



**Prairie Star District Annual Conference**

**April 8-10, 2005**

**Radisson Riverfront Hotel**

**St. Paul, MN 55101**

**Hosted by Unity Church-Unitarian  
St. Paul, Minnesota**

As Unitarian Universalists, we are committed to embracing the diversity in our membership. This means that our annual district conferences are a source of clear-headed conversation and lively debate among people committed to fostering peace, justice and equality around the world. The members of Unity Church-Unitarian invite you to come for an exciting weekend of workshops, music, food and fun. This year's conference will be held in the historic capital city of St. Paul at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel on the banks of the Mississippi River.

## SCHEDULE

All events to be held at hotel, unless otherwise noted.

### Friday, April 8

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  | Registration                        |
| 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  | UU Bookstore and Exhibits open      |
| 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.  | Opening Celebration & Banner Parade |
| 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.  | Keynote Address                     |
| 8:45 – 9:15 p.m.  | Discussion of Keynote               |
| 8:45 – 9:45 p.m.  | Meet and Greet Social               |
| 9:45 – 10:15 p.m. | Worship Service                     |

### Saturday, April 9

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.   | Breakfast/Table Topics         |
| 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.   | UU Bookstore and Exhibits open |
| 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.   | Labyrinth open                 |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  | Judy Lecture                   |
| 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Workshop A                     |
| 12 noon – 1:15 p.m.     | Awards Luncheon                |
| 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.   | Workshop B                     |
| 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.   | Refreshment Break              |
| 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.   | Workshop C                     |
| 4:45 p.m. – 6:15 pm.    | Business Meeting               |
| 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.   | Social Hour, cash bar          |
| 7:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.   | Banquet and Entertainment      |
| 9:30 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.  | Youth-led Worship Service      |

### Sunday, April 10

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  | Breakfast/Table Topics         |
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  | UU Bookstore and Exhibits open |
| 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.  | Choir Practice                 |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Worship Service                |

## GENERAL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### Keynote Speaker

Friday, April 8, 7:45 p.m.

#### *Diversity in the UU Pew: Possibility or Pipe Dream?*



**The Rev. Dr. Michael A. Schuler** serves as the Parish Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Madison. During his 16-year tenure, the Society has grown rapidly to over 1300 adult members and approximately 200 active affiliates; 450 children are registered for Church School and youth activities.

First Unitarian Society is currently the largest UU congregation in North America.

Schuler has been active on many local boards, including Wisconsin Interfaith IMPACT, several UW-Madison advisory groups, and is a member of the Steering Committee of Dane County United – a broad-based organization of faith communities, labor unions and neighborhood associations. For several years he has been a regular contributor to the features and editorial pages of Madison’s afternoon newspaper, the *Capitol Times*. Denominationally, Schuler has served on the Meadville-Lombard Winter Institute Planning and chaired CENTER, a working committee that plans, coordinates and implements continuing education programs for Unitarian Universalist Ministers. He is presently President of the Central Midwest District UU Ministers Chapter and a member of the UUA’s Large Church Planning Team. Before being called to Madison, Schuler successfully served UU congregations in Binghamton, New York, and Sioux City, Iowa. He earned his BA in political science, received his M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, and holds a Ph.D in the Humanities from Florida State University. Michael and his life partner, Trina, share their home with a 17-year-old son, Kyle.

### Judy Lecture

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m.

#### *Liberal Religion: A Date with History*



**The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt** is minister of New York’s Fourth Universalist Society, a 166-year old Unitarian Universalist congregation on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, she is a graduate of Yale University and Drew Theological Seminary. For more than 20 years before

answering the call to ministry, she worked as an editor and writer, most notably at the *New York Times Book Review*. A contributing editor to *UU World* and columnist for Beliefnet.com, she is author of three books, including her memoir, *Unafraid of the Dark*.

Currently she serves as a member of the Panel on Theological Education, as an adjunct professor at Union Theological Seminary, and is a founder of the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry, created to provide culturally sensitive liberal religious responses to mass disaster and other significant trauma. Reverend McNatt lives in New York City with her husband, Robert, and their two sons, Allen and Daniel.

