

Breakouts- Morning

The Green Sanctuary

Barbara Akre and David Yount, Duluth MN Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Marcy Leussler and other Eco Minds members- Minneapolis MN-First Unitarian

The UUA recently adopted the rapidly expanding Green Sanctuary program. UU networks and interfaith groups are empowering these efforts. The Duluth Unitarian Universalist Congregation is the first PSD congregation to be “certified” How do you obtain and maintain a “green approach” in a congregation? This networking workshop will support those just getting started and those further along in their process and provide an opportunity for all to share their success stories and their challenges. Specific projects and suggestions for engaging congregations will be presented. For example, saving energy is a quick way to reduce global warming pollution and it can bring substantial cost savings. A lighting audit is a useful tool to get your started. Building bridges among congregations can also lead to more effective advocacy efforts. Come find out what other congregations are doing and share what your congregation is doing!

The Arc of Justice: Building UU State Networks

Ralph Wyman and Jo Haberman Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) and the PSD Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Network-

Network state representatives: Sue Dailey (Northern MN), Deb McIntyre (SD), Allen Hays (IA), James Bennett (NE), Caron Wells (KA and MO), Vicki Pratt (Program Chair)

“The arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice....” These words by Unitarian Theodore Parker have often been quoted by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and UUA President Bill Sinkford. It can be tough sailing, doing this long and deeply meaningful work. What if we build a larger vessel, one that contains and supports the efforts of multiple UU congregations? We can bend our corner of the universe towards justice by working collectively, beyond individual UU congregations, to build energy, skills, power, camaraderie and results! Discover a major new resource – the UU State Advocacy Network’s Handbook for UU State Organizing. And hear about successes and experiences from an early adopter of the state organizing model – the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA). Other Prairie Star District Social Justice Network members, representing city, regional and cluster organizing will join MUUSJA for a brief panel and plenty of question and answer.

UUA Governance Update

John Blevins, Kansas City MO-All Souls Unitarian Universalist- Member of the board, Unitarian Universalist Association

The UUA Board is deep into a transition to Policy Governance. Trustee John Blevins will present an informal update on the process, and review the governance ends as drafted by the UUA Board, which are scheduled for formal adoption by the Board at their April 2009 meeting. John will also answer questions.

Safe Congregations: Creating and Promoting a Safe Environment Based on Anti-Abuse Policy

Laura Shennum, Omaha NE-Second Unitarian Church

Safe Congregation Policy addresses why it is important for churches to be proactive in creating an anti-abuse environment. Discussion will cover responsibilities of the congregation, board members, ministers and religious education professionals. Information will be presented on how to educate your congregation to be proactive and resources will be handed out to help develop appropriate policy

Group Think: The Relevance to UU Groups

Rebecca Rose, St. Paul MN-Unity Church Unitarian

“Group Think” by I. L. Janis is the basis for this workshop. Janis used the analysis of group dynamics to examine the effectiveness of decisions made by the group. The book contains lessons for UUs as we make decisions in our groups. By attending to Janis’ recommendations, we can ensure that the decisions our groups make draw on the full intelligence of all involved.

Janis, Irving L. (1982). *Groupthink: Psychological Studies of Policy Decisions and Fiascoes*. Second Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

G r o w Y o u r O w n M u s i c

Bruce Van Bronkhorst, Fridley MN-Michael Servetus Unitarian Society

How can you help your music program grow? First, think outside the bar lines! What have you done that really got visitors and your own congregation excited and interested in your music program? What music groups from your church, besides the choir, do you have regularly performing special music? Bring copies of music - instrumental as well as vocal - to share with all the participants. Bring any computer programs you use in our music program. And bring musical ideas that have been fun and successful in your church. Make sure you have programs and music from your church labeled so you get them back!!

Singing the Seventh Principle

Rev. Don Rollins, Bloomington MN-Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship

This workshop will combine performance, group singing and sharing musical resources in support of environmental justice. Come join the music for performance and sing along.

What Can You Expect from Your Church Staff?

Nancy Heege -Executive Director and Rev. Phillip Lund Life-Span Learning,-Minneapolis MN-PSD UUA Office

When you hire someone to work for your congregation, what expectations are reasonable? Appropriate? How do personnel policies assist in setting expectations? From the employee's point of view, how will you assure that you're getting what you pay for? And just as important? What can your church staff expect in return?

The Cosmic Walk

Suzanne Wasilczuk, Duluth MN Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Dorothy Atchley, Rice Lake WI-Blue Hills UU Fellowship

The Cosmic Walk is a way of bringing our knowledge of the 13.7-billion-year Universe process from our heads to our hearts. A ritual of words, music, and movement helps us recreate and celebrate the story of our Earth: its beginnings in the Big Bang / Great Radiance / Cosmic Emergence, and our human place in it.

Children, accompanied by an adult, are welcome to this workshop.

***Blessed Unrest* by Paul Hawken (A book to be read, digested, shared and discussed.)**

Co-facilitated by Sam Wormley, Ames IA Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Tom Lo Guidice, Church of the Larger Fellowship

Paul Hawken has spent over a decade researching organizations dedicated to restoring the environment and fostering social justice. *Blessed Unrest* explores the diversity of the movement, its brilliant ideas, innovative strategies and hidden history. The text will inspire and delight any and all who despair of the world's fate, and its conclusions will surprise those within the movement itself.

[P. Hawken . *How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming*, 352 pages; hardcover, Viking Press New York ISBN 0670038520, paperback Penguin ISBN 0143113658](#)

Breakouts-Afternoon

Making the Blue Boat a Home for Everyone. The Human Right to Water: Congregational Tools Workshop

Patricia Jones, UUSC Program Manager for Environmental Justice

Great strides have been made by faith based communities to address the problems of environmental conservation and justice, the dual aspects of sustainability. One of the critical issues we and our human community face, given global climate change and issues. Access to safe, affordable water, and food, and the right to a safe, healthy environment, are violated or not being met. We will learn about the background of the human right to water and how human rights are important in the policy debates about

addressing climate change. We will preview hands on water justice curriculum materials and tested resources congregations are using to hold “water justice” activities, and participate in a water ritual that could be used for water justice services. And look at what communities in the US are doing to make sure every person has access to safe, sufficient affordable water.

Your Small UU Congregation and the PSDUUA Liaison Program

D’Ann Prior Fridley MN, Michael Servetus Unitarian and Maryann Lo Guidice, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clinton IA

Is your congregation connected to the larger UU world? As a leader of a small congregation do you sometimes feel alone? Do you feel your congregation has unique problems? Is your congregation connected to a Prairie Star District liaison? If not, would you like to be? Would you like to become a liaison to some small congregations and share your experience?

Justice, Hope, Community: Ministering to the Missing Generation

Revs. Phillip Lund and Sherry Warren, Life Span Learning, Minneapolis MN-PSD UUA Office

Today’s young adults yearn for the very things our communities of faith are capable of offering. Yet many of our small and mid-sized congregations have difficulties attracting and retaining people in their 20s and 30s. This workshop will explore how we can respond to the gifts and needs of adults under forty.

Painting Religion into Place

Rev. Dr. Carol Hepokoski, Rochester MN- First Unitarian Universalist

Come hear about a little known part of the UU multicultural heritage, i.e. The Finnish-American Unitarian Universalists movement in northeast Minnesota. We will look at two folk art altar piece paintings for clues and this experience of “new Americans of the early 20th Century, as well as their understanding of religion and nature.

Faith and Action: Discussing Reproductive Choice

Connie Diericks, Minneapolis MN-First Universalist

This workshop introduces participants to the pilot curriculum developed by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Developed specifically for Unitarian Universalists

the program provides a four part curriculum designed to encourage introspection, active listening and respectful conversation about a potentially divisive topic. .

This workshop broadens participants' view of reproductive choice which is relevant to supporting policies beneficial to women, families and to a world with growing population and diminishing resources.

Singing Meditation: Song and Silence for the Soul

Ruth Rosauer, Eau Claire Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Singing Meditation is an interfaith spiritual practice in which song and silence are alternated. A brief lecture will include a cross-cultural overview of song throughout the ages, some of its spiritual dimensions, as well as physical and emotional benefits. In this experiential workshop you will be singing – not listening to music. This is an opportunity for *everyone* to sing simple songs, chants and rounds deeply into your soul; regardless of your musical background. This is not only for people who sing in the choir!

The two to five minute periods of intentional silence framed by song may be used for prayer, meditation or contemplation. Experience the synergy of singing in community as a path to facilitate your connection with the community of singers around you, God, the Divine, your own Inner Core of guidance, the Spirit of Life.

Teaching UU History through Video

Carol Jackson- Minneapolis MN- First Universalist

The workshop is addressed to high school and junior high RE teachers who want to introduce their students to regional Unitarian and Universalist history, as well as to UU historians and archivists. The leader will show portions of the videos *Heritage of Heresy* and *Full Circle of Life*, which respectively treat the heresy trial of Herman Bisbee in 19th century Minnesota and the creation of the Mabel Tainter Memorial in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Participants will then try out and evaluate the study/discussion guides that were developed for the videos.

The Bible is Human Voices

Rev. Wendy Jerome – Eau Claire WI- Unitarian Universalist congregation.

Want to feel more knowledgeable and respectful as you work on interfaith projects with neighbors from biblically-centered traditions? This workshop includes a brief tour of

how the Bible is organized and its several dates of composition. It also offers suggestions for inspiring and puzzling reading including history, folk-tales and parables that relate to UU human rights concerns: how Paul supported women's leadership and criticized slavery; how Leviticus addresses homosexuality; where the "Queen of Heaven" and matriarchy exist in text; and how Jesus affirmed human potential.

Peacemaking and Ethical Eating: Justice Actions

Hal Bertilson, Duluth MN Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Congregational Study Action Item (CSAI) is the way that members set social-justice policy for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Learn about the process and the content of both the *Peacemaking 2006-2010* and the *Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice 2008-2012* CSAIs, the process for involving your congregation, and the resources available. Hal Bertilson has been working with the Peacemaking Core Team both at General Assemblies and via a series of teleconference calls and telepresentations. He will provide a view of the CSAI process from the "inside" as well as a great deal about the issues involved in both CSAIs. Professor Bertilson teaches the Psychology of Peace at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and will offer psychological theory and research regarding both topics. He serves on the Campus Peace Center Advisory Council and will report on the UW-Superior Student Peace Center to the sponsoring UN NGO, *the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, & Global Concerns*, in October at the UN.