



# Heartland District News Release

August 25, 2005

## Interim District Executive to begin work soon

A family medical emergency delayed the start date for the Rev. Lisa Presley to begin work as Heartland District's Interim District Executive until the first of September. We all wish Lisa and her family and friends the best as we wait through these last few days of eager anticipation.

District work by the Lifespan Religious Education Program Consultant Nancy Combs-Morgan, office administrator, Barbara Hamilton, and the Program Council leaders and committees is continuing, most notably with preparations for our Oct. 14-16 Fall Training Institute. The board has also continued its work this summer in occasional conference calls, regular email conversations and two weekend quarterly meetings, one its annual retreat to plan for the coming year and the second its annual meeting with the Program Council.

We all are eager for Rev. Presley's arrival and to start working together on a successful interim year.

## District Executive search begins

The search process for the person who will become Heartland's settled District Executive is beginning this summer.

The board, which is responsible for hiring the District Executive according to Heartland's bylaws, is gathering information about the district and its needs and recruiting members for our search committee.

The board will be surveying about half of our congregations for a district needs assessment, and we ask congregation presidents and ministers to please return our phone calls or emails promptly if your congregation is selected for the survey.

We also need to hear from individual Heartland UUs who want to be considered for a role in the search committee. We are looking for individual UUs who have a sense of the big picture of district work, who are oriented toward our future, who have leadership and service experience on a larger than congregational level and who can commit to two 90-minute conference calls and two overnight out of town trips between November and next March plus some on-your-own work between meetings. We expect the overnight trips to be January and March 2006. The board is recruiting for the search committee now and will officially form the committee by voting approval of its five members at our November meeting.

## Board accepts a resignation

The Heartland Board of Trustees got the news at its August quarterly meeting that member-at-large Jeff Wrisley, who lives outside Pentwater, MI, and is a member of People's Church of Ludington, is leaving the board so that he may accept a job that will take him to Iraq for two years. We respect the dream and the courage that enables him to accept such a dangerous and rewarding position. We wish him the best and a safe return.

Our policies instruct us to declare the board vacancy at this time, and our bylaws allow us to appoint a replacement until the next annual meeting but do not require us to do so. Because the board is now recruiting Heartland members for a DE Search Committee and the district continues to recruit Program Council leaders and staff volunteers, we have decided not to fill the vacancy immediately. It likely will not be filled until next April's election at our District Annual Meeting, when this board seat's term is up for re-election anyway. The board's work is improved by the contributions, skills and experience of each of its members, but we think it important to focus attention on staffing District programs and our DE Search Committee at this time.



## We've moved up in the world!

Heartland's District office has moved up two floors in the same downtown Indianapolis office building. Our former neighbor on the third floor needed more space, and we were able to find a suitable space on the fifth floor for a lower monthly rental without being required to extend the term of our lease. Overall it represents an annual savings of more than \$2,000. The only change is in the suite number. The telephone number is still 1-888-948-HUUD, and the email is office@heartlanduu.org.

Our new address is:

Heartland District of the UUA  
445 N. Pennsylvania St., Suite **510**  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1893



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## **HUUD Board of Trustees urges attendance at Fall Training Institute Oct. 14-16 in Grand Rapids**

As we listen to congregations around our District, we always hear the need to invest in lay leaders so our congregations can be healthy and our district growing. This year's Fall Training Institute offers excellent opportunities for congregations to invest in education and reap the benefits of trained, networked, and freshly inspired lay leaders. We urge congregations to ask their current and incoming lay leaders to attend one of the five training tracks. We encourage congregation members interested in learning how to more deeply serve their congregations and the world to ask to be sent to the Fall Training Institute.

Here are the five training tracks:

Planning for Growth & Vitality for Small Congregations  
OWL Facilitators—Grades K-1 & 4-6  
Administrators' Roundtable  
Administration Renaissance Module  
Lay Leadership 1—Foundations of Leadership

For details, consult the Fall Training Institute brochure included in this mailing or call your congregation office, the Heartland office at 888-948-4883, or email [office@heartlanduu.org](mailto:office@heartlanduu.org).

Online registration is available at: [www.heartlanduu.org](http://www.heartlanduu.org)

Questions or comments, contact the Heartland District office at:

888-948-4883 (toll free)  
[office@heartlanduu.org](mailto:office@heartlanduu.org)



## **Heartland District UUA Trustee Report**

First, let me express my gratitude to the Heartland Board for placing their trust in me to fill in for Charles Redd as the Heartland UUA Trustee. And let me pass on to all of you how impressed I was at my first Board of Trustees meeting in June, held in conjunction with the Fort Worth General Assembly, by the esteem in which Charles was held by his Board of Trustees colleagues. He was truly loved and respected. He represented us and served the larger movement well. I am humbled to take his seat.