## Session A Workshops - Saturday, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

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### Justice

#### 1A: Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood

The Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood (CCFC) has taken root in the Quad Cities. Members of this social outreach committee would like to tell the story of how their grassroots effort joined forces with the national organization to pilot an education and advocacy effort locally. They will share print and PowerPoint information and explain how your congregation could also have a local chapter of the CCFC. *Kathy Bowman and Joyce Wiley, Davenport Unitarian Church*

### Leadership

#### 2A: Diversity Fosters Strong Lay Leadership

Does your congregation think it is easier to just have one or two leaders running everything? Do the same people keep doing the same volunteer jobs over and over until they get burned out? Get a hands-on look at what Mid West Leadership School (MWLS) can do for leaders in your congregation. Join two former MWLS staffers who will demonstrate how MWLS can strengthen your lay leadership and promote the health of your congregation. *Marsha Diggs, First Unitarian of Wichita, and Deb Kline, UU Fellowship of Ames*

### Community

#### 3A: Growing Joys/ Welcoming All

How can your congregation experience growing joys (as opposed to pains)? What are the ways that growth can support and enliven your church community? In this session the many facets of congregational growth, in essence a theology of growth, will be explored. Effective and practical tools to reach out, welcome and integrate visitors will be presented. *Rev. Jim Eller and Chloe Mason Seagrove, Membership Director, All Souls UU Church, Kansas City*

#### 4A: Learning Nonviolent Communication

Nonviolent communication, also called compassionate communication, teaches an empathetic process of communication to help people talk and listen to each other during conflicts. It also helps individuals learn how to give empathy to themselves when needed. Using the principles in nonviolent communication, you can improve the quality of your relationships, and in the process, you can change the world. *Margaret Kinney, Dakota UU Church, Burnsville, MN*

### Other

#### 5A: Theological Diversity: Contention or Convergence?

Two Iowa ministers, one a member of HUUmanists, and

the other a member of the UU Christian Fellowship, discuss areas of agreement, divergence, and convergence as they understand Unitarian Universalism. They celebrate their mutual respect and the movement that enables each to covenant with the other in ways both transformative and renewing. *Rev. Brian Eslinger, UU Fellowship of Ames, and Rev. Roger Butts, Davenport Unitarian Church*

### Intergenerational

#### 6A: Oral History: Capturing the Real Story on Tape

Oral history is one of the most exciting tools available for collecting and preserving history. In this workshop James E. Fogerty will describe oral history—what it is and how to use it to record family and community history—with comments on the legal realities, ethics and equipment necessary to do the job right. Here's your chance to get some tips to do oral history with members of your congregation. *James E. Fogerty, Minnesota Historical Society*

### Resources

#### 7A: Sharing Best Practices

Come join representatives from congregations in Northfield, Iowa City and Saint Paul as we share best practices for small, medium, and large congregations. *Rev. Phillip Lund, PSD Lifespan Program Director, and panel*

#### Off-site (transportation will be provided)

#### 8A: Tour of Unity Church-Unitarian

Visit host church Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul's historic Cathedral Hill neighborhood. The tour will detail the church's unique history and focus on significant architectural details, including the sanctuary and chapel. *Betsy Guthmann, Unity Church-Unitarian*

#### Off-site (transportation will be provided)

**9A: Frederick May Eliot: Shaping UU History** This workshop, following a brief tour of Unity, features a recent documentary on the ministry of Rev. Frederick May Eliot and his impact on both Unity Church and the wider denomination. Eliot was minister of Unity Church from 1917-1937 and president of the American Unitarian Association from 1937-1958—just prior to the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism. The documentary includes interviews with Unity Church members, ministers and UUA historian Rev. Stefan Jonasson, and features photos, music and audio from throughout the history of the church. *Briana Melom, Coordinator of Young Adults and Special Projects, Unity Church-Unitarian*

## Session B Workshops - Saturday, 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

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### Arts & Creativity

#### 1B: Inviting the Creative Spirit into Worship

Music, dance, drama and visual arts can be the focal point of the Sunday morning program, as they demonstrate the diverse expressions of spirit in us. Whether participating or observing, there is reciprocal engagement beyond the spoken word. This interactive workshop will help you foster the creative energy within your congregation and access district and national resources. *Deb Kline, UU Fellowship of Ames*

