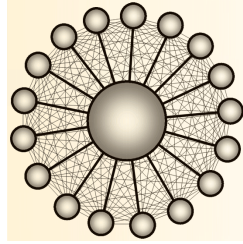


For: Musicians, Clergy, RE Directors, and Lay Worship Leaders



An Update on the OFFICE OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC RESOURCES

Three years ago a generous grant to the UUA made possible the creation of The Office of Worship and Music Resources – a full-time staff position dedicated to the worship lives of our congregations Association-wide. The mission of this office was: “To discover, develop, and disseminate the resources needed to deepen the worship life in our congregations.”

The most visible project of what became known as the WAMR office was the expansion of the WorshipWeb, the UUA’s online worship resource site. Today the site continues to house liturgical resources – from chalice lightings, to sermons, to entire rituals – created *by* Unitarian Universalists *for* Unitarian Universalists. (And, in fact, several hundred new resources have been added in the past three years.) Yet now the WorshipWeb also boasts a robust music module, with everything from a database of living Unitarian Universalist composers who are currently creating the next corpus of UU music, to a list of alternative songbooks in use in our congregations, to essays intended to help traditional musicians make the most of the decidedly untraditional music in *Singing the Journey*. There is also now information on copyright, and worship theory, and lay-clergy collaboration, and many other worship-related topics. And while this evolution of the WorshipWeb was taking place, countless connections have been made with individual music directors, religious education professionals, clergy, and lay worship leaders.

That original grant, though, had a three-year time limit, and as of June 30th the grant has run out. Due to the economic realities of recent years, the UUA itself does not have the funds to maintain this extra full-time staff position. And so, after three years of being “the WAMR” I will be returning to the parish, serving as the settled minister at our congregation in Charlottesville, VA – the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church.

At the same time, the UUA does not want to let the important work that has been done go dormant. We have been developing a real culture of resource sharing – think of the WorshipWeb’s logo as depicting an interdependent web connecting the creativity of our congregations to one another with the assistance of the Association’s central WorshipWeb. This will continue. A part-time staff person, Elizabeth Cartmell Ladd, has been hired to keep the WorshipWeb up to date. So please, continue to send worshipweb@uua.org your opening words, and prayers, as well as instructional essays on how contemporary worship, or dance, or video is being used in your congregation. Together we can continue to work of “deepening the worship life in our congregations.”

It has been an honor to be of service.

Erik Walker Wikstrom

Worship and Music Resources Director for the
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations