



Prairie Star District Annual Conference and Meeting

“Practicing Pluralism: Cultivating Diversity in Congregations”
April 5-7, 2002

The Hotel at Gateway Center • Ames, Iowa

Schedule

Friday, April 5

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
4:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Bookstore open
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Dinner at Hotel
7:00 to 8:45 p.m.	Opening celebration, banner parade, Keynote Address
8:45 to 9:30 p.m.	Discussion of Keynote Address
8:45 to 9:30 p.m.	Meet and Greet Social
8:45 to 9:30 p.m.	Entertainment by PrairieThistle
9:45 to 10:15 p.m.	Worship Service

Saturday, April 6

7:30 to 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast, Table Topics
7:30 to 8:45 a.m.	Congregational Presidents' Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to noon	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Bookstore open
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Exhibits open
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Labyrinth available for Open Walk
9:00 to 10:15 a.m.	Judy lecture
10:30 to 11:45 a.m.	General Session
Noon to 1:15 a.m.	Awards Luncheon
1:30 to 2:45 p.m.	Workshops Session A
3:15 to 4:30 p.m.	Workshops Session B
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Business Meeting
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Social Hour
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.	Banquet and Entertain- ment by Barn Owl Band
9:15 to 10:00 p.m.	Worship service (Youth-led)

Sunday, April 7

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast, Table Topics
8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	Orientation of new PSD volunteers
8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	Choir practice
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Worship service

Please join ministers and members of congregations from all over the Prairie Star District in Ames Iowa for a wonderful weekend of speakers, workshops, worship and fellowship. This year's Prairie Star District Annual Meeting and Conference is hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames. The Conference site is located at the Hotel at Gateway Center in Ames, IA, just south of Iowa State University. Directions and maps will be provided for folks flying into the Des Moines Airport and for those driving. The focus of the conference workshops embodies “Practicing Pluralism: Cultivating Diversity in our Congregations”. Artist Carmon Slater, longtime member of the hosting congregation, created three outstanding quilts whose elements embody the pluralism, diversity, unity and optimism that characterizes the hosting and other UU congregations. The Annual Conference will enjoy these quilts and the symbols that say who we are.

Sunday Morning

We applaud diversity, we're proud of our pluralism, we foster different spiritual paths in our congregations. With all of this wonderful difference, what keeps us together? Join us for a morning of music, stories and songs as we explore the elusive center at the heart of our Prairie Star District Unitarian Universalism.

Welcome Youth!

Youth, ages 13 to 18, are encouraged to attend this Annual Conference. Youth are welcome at all conference activities. Several workshops specifically address youth issues including adult youth communication and the training of youth advisors. In another workshop, youth will plan the worship service that they will lead on Saturday evening. Socialize with young people from around the District in a youth hospitality suite. Join with other conference participants at meals. We encourage all youth to seek delegate status to the Annual Meeting from their congregations prior to the conference.

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth invites you to walk its sacred path any time on Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. This self-paced walking meditation typically takes 20-40 minutes. The Labyrinth will be located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames (UUFA). Directions and maps between the Hotel at Gateway Center and the UUFA will be included in your Conference materials packet.

Join the Conference Choir

Singers are invited to join the Conference Choir for the Sunday morning worship service. If you would like to participate, indicate your plans to join the choir on this year's registration form and plan to attend the choir practice on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. There is no charge for your copy of the featured piece, “At the River” by John Jacobson and arranged by Roger Emerson, which will be mailed to you prior to the conference.



Keynote Address

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UU Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns: “Gatekeepers, Vultures, and Other Food for Our Souls”

In many places the connection between working for justice and nourishing the soul seems often separated by a closed gate. Yet cultivating diversity in our congregations requires us to be the gatekeepers to allow this connection to become real and vital. How can we do that? What must we know, what must we lose, and how can we cultivate this connection into reality? What kind of gatekeepers are we or could we become?

Rev. Keith Kron has held the position of Director of the Office for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns for the Unitarian Universalist Association since January of 1996. He is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and was ordained into Unitarian Universalist ministry in February of 1999. He has written a premarital counseling guide for same gender couples and has revised the Welcoming Congregation manual- as well as writing a curriculum that goes beyond the Welcoming Congregation. Currently, he is working on a book for the UUA’s Skinner Press on civil unions.



Judy Lecture

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Meg Riley, Director of the UU Washington Office for Faith in Action: “Touching Wholeness in a Broken World”

We know it when we feel it. Suddenly the breath changes, we are in a different world from the one we are sentenced to by our culture, by our media, by our government. And the colors are more vivid, and our noses quiver with the ecstasy of the scent of life, and then in an instant it’s gone again. How do we use such moments as compasses to guide us home again when we so often feel destined to wander forever in a strange land?

