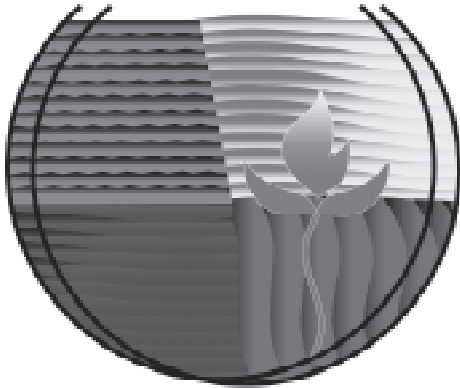


Prairie Star District Annual Conference

GROWING SEASON April 23–25, 2004



Growing Season

**Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza
4445 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri**

Hosted by All Souls UU Church of Kansas City
with assistance from area UU congregations.

Join many UUs from across eight states!

Location. Location. Location.

This year's conference center is across the street from All Souls, an easy walk to two art museums, several restaurants and galleries; just a short walk to KC's famed Country Club Plaza; within walking distance to the nightlife of Westport; and an easy ride to the Jazz district and theaters.

New Friends & Renewed Acquaintances!
24 Workshops to choose from!
Music, Art & Barbeque!

Keynote Address

Rev. Peter Morales
Director of UUA District Services

Arthur M. Judy Memorial Lecture

Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris
Director of UUA Congregational Services

Making Room in Our Hearts



Rev. Peter Morales is the UUA's Director of District Services. Before coming to the UUA in August, he served as senior minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO. He has served on the UUA board of trustees, on the executive committee of the UU Ministers Association, and on the steering committee of the Latino UU Networking Association.

The Power in What We Care About

Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris is a Minister of Religious Education and is serving as Director for Congregational Services. In this position she manages programs and works with staff to challenge and assist our congregations of all sizes to live up to their potential as liberal religious communities.



Schedule

Friday, April 23

4:00-7:00 pm	Registration <i>Marriott Lobby</i>
5:00-6:45 pm	Optional Dinner <i>All Souls</i>
6:00-9:00 pm	UU Bookstore open <i>Marriott</i>
6:00-9:00 pm	Exhibits Open <i>Marriott</i>
6:00-6:45 pm	Service for the Soul * <i>All Souls</i>
7:00-8:00 pm	Opening celebration, banner display <i>Marriott</i>
8:00-9:00 pm	Keynote address <i>Marriott</i>
9:00-9:30 pm	Discussion of keynote address <i>Marriott</i>
9:30-10:15 pm	Worship service with Gaia <i>Marriott</i>
10:15pm - ?	Nightlife – groups escorted to Plaza/Westport

Saturday, April 24

7:00-8:30 am	Breakfast, table topics <i>Marriott</i>
8:00 am-7:00 pm	UU Bookstore open <i>Marriott</i>
8:00 am-7:00 pm	Exhibits open <i>Marriott</i>
9:00 am-10:15 am	Judy Lecture <i>Marriott</i>
10:15 am-4:00 pm	Labyrinth and Meditation Room <i>All Souls</i>
10:30-11:45 am	Workshops Session A <i>Marriott</i>
12 noon-1:15 pm	Awards Luncheon <i>Marriott</i>
1:30 - 2:45 pm	Workshops Session B <i>Marriott</i>
2:45 - 3:15 pm	Refreshment Break <i>Marriott</i>
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Workshops Session C <i>Marriott</i>
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Nutrition Break <i>All Souls</i>
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Reception for RE chairs and DREs <i>All Souls</i>
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Business Meeting <i>All Souls</i>
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Social Hour with cash bar <i>Marriott</i>
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Banquet and entertainment <i>Marriott</i>
9:15 - 10:00 pm	Worship service (youth-led) <i>All Souls</i>
10:00 pm - ?	Nightlife – groups escorted to Plaza/Westport

Sunday, April 25

7:00 - 8:30 am	Breakfast, table topics <i>Marriott</i>
8:00 - 8:45 am	Choir practice <i>All Souls</i>
8:00 - 10:00 am	UU Bookstore and Exhibits open
8:45 - 9:45 am	First service (PSD Service w/ Choir) <i>All Souls</i>
10:00 - 11:00 am	Forum * <i>All Souls</i>
11:15 am-12:15 pm	Second service* <i>All Souls</i>
12:15 pm	Empty Bowls Lunch <i>All Souls</i>

* Non PSD sponsored event, but everyone is welcome to attend

Both Sunday services will be conducted by Rev. Jim Eller, All Souls UU Church, KCMO

10 am Sunday Forum Presentation at All Souls
A Fresh Look at an Old Saw:

Revisiting Free Trade

Sheldon W. Stahl, Ph.D. of Aurora University
(retired professor)

A changed global environment suggests that the topic of Free Trade warrants revisiting in light of the growing costs associated with the displacement of well paid, highly skilled and knowledgeable US workers by their low wage rivals around the globe.

