



SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:00 AM THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12
Childcare available for Children through Kindergarten

Words from Kent

I write my column this month with a great personal and professional joy at attaining Final Fellowship with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The support and congratulations you have given me have been wonderful! Attaining this milestone has been a ten-year journey that officially began when I took my first seminary class in the fall of 2000. It feels so good to be in this place. As I talked about this though, several people expressed that they did not know the ministerial steps, so I thought I would share with you some of the tasks of this process.

The road to UU ministry certainly has been the most demanding process I've ever engaged. The overall components include four years of training, which include three years of graduate school, a 10-week/400-hour (1 unit) Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship in a hospital, and a full-time nine-month church year ministerial internship with a congregation. The graduate degree is called a Master's Degree in Divinity (aka, an "M.Div.").

During a student's first or second year, we take a career assessment at an assessment center, and we see the Regional Sub-Committee on Candidacy (RSCC), a group of ministers and lay leaders who assess the student in terms of their progress and direction. We are required to have an approval from the RSCC before we are allowed to move forward.

For my first unit of CPE, I worked at Christ Advocate Hospital, a Level One trauma center in Oak Lawn, Chicago. I conducted my ministerial internship at First Unitarian Society in Denver, Colorado. During that year, the student meets with the lead minister at least once a week, and also meets monthly with an intern committee, a group of lay leaders who write monthly performance evaluations on all the student's classes, sermons, projects, presence and involvement.

After seminary graduation in Chicago in 2005, I moved back to the Twin Cities. Though it is not required, I engaged in a one-year full-time hospital chaplaincy CPE residency (which was an additional three units) at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park.

Before a student is allowed to enter into the church search process, they must pass the MFC, the

"gatekeepers" of ministerial fellowship. Seeing the MFC involves submitting a packet ahead of time documenting all the work, academics, supervisor evaluations, required essays, 19 different competency areas, sample sermons, and letters of recommendation, which, in total, is over 100 pages. When a student actually stands before the MFC, they give a 10-minute sermon in front of 10-12 members of the MFC. After the sermon is over, the MFC asks any question they want addressing any aspect of a student's personal, professional, or academic life. When a student "passes" the MFC, they are granted "Preliminary Fellowship," and are allowed to enter into the search process for a congregation.

Attaining Preliminary Fellowship is somewhat similar to defending a thesis – you pass, but you still don't have a job!

Once a minister finds a congregation, they then need to work full time for three years, with an evaluation each year covering eight competency areas. Each year the minister receives three evaluations: one from the Board, one from the Committee on Ministry, and a self-evaluation by the minister. After three successful annual evaluations, the MFC finally grants the designation, "Final Fellowship." This is where I am now!

Each year at General Assembly, the Service of the Living Tradition honors ministers who attained Preliminary Fellowship, Final Fellowship, those who retired, and those who died. This year I am fortunate to attend this service here in my hometown, in front of the "home crowd" of family, friends, and two very supportive congregations – UUCM and First Universalist Church, who believed in me and sponsored me through seminary.

This year the Service of the Living Tradition will be held on the night of June 24 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The service is free and open to the public. I hope to see you there! I could not have done this if it were not for you. Thank you for calling me, thank you for your support, and thank you for helping to shape me into the minister I am.

In peace,
Kent

News from the Director of Religious Education

Andrea Purdy Heier

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This time of year is always one of reflection for me, as the religious education (RE) program year comes to an end and another group of fine young adults bridges out of the child and youth program. As does a parent, I find myself wondering if the RE program and the congregation have provided enough grounding for these young people. Do these new adults have the roots and wings they need to move forward and remain Unitarian Universalist?

Like parenthood, the responsibility feels daunting. I can affirm that there have been many hours of time, oodles of energy, and heaps of love put into that process by many people. If those are the measures of success, I would say we have done well. Yet, as stated in the UU World magazine, as many as 90 percent of UUs leave the church after graduating from high school.

At the Prairie Star District conference in Davenport, IA, this April, Kent asked me and several others, as part of the closing worship service he led, to give a brief testimonial or reflection on our own personal UU “roots and wings” – the theme of the conference. It is Hodding Carter to whom this phrase is attributed: “There are but two lasting bequests we can give our children. One is roots, the other, wings.” In this context, I suggested that roots signify the foundation of who we are, where we come from, and that wings are our means of leaving the security of the familiar in order to discover the horizons for living out our essence, our goals and our values. Here is an excerpt from my words that day:

For me the roots and wings were primarily developed through the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. My family attended Sunday services and special events in the church throughout my childhood, and my father continues to be active at the young age of 88. Members of the Society were often our social group, as were UUs we grew to know through Camp Unistar, in Cass Lake, MN. I was a suburban girl, attending a large city church, but part of an intimate UU small-town-like community of fellowship, moral grounding and spiritual support – though “spiritual support”

may not be the term they would use in that strongly humanist congregation. Many of these people are mentors to me to this day. In essence, I was blessed with the assets of significant adult relationships and involvement in religious community together – and much more.

Families today have a huge number of barriers to regular participation in church. Due to a number of different activities in our culture, “keeping the Sabbath” today requires an inordinate amount of sacrifice many families are simply unwilling to make. And yet without the statistical “3.3-3.8 days of participation per month” associated with the graduates that do stay or return to UUism later, what will become of our values for individual worth, freedom of belief and responsibility for the web of life?

Now is the time I should pull the rabbit out of the hat, but I don’t believe there is a single answer. Instead, I want to hear from you how the RE program in specific and the church at large can be of help that this faith remain accessible for you. Multigenerational ministry and worship is one idea UUCM’s leadership is hopeful about. I hope you will be in touch with many more ideas to help us move forward in this faith together.

Congratulations, Bridgers! Stay in touch!

ANDREA

Office Administrator to Leave Position

Emilie Fitch, UUCM Office Administrator since 1993 will be retiring from the position the end of June. As this issue goes to press interviews are being conducted to find our new Administrator. Emilie leaves with fond memories of her time with you all and wishes the church well as it moves forward in its mission and growth. She looks forward to more time with her grandkids, more travel with her husband, and a yoga class or two to help with flexibility!

Annual Spring Congregational Meeting

The annual spring congregational meeting was held on May 23. The meeting's major focus was a quick recap of the highlights and challenges for each ministry, the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees, along with approving a budget for the 2010-11 church year and electing new members and officers to the Board of Trustees.

Budget

Mike Gower presented the 2010-11 budget. A few items of note:

- ✦ The Prairie Star District (PSD) and Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Fair Share dues are not included. The board, however, intends to pay the dues, which amount to approximately \$16,000. The Board and Finance Ministry will work together to find ways to raise these needed funds (e.g., using surplus or Capital Reserve Fund, sending a bill to each member, having a Fair Share Sunday with collections to pay for dues).
 - ✦ Plate collections were removed from the budget. Collections each Sunday will be dedicated to a certain cause, allowing UUCM to contribute more to others in need outside of the church.
 - ✦ The Social Action Ministry budget amount was increased from \$500 in 2009-10 budget to \$2,000.
 - ✦ Increase of \$2,500 for Facilities; offset somewhat by lower insurance payment.
 - ✦ Increase in staff expenses for increased benefit costs.
 - ✦ Board Discretion amount reduced from \$6,000 in current budget to \$3,000.
- Increase Auction Fundraiser amount from \$12,000 in current budget to \$14,000. Any amount raised at Auction above \$14,000 will be donated to Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners.

The proposed budget was unanimously approved.

Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate to the congregation:

2-year Term (to fill the remainder of the 3-year term vacated by Bob Dachelet in September 2009)

- ✦ Lisa Powell

3-year Term

- ✦ Marc Doepner-Hove
- ✦ Kathy Stuebner
- ✦ Jackie Zimmerman

Officers

- ✦ Noel Martinson – President
- ✦ Michael McGee – Vice President
- ✦ Mike Gower – Treasurer

Nominating Committee

- ✦ Mary Cotton Levin
- ✦ Mike Elliott
- ✦ Melissa Martinson

As is allowed by UUCM's bylaws, Noel Martinson nominated Bob Dachelet at the meeting for one of the 3-year terms. The four candidates all spoke briefly about why they wanted to serve on the Board of Trustees. Bob Dachelet then withdrew his name for consideration and the original slate was unanimously approved.

