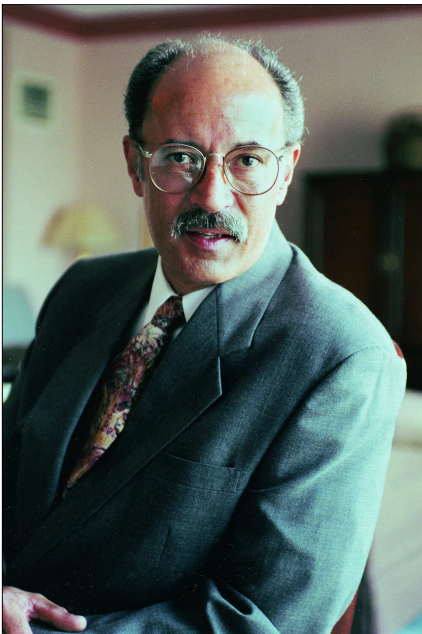




UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

The Rev. William G. Sinkford President

The Rev. William G. Sinkford, 61, was elected as the seventh president of the Unitarian Universalist Association in June, 2001. As president of this liberal denomination, he is responsible to the UUA Board of Trustees for administering staff and programs that serve its more than 1,000 member congregations. He also acts as principal spokesperson and minister-at-large for the Association.



Sinkford's presidency has been distinguished by his social justice work, particularly his efforts to defend oppressed peoples. He is an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq, a nationally recognized champion of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples, and a passionate advocate for the people of Darfur. Under Sinkford's leadership, the UUA became the first national denomination to join the New Sanctuary Movement, and last year the denomination formally voted to work to combat global warming. He has been a staunch defender of religious pluralism and church/state separation. A deeply spiritual man, Sinkford has freely shared his own spiritual journey and called on Unitarian Universalism to reclaim a language of reverence.

Sinkford grew up in Cincinnati, graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1968, and spent the following year in Greece as a Michael Clark Rockefeller Fellow. Between 1970 and 1980 he held marketing and management positions with Gillette, Avon Products, Johnson Products, and Revlon. He later ran his own business, Sinkford Restorations, Inc., and was also active as a volunteer with community action groups and in not-for-profit housing development.

Sinkford heard his call to ministry after returning to Cincinnati, where he was an active lay leader in his home congregation. He also served on the UU Urban Concerns and Ministry Committee and as an officer of the African American Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Toward the end of his theological education at Starr King School for the Ministry, Sinkford joined the staff of the UUA. He earned his M.Div. in 1995, and was fellowshiped as a community minister and ordained by his home congregation in the same year.

Sinkford and his wife Maria live in Boston. He is the father of Bill, 25 and Danielle, 22 and stepfather to Frederic, 25, and Josie, 18.

To interview Rev. Sinkford while he is in Portland, please contact Janet Hayes at jhayes@uua.org or 617-948-4386.