### Justice

#### 2B: Common Fire: A Metaphor for Social Justice

We have moved a long way from the city square as a source of “common fire” to light the flames of need in individual homes. However, we still need a common fire of justice. The Prairie Star Social Justice Network is building that common fire and passion through a variety of efforts that include a newsletter, Web site, workshops and developing fund sources for common priorities. Come join us as we share and discuss “giving life the shape of justice.” *Tom LoGuidice, PSD Social Justice Coordinator, UU Fellowship, Dubuque*

### Justice

#### 3B: Living at the Intersection of Spirituality and Social Justice

How can a UU congregation live at the intersection of social justice and spiritual development? Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul launched a thoughtful ministry team structure several years ago that addresses this and other outreach questions. Through a process of action and reflection, these teams provide meaningful and effective opportunities for congregants to participate in community service, education and advocacy. Join Unity Community Outreach team leaders and members as they share their spiritual development and outreach experiences in these small ministry communities. *Patricia Haff and the Community Outreach Ministry Teams, Unity Church-Unitarian*

### Leadership

#### 4B: The Sixth Component of a Balanced Youth Program

The UUA’s Youth Office has added a sixth component to the list of five essentials (Worship, Community Building, Social Action, Learning and Leadership) necessary for a balanced youth program in a Unitarian Universalist congregation: Youth/Adult Relations. Come learn more about what this means for the youth and youth advisors in your congregation. *Becca Pournoor, Unity Church-Unitarian*

### Community

#### 5B: Get Out the Binoculars!

Join the PSD Board of Directors as they envision the possible future of Unitarian Universalism in the Midwest. This visioning exercise will not only help us chart the course for our district, but also provide an excellent tool for congregational planning. *PSD Board*

### Other

#### 6B: Beauty Then and Now

This workshop will be an artistic, experiential and interdisciplinary look at the concept of beauty and its presence in our worship lives, religious education and outreach efforts. Participants will be introduced to some philosophical and theological ideas about beauty and will consider some current cultural and counter-cultural representations. Please bring something representative of beauty in your lives to share with the group. *Bill Neely, Hallman Ministerial Intern, Unity Church-Unitarian*

### Intergenerational

#### 7B: A Summit on Families

How do congregations reach out to families? How does the congregation account for different family forms represented by families in the congregation? How does the scheduling of activities of the congregation reflect the busy and often complex calendar of families? Come participate in a panel discussion about the future of families within our faith that asks these questions and many more. *Rev. Phillip Lund, PSD Lifespan Program Director, and Dawn Cooley, PSD Intern*

### Resources

#### 8B: Fair Compensation: It's About Unity and Diversity

Providing fair compensation to ministers and other congregational employees is grounded in our shared principles. Fair compensation also increases a congregation's ability to recruit and retain diverse staff. This workshop will explain what fair compensation is and how your congregation can be awarded Fair Compensation status. *Karin Wille, Compensation Consultant for the northern half of Prairie Star District*

## Session C Workshops - Saturday, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

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### Arts & Creativity

#### 1C: Planning Small Group/Lay-Led Worship Services

Small, lay-led services are an excellent alternative to a more formal Sunday service in many congregations. Members of the Worship Associates team from First Universalist Church in Minneapolis will discuss the planning and development of our midweek worship services as well as other lay-led services. Resource lists, tips for brainstorming topics, methods for increasing attendance and participant involvement, and ideas for soliciting congregational input will all be discussed.

*Worship Associates, First Universalist Church, Minneapolis*

### Justice

#### 2C: Tools for Peacemakers

As organizations grow and change, conflict happens. Learn basic tools for peacemaking within yourself, your family and your congregation. *Rev. Ted Tollefson, Northfield UU Fellowship*

### Justice

#### 3C: The Hope and Courage of Restorative Justice

The purpose of the Restorative Justice Ministry Team at Unity Church-Unitarian is to pursue social justice by engaging team members, the congregation and the broader community in healing conversations and activities. Learn about restorative justice as a concept, its interface with the criminal justice system and about the diverse ways it is practiced by this community outreach team. *Restorative Justice Ministry Team members, Unity Church-Unitarian*

### Leadership

#### 4C: Diversity's Challenge: Conflict and Right Relations

It isn't easy being diverse UUs! In this workshop we'll learn about ways to build communities that truly appreciate differences, what's often behind typical congregational conflicts and how to work through some specific conflicts. We'll also remind ourselves to celebrate the spiritual and intellectual growth opportunities provided by our diversity. *Members of the Prairie Star District Conflict Engagement/ Right Relations Consulting Team: Sharon Blevins, All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, Cheri Cody, Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, Rev. Brian Eslinger, UU Fellowship of Ames, Dale Handeen, Michael Servitus Unitarian Society, Fridley*

### Community

#### 5C: Building a Church Community Through Congregational Singing

This interactive workshop will focus on how important it is for the congregation to participate in the church's music—particularly hymn singing. Come make a joyful noise together! *Sonja Johnston (and others), Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship, Bloomington*

### Other

#### 6C: Web Templates for Congregations That Promote Growth

Congregations needing a Web site—or needing a better Web site—will enjoy seeing the results of a project to develop Web sites that promote congregational growth. This project created a set of templates to be used by various sizes of congregations to create or enhance their Web sites. The templates are available for free or at minimal cost to congregations and can be installed with minimal technical expertise. This project was partially funded by the UU Funding Program and was sponsored by the First Unitarian Society Technology Task Force. *Mark Gibbons and Diana Allen, First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis*

### Intergenerational

#### 7C: Hands-On Spirituality

One of the most universal symbols of hope and courage is the “peace crane.” Come and hear the story of this powerful symbol, then learn to fold an origami crane. Each participant will leave the workshop with instructions on how to make a crane (for future folding), a sheet of ideas for intergenerational activities using the crane, and a talisman of hope in the form of a hanging crane. Limit 30 participants. *Cheryll Wallace, First Unitarian Church of Omaha and Lori Allen*

### Resources

**8C: UUA 101: How Our Association Serves All of Us**  
Ever wondered exactly how your congregation benefits from supporting our Unitarian Universalist Association? Here's your chance to learn! We'll outline the myriad ways the UUA serves its member congregations. We'll also explain how it's organized, staffed, and funded. John Blevins, PSD's UUA trustee, will briefly summarize UUA's anti-oppression initiatives. *Liz Weber, UUA Annual Program Fund Chair for Prairie Star District, UU Fellowship of Ames, and John Blevins, UUA Trustee from Prairie Star District, All Souls UU Church, Kansas City*

## Saturday Night Entertainment

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**OVation** Created more than four years ago, OVation is the a cappella ensemble of One Voice Mixed Chorus, the Twin Cities' award-winning GLBT choir. During its relatively short history, the group has performed in a number of locations, including the Northwestern Voices festival in Austin, Minnesota and the GALA Festival in Montreal. Recently, OVation performed for more than 5,000 at a National Kidney Foundation event held in the Metrodome stadium in downtown Minneapolis.

**Mila** Mila is a professional women's vocal ensemble committed to the authentic reproduction of vocal traditions from over 30 countries with over a dozen distinct vocal styles. While grounded in the harmonic traditions of Eastern Europe, Mila's repertoire also includes music from Central and Western Europe, Asia and the Americas. Mila's eight members all hail from unique musical backgrounds and have studied with renowned vocalists from Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine. Between them, the singers of Mila speak nearly a dozen languages. Through the integrity of its music, Mila celebrates the beauty of the world's cultures.



## General information

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### Hotel

Radisson Riverfront Hotel  
11 East Kellogg Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55101

The Radisson Riverfront Hotel is located on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown St. Paul, easy walking distance from many of the city's restaurants, museums and shops. A discounted lodging rate of \$89/night single or double occupancy (\$10 extra each additional person) is available. Rooms must be reserved by March 9, 2005.

### For Reservations:

Phone: 800/333-3333  
Fax: 651/605-0189  
Email: [stpaulsales@radisson.com](mailto:stpaulsales@radisson.com)

### Parking

Parking is available for guests in the hotel's ramp. The fee is \$9 a day.

### Conference Fees:

- Adult early registration (before March 11, 2005): \$110
- Standard adult registration (after March 11, 2005): \$125
- Youth (ages 12-18) registration: \$45

### Registration

Please photocopy the registration form 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 March 11, 2005. To register online go to: <http://psduua.org/conf>.

### Meals

There is no Friday night dinner scheduled. If you prefer vegetarian meals on Saturday and Sunday, indicate your preference on the registration form.

### Youth Program

A special program at Unity Church-Unitarian has been planned for youth. All attending youth must be sponsored by an adult attending the conference. Let your congregation know if you can sponsor a young person. See insert for more information about the youth conference.

### Walk the Labyrinth

A labyrinth will be at the Radisson Riverfront, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, April 9.

### Banner Parade

There will be a banner parade on Friday evening, and banners will be exhibited throughout the conference. All are invited to bring their congregation's banner and banner pole for the parade. For banner-making instructions, go to [www.uua.org/ga/bannerspecs.pdf](http://www.uua.org/ga/bannerspecs.pdf).

### Conference Choir

If you wish to sing with the conference choir on Sunday morning at the 9:30 service, please check the choir box on your registration form.

### Child Care

Child care is available for ages 3-11 for \$35/child. Registration for child care must be received by March 11, 2005. See registration form for further information.

### Questions?

Contact Sharon Merritt,  
[Merrittsharon@aol.com](mailto:Merrittsharon@aol.com)  
or 651/429-2621.

**Registration Form**

To register online go to: <http://psduua.org/conf>

- Please photocopy the registration form for each attendee, 12 and older.
- Adult registrant registering by **March 11, 2005**, can take the early registration discount. Adult registration includes Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday breakfast.
- For each youth registrant, please include the name of an adult sponsor (a parent or other adult who will be attending the conference). Please attach enclosed youth registration form.
- Children 11 and under should be registered on an adult's form.

Please Print

**Registrant: (check one)**

Adult    Youth (*Name of Sponsor for Youth Registrant*): \_\_\_\_\_

Name (*as it will appear on name badge*): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I give permission for contact information to be shared with other conference participants on a Conference Participants Roster.

**Workshop Registration** *Please indicate Saturday workshop preferences by workshop number:*

**Workshop A**

10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

First Choice: #A \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: #A \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop B**

1:30 to 2:45 p.m.

First Choice: #B \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: #B \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop C**

3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

First Choice: #C \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice: #C \_\_\_\_\_

**Child Registration**

Your registration must be postmarked **no later than March 11, 2005**, to be eligible for childcare. Childcare with age-appropriate activities for children 11 and under will be provided for a fee of \$35 per child. Care will be available Friday 6:00 - 10:15 p.m.; Saturday 8:45 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:45-10:30 a.m. Fee includes Friday evening snack, lunch/dinner/snacks on Saturday and snacks on Sunday.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs**

- I need Home Hospitality lodging
- Put me on the "want a roommate" list and send me a copy
- Vegetarian meals
- I need other special assistance to participate in the conference (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**Choir Interest**

Yes, I would like to sing with the choir on Sunday.  
I sing (*please check one*):  Soprano  Alto  Tenor  Bass

**Table Topics**

At breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, you'll have opportunities to sit and talk with others interested in discussing a common topic. If you have an idea for a Table Topic, please note it here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to lead this discussion? \_\_\_\_\_

**Calculation and Payment of Registration Fees**

(Use a separate form for each adult registrant and each youth registrant.)

Registration Fee (\$125/adult or \$45/youth):  
– includes Saturday breakfast/lunch/dinner  
and Sunday breakfast \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Early discount for **adult registrations ONLY** (-\$15)  
postmarked before March 11, 2005

Childcare (# children x \$35): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to:*  
PSD Conference, Unity Church-Unitarian  
732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

**Prairie Star District**

Unitarian Universalist Association  
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 303  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

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*2005 Annual Conference*

*Unity*  

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*in diversity*



*PSD Annual Conference*

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St. Paul, MN 55101**

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