

No. Title
**1 Making justice possible for the indigenous peoples of the prairies:
Going beyond Indian gaming**

Description In this workshop, participants will be asked to examine, along with the presenter, their understanding of justice issues facing the indigenous peoples of the prairies. What are our prejudices towards indigenous peoples? What are the prejudices of the communities we live in? What perceptions among both indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples, and what institutions and policies, prevent justice for indigenous peoples from becoming a living reality? Finally, we will examine some of the things we as UUs can do to make our principles come alive on this issue – what we can do to make a difference. Our voices have been always been most powerful when we are seeking justice. Come prepared to be honest in expressing your views and expect to be challenged!

Leaders

Thomas M. Disselhorst

My past experience includes speaking to numerous groups over the past 30 years about my work with the indigenous peoples of the prairies. This includes a half-dozen talks at my UU fellowship in Bismarck, including interactive exercises, and talks to a number of service organizations in the Bismarck area and elsewhere. In addition, I have worked on this issue with the Midwest Policy Center (part of the nationwide coalition of progressive groups); have appeared on this issue before the North Dakota state legislature since 1977 (I have long been a part of an effort to establish a human rights commission in North Dakota); made this issue something important to the North Dakota Peace Coalition; and have worked on this issue with various legal services organizations of which I have been a part as a staff attorney and board member. Over the years, I have participated in and helped organize and provided materials for several dozen workshops on racism. I have campaigned for minority candidates for various national, statewide, regional and local offices, (including African-Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans). In my work these issues are discussed virtually daily. I also teach Federal Indian law at United Tribes Technical College; my discussions are often centered around these issues because of their relationship to how Federal Indian law and policy has been developed and how it presently affects indigenous peoples.

Takeaway

Participants can expect to understand more fully some of the challenges and adversities that face indigenous peoples in our region and have a greater sensitivity to these issues.

Participants can expect to identify their own prejudices towards indigenous peoples, and how to work around these perceptions.

Participants can expect to come away with ideas of how we can help change the attitudes of other non-indigenous people, and how important our role can be to create positive changes that reflect our core UU values in the policies and institutions that affect indigenous peoples.

Participants can expect to have developed some elements of an action plan for their congregation, church or fellowship to work with these issues further.

Equipment

The room needs to be sufficiently large so that we can move about in it. I would like to have several large paper pads on which to write down our ideas; the kind that we can stick on walls. A computer projector for summation of our ideas would be helpful, I will supply the computer.

Applicant

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Dear

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Notes

No. **Title** **Making Your Congregation Young Adult Friendly**
2 **Description** All Unitarians share in the challenge and responsibility of making our congregations places where people of all ages are encouraged and enabled to become increasingly mature, responsible adults. A primary aspect of this challenge is to engage young adults in the life of each of our congregations. If we are to do that, we each need to contribute to making our congregations more young adult friendly.

Leaders

Andrea Anderson and David Leppik
Toastmasters participant

Takeaway

Ideas to strengthen their ministry to young adults.

Equipment

None.

Applicant

Andrea Anderson

Dear

Andrea

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Notes

No. **Title** **Mission, Music and Money**
3 **Description** We UUs swim in a sea of ever-increasing and often complicated advice on church governance and growth. This workshop asks and answers the question, "What is essential for a people to become the 'beloved community'?"

Leaders

Rev. Don Rollins
Presentations/services (parish ministry/MRE)

Takeaway

Three practical areas of focus for unifying/growing a UU congregation.

Equipment

White board, markers, eraser

Applicant

Rev. Don Rollins

Dear

Reverend Rollins

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Notes

No. **Title** **A Field of Dreamers and Doers: UUs and Social Justice in Iowa**
4 **Description** Service. Education. Witness. Advocacy. Community Organizing. Knowing where to start to work for change in our society can seem like an overwhelming task. It's important to choose the best type of action according to congregational interests, skills, and talents. In this session, we will explore types of social action and hear from three Iowa congregations (small, mid-size, and large) and the work they are doing. All of the represented congregations are members of the Iowa Cluster of the Prairie Star Social Justice Network.

Leaders

Tom Lo Guidice and others

The organizer has worked with three district workshops and present two time as annual conferences (sic).

Takeaway

Participants can expect to take away a concept of the types of social action congregations can take and practical advice and steps to action that fit congregational interests, etc.

Equipment

None.

Applicant

Tom Lo Guidice

Dear

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Notes

No. **Title** **“Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters” A Report from Prairie Star Social Justice Network Working Group**
5 **Description** Members of the network working group will report on the work of the southern, Iowa, southern Minnesota/western Wisconsin social justice clusters and the Metro Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) in the context of how social justice is religious work. Speakers will explain how their religious principles motivate their work, as well as providing a one-page summary of cluster work and contacts. Audience reaction will be invited.

Leaders

Tom Lo Guidice (UUF, Dubuque), Betsy Allis (First Universalist, Minneapolis), Bob Cernia (UUF Northfield), Vicki Pratt (Second, Omaha), Jo Haberman (First Unitarian, Minneapolis), Mary Westfall (UUF, Manhattan)
Each of the organizers has experience with workshops and presentations for Prairie Star District, UUA.

Takeaway

Participants can expect to take away information for working with a social justice cluster in their geographical area. There is a need for one more cluster. A northern and western cluster will be organized during this church year.

Equipment

None.

Applicant

Tom Lo Guidice

Dear

Tom

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Notes

No. **Title** **Youth Conferences: The YAC and the Seal**
6 **Description** From enthusiastic support to boycotts, youth “cons” evoke strong reactions from parents, church staff, advisors, and the youth who attend them. What happens there? Are they safe? Find out what cons provid our youth, and at what risk. Learn about important changes to the “Seal of Approval” for youth cons in our district. Presented by the Youth Adult Committee CONSultants.

Leaders

Lucky Dehn and TBD

Health educator; women’s spirituality conference
“Creating Celebrations,” at Mankato State
University.

Takeaway

Knowledge of PSD policies and
resources for youth events.

Equipment

2 display tables

Applicant

Lucky Dehn

Dear

Lucky

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Notes

No. **Title** **The Growing Branches of Stonetree**
7 **Description** Stonetree Version 2 is here! Come to this workshop to see what new and exciting capabilities have been added. We are also beginning to explore wha tis next for Stonetree and would love feedback and ideas from people who are listed on Stonetree, as well as from people who use Stonetree to find resources for their congregations.

For those unfamiliar with Stonetree, come see what the buzz is about! Stonetree, available online at www.stonetreeuu.org, provides UU congregations in Prairie Star District with a means of exchanging ideas and contact information for speakers and arts resources via a *unique* “Unitarian Universalist Recommended” capability!

Leaders

Dawn Cooley

Lots of pulpit supply, PSD conference workshops
in 2001, 2002, and 2005.

Takeaway

Participants will gain a greater
understanding of how best to
utilize the new version of
Stonetree to get more contacts
from congregations, or to find
appropriate resources for their
congregations.

Equipment

Network connectivity, projector,
and screen would be great!

Applicant

Dawn Cooley

Dear

Dawn

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Notes

No. **Title** **Think Globally, Act Locally: Global Outreach from Local Fellowship**
8 **Description** Present opportunities to promote international education, development, and peace through local initiatives.

Leaders

Bob Anderson

Former director, Iowa Peace Institute

Takeaway

None given.

Equipment

None.

(Attached to application: A description of the Iowa Resource for International Service, along with a list of accomplishments. These include facilitating multiple sister city relationships; arranging more than 150 internships for foreign journalists, more than 500 internships in Iowa for eastern Europeans; and conducting multiple educational programs in Africa and worldwide, particularly in conflict resolution, workforce development, and government.)