The Reverend Meg Riley directs the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Washington Office for Faith in Action, and serves as a Minister Associated with All Souls’ Church-Unitarian in Washington DC. Riley serves on the national boards of The Interfaith Alliance, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She lives in Washington DC with her family.

GENERAL SESSION and WORKSHOPS

General Session Saturday, 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Beyond Tolerance: Practicing Pluralistic Dialogue

You heard it described last year, but what might it feel like? What would it take to safely be the person you fundamentally are, and engage in meaning-making with others who are being their fundamentally true selves? Experience probing the questions and addressing diversity and issues of identity that often threaten to divide us.

Rev. Karen Johnson Gustafson, First Unitarian Church, Duluth; and Rev. Dr. Sarah W. Oelberg, Nora Unitarian Universalist Church and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato.

Workshop Session A Saturday, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

A1 – “Touching Wholeness in a Broken World”: Judy Lecture Follow-up Workshop

Continue the discussion started with Meg at the Judy Lecture. This follow-up workshop enables deeper discussion on the topic of the Judy lecture.

Rev. Meg Riley, UUA

A2 – Mutual Mentoring: Ministerial Internships

More important than the Masters of Divinity degree, clinical training, reading or any other preparation, the ministerial intern year prepares candidates for U.U. Parish Ministry. How does the process work? What does it cost? What are the rich benefits? Three experienced Intern supervisors will share stories as well as information.

Rev. Victoria Safford, White Bear UU Church; Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, First Unitarian-Mpls; and Rev. Dillman Sorrells, First UU Church, Rochester

A3 – Stone Tree Spiritual Resources and Your Congregation

The purpose of Stone Tree Spiritual Resources is to deepen knowledge about and develop resources for spiritual growth in the Prairie Star District. A web site is being established to provide a clearinghouse of information and a network of people, programs, workshops, exhibits, web site links, and other resources intended to ease your programming woes and share experiences and resources across the boundaries of individual churches.

Barbara Kellett, First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

A4 – Diverse settings: Community Ministry

Come listen to a panel of ministers talk about their diverse ministries in healthcare, social justice and education. Learn how their work enhances the District and our communities. And, of course, bring your questions!

Rev. Ann Galloway-Egge, Hospital Chaplain; Rev. Lisa Schwartz, Chemical Dependency Center Chaplain

A5 – Youth-Adult Fishbowl

A guided process to enhance communication among youth and adults about the issues that are important to them in the context of youth programming and lives. The “fishbowl” allows for each group to listen in as the other group answers pre-determined questions put forth by the non-speaking group. One group speaks while the other group listens. A powerful community building exercise.

Ann Romanczuk, Prairie Star District Lifespan Programming

A6 – Is Our Church Gay?

We are sometimes asked by outsiders if ours is the gay church. Sometimes our children ask us this question. Where does the question come from? Why does it make us uncomfortable? Why don’t we celebrate ourselves as the gay church? Come explore this question as a means of deepening our commitment to pluralism.

Presenter: Rev. Virginia Wolf, Minister, lesbian, partner of Carol Scumacher for 26 years, mother of two, grandmother of two, sometime queer activist.
Rev. Virginia Wolf, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Eau Claire

A7 – “All Real Living is Meeting” – Reflections on a Pilgrimage

In August 2001, 21 pilgrims from Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul traveled to spend 10 days with host families in the village of Homorodszentpeter (pop. 210) in Harghita County, Romania. “We departed for Romania wondering what we could do for the people belonging to our sister church. We returned with stories about what they did for us.”
Sherman Eagles and Ray Wiedmeyer, Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul

A8 – Buddhism and Islam

Based on curricula about these two major world religions written by Rachel Brown, a religious educator from First Unitarian Society, Mpls. A chance to learn more about these religions in the aftermath of the events of 9/11/01.
Rachel Brown, First Unitarian Society, Mpls

Workshop Session B
Saturday, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

B1 – Creating Change: What to Do?

