



OBITUARIES

Professional Religious Leaders
2024–2025

MULTIPLATFORM | BALTIMORE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 2025

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DANIEL BROSIER

(1953–2025)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Daniel “Dan” Brosier, who died on February 16, 2025, at the age of 71.

Dan was born on April 14, 1953, in Midland, MI to James Sam Brosier and Emily Catharine Brosier. A high-achieving student, he graduated in the top 10% of his high school class and served as Student Council President. He went to Michigan State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1976. After college, he worked at Interlochen Arts Academy in northern Michigan, starting as a dormitory counselor and later advancing to Dean of Students. From 1984 to 1986, Dan worked as a preschool teacher at Skytown Preschool in Berkeley, CA. He then worked as a church gardener and assistant sexton at the First Unitarian Church in Berkeley before earning his Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry in 1987. Dan had long felt called to the UU ministry. As a UU minister, his calling was to support the development of others and encourage theological exploration. Whether through Sunday services, Life Span Religious Education, one-on-one counseling, committee meetings, retreats, social gatherings, or the everyday activities of the community, he sought to nurture spiritual growth and connection.

The Rev. Brosier was ordained to the UU ministry by the First Unitarian Church of Worcester, MA on November 15, 1987. The following year (1988), he accepted a call from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin, IL where he would serve until 2013. Under his leadership, the congregation experienced a profound transformation, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration. The whole attitude of the congregation changed for the better. He was a vibrant



and inspirational leader to the congregation who encouraged open dialogue and helped members work through their differences. He played a key role in the development of the church’s social concerns committee. During his tenure, several building projects were undertaken; he even served as a general contractor during construction efforts and was the only contractor for their current building.

In recognition of his decades of dedicated service, the Elgin church honored him as their minister emeritus in 2013.

The Rev. Brosier was an excellent preacher and a very personable minister. He could listen to others and make them feel heard, valued, and affirmed. He brought a sense of steadiness to his ministry and found deep fulfillment in helping and working alongside others, embracing his ministry as a path of service and shared discovery.

In addition to his parish ministry, Rev. Brosier provided his services to the broader denomination. He was a member of the UUMA and the Extension Committee of the Pacific Central District (1986). He served as an Administrative Assistant to the Pacific Central District (1986) and contributed to the Central Midwest District’s RE Committee (1991-1994). In 1993, the Rev. Brosier served the CMD UUMMA Chapter Nominating Committee and took on the role of Youth Minister for the Chapter.

In the Elgin community, Dan was a charter member of the Board of Trustees of the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin and a member of the Elgin Interracial Clergy Alliance. His dedication to social justice extended to his roles on the Domestic Violence Advisory Board, where he served as a Domestic Violence Chaplain, offering support to those in need. He was a member of

DANIEL BROSIER

continued

the At-Risk Youth Program Committee, the Literacy Advisory Council, and the U-46 School District's Clergy Council.

Dan found joy in nature and cherished time spent fishing. His love for the outdoors reflected his deep appreciation for the environment, a value he carried throughout his life. He also had a sweet tooth and never missed an opportunity to enjoy his favorite treats. Traveling brought him great happiness, and he treasured every moment exploring new places with loved ones. Above all else, Dan valued time with his family, creating countless memories filled with laughter and love.

Dan's wife Katherine shared: "A favorite quote of his was, 'Stay the course'. He was truly a steadying presence for the church and for his family."

Dan is survived by his wife of 37 years, Katherine; and his children: Emma (Aaron) and Sam (Sara).

A memorial gathering was held on April 5, 2025, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin, 39W830 Highland Ave, Elgin, IL 60124.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research](#).

BARBARA J. CARLSON

(1934–2025)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Barbara J. Carlson, who died on January 28, 2025, at the age of 90.

Barbara was born on April 17, 1934, in East Chicago, IN to Russell Theodore Carlson, Sr., and Lova Kleckner Carlson. She attended North Central College in Naperville, IL graduating cum laude in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She continued her education at Louisiana State University, earning a Master's degree in Social Work in 1966. Barbara spent several years working as a social worker specializing in Child and Family welfare and teaching at the university level before answering her call to ministry.

In the 1970s, she discovered Unitarian Universalism - a serendipitous occasion that changed, enriched, and revolutionized her life. In 1978, she became a member of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, LA. She served the church in numerous roles, including Chair of the Membership Committee, member of the Ministerial Relations Committee, Delegate to the General Assembly, and Church President. During her years of service, she actively contributed to the congregation's growth and vitality. It was in Baton Rouge that Barbara first felt the call to ministry. As she participated in the social activities and committee work, she experienced the warmth of a caring community and the delight of developing friendships with UUs of different ages, backgrounds, and theological positions. This transformative experience set her on the path to ministry, where she sought to create a beloved community, nurture souls, and foster peace and justice in larger communities. In 1990, she received her Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry.



The Rev. Carlson was ordained on May 2, 1992, by the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, OH, where she served as an associate minister from 1990 to 1993. Under her leadership, the Religious Education program flourished, growing both in size and depth to become one of the church's strongest offerings. She worked closely with the committee members and helped develop a comprehensive adult education program that

addressed a wide range of interests across the congregation. The Rev. Carlson ministered in a very caring and loving way and played a vital role in the church's healing process. Her guidance and positive influence helped strengthen the church, laying a foundation for a better future.

In 1993, she accepted a call from the UU Church of Bloomington, IN. She served the Bloomington church until her retirement in 2005. Under her leadership, the order of service became an art form - a more consistent, organic expression of worship, seamlessly integrating music, readings, and other spiritual elements. Her ministry was characterized by her spiritual guidance, her ability to foster a sense of community within both the congregation and the larger Bloomington area, and her steady leadership during times of dynamic change. She also created one of the earliest examples of co-ministry (not by married spouses), inviting both the Rev. Mary Ann Macklin and the Rev. Bill Breeden to join her in a triumvirate co-ministry team. Upon her retirement in 2005, the church honored her as their minister emeriti.

The Rev. Carlson had an excellent capacity to relate to individuals and groups, marked by her sensitivity to the feelings and behavior of others. She could empathize with others without losing a sense of her own identity and her creativity in building human

BARBARA J. CARLSON

continued

relationships. Beyond her ministry, she demonstrated outstanding concern and involvement in community issues and provided leadership in social action. She served as chair of the Committee on Personnel and Work Incentive for the Louisiana Child Protection Task Force. She contributed as a member of the River Region Mental Health Review Team.

Barbara had a wide range of passions and interests that informed her ministry and personal life. She was devoted to ecological issues and the future well-being of our planet. Her interests included the arts (visual, music, dance, theatre, literature, drama) and travel.

Barbara is survived by her husband: John Crosby; daughters: Laurel C. Roberts (Jim) and Dawn C. Ross; as well as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge](#), 8470 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; or the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington](#), 2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408.

Notes of condolence may be sent to:

- John Crosby, 800 Bell Trace Circle #257, Bloomington, IN 47408
- Laurel and Jim Roberts, 10635 Oakley Trace Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70809
- Dawn Ross, 9324 Pine Cone Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

FRANK W. CARPENTER

(1943–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Frank W. Carpenter, who died on July 4, 2024, at the age of 81.

Frank was born on January 30, 1943, in Salem, MA to Frank Watson Carpenter and Maria Bates Carpenter. He grew up in New England and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA receiving his Bachelor of Science in Philosophy (1964). While at MIT, he was actively involved in the college youth group at the First Church of Boston. His college dorm was named after a Unitarian minister, Everett Moore Baker. One day as he walked up the steps of his dorm, into the light flowing from the lobby, he realized that he wanted to lift the values and vision of the UU community by working closely with the lay leadership, supporting and developing it as appropriate. He wanted to enter the Unitarian Universalist ministry. For him, ministry meant building and sustaining small groups, upholding the values of lives, in reflection and action, and exploring the meaning of human adventure. He entered Meadville Lombard Theological School and received his Master of Divinity in 1971.