Hotel

Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza

4445 Main Street Kansas City, MO 64111

Phone: 1-816-531-3000 Fax: 1 816-531-3007

Conference attendees are responsible for their hotel reservations. The KC Marriott offers a special conference rate of \$109 plus tax. 1- 4 per room. Reservations: 1-800-810-3708; ask for the Prairie Star District Conference Unitarian Universalist rate. Rooms and rates guaranteed only until **April 1, 2004**.

Parking

Parking at the Marriott is free. Enter off Main street on to 45th. Garage is on the left. Parking at All Souls is also free.

Cancellation Policy

To receive a full refund, registration cancellations must be received by **April 9, 2004**. Contact Dori Bader: joesr@planetkc.com or (913) 362-0978.

Youth Program - ages 12-18

Let your congregation know if you can sponsor a youth. Registrations for youth must be received by **April 9, 2004**. This registration form plus the youth addendum must be submitted.

Child Care - ages 4-11

Registration for child care must be received by **April 9, 2004**.

Conference Choir

If you wish to sing with the conference choir on Sunday morning at the 8:45 service, please check the choir box on your registration form. Music will be sent to you before the conference at no charge.

Registration

Please photocopy the registration form, if necessary, for each attendee 12 and older. Adult registration includes Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Early bird registration for adults must be postmarked by **April 1, 2004**.

Walk the Labyrinth

The labyrinth, sponsored by Gaia, will be located at All Souls on Saturday from 10:15 – 4:00. A meditation room will be nearby during the same hours.

Questions ?

Anne McCleery: amccleery@sbcglobal.net
(913) 268-0931

Saturday Workshops 10:30-11:45(A), 1:30-2:245(B), 3:15-4:30(C)

RE, 1A: *Unity Summer: Growing Social Consciousness in Teens.* Jan Devor, DRE, First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis and Deb Rogers, Social Justice Coordinator, First Universalist Minneapolis. Unity Summer puts teens into social justice programs for six week paid internships. The success formula includes meetings to allow youth to process their experiences, a final project, and a celebration dinner that caps off the event.

RE, 1B: *Session I – RE Curriculum Resources and Planning.* PSD Committee on Religious Education (CORE), Lori Allen, Chair. Join professional DREs from across the District as they share information, opinions, and insights on UU curricula and resources. Educators will offer programming suggestions for children and youth that you can take back home. Plan to attend Session II, as well, to create an action plan for your home congregation.

RE, 1C: *Session II – RE Planning for Multi-Age Programs.* PSD Committee on Religious Education (CORE). Work with seasoned DREs to create an action plan for your congregation's multi-age program. This is a great place for part-time religious educators to start planning for the 2004/2005 program year. Session I is a recommended prerequisite for this workshop.

Financial, 2A: *Fun While Fundraising.* Kris Cheatum and Nick Francis, All Souls UU Church, KCMO. Join us for a look at fundraising projects – both yours and ours – both successful and not.

Financial, 2B: *Banking on the Future – Endowment Funds.* Gordon Strayer. Mike Smith, PSD Chairman, Endowment Team and Sondra Smalley, PSD Fund Development Coordinator. Almost everything you've ever wanted to know about how to help your congregation strengthen their financial foundation. We will focus on: setting up endowments, managing funds; informing members about the benefits to their congregation of making bequests and planned giving.

Financial, 2C: *A New Canvass Model – Less Work, More Fun.* Gail Bishop and Linda Horton, First UU Church of Rochester MN. A successful new model for canvassing combines personal contact with fewer visits. A canvass guidebook becomes a great recruiting tool for the next year.



Outreach, 3A: *Sharing Humanism with Reverence – An Elevator Speech?* Walter Wells, All Souls UU Church, KCMO; Rev. Nancy Jo Haley, UU Society, Iowa City, IA; Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, MN. In two years, HUUmanists (the Humanist affiliate of the UUA) has become financially solvent and grown in membership. How will this new, inclusive Humanism contribute to the UU movement and to Prairie Star?

Outreach 3B: *Building Community through Interfaith Understanding.* Rev. Vern Barnet and Rev. Kathy Riegelman, Community Ministers, Kansas City, MO. All communities, especially after September 11, 2001, need to embrace their diversity to create a safe environment. Learn about an approach to community building that uses interfaith resources.

Outreach, 3C: *The Forum at Age 60.* Carolyn MacDonald, All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, MO. Since 1943, the weekly Forum at All Souls UU Church in KC has provided a platform for the discussion of significant issues for both the church and the broader community.

