eligible for reimbursement?

- This invitation is extended to your congregation's highest appointed lay leader (i.e. Congregational President). If your congregation does not have a "President," the invitation is meant for your highest lay leader (Board President, Prudential Chair, etc. and not for ministers, administrators, DREs or other designees). In order to receive a reimbursement, attendees will be required to (a) verify their status within the congregation they represent, and (b) serve as a congregation member delegate at GA.

Should we send our current or incoming President?

- Congregations may send their current President or their President-elect. Only one reimbursement per congregation will be issued.

When are the Congregational Presidents events?

- Thursday, June 23, 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Congregational Presidents Welcome Reception
This is a private reception being hosted by UUA President William Sinkford to welcome and greet the congregational presidents who are attending.
- Friday, June 24, 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Congregational Presidents Workshop
Structured opportunity to meet with other congregational leaders. The first half will be facilitated; the second half is an opportunity for networking.
- Saturday, June 25, 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.: Congregation Presidents Workshop: In Growing Faith
Congregational Presidents are invited to join UUA President William Sinkford and Moderator Gini Courter to focus on the priorities of the Association. **Registration reimbursement forms for presidents are only available at this session.**
- Saturday, June 25, 3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Congregational Presidents Workshop
Structured opportunity to meet with other congregational leaders. The first half will be facilitated; the second half is an opportunity for networking.
- Monday, June 27, 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.: Congregational Presidents Workshop
Structured opportunity to meet with other congregational leaders. The first half will be facilitated; the second half is an opportunity for networking.

How do I apply for reimbursement?

- Congregational Presidents are invited to join UUA President William Sinkford and Moderator Gini Courter to focus on the priorities of the Association. Congregational Presidents who attend the Congregational Presidents session on Saturday, June 25 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. will receive registration reimbursement applications, which must be returned to the UUA GA office no later than July 15. Registration reimbursements of up to \$260 will then be processed for congregational presidents who attended GA and served as delegates from their congregations.

How do I accept this invitation?

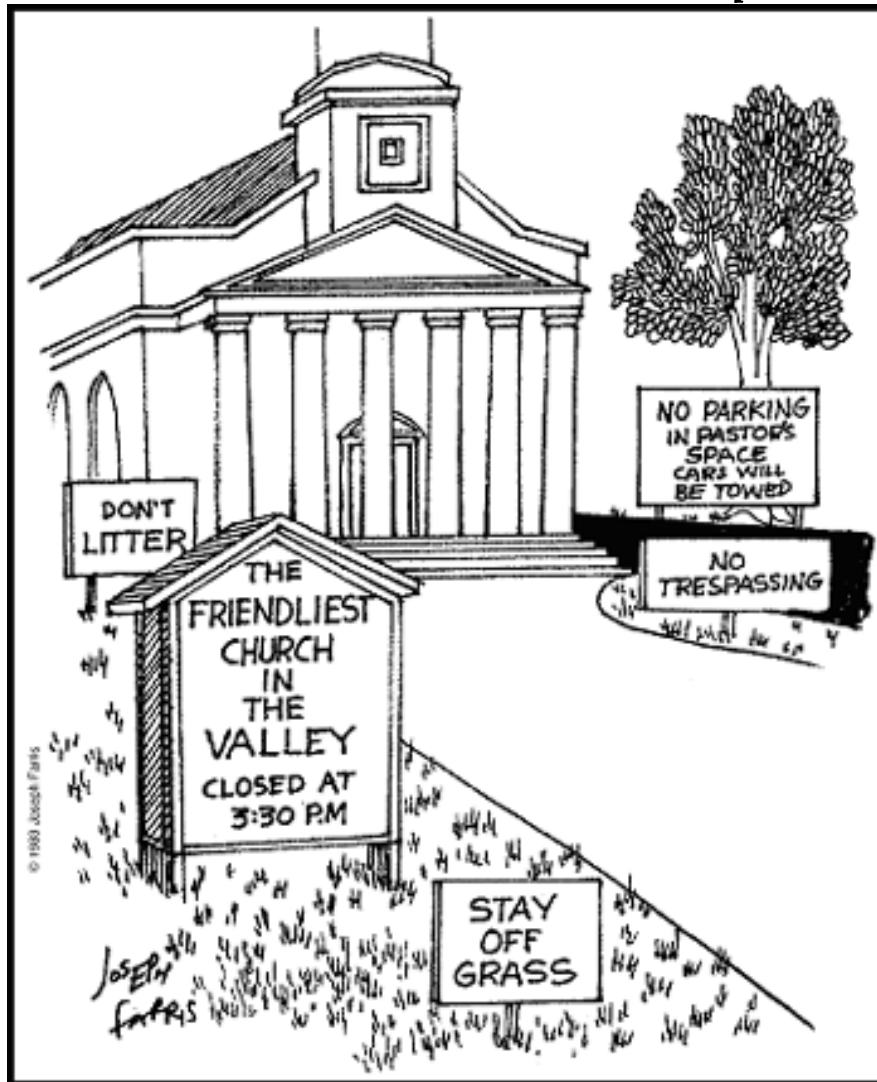
1. Please complete your GA registration along with payment. It is not necessary to indicate your leadership status when registering. Online registration is available at www.uua.org/ga/reg. Paper registration forms are available at www.uua.org/ga/reg or by request to the GA office at (617) 948-4209.
2. Come to GA and serve as a member delegate from your congregation.
3. Attend the Congregational Presidents Workshop on Saturday, June 25 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Reimbursement applications will be distributed during the meeting.
4. Return your reimbursement application to the GA Office at 25 Beacon Street, Boston MA, 02108 or fax to (617) 948-4651 no later than July 15.