The Rev. Carpenter was ordained by the First Unitarian Congregation Society of Wilton Center, NH, on October 22, 1972, where he served his first ministry (1972-1982). He helped triple Sunday morning worship attendance and established the Religious Education Program. From 1982 until 1985, he served two churches in Texas, Arlington UU Church, and the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. In 1985, he was called to the Channing Memorial Church, Newport, RI where he served until 1997. During his tenure, he developed a religious education program and worked on a Capital Fund Drive to



refurbish the sanctuary. He then embarked on interim ministries, serving as senior interim minister at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, Shaker Heights, OH (1997-1999), where he focused on rebuilding trust and a sense of safety for members. He promoted healing within the staff and established a relationship of trust to help them rebuild the congregation.

From 1999 to 2001, he served his interim ministry at the UU Church of Greater Lynn, Swampscott, MA. At the First Congregational Society Unitarian, Chelmsford, MA (2001-2002), he assisted in claiming and honoring the past, healing grief and conflicts, and made great strides in re-establishing trust. In 2002, he accepted a call from the St. John's UU Church, Cincinnati, OH and served until 2009. He retired in 2009. In 2014, St. John's honored him as their minister emeritus.

The Rev. Carpenter served ministry in a collegial and collaborative manner. His central passion was promoting social justice, particularly racial justice. He provided his services to the denomination as a treasurer of the UU Historical Society and as a chair of the Ballou Channing District Program Committee (1995-1996). He was a contributor to the Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography.

He also served on non-profit boards and worked with community leaders to overcome injustice and to be a voice in the community. He sat on the board of the Child and Family Services of Newport County, RI (1987-1993), and the Church Community Housing Corp, Newport, RI (1985-1989).

Frank had a wide variety of interests that included visiting museums and attending concerts. Genealogy, reading, walking, listening to classical music and sniffing lilacs were enduring for him.

FRANK W. CARPENTER

continued

Frank is survived by his partner Jacqueline Rousseau; his son, William Carpenter and granddaughter, Elleanor Carpenter.

A memorial service was held on September 21, 2024, at the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, 536 Linton St, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

The family would like the donations to go to [The Michael J Fox Foundation](#) since Frank struggled for fifteen years with Parkinson's disease.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jacqueline Rousseau, 4640 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45223.

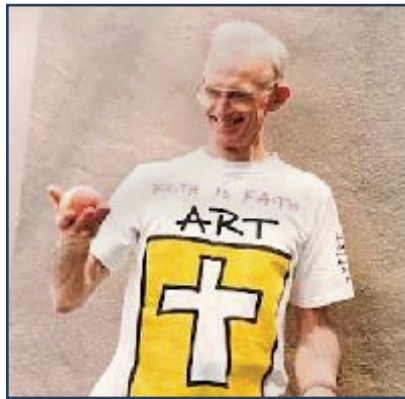
ARTHUR E. CURTIS

(1934–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Arthur “Art” E. Curtis, who died on June 8, 2024, at the age of 90.

Art was born on May 11, 1934, in Oneonta, NY to Elbert Lewis Beers Curtis and Catharine Simon Curtis. He grew up in a family that encouraged curiosity about the human and natural worlds and fostered a strong love of learning. Art received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Swarthmore College, PA, in 1955. He then traveled widely, participated in cultural immersion programs in Europe and the Middle East, and spent three years teaching at the International College in Beirut, Lebanon. After Beirut, he pursued studies in modern European History, earning a Master of Arts from Cornell University, NY, in 1964. He taught college-level courses afterward and worked as an assistant professor in the Social Science Department of Eastern Kentucky University (1967-1968, 1969-1972). In 1971, he earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of Oregon. From 1972 to 1979, he worked as an executive director for the Humanities Council, Lexington, KY.

