



Spring 2005

Heartline

Newsletter of the Heartland Unitarian Universalist District

2005 Heartland Spring Conference and Annual Meeting

Gather In Spirit

Registration is now open for the 2005 Heartland Spring Conference and Annual Meeting. There are 3 ways to register: 1) go online at www.heartlanduu.org for easy credit card registration; 2) obtain a registration brochure from your congregation office administrator; or 3) call the District office toll free at 888-948-4883 to obtain a registration brochure. With 13 workshops, opportunities to meet with district consultants, and special times to learn from and share ideas with other congregations, you don't want to miss this spring conference.

Who Should Attend?

"Gather In Spirit" is a call to members and friends who participate in the life of our 54 congregations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. We are developing exciting learning and sharing opportunities designed for delegates, music/choir directors, choir members, lay leaders, presidents/moderators, ministers, RE directors, growth and social justice committee members, youth, young adult and campus

April 8–10, 2005 Cincinnati, Ohio

ministries, family, and friends. Learn how the Heartland District works on behalf of congregations—firsthand! Your congregation leadership team will have an opportunity to meet by appointment with a Heartland consultant at no cost. Kathleen Montgomery, executive vice president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be our keynote speaker.

Prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting, the Heartland District Chapter of the UU Ministers Association will hold its annual business meeting, and religious educators will hold their annual luncheon and meeting. There will be an opening reception honoring congregational delegates and graduates of the Midwest Leadership School and Leadership Training Institute. A session for church administrators, an awards luncheon, an artist and social justice marketplace, meaningful worship services, and possibly a combined choir are a few of the other features of the 2005 gathering.

"Gather In Spirit" and share your successes with others. Do you have a program, initiative, or activity in your congregation that has enhanced the life of your congregation? Will you share in gatherings with other UUs how you make it happen? Call Gwen Winston, Annual Meeting co-chair, at 313-832-2928, or e-mail gwenbwin@gbaileywinston.com to say your church will participate in our Learning Exchange/Idea Swap sessions.

Our 2005 District Annual Meeting Committee members are: Kathy Silver, Rev. Thomas Perchlik, Mildred Robinson, and Gwendolyn Winston. If you are interested in helping to make local arrangements in the Cincinnati area, such as home hospitality, childcare, catering, community service, media, and volunteer staffing, please call Mildred Robinson at 313-869-2508.

We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of the time: How much is enough?

Wendell Berry

Heartland Choral Festival



The sixth annual Heartland Choral Festival will be held May 14–15, 2005 and should not be missed. Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, this weekend event brings UU musicians together from a five-state area for a weekend of fellowship and music making. This year we focus on “reflec-

tions” with a festival service performance of the Dylan Thomas poem “Fern Hill” set by Grammy-winner John Corigliano. Everyone is invited to participate in a time of creativity and growth. The cost of registration, including the sheet music and meals, is \$28 before April 1 and \$35 after April 1. Find information and downloadable registration forms on the web at www.heartlandchoralfest.org or contact Karen Cooksey at info@heartlandchoralfest.org or (317) 283-4760 for more information.

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445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 330, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1893
(888) 948-HUUD (4883) • Fax (317) 634-5385 • www.heartlanduu.org

District Executive Mary Andrus Overley..... (888) 948-4883de@heartlanduu.org
Office Administrator Barbara Hamilton (888) 948-4883office@heartlanduu.org
Lifespan RE Program Consultant..... Nancy Combs-Morgan (859) 276-1585pc@heartlanduu.org