Let me highlight a few of the things brought to the attention of the UUA Board and some actions taken:

- As some of you know, the UUA president, Bill Sinkford, is in an ongoing conversation with our two UU theological schools, Meadville/Lombard in Chicago and Star King School for the Ministry in Berkley regarding their future relationship with each other and the UUA.
- Dr. Charlie Clements, president of the UU Service Committee, reported that, in cooperation with the UUA, over \$2 million has been collected from UU congregations and individuals for tsunami relief.
- The UUA is investigating self-insurance to cover UU church employees' health insurance needs. We are talking with the United Church of Christ to see if we can be admitted to their self-insurance plan.
- HUUDs own Gini Courter continues as UUA moderator. Rev. Ned Wight is first vice moderator, Ed Wilde is second vice moderator and Paul Rickter is secretary.
- Concerns were raised about experiences that some of our youth of color had in Fort Worth. Gini and Bill have appointed a special commission to investigate and report to the Board in October.

The Board adopted criteria for Associate Member Organizations, Sponsored Organizations, UU Professional Organizations, UU Theological Schools, International Organizations, Independent Affiliate Organizations, and Other Groups.

The next UUA Board meeting will be held this coming October 14, 15 and 16 in Boston. If you have any suggestions or concerns prior to then please let me know.

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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
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## RE-Vision

Isn't it curious how those of us who spend so much time either working or volunteering in our congregations feel that September is the beginning of the year? Perhaps, it is our school bio-rhythm that creates such a feeling, yet it is quite true that many of your congregations do seem to be gearing up for a new year – a new year of growth, leadership development and making connections (connections with other congregations, our district and our Association!).

In that revved up mode, our Heartland District staff is making sure that you have the resources, ideas and trainings that you need to achieve your congregational goals (thanks in large part to the good work of our Program Council). Perhaps, that goal is making sure that your Religious Education program is up and running, if so, we have a **Renaissance Administration Training Module** to be held at our **Fall Training Institute in Grand Rapids, Oct. 14-16** (the module actually begins on **Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>** and extends to that **Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>**). Having attended this module when I was a brand new DRE in 1997, I can attest to the great value of the content and training! There will also be a **K-1/4-6 Our Whole Lives Comprehensive Sexuality Training**, which begins on **October 14<sup>th</sup>** and goes through **Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**. As an add-on workshop, I will be holding a day long **Youth Advisor Training** (for Middle and High School Advisors) on **Saturday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>** at the People's Church of Kalamazoo. These day-long Youth Advisor Trainings are being held in response to the needs expressed to me from the advisors and the DRE's – there will also be a **Youth Advisor Training**, on **Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** at **Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Congregation in Louisville, KY**. The cost for each of the Youth Advisor trainings is only \$40 per person and the registrations are available on our website, [www.heartlanduu.org](http://www.heartlanduu.org) We are also exploring some dates to have a Youth Advisor training in Indiana as well.

Our **District Youth Steering Committee** is also gearing up, and will be meeting the weekend of Aug. 26-28 in Fort Wayne, IN. We will be mapping out our year and already have on our schedule to offer a **Leadership Development Conference** in Ann Arbor, Feb. 10-12. There are plans to include in our CON schedule a Social Justice Conference, a Spirituality Development Conference, and an Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppression workshop. The dates and locations for these will be sent out in the early Fall.

In addition, I have been working closely with our **Youth Office at the UUA** to make sure that we are fully involved in the **Task Force on Ministry For and With Youth**. Our District Youth Leaders will be trained as consultants to come in as facilitators to your congregation to hold day-long conversations on Youth Ministry. Our results will be sent to the task force and our voices will truly be heard!

I have been amazed at the growth of our **Heartland Young Adult/Campus Ministry** network, thanks to the hard work of our Heartland YA/CM leaders. Visit our website to see the calendar of dates for our YA/CM events and the emergence of an important new venue for Young Adults, the **Church of the Younger Fellowship**, available through the website of the **Church of the Larger Fellowship**.

I hope that anyone who might be interested in any of these groups and activities will feel free to contact me with questions or interest in joining in – you can reach me at: [pc@heartlanduu.org](mailto:pc@heartlanduu.org).

In faith,  
Nancy Combs-Morgan  
Lifespan Religious Education Program Consultant

## SAVE THE DATES

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|-----------------|--|
| Sept 1          | Deadline for newsletter articles<br><a href="mailto:shaleyky@worldnet.att.net">shaleyky@worldnet.att.net</a> |
| Oct 14-16       | Fall Training Institute, Grand Rapids  |
| April 7-9, 2006 | HUUD Annual Meeting<br>Indianapolis  |