In 1974, Art discovered the UU movement in Lexington, KY, and quickly became active in the lay-led church there. He took on various leadership roles, serving as board chair, search committee chair, president of the district, and president of the local ACLU chapter. His experience leading the congregation without a minister led him to consider ministry. For him, being in ministry would give him an opportunity and a base for civic involvement and community service. In pursuit of this calling, he enrolled at Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL, and graduated with his Master of Divinity in 1984.



The Rev. Dr. Curtis was ordained on March 25, 1984, by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, Lexington, KY. Following ordination, from 1984 to 1987, he served as an extension minister for the Auburn UU Fellowship and the UU Fellowship of Montgomery, both in Alabama. He then served as an interim minister at the UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow, ID (1987-

1988) and the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon, SK, Canada (1988-1989). In 1989, the Rev. Dr. Curtis accepted a call from the Anchorage UU Fellowship, AK, where he would serve until 2001. During his time, the fellowship experienced significant growth and transitioned from the historic Log Cabin Church to its current location on Turnagain Street. Upon his retirement in 2001, the Anchorage UU Fellowship honored him by conferring the title of minister emeritus.

The Rev. Dr. Curtis was a dynamic and thoughtful leader who quickly adapted to the needs of the congregation. He familiarized himself with the church and congregation and was a warm, sympathetic, and caring human being who was always available when needed. Pastoral ministry was his strongest suit. Beyond his congregation, he served the denomination as a member of the UUMA. In 1988, he shared his passion for environmental reverence by leading a workshop on “Gaia: Reverence for the Earth” at the Pacific NW District Annual Meeting.

Art had aesthetic sensitivity combined with a high level of social concern. He was also very sensitive to ethical imperatives for justice and peace in the world and placed his commitment into action. He emphasized an affirmation of life values. From 1972 to 1979, he served as vice-chair, chair, and secretary for the Central Kentucky Civil Liberties Union. He played

ARTHUR E. CURTIS

continued

a pivotal role in helping the National Interreligious Commission on Civil Rights organize a hearing in Montgomery on civil rights in Alabama and went on to serve as its first secretary (1986-1987). He also volunteered at the AIDS-Saskatoon (hotline) and at Crocus Coop (talking with mental health patients who used it as a social center).

In his leisure time, he found joy in outdoor activities including jogging, hiking, skiing, ice skating, swimming, and tennis, and aesthetic pursuits including ballroom dancing, singing in choral groups, playing violin, reading and writing poetry, and immersing himself in art books.

His wife Susan shared: “Music was his special love despite being born with an inherited hearing loss. For many years he was able to enjoy his music with the help of a hearing aid. Later, however, he realized he could no longer hear well enough to stay in pitch, so he donated his prized violin to a young violin student. Later still, at the age of 78, he had surgery that enabled him to hear certain voices with a cochlear

processor, but music less well. Fortunately, he still had the out-of-doors, the night sky, his many friendships, visits with family members, and poetry and art to sustain him. He especially loved sharing poems he had collected over the years. Favorite poems included “Fern Hill” by Dylan Thomas, “Sunday Morning” by Wallace Stevens, “Little Elegy with Books and Beasts” by Nancy Willard, and “Wolf Moon” by Mary Oliver. He also took pleasure in studying closely the paintings of the Flemish masters. He was truly his own Renaissance man!”

Art is survived by his wife Susan Lyden; sister, Emily Mandelbaum; sister-in-law, Ellen Curtis; nieces, Ruth and Audrey Mandelbaum, and Erica and Brenda Curtis; nephew, Rodney Curtis; five grandnephews; two grandnieces; as well as three first cousins, Jim, Anne, and Tom Conway. He was preceded in death by his brother, Charles Curtis.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one’s own choosing.