Heartland Leadership

President Connie Haas Zuber (260) 456-4132..... chzuber@comcast.net Fort Wayne, IN
VP-Finance Susan Bookout (812) 976-9790 sbookout@juno.com Bloomington, IN
VP-Admin Steven Thompson (937) 626-5325C... sthompson7@woh.rr.com Dayton, OH
Secretary..... Michael Ohlrogge..... (734) 764-5065H... michaeloishere@yahoo.com ... Ann Arbor, MI
At Large..... Jeff Wrisley..... (231) 869-7171 jeffwrisley@jeffwrisley.com Pentwater, MI
At Large..... Markie Oliver (765) 282-1366 moliver@bsu.edu Muncie, IN
At Large..... Shirley Hoffstedt..... (616) 847-1035 shoff@altelco.net Muskegon, MI
At Large..... vacant
Youth Observer Becca Brown (317) 255-0208..... temp_d_y_s_c@hotmail.com... Indianapolis, IN
UUA Trustee..... Charles Redd (219) 456-4356H... credd@verizon.net..... Fort Wayne, IN
Annual Meeting..... Gwendolyn Winston (313) 832-2928 gwenbwin@gbaileywinston.com.. Detroit, MI
..... Mildred Robinson (313) 869-2508..... milkmaid1934@sbcglobal.net.. Detroit, MI
Communication..... Rev. Todd Eklof (502) 899-1337 todd@cliftonunitarian.com..... Louisville, KY
District Youth..... Samantha Dewald (513) 245-2378 coleraingurl@hotmail.com..... Cincinnati, OH
..... Tim Murphy (adult ch.) .. (765) 643-6147 nightcoaster@yahoo.com Indianapolis, IN
Extension Rev. Nana' Kratochvil.... (231) 755-2931 huucmusk@verizon.net Muskegon, MI
Leadership Dev. Nancy Garrett..... (270) 783-0144..... UUGarrett@aol.com Bowling Green, KY
Lifespan RE..... Kathy Silver (734) 433-9504 ksilver192@aol.com..... Farmington Hills, MI
(co-chairs)..... Barbara Weber (937) 435-5046 blw622@yahoo.com Dayton, OH
Social Justice Mary Lou Malone (313) 837-7952 mimalone@flash.net Detroit, MI
Young Adult/
Campus Min. Kelly Rauch (317) 205-9117 kellymrauch@yahoo.com..... Indianapolis, IN
Nominating..... Barbara Weber (937) 435-5046 blw622@yahoo.com Dayton, OH
UUMA Rep. Rev. Thomas Perchlik ... (765) 288-9561 dharmarev@hotmail.com..... Muncie, IN
MUUC Rep. Veronica Smith (313) 824-2702 vsmith508@aol.com Grosse Pointe, MI
MUUC Rep. Susan Porter (317) 251-7346 mrsporter@aol.com Indianapolis, IN
MUMN Rep. Karen Cooksey..... (317) 823-4760 music@uui.org Indianapolis, IN

Send articles to: Sarah Haley, *Heartline* editor, P.O. Box 6927, Louisville, KY 40206-6927, shaleyky@worldnet.att.net

Next newsletter deadline: May 1, 2005

The *Heartline* is now available via e-mail! Simply contact office@heartlanduu.org with your request.

Continental Women and Religion General Meeting

Thursday, June 23,
Fort Worth, Texas

Prior to this year's GA in Fort Worth Texas, the Continental Women and Religion will hold a general meeting for all interested parties. The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theme is "The Future is Now." Several speakers will speak as to the issues in front of us now, the history of Women and Religion, and time will be given for everyone's input. The cost will be a sliding scale from \$25 to \$50, which includes a luncheon meal. For more information, contact Misty Sheehan at mistysheehan@yahoo.com, or phone (231) 326-4014.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Melody Beattie

REVision

Nancy Combs-Morgan, Lifespan Religious Education Program Consultant

To know you have enough
is to be rich.

Lao-Tzu, Tao Te Ching

As I work with many of our congregations who either are in the process of reviewing their employment practices with their Religious Educators or are evaluating how their Youth, Young Adult/Campus Ministry, and Religious Education program fits into the health and well-being of their congregations, I have realized a few things. The first thing is that so many of our congregations are doing so much that is **right!** The best indicator of that is the general interest expressed in how to have the healthiest, most vital congregations out there. In my thinking that makes you a participant in what I would consider an emerging “breakthrough” congregation.

What, you may ask, are the characteristics of a “breakthrough” congregation?

At a UUA staff meeting this past December, we talked about what our district staff perspective is of a “breakthrough” congregation, and the following is what we came up with.

“Breakthrough” congregations:

- 1) Affirm possibilities,
- 2) Esteem Leadership Development,
- 3) Have congregational leaders who communicate a positive sense of urgency,
- 4) Seek out other congregations and pursue district-level and association-level learning opportunities to send their leaders to, and
- 5) Nurture an atmosphere of mutual accountability.

How does your congregation view these practices? I would love to hear more!

In terms of super opportunities for your Religious Educators, Youth and Young

Adult/Campus Ministry leaders, keep these event dates open and please get the word out in your congregations.

Junior High CON— Indianapolis, IN March 18–20

The annual Junior High CON sponsored by our District Youth Steering Committee is open to any junior high/middle school student in our district.

HUUD Annual Meeting

Keep in mind that there will be a time designated to meet personally with one of our RE Consultants to get some direction and/or information for your Lifespan RE program.

We also will be offering workshops, inspired by the “Involve” trainings of Sally Patton, which give an overview of how to go about meeting the diverse needs of all children and youth in your RE programs. A group of RE leaders will offer helpful tips and guidelines for curriculum mapping and will go through some of the curriculum available to your congregation (much of the RE lending library will be on site and available for loan). An RE Professional Day will be held on Friday, April 8, before the meeting kicks off in Cincinnati, which will include an afternoon session on Ethics.

Aging to Sageing Conference—E. Lansing, MI Saturday, April 16

This Adult RE conference will be a day-long opportunity to participate in

a guided workshop led by Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer on Aging to Sageing and gathering wisdom in the aging process. Rev. Hoertdoerfer has developed a study guide for use by Adult RE groups on this topic. Contact Cheryl Goodman, at the UU Church of Greater Lansing, ulansmi@msu.edu for more information.

Spring Young Adult/Campus Ministry CON, May 20–22

The location for this Young Adult/Campus Ministry Conference will be held at Hopedale UU Community in Oxford, Ohio. This conference will be a truly unique experience of exploring Creativity as a Spiritual Practice for Young Adults. We invite all our district young adults to come and explore their own spiritual practices and share information on your Young Adult and Campus groups. Also, the previous weekend of May 13–15 there will be a Re-CON-Nect cross-over Con for 16- to 22-year-olds. It is planned to be held in E. Lansing, Michigan.

Contact me if you have any questions about these events and/or would like to talk about your Religious Education, Youth, and Young Adult/Campus ministry programs in your congregations.

The point of philosophy is to start with something so simple as not to seem worth stating, and to end with something so paradoxical that no one will believe it.

Bertrand Russell

ExtensionNews

Ten Things to Do to Grow

Dr. Brent Smith, HUUD Extension Committee

- 1. Become Seeker Sensitive:** Study what visitors look for, want, and need that longer-standing members do not know.
- 2. Be Info Accessible:** Have information on your church available at multiple sites so visitors can take at their leisure.
- 3. Be Visible:** Have at least five separate ways prospective visitors can find out where you worship and when.
- 4. Know the 51% Rule:** When visitors appear at your church's doorstep, they have met you more than halfway, so it's the church's turn to respond.
- 5. None of Your Business:** Do NOT do church business at coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Discipline yourself and other members to talk to newcomers.

- 6. Anonymous Please:** Have places in your church where newcomers can be anonymous and still find out things about who you are.
- 7. Lights, Camera, Action:** Use community video resources (most cities have them) to produce and duplicate DVD "brochures" for visitors (it's a lot less expensive than you might imagine).
- 8. Know Name:** When a visitor gives you a name, it means more than casual interest, the visitor wants to connect with your church.
- 9) Call Me:** Personal phone calls from laity on Sunday evenings welcoming visitors prove highly effective in helping to answer questions and give a welcoming feel.
- 10. Be More than Friendly:** Visitors today come to church hoping to find meaning, purpose, and connection. Many churches are friendly, but few offer deep, significant companionship for the spiritual pilgrim; **growing ones do.**

*An Environmental Action Event
for the Whole Family*

Saving the Environment In Your Own Back Yard

- Keynote Speaker and Breakout Sessions
- Justice Action
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Networking
- Family Activities

Save this date!

Saturday, May 14, 2005

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Birmingham Unitarian Church, Michigan

Sponsored by the Michigan UU Social Justice Network and Local Environmental Action Groups

Contact Randy Block (248-549-5170) or George Lentz (248-223-9947).

Planning for Growth and Vitality Workshop for the Small Congregation

May 13–15, 2005

**Birmingham Unitarian Church
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan**

This is an opportunity to learn some specific turnaround and growth strategies for smaller congregations. A team approach is used throughout the workshop. Each team develops an action plan for growth and vitality based on its insights from the workshop, directly building on the strengths of its congregation.

Who should attend? All small congregations (150 or fewer members) in the Heartland District.

Registration brochures will be mailed to each small congregation after March 15 and are available online at www.heartlanduu.org. For questions, contact the district office at (888) 948-4883, or by e-mail at office@heartlanduu.org.

Congregational News

All Souls Community Church in Grand Rapids, is proud and excited about their growth. They started out in a park with about 25 interested people in September 2001, and by the time they were accepted into the UUA in April 2002, they had 65 charter members. On December 12, 2004 they accepted 16 more members into their congregation bringing their membership to 144 active members.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint is preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary. In March of 1930, a small group of people interested in liberal religion met with a representative of the American Unitarian Association at a hotel in downtown Flint. By May of that year, the First Unitarian Church of Flint had been established. A weekend of commemorative activities is scheduled for Friday,

May 13 to Sunday, May 15. Early Sunday morning, a service of remembrance and reflection will take place in the church's memorial garden. A late morning service of celebration will be held in the sanctuary. Gini Courter, a former member of the church who now serves as Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will deliver the main address.