Applicant

Bob Anderson

Dear

Bob

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Notes

No. **Title** **What is "Social Justice" Anyway, and How Can We End Homelessness?**
9 **Description** Come to this workshop ready to explore, question, and challenge your ideas about "social justice." We will use an interactive reflection exercise to examine our views, appreciate multiple perspectives, and further our understanding about how to work for social justice. Using homelessness as the focus, we will share project ideas, explore barriers and resistances to social justice work, and generate new possibilities for working on the root causes of homelessness in our communities and in our world.

Leaders

Rahima Wade and Gay Mikelson

Principal presenter: 60-plus workshops

Takeaway

A new understanding of social justice and ideas for working on homelessness.

Equipment

Chart paper and markers would be helpful.

Applicant

Rahima Wade

Dear

Rahima

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Notes

No. **Title** **Board Basics 101**
12 **Description** What's the proper role for board members in a UU congregation? Should board members be concerned with day-to-day operations, or should they keep their focus on the long-term vision? How should our time be spent at board meetings? What orientation does a board member need? Join us for a conversation about "Board Basics."

Leaders

Nancy Heege and PSD Board Members
2003: "How Far Can You Grow?"
2001: "Employee Evaluations"
2000: "Volunteer Management"

Takeaway

Basics of training for church board members

Equipment

?

Applicant

Nancy Heege

Dear

Nancy

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Notes

Requested by PSD board.

No. **Title** **Engaging Our Theological Diversity**
13 **Description** In our Unitarian Universalist congregations, people hold a variety of beliefs. What, then, holds us together? What features of Unitarian Universalism, if they were taken away, would leave something that is no longer recognizably Unitarian Universalism? A workshop and discussion about the 2005 Commission on Appraisal report, "Engaging Our Theological Diversity."

Leaders

Nancy Heege
2003: "How Far Can You Grow?"
2001: "Employee Evaluations"
2000: "Volunteer Management"

Takeaway

Thought-provoking questions about our diversity, and ways to discuss this in our congregations.

Equipment

none

Applicant

Nancy Heege

Dear

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Requested by PSD board.

No. 14 **Title** **Singing in the Oral Tradition**
Description Songs handed down in the oral tradition are tools for engaging in daily activities and coping with life events. These songs of protest, of freedom, and of peace give power to those who fight for justice. Our singing will draw from calls and chants, spirituals, gospels, hymns, African music, and contemporary songs. You don't need any musical training to participate. You just need to bring your voice and a willingness to join in the vocal community. Youth, young adults, and families with children are also encouraged to participate in this workshop.

Leaders

Paul Soderdahl

Teaching highly successful "singing in the oral tradition" at Welcome Home Wednesdays in the congregation, as well as professional work experience related to U of I job.

Takeaway

A deep appreciation of the power of song in working toward justice within a community and the ability of everyone to use son.

Equipment

piano desirable

Applicant

Paul Soderdahl,
associate music director

Dear

Paul

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Notes

No. 15 **Title** ***Gilead and a Vision of Life***
Description Marilynne Robinson, a faculty member in the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, is the winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in fiction for *Gilead*, a novel about the experiences and thoughts of a small-town Iowa minister, John Ames, who writes to his young son as he feels the approach of death. Meet with the author to discuss this novel, described as a "hymn of praise and lamentation" that reflects on themes of "faith, courage, forgiveness, solitude, friendship, grace, as well as human weaknesses of anger, hatred, and self-indulgence." Marilynne Robinson is a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Iowa City.

Leaders

Marilynne Robinson hosted by Nancy Haley

Marilynne Robinson teaches in the writers' workshop. Nancy Haley, minister, leads classes and workshops in the IC congregation and in the district.

Takeaway

An enriched understanding of some of the theological issues in creating a life of commitment and action, as seen through the words of an author in the creation of a fictional character.

Equipment

none

Applicant

Nancy Haley

Dear

Nancy

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Notes

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	Was George Washington a closet Unitarian?
16	<u>Description</u>	An itinerate minister (portrayed by Fritz Franzen, in costume) will interview George Washington (portrayed by Clair Keller), at a rural tavern, in an effort to determine his religious views. After the interview, the audience will discuss whether or not George Washington reflected Unitarian values of that time.

Leaders

Clair W. Keller and Fritz Franzen

Clair Keller has given over 300 historic press conferences portraying George Washington to school and adult groups.

Takeaway

(None given)

Equipment

A table and two chairs.

Applicant

Clair W. Keller

Dear

Clair

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Notes

Fritz Franzen is also part of another workshop application.

No. 17	<u>Title</u> <u>Description</u>	The Engaged Citizen and the Common Good -- Getting Started As UUs, many of us are committed to changing the world for the better, but where do we start? The UUs in Action Committee of First Unitarian Church of Des Moines offers this workshop as an example of how to start an informed conversation about "everyday social justice" within your congregation. The discussion is based on short readings from "Turning to One Another," by Margaret J. Wheatley. The conversation begins with two questions: "What is my faith in the future?" and "When have I experienced working for the common good?" The session closes with brainstorming actions for practicing the common good as individuals and as a church community.
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Leaders

Price Flanagan

(None given)

Takeaway

(None given)

Equipment

A table and two chairs.

Applicant

Price Flanagan

Dear

Price

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(None given)

Notes

Submitted on behalf of Price by Elaine Rockwell, 515-279-4810, erocky@aol.com.

Price Flanagan, chair of UUs in Action for First Unitarian Church of Des Moines who will be presenting the workshop, is out of town and I volunteered to forward the proposal. I attended the workshop when it was conducted here in September and I found it very valuable and insightful. When it was originally presented, it was a three-hour workshop. It will be presented here in abbreviated form to capture the flavor of the experience and to model one way to "start the conversation."

No. 18 **Title** **Tips for Engaging and Sustaining UUs in Collective Social Change Work**
Description Social justice, at the congregational and metro levels, offers UUs amazing opportunities for spiritual deepening and meaningful social change work. But how do we engage busy UUs in the first place? And how do we sustain their involvement? Betsy Allis and Jo Haberman, co-chairs of the Twin Cities Metro UU Social Justice Alliance, will provide practical tips for doing both, using stories and visuals from their experience with MUUSJA.

Leaders

Betsy Allis and Jo Haberman, co-chairs, Metro UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)

Both Betsy and Jo speak frequently about MUUSJA. They presented at last year's PSD annual meeting.

Takeaway

Participants will take away a new understanding and specific strategies involving UUs in sustained social change work. Examples of strategies include the need for adequate preparation and ongoing coaching, and the importance of grounding the work in UU values.

Equipment

Room for 25-30 participants.

Applicant

Betsy Allis

Dear

Betsy

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Notes

No. 19 **Title** **AMOS Changed our Church: One Church's Experience with a Community Organizing Strategy**
Description In a workshop sponsored by the Prairie Star District board, representatives from First Unitarian Church, Des Moines, share their experiences in becoming an active player in their local Industrial Areas Foundation affiliate. How did their church get involved, what challenges did they face, and what has the church gained in the process? During the latter part of the workshop, time will be set aside for others to share their congregations' successes and challenges with community organizing. Come to learn what's possible and to get excited about the invigorating role that community organizing can play in the life of our UU congregations!

Leaders

Sally Boeckholt and Rev. Mark Stringer

Mark is the minister in Des Moines, and Sally is an active leader in AMOS (A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy), the Des Moines affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

Takeaway

Background in one church's experience with community organizing and hopefully some inspiration for doing something similar in their own congregations.

Equipment

none

Applicant

Rev. Mark Stringer

Dear

Mark

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Notes

No. **Title** **Placeholder for Keynote Speaker Workshop**
20 **Description** TBA

Leaders

Johanna Chao Rittenburg, Program
Manager, Economic Justice, UUSC

Takeaway

Equipment

Applicant

Dear

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Notes

No. **Title** **Placeholder for Judy Lecture Speaker Workshop**
21 **Description** TBA

Leaders

Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman, MSW,
MDiv, Red Dog Farm and Retreat Center,
Haskell, OK

Takeaway

Equipment

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