FRANCES ANN DEW

(1941–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Frances “Fran” Ann Dew, who died on June 1, 2024, at the age of 83.

Fran was born on May 12, 1941, in Detroit, MI to Leola Marie Freeman and Clarence Herbert King. She was the oldest of nine siblings and grew up on the family dairy farm in Superior Township. She attended the Bronson Hospital School of Nursing, MI, graduating with her RN degree (1962). Following graduation, Fran worked as a nurse at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan, married, and had two children. In 1964, she joined the People’s Church in Kalamazoo, MI, and served on the RE committee as a third-grade teacher. She then received her Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan University (1969) before moving to Yakima, WA in 1970.

Fran served the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima, WA as a volunteer DRE, congregational president, membership committee chair, board member, worship committee chair, and stewardship canvas chair. Decades of lay leadership in UU congregations and deep familiarity with UU polity made her feel that the UU ministry fitted her way of being in the world. She wanted to blend, contribute, co-create, and serve as a UU minister. Following this call, she received her Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry, CA, in 1999.

The Rev. Dew was ordained to the UU ministry in 1999. She served her first interim ministry at the First UU Church of Wichita, Kansas, KS (1999–2000). Subsequently, she was an interim minister for the Unitarian Church of the Quad Cities, IA (2000–2002). During her two years at the Quad Cities, she



institutionalized the Wednesday night Adult Religious Education Program, making it a real strength of church offering. Children and youth religious education flourished under her tutelage; she was a model administrator and a spiritual director. From 2002 to 2003, she served the Greenville UU Fellowship, SC (2002–2003). She helped create a new vision and mission and made significant contributions to organizing social action activities. At the First

Unitarian Church of San Jose, CA (2003–2004), Rev. Dew worked closely with the Worship Associates to provide inspiring and meaningful worship services. She created effective Transition Teams that led discussion sessions and prepared congregations for the Search Committee, and the effective ministry of the next settled minister. Thereafter, she served the following congregations: the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa, CA (2004–2006); the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI (2006–2007); and the UU Fellowship of Midland, MI (2008–2010). In 2010, she retired from her active ministry. She made the choice to be an interim minister to help guide each church she served through an intentional transition.

The Rev. Dew was a strong congregational leader who brought a great combination of directness, willingness to address difficult issues, worship, ritual, caring, and energy to her interim ministry. Her sermons were a highlight of her ministry. She headed the Guest at Our Table program at the Yakima Unitarian Universalist Church, an annual intergenerational church project that raised funds for the UUSC human rights service projects. She served the PNWD Leadership School, and the UUSC Board, and was District Coordinator for GA 1995. She also served the Heartland UUMA Chapter as UUMA Chapter Leader (2009–2010).

FRANCES ANN DEW

continued

In community, Fran provided her services as a clinic volunteer for Planned Parenthood, Kalamazoo MI/ Yakima, WA; as President of the Washington State League of Women Voters (1981-1983); and as an executive director of the YWCA of Yakima (1983-1985).

She loved hiking, movies, and music. She was passionate about gardening, bird watching, reading, and politics.

Fran's Starr King classmate and friend UU Rev. Marion Viesel's tribute to Fran included:

"Fran was an imaginative thinker in all ways; rolling over a problem, or a dream, until the way forward became clear.

I remember the day we met at Starr King for a walk up to the Berkeley Rose Garden. Fran excitedly shared with me that she'd decided her career would be intentional Interim ministry.

Our denomination, at the time, mostly used retired ministers as "place holders" during that important in-between period after a settled minister leaves a congregation and the next long-term minister arrives.

Fran was well suited for Interim Ministry — she knew about organizational change from her activism with not-for-profits, and, about Congregational life from her years of volunteer leadership in churches — and she was excited about living in different places.

By spending a year or two, with eight (8) different congregations Fran helped guide them through an intentional transition."