Lafayette UUs organize Indiana RCRC! Last fall members of the UU Church in Lafayette spearheaded the founding of a new multi-faith organization, the Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (IRCRC). The new state affiliate will seek to "provide a voice for mainstream Hoosiers of faith, bringing the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice and health through education and advocacy." Although still

in its infancy, the group has already sponsored two public events and has had several letters to the editor published. The group is focusing on issues such as the need for comprehensive sex education, reproductive health care services in local communities, legislative initiatives, and non-judgmental pastoral counseling. Although primarily Lafayette-based at the moment, the organization seeks to widen its membership in order to become a truly statewide force. UUs from all across the state (individuals as well as congregations and committees) are invited to join and help, and invite your friends from other faith groups as well. For more information visit our web site at www.ircrc.org or contact us at info@ircrc.org or 877-441-5797.

--Kaye McSpadden, President, IRCRC

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.

William Wordsworth

January 16 Carter Reconciliation at Cincinnati First Unitarian Discovers Link to Proposed Tredegar Museum in Virginia that Honors African-Americans in the Civil War

By Linnea Lose

The fifth annual Rev. W.H.G. Carter Memorial Service at the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati was held on Sunday, January 16. It featured Alex Wise, director of the Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation. Wise's Foundation is developing a museum in Richmond, Virginia, that will include the perspective of African Americans

who served in the Union and Confederate armies in the Civil War and thus "tell the whole story of the conflict that still shapes our nation."

First Unitarian Church members and Carter family members earlier this year discovered that Rev. William Henry Grey Carter, an African-American Unitarian minister of a storefront church in Cincinnati's West End in the 1920s, and Alex Wise, Cau-

casian historian from Virginia today, are both descendants of Henry Alexander Wise. Henry Alexander Wise in the mid-1800s was a slave owner in Virginia, a U.S. congressperson, governor of Virginia, and Confederate brigadier general.

First Unitarian Church's journey began in 1999 when Rev. Sharon Dittmar preached about the poor support of Rev. W.H.G. Carter's urban ministry by Cincinnati Unitarian churches and also the national denomination. First Unitarian worked with Carter family members for two years to organize a reconciliation service in January 2001. Now an annual event, the service also seeds a special collection to continue the ministry of Rev. Carter. The fund responds to emergency needs of people who have "slipped through the cracks" of traditional social service and government agencies.

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2005. The church is located at 536 Linton Street at Reading Road in Avondale.

District Calendar

March, 2005 through June, 2005

March 7	DYSC Teleconferencing Meeting	TBA
March 11	DRE Northern Cluster Meeting	Detroit, MI
March 13	Ordination: Lauren Thomas	Lansing, MI
March 18–20	DYSC SitCon Jr. High CON	UU Church of Indianapolis, IN
April 8	UUMA Retreat	Cincinnati, OH
April 8–10	HUUD 2005 Spring Conference Annual Meeting	Vernon Manor Hotel and First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati, OH
April 9	First Annual Heartland Administrators Assn. meeting	First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati, OH
April 15–17	DYSC YRUU Chaplain Training	San Diego, CA
April 16	“Sageing” Conference with Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer	East Lansing, MI
April 17	Installation: Rev. Cynthia Landrum	UU Church-E. Liberty, Clarklake, MI
April 18	Patriot’s Day—Office Closed	
April 29–30	DYSC Election/Bridging CON	Fort Wayne, IN
May 1	<i>Heartline</i> Deadline	
May 1	Installation: Rev. Jill Terwilliger	UU Community Church SW Michigan, Portage, MI
May 6–7	Women’s Weekend Conference	UU Church of Bloomington, IN
May 13–15	Planning for Growth and Vitality for Small Congregations	Birmingham Unitarian Bloomfield Hills, MI
May 13–15	OWL Facilitator Training Grades 7–9 and 10–12	UU Church of Lexington, Lexington, KY
May 14-15	Heartland Choral Festival	UU Church of Indianapolis, IN
May 20–22	Farewell Recognition: Rev. Barbara Carlson	UU Church of Bloomington, IN
May 30	DRE Northern Cluster meeting	Southfield, MI
May 30	Memorial Day—Office Closed	
June 10–12	HUUD Board Transition Retreat	TBA
June 23–27	UUA General Assembly	Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

I have come to terms with the future. From this day onward I will walk easy on the earth. Plant trees. Kill no living things. Live in harmony with all creatures. I will restore the earth where I am. Use no more of its resources than I need. And listen, listen to what it is telling me.

M. J. Slim Hoey