Diverse, 4A: *How Math Can Help Us Become More Altruistic, Cooperative, Caring Individuals.* Rev. Dr. Sarah Voss, First Unitarian of Sioux City, IA. This workshop considers innovative strategies for better living – at home, at church, and even in the voting booth. Exercises come from research done for a book-in-process on “moral math.” Voss is author of a book, *What Number Is God?*

Diverse, 4B: *Creating a Policies and Procedures Manual for Small Congregations.* Tamara Prenosil, UU Fellowship, Dubuque, IA. It is an amazing exercise to codify everyday actions, expectations, and institutional memory. The process can elicit both deep sharing and wisdom from task volunteers. The product can help orient new members, realign long-time members, and acknowledge the ever-changing nature of a congregation. We will share our journey and our manual. Please share yours.

Diverse, 4 C: *Results and the UUA – Can Your Congregation Create the Political Will to End Hunger?* Amelia Rose, UUA Washington Office. 1 out of 6 U.S. children lives in poverty. More than 14 million children are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. There is something you can do about it!



Saturday Workshops 10:30-11:45(A), 1:30-2:245(B), 3:15-4:30(C)

Growth, 5A: *Growth=Change= Conflict— Oh Great!* Sharon Blevins, All Souls UU Church, KCMO; Cheri Cody, Second UU Church, Omaha, NE; Rev. Brian Eslinger, UU Fellowship of Ames, IA; Dale Handeen of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society, Fridley, MN. Learn to welcome the inevitable conflict that comes with growth. Learn to recognize it as an integral part of church life. This interactive workshop includes ways to understand what's going on with conflict and what to do about it.

Growth 5B: *Strengthening Our Ties – Growing a Multigenerational Community of Faith.* Rev. Phillip Lund, PSD Lifespan Program Director. Explore ways to increase the health and vitality of your congregation by fostering an intergenerational and family-oriented ministry.

Growth, 5C: *Growing Leaders, Growing Congregations.* Cheri Cody and Douglas Marek, PSD Leadership Conference Team.

What you can do now to develop and recruit the leaders needed for congregational growth.



Membership, 6A: *Is There a Friendly Face in the Crowd?* Laura Schlatter, Membership Coordinator at Unity Church – Unitarian, St. Paul, MN. Churches grow when newcomers become active, connected members. What strategies engage newcomers in ways that honor individual journeys? We'll talk about surveys, covenant groups, newcomers' classes, and more.

Membership, 6B: *Moving from Regular Visitor to Committed Member.* Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells and Beth Atkinson, First UU Church, Rochester, MN. Come learn some practical tips about how to create a committed church member out of a regular visitor.

Membership, 6C: *Close Encounters of the UU Kind.* Rev. Kathy Riegelman and Jean McCormick, All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, MO. Religious Odysseys, a Sunday morning staple every summer since 1996, allows us to strengthen our church community by sharing our theological journeys. Join us as we tell about and explore the potential of this program.

Media , 7A: *Report on the Media Campaign in Kansas City.* Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris, Director of the UUA Department of Congregational Services. What about that media campaign tested in K C January to June 2003? Come hear what we did, what we achieved, and what we learned about the media impact and the importance of hospitality.

Media 7B: *The UUA Media Campaign – From the Perspective of the Kansas City Area Congregations.* Don Skinner, Sharon Blevins, Sandra Hannon, Stuart Boley, and Barbara Griggs. Our four churches range in size from 38 to 400 members. Through the recent media campaign, we learned a lot about us, about welcoming others, and about being a public voice for UUism. This is a follow-up to Tracey Robinson-Harris' workshop.

Media, 7C: *Creating Awareness in Your Community.* Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells and Beth Atkinson, First UU Church, Rochester, MN. Come share tips on how to make your congregation more visible to the non-UU community.



Youth 8A: *Standing with the People of El Salvador.* Beth Chronister, President and Co-founder of new UU Campus Group, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; and Russell Burton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Washburn University, Topeka, KS. Topeka's Trinity Presbyterian Church adopted a village in El Salvador 12 years ago; two years ago, the UU Fellowship of Topeka became an interfaith partner in the project. Come learn how an interfaith project can work to benefit all involved.

Youth, 8B: *Youth Adult Fishbowl.* PSD Youth Adult Committee. Be part of a guided process to enhance communication on issues vital to young people. Each group listens in as the other group answers pre-determined questions put forth by the non-speaking group. One group speaks while the other listens. This powerful exercise is an annual conference favorite.

Youth, 8C: *Youth Cultural Exchange: Growing Commitment and Understanding Through Friendship.* Barbara Benner, Caitlin Lenox, and Hannah Owens-Pike, First Universalist Church of Minneapolis and Eugenio Lopez, Cuenca, Ecuador. This family program involves youth exchanges between two different cultures. Families in each country plan the program. Five exchanges have occurred over the last decade.