

Presidential Forum

1:30-2:45 pm

1:30 – 1:35 **Moderator: Introduce Forum**

Two candidates are competing for the office of UUA President succeeding the Rev William G. Sinkford, who completes his second term of office in 2009. The UUA President is the chief executive officer and primary spokesperson of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Today we will explore the candidacies of the Rev Dr Laurel Hallman, senior minister of the First Unitarian Church in Dallas, and Rev Peter Morales, minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden Colorado.

The Forum will feature pre-recorded stump speeches by each candidate with technical assistance from Ben Stallings (PSD Web Coordinator), from approved spokespersons for each candidate, questions and answers prepared by each spokesperson, and conclude with questions and comments from the floor as time permits.

Let's take a look at candidate Rev Dr Laurel Hallman.

1:35 - 1:45 **Ben Stallings:** Connect the Hallman stump speech.

Moderator: Laurel Hallman is represented today by Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, Unity Church- Unitarian, St Paul MN.

1:45 - 1:50 **Janne Eller Isaacs:** Testimonial (5 minutes.)

Moderator: Let's take a look at candidate Rev Peter Morales.

1:50 - 2:00 **Ben Stallings:** Connect Morales stump speech.

Moderator: Peter Morales is represented by Rev. Carol Hepokoski, 1st Unitarian Universalist Church, Rochester MN.

2:00 - 2:05 **Carol Hepokoski:** Testimonial (5 minutes.)

2:05 – 2:11 **Moderator:** QUESTION 1:
(We have 3 questions prepared for the spokespersons. Please answer on behalf of your candidate and limit your answer 2 minutes each.)

"Both of the candidates in their own way speak to welcoming congregations. Please comment on missteps of the past in growing our UU and more importantly speak to future plans."

2:11 - 2:17

Moderator: QUESTION 2 (2 minutes each)

I am convinced that there are many, many closet Unitarian Universalists in our country and elsewhere who would join our congregations if only they knew we were there. I also know that during the past few years, the UUA has developed new public relations and advertising materials for use by congregations and collections of congregations. (One of the test areas was in the Prairie Star District - in Missouri. It worked there.) Do you foresee furthering this PR initiative? If not, what would you do instead to expand awareness of our denomination. If so, how would you work with congregations or collections of congregations to help them consider adopting, funding and implementing this initiative?

2:17 - 2:23

Moderator: QUESTION 3 (2 minutes each)

Our denomination seems to be undergoing a philosophical shift. Twenty years ago in our congregation, the concept of a "Christian UU" seemed nonsensical. Now our congregation has a Christian UU minister and the secular humanists of previous generations, despite the diversity that we say we believe in, are feeling bereft - bereft of a sanctuary from the world of deity (Christian or otherwise). The UU church was the one place in many UU's lives where those who lived to a different drummer, theologically speaking, could live without the expectation that they subscribe to a divine being. Where they could go on a spiritual or religious journey without having to subscribe to the supernatural. How will you lead us as we struggle with this fundamental challenge?

2:23 - 2:43

Moderator: Questions and comments from the floor.

2:43 - 2:45

Moderator: Conclusion.