Board members who are finishing their terms, which end on May 31, include: Alison Albrecht, Jackie Smolen and Steve Sundby. Returning board members include: Mike Gower, Kevin Johnson, Noel Martinson, Michael McGee and Bill McKnight.

From the Board President

Alison Albrecht

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Writing this column is, I believe, my last official act as president of the Board of Trustees and I'm struggling to find a theme or topic. Do I re-cap the year (either the church's or my experience as president)? Do I look forward to what's ahead (either for the church or me personally)? Do I share things learned (either for the board or me as a leader)? This column could go many directions, thus it looks as though it's going to be a hodge-podge of thoughts.

A change in attitudes

When I was elected to the board in 2007, I was offered some of the standard "congratulations" after the vote. There, however, was an underlying tone that serving on the board was much like serving a prison sentence or an attitude of "good luck with that, I hope it's not too terrible." A mere three years later I believe that sentiment has changed. We're not at a point – yet – where we have several people running for each of the open board slots, but we did have a nomination from the floor at the congregational meeting on May 23; meaning four candidates were vying for the three open 3-year board positions. This is a good sign.

A learning experience

While I have worked for nonprofit organizations for over 20 years and am familiar with the workings of a board of directors, the past three years represented my first stint as an actual board member. And it was definitely a learning experience. As board president I stumbled and fumbled through some of our meetings; learning what some of my strengths as a leader are, along with areas for growth. I am appreciative of the opportunity to do this in such a safe and supportive environment.

What's next?

So what am I going to do with all this free time I'm going to have? Well, to be honest, as a full-time, single parent with two children, free time is still likely to be a rare commodity. I do, however, plan this summer to limit any commitments I make, in order to enjoy the summer and all it has to offer. I will remain on the Legal Team and will continue serving as the spokesperson for the church (voted on by the board at its May meeting). Come fall I'll explore what else I might want to do at UUCM.

As I said at the congregational meeting, it has been an honor serving this congregation as a board member and as the president for the past year. Thank you.

Take care and enjoy the summer,

Alison

Board Column

May Meeting Highlights

Membership report: Members Jane Andrews and Marc Johnson-Pencook requested a change to Friends status.

The 2010-2011 budget was approved as presented by the Finance Committee to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

The Board approved the proposal of the Policy Governance Team to accept Policy Governance to govern UUCM. It will be a multi-year process to bring to complete fruition.

It was decided that Alison Albrecht, outgoing President of the Board, will remain the primary communications contact of the church to the community in regards to the lawsuit against Wayzata.

A discussion and planning of the Congregational Meeting then took place and the Nominating Committee made their report.

Respectfully submitted, Emilie Fitch

All Services at 10:00 am except where noted.

May 30 Decade Service - Karen Hoagland

Services for June

June 6 Flower Communion

Rev. Kent

June 13 Our Beautiful Blue Boat

Rev. Kent

June 20 "UUA, GA, PSD and Me"

Diana Allen

June 27 On Sunday, June 27 the entire UUCM congregation is invited and encouraged to attend worship at GA. **It will be from 9:00 to 10:15 am at the Minneapolis Convention Center and is open to everyone with no fees involved.**

News from the Ministries

Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka Facilitators for 2009—2010

Communications: Stephanie Wallingford, 952.807.7265, swallingford@lmc.org

Community: Deanna Johnson, 952.935.2249, deannaleejohnson@comcast.net

Facilities & Operations: Lee Kaster, 952.935.3873, leekaster@comcast.net & Pete Connors, 952.934.7131, connorspm@aol.com

Finance: Michael Gower, 763.420.6644, msgower@comcast.net

Social Action: John Crosson, 763.473.0945, crossonjohnt@aol.com

Lifespan Religious Education: Julia Antonsen, 952.472.6081, janton@frontiernet.net

Membership: Janna Sundby, 952.471.7752, jannasundby@yahoo.com

UUCM is organized into eight work areas as listed above. The work areas, or ministries, are led by a **Facilitator** and together the Facilitators make up the **Church Council**. The Church Council meets on the first Thursday of each month along with staff and a representative of the Executive Council of the Board of Trustees.