When will I receive reimbursement?

- Reimbursements will be issued in August of 2005.

If you have any questions regarding this invitation, please contact Marjorie Matty, Assistant to the President, at mmatty@uaa.org or (617) 948-4302.

Resources on Membership



<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/membership/>

Everything a Membership Committee would want to be able to know and right away and online. This website lists online books, articles, ideas for greeting and welcoming new members, attracting visitors and more. I highly recommend this website to leaders who are searching for help with Membership Committees in their congregations.

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/memb-l>

The above is a list conversation on membership and growth issues. I have been subscribing for several months now. Occasionally good ideas come from this site which is probably more useful for Membership Committee chairpersons or members to use to ask questions.

http://www.jeffersonunitarian.org/programs/prg_volunteer.html

This is a web site of a church walking the walk with membership coordination. Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO is justifiably proud of their program. Check it out.

Resources on Name Changes



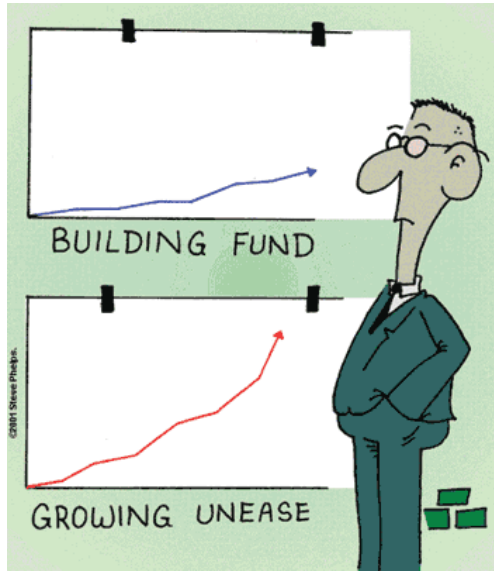
<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/nourishing/vol3-2-nourishing.html>

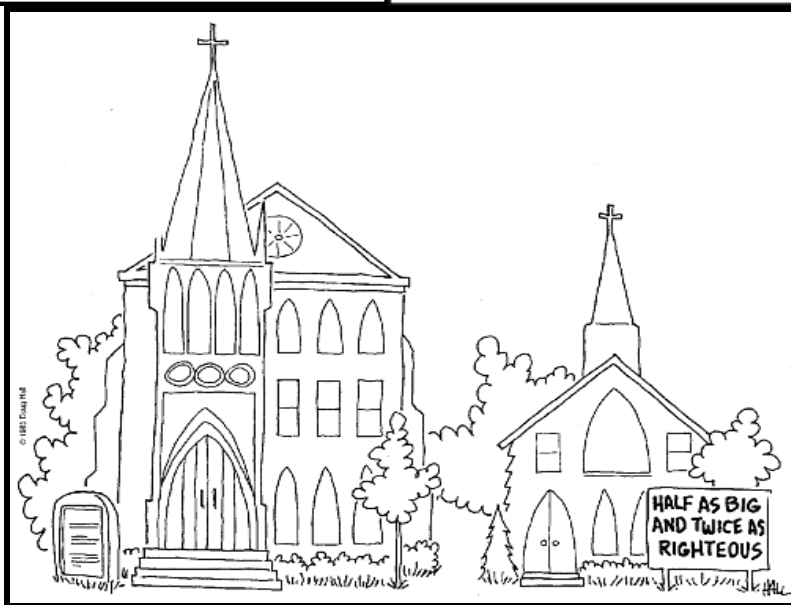
This is an article on congregations changing their names.

Resources on Growth



Just because I like cartoons





Welcome to the Congregation's Board of Trustees!

This information has been compiled to help you fit right into our board culture. Basically don't worry about anything because everything is someone else's responsibility. We want you to feel like you've arrived. Enjoy yourself, see and be seen with important people! Impress your friends!

- Make certain that you always complain about something at each meeting. Even if the subject is minor, make it into something major. This way other board members will be impressed with your knowledge of our church -- *chiefly because they have no knowledge and your loud concerned tone will make it seem like you know everything.*
- It is critical to the board-minister-staff relationships to keep them all on edge. For example, make certain that the church administrator knows that you think you could do his/her job better than he/she does.
- Give advice freely; its one of the reasons you were chosen for this board. It isn't necessary to do any actual work -- the advice is enough.
- Always complain about not receiving information from committees or the minister/staff. Imply that you were probably overlooked because of inefficiency on the part of staff. If the

information was published in the congregation's newsletter or mailed this is a great opportunity to complain again that you never seem to get these mailings on a timely basis!

- Avoid calling the office to ask for information you will need in order to present a report at the board meeting. Wait until you can complain in an open meeting about not being informed or helped.
- Feel free to make "pop in" visits to the church office. Staff is responsible for providing 24-hour hospitality for board members.
- Attend board meetings infrequently and don't worry about keeping up with minutes and ongoing on-line discussions. After all you shouldn't have to waste your time reading the minutes... that's a staff responsibility.
- "I've got a call in to..." is an acceptable committee report.
- Committee work is an important part of board work. The novice may think he/she actually will have work in this area but with proper timing it just isn't so. *Keep using the "I've got a call in to..." as you report until everyone gets irritated and blames the congregation's president. After all it is belittling to have to call another congregation or committee member. The president should have anticipated this and done something about it.*
- If you want an easy officer role on the board, be the "secretary" because everyone knows that taking minutes is really a staff responsibility.
- In the end remember what a valuable service you are giving to the congregation: your "name" with no money; your "advice" with no help; and your willingness to serve on the board (providing there is no actual work). Therefore relax and enjoy things. You've earned it!

The District Board

After a long, dry business meeting, the president announced that she wished to meet with the district board following the close of the meeting. The first man to arrive and greet the president was a total stranger. "You misunderstood my announcement. This is a meeting of the board members," explained the president. "I know," said the man, "but if there is anyone here more bored than I am, then I'd like to meet him."

Dear Friends, I will miss being with you in the coming years. These Congregation Presidents' Roundtables have been wonderful for me. My best to you and your new District President, Jerry Muntz Lynda