There is a struggle in many congregations as to whether or not to work in the community or within the congregation itself to make change. Should we do one or the other first? Through the lens of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues, we will explore what kind of work to do for justice while this struggle goes on.
Rev. Keith Kron and Rev. Meg Riley, UUA

B2 – The Executive Team Model

This workshop will explore the reasons a Board would delegate executive responsibility to a team rather than one professional. At Unity Church-Unitarian, four individuals make up the Executive Team.
Louise Wolfgramm, Rev. Janne & Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and Barbara Hubbard, Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul

B3 – Canvass Tools

Everything you want to know about planning an effective annual canvass for your congregation, including choices in style of canvass, recruiting an effective canvass team, shaping your stewardship message, resources to help with planning and even how to ask for money.
Martha Easter-Wells, Congregational Fundraising Consultant for the UUA

B4 – Honoring the Special Gifts, Needs and Different Ways of Learning of All Our Children

In this workshop we will explore what it means to create a welcoming ministry for all our children, including those with special needs. Ministering to children with special needs is a reminder that all of us and all children have different ways of learning and different ways of responding to the world. Ministry to all our children improves and flourishes as a result of our creative inclusion with special needs children.
Sally Patton, UUA, Editor of Involve

B5 – Worshipping Together from 18 to 80

There are different styles of worship that appeal to different age groups along the 18 to 80 continuum. How do you design worship that is attractive both to young adults and to the rest of the congregation?
Rev. Jill Terwilliger, Dakota UU and St. Cloud UU Fellowship; and Dawn Cooley, UU Seminarian and PSD Consultant for Young Adult Network

B6 – Appropriate or Appropriation?

How do we know the difference? We will draw upon concepts and materials from the Multicultural Renaissance module, as well as from a workshop presented recently at Meadville Winter Institute. Cultural authenticity, use of ethnic materials, rituals and practices, and when/how to incorporate these elements, our own and others, into our teaching and worship without trivialization or misappropriation.
Carole Martignacco, UU Seminarian and Prairie Star District Life-span Programming

B7 – Organizing for Social Justice in Mid-Size Congregations

The Davenport Unitarian Church has a long tradition of community outreach. The workshop will focus on how to motivate congregants and organize projects. Specific examples of successful workshops and programs, including some from other congregations will be given.
Joyce Wiley, Melanie Landa and Kathy Bowman, Davenport Unitarian Church

B8 – Rational Paganism meets Earth-Centered Humanism in the Twin Cities

Pagans and UUs have more than demographics in common, and the differences between these two living traditions can make a fruitful dialog. Still, a 2,000 year old misinformation campaign has led to misunderstandings and consequent alienation. How do we welcome the Witch next door? Rev. Christa Landon, D.Min., was ordained as a high priestess in 1972 and as a UU minister in 1995. She has been working to weave together the Pagan and UU communities since 1984.
Rev. Christa Landon, UU Minister



Saturday Night Entertainment:

Enjoy the Conference Barn Dance as an observer or a participant! You don't need to bring a partner, take lessons, or wear a special costume – just wear comfortable clothes. If it's your first time, we'll make you feel welcome. The dances are walked through and called – if you can walk you can dance! Music and dance will be provided by the Barn Owl Band.

Jon Duvick, guitar, upright bass; Roger Alexander, piano, accordion, whistle, feet; Keith Fletcher, Tyto alba emeritus, now living in Wells, Maine; Jason Huntley (not pictured), fiddle – 2001 Iowa State Fair Grand Champion; Marty Miller, upright bass, percussion; Merle Hall, 5-string banjo; Mike Bell, guitar, mandolin, tenor banjo, octalute, strum stick; Bettie Swarts, fiddle – Division runner-up, 2001 Iowa State Fair Fiddle Contest

Prairie Star District Annual Conference



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames
1015 N. Hyland Avenue
Ames, IA 50014

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Prairie Star District Annual Conference • April 5-7, 2002 General Information

Registration Forms

Please photocopy the enclosed registration form as needed. Use a separate form for each adult and each youth registrant (ages 13-18).

Child Care Deadline

All registration forms including a request for Child Care (ages 12 and under) must be postmarked by March 2, 2002.

Early Registration Discount

Each adult registrant whose registration form is postmarked by March 2, 2002, may take a \$10 discount for early registration. To be entitled to the discount you must include the deduction on the registration form.

Cancellations

If you must cancel your registration, contact Registrar Pam Schwab, at sedcad@cs.com or (515) 292-5960. Full refunds will be given for cancellations by March 25, 2002; no refunds will be given for cancellations after that date.

Conference Location

Conference activities take place at The Hotel at Gateway Center, U.S. 30 & Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa, (515) 292-8600.

Hotel Accommodations

All participants are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. The hotel offers a special conference rate of \$89 per night, plus taxes, for single or double standard guestrooms.

To reserve a room at the conference rate, call (800) FOR-AMES (367-2637) by **March 15, 2002** and ask for the Prairie Star District meeting rate. Neither the conference rate nor room availability are guaranteed after March 15.

Parking

There is free parking available at the hotel for all conference attendees.

Host Congregation

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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