Community Ministry About Our Members

Please keep each of these families in your thoughts.

Long time UUCM member **Sharon Lockwood** died May 15 after a lengthy illness. Her memorial service was at UUCM on May 22. Our thoughts are with her husband **Neal**, their family and many friends. She will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to all our high school and college graduates. The high school graduates of UUCM are: **Liz Gower, Katie Hulting, Mitchell Jacobs, Emily McDowell, Graham Ransom and Maddie Schepers**

Congratulations to **Mitchell Jacobs**, grandson of **Dick Langford** who won a National Merit Scholarship! Mitchell will be attending Dartmouth College.

The Monday Morning Book Club Open to all—Join Us!

The MMBC will be meeting on **Monday, June 21 at 10:00 am** at UUCM in Room 4. Anyone interested is invited to come and participate. The book for June is *Victoria's Daughters* by Jerrold Packard with **Peg Wilson** as the discussion leader. Questions? Contact **Bev Montgomery** at 952.931.0805 or bevmontgomery@comcast.net.

Social Justice Ministry

The Social Justice ministry meet on May 12. Much of the discussion centered on the Adopt-a-Neighborhood project which will begin on a regular monthly basis in the fall in conjunction with St. Edwards. There was discussion regarding how we will obtain the food, volunteers and extra financing above what is in the budget. We want to get youth volunteers.

The environmental task force remains very active.

There will be a major push in the legislature at the next session to get single payer universal health care passed in Minnesota. We will want lobbyists for the fall and winter starting after the elections in November.

We plan to address the congregation regarding interest in developing more focus groups.

There will be a Habitat for Humanity project the week of June 7. Individuals interested in volunteering can contact Jerry Edwards at jerryled2003@yahoo.com.

Worship Arts Ministry

The Worship Arts Ministry is looking for someone to organize and lead meetings for the Aesthetics group. This group would meet seasonally (4-5x/year) and as needed to coordinate the beautification and care of the worship areas of the church. There are 5-6 people willing and waiting to do the work needed, they just need some help getting organized. Please contact Diana Allen uudiana@yahoo.com (952-546-1603) if you are interested.

THIS and THAT AROUND THE UUA and the PRAIRIE STAR DISTRICT

29 days—and counting!!

General Assembly in Minneapolis June 23—June 27, 2010 Minneapolis Convention Center

Check online at UUA.org and click on General Assembly on the home page. Two events are free and open to all without registration: the **Thursday, June 24 Service of the Living Tradition from 7:30 to 9:00 pm**. The annual Service of the Living Tradition honors ministers who serve and have served Unitarian Universalism. The service recognizes ministers granted preliminary fellowship, those achieving final fellowship, and those completing full-time service. The Service of the Living Tradition also commemorates those ministers who have died in the year prior to each service. **As a special bonus for our congregation, our minister Kent is being received into final fellowship by the UUA this year! What a great opportunity for us to support him in this accomplishment by attending the Service of the Living Tradition.**

On Sunday, June 27 the entire UUCM congregation is invited and encouraged to attend worship at GA. It will be from 9:00 to 10:15 am at the Minneapolis Convention Center and is open to everyone with no fees involved.

UUCM member **Debbie Elliott** has agreed to be our congregation's GA Coordinator. If you are attending and/or volunteering please let Debbie know. She'll keep the master list for UUCM and will coordinate who is attending what and ride sharing among other things. The plan is to have a pre and post GA meeting here at UUCM to plan and de-brief! Contact djelliott@jaspereng.com

Unitarian Universalist Women West UUCM Yoga Experience Friday, June 18

Did you have a wonderful experience at last year's Women's Retreat yoga class? Well, that experience is coming back! Join us for a follow up to that very exciting event on June 18th from 7 to 9 pm. Elizabeth Muellerleile will be back to lead us through a yoga experience!



ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

Jodi Holden, Coordinator
jodiholden@yahoo.com

Open Forum

Nurture Your Spirit...Get Connected...

Join the Open Forum

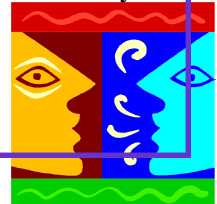
Interested in discussing the sermon? Our discussion will provide an opportunity for the congregation to reflect and comment on the previous week's sermon in an interactive way.

Dates: Every Sunday

Time: After the Service

Location: South Alcove of Sanctuary

Facilitator: Jodi Holden



Drumming the Soul, Saturday, July 10 at 7:00 pm

Come and find out what you missed in May! Enjoy wildly fun drumming plus carefully deep shamanic experience that equip you with the spiritual skills to navigate through the changes – personal, communal, global -, in which you find yourself swimming.



Drums are provided or bring your own; no previous experience needed. This is an event for adults though teens are welcome when accompanied by adults. The session

will be led by Jamie Meyer who has a Master's Degree in Theology and Arts and has led thousands of people into what he calls "groovelicious rhythmicity" the deep fun of spiritual drumming. Free, with a suggested donation of \$15, but please do not let a lack of money keep you away from the drum.

To register contact Jodi Holden at 952.240.3846 or jodiholden@yahoo.com



Become aware of the bounty around and within you
 Join us for
**2010 UUCM Women's Retreat "Allowing
 Grace"**

October 8th & 9th

All women are welcome; members or friends of UUCM and their guests. We will enjoy meals together, creative classes, hiking, a bon fire and precious time for ourselves. Join us for this relaxing, meaningful time together.

The retreat will take place at Camp Courage near Maple Lake, about 40 miles NW of Wayzata, starting Friday, October 8th at 5:00pm and going through dinner Saturday, October 9th. Cost is \$96.00 inclusive of meals. Early registration is appreciated. Some scholarships are available.

Contact with questions:

Stephanie McCullough-Cain: 952-936-9626 stephaniemcain@comcast.net

Mary Cotton Levin : 763-442-05808, mary3452@hotmail.com

Cut Here -----

Please provide the information requested below. Include a check for \$96.00 made out to "2010 Women's Retreat" and mail to Stephanie McCullough-Cain . If you wish, you may include an additional dollar amount to assist others in attending the retreat.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 20th

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: ()- _____ - _____ Email: _____

Vegetarian? Yes or No (This is the only special diet available from Camp Courage.)

Do you need a scholarship?
 .



**Unitarian
Universalist
Church of
Minnetonka**

Nourishing spirits. Nurturing justice.

**605 Rice Street
Wayzata, MN 55391**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission Statement

We are an open and caring religious community on a quest to live with purpose and meaning while inspiring all people to act ethically and with social conscience for the betterment of the world.

Adopted 2007

Newsletter: Working to be Green

In order to protect our environment and save our natural resources, we encourage all who can, to receive this newsletter via email. If you want to be added to our email mailing list, please contact the church at officeadmin@mtn.org. Also, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter electronically or in paper form, please contact officeadmin@mtn.org or 952.473.5900, to remove your name from the newsletter list. Thank you!



Upcoming Newsletter Deadline Friday, June 18 by Noon

All newsletter submissions should be sent to Newsletter Editor, Emilie Fitch at officeadmin@mtn.org. Please include name and phone for editor verification purposes. Expression is published once a month will be in homes the last week of a month with news for the upcoming month. The Deadline for submission of articles is the third Friday of the month.

Staff

The Reverend Kent Hemmen Saleska, Minister
Andrea Purdy Heier, Director of Religious Education
Greg Membrez, Music Director
Mark Brekke, Choir Director
Emilie Fitch, Office Administrator
Rita Jelinek, Bookkeeper

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How to reach us:

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Expression, a publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka, is published once a month. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate to members and friends about the UUCM ministry, business and activities.