



## *The MidAmerica Messenger*

Volume 2, Issue 8 | April 2015

*MidAmerica Region is building a new era in Unitarian Universalism, where UUs visibly live our faith, create connections, grow our membership, and welcome all persons who share our UU values.*

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April is here, and with it come new opportunities for your congregation to begin to think about programming for next year. What new ideas will you be trying out? There's nothing like Spring to give us energy for new beginnings.

We always appreciate your comments and suggestions for the newsletter. Click on the "email the editor" link in the menu on the left to send us a message.

Sincerely,

Nancy Heege, Congregational Life Consultant





## Live Streaming Regional Assembly Events



We will be live streaming several events during Regional Assembly in Naperville. To watch the events, go to our web site and look for the live stream link on the home page. It will be "live" during the times listed below. Watch at home or get a group from your congregation together and project it on a screen at your congregation's meeting place. <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/ra-archives/2015>

- **Friday, April 17**

6:45 to 7:30 pm Central/7:45 to 8:30 pm Eastern

*Worship and Banner Parade*

- 7:30 to 9:00 pm Central/8:30 to 10:00 pm Eastern

*Keynote 1*

- **Saturday, April 18**

9:00 to 10:30 am Central/10:00 to 11:30 am Eastern

*Keynote 2*

- 10:45 am to 12:15 pm Central/11:45 am to 1:15 pm Eastern

*MidAmerica Region Annual Meeting*



## Two New Congregations!




By a vote of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association on March 5, 2015, two new congregations in MidAmerica Region have been welcomed into affiliation with the UUA.



Congratulations to

- Open Door UU Fellowship (<http://www.opendooruu.org/>) in Owensboro, Kentucky, and
- Saint Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (<http://www.scuuf.org/>) of Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

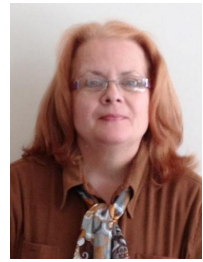
Welcome to MidAmerica Region!



## First Online Renaissance Module: Our Commitment to Online Learning

*By Nancy Combs-Morgan, Congregational Life Consultant*

As part of our MidAmerica commitment to our congregations to provide learning opportunities for religious professionals and lay leaders, we are pleased to announce that Rev. Phillip Lund and I will be co-leading the UU History Renaissance Module this Spring and Summer. As the first online Renaissance Module offering, this engaging learning opportunity has been designed for professional religious educators, especially those in the UUA's RE Credentialing program, but is also open to any leader who wants to go deeper into our rich heritage.



The 8-week series includes a special history project designed by each participant, and informative opportunities to explore your own congregation's history. The online learning experience sessions are all on these eight Friday afternoons: May 9, May 22, June 5, June 19, July 10, July 24, August 7, and August 21. Attendance is expected, but the programs will be recorded, in case someone has to miss one or two. More information and registration are available on our website.

We are looking forward to spending time with leaders on a journey into our past.




## Another Breakthrough Congregation in MidAmerica Region!

Congratulations to the Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church (<http://www.lcuuc.org/>) in Hartland, Wisconsin, for being the newest UUA Breakthrough Congregation! Each year the UUA's Congregational Life Office recognizes a handful of congregations that have "broken through" barriers to achieve exemplary goals. Lake Country is the latest of those located in the MidAmerica Region.



The congregation is profiled in UU World magazine. (<http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/300861.shtml>)

Also see the Study Guide (<http://growinguu.blogspot.com/numerical-indicators/uncategorized/study-guide-for-uuworld-article-lake-country-unitarian-universalist-church-hartland-wi/>), with questions for your own congregation's reflection and consideration.



## Making Your Summer Plans?

Why not go to camp? Several camps for Unitarian Universalists are located within the MidAmerica Region. Some are rustic; some have air-conditioned housing. Some have programming scheduled from morning until night; at others, the programming is minimal and you have lots of time to relax and renew your spirit. Some are for all ages; two camps in Michigan are just for adults.

- **Camp UniStar** - On Star Island in Cass Lake, near Bemidji, in northern Minnesota - 2 weeks for youth and 10 program weeks for all ages, Summer 2015  
<http://www.campunistar.org/> (<http://www.campunistar.org/>)
- **MUUSA - Midwest UU Summer Assembly** in Potoski, MO  
July 5 - 11, 2015  
Come gather with hundreds of other UUs in the beautiful forests and rolling hills of the Missouri Ozarks at YMCA Trout Lodge, located 75 miles SSW of Saint Louis, where you can connect with old friends, make new ones and participate in a wide variety of activities. For all ages. This year Reverend Dr. Tony Larsen will lead the daily Morning Celebration service on this year's theme: "Can We Talk?"  
<http://www.muusa.org> (<http://www.muusa.org>)
- **Chalice Sparx** - Located in Southwest Michigan  
July 14 - 19, 2015  
For all ages. Nature-based programs for children.  
<http://www.chalicesparx.org> (<http://www.chalicesparx.org>)



## 2015-16 Clergy Seminars in Spiritual Direction



The 2015-16 dates and locations for the Clergy Seminar Series in Congregation-Based Spiritual Direction have been set. This seminar series is designed for parish ministers and other religious professionals who would like to place the practice of spiritual direction at the heart of congregational life. This year there will be four locations, two within the MidAmerica Region: Naperville, Illinois and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Here's the complete schedule:



<b>Naperville, Illinois</b>	<b>Minneapolis, Minnesota</b>	<b>Richmond, Virginia</b>	<b>Boulder, Colorado</b>
October 19-21, 2015	October 26-28, 2015	November 9-11, 2015	November 16-18, 2015
February 8-10, 2016	January 25-27, 2016	February 1-3, 2016	February 22-24, 2016
May 9-11, 2016	May 23-25, 2016	May 2-4, 2016	May 16-18, 2016

Registration for all locations opens April 1, 2015. More information will be available in the May issue of this newsletter or contact Phillip Lund at [plund@uaa.org](mailto:plund@uaa.org) or 612-875-0959.



## Administrator Position Open

Applications for the MidAmerica Region full-time Administrator position are being accepted through April 15. More information on our website.



## Calendar

### April

- 10-12 - Active Hope Workshop - Milwaukee, WI
- 15-17 - MidAmerica Ministers Meeting - Naperville, IL
- 17 - LREDA Gathering - Naperville, IL
- 17 - Congregational Administrators Meeting - Naperville, IL
- 17 - UU Advocacy Network Illinois Gathering - Naperville, IL
- 17-19 - Regional Assembly - Naperville, IL
- 24-26 - EmotiCON: HS Youth CON-Southern Area - St. Louis, MO

### May

- 1-3 - InCONceivable - Northern area Spring HS Youth Con - Naperville, IL
- 8 - Renaissance Module Online, first session
- 12 - WEBINAR - How to Be a Great Congregational President
- 21 - WEBINAR - How to Be a Great Congregational President
- 5-7 - UU Women's Connection Spring Retreat (<https://www.uuwomensconnection.org>) -Princeton, IL
- 24-28 UUA General Assembly (<https://www.uua.org/ga>) - Portland, OR

### FULL CALENDAR



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*Central Midwest, Heartland, and Prairie  
Star Districts of the Unitarian Universalist*

*Association joined together as  
MidAmerica Region*

*in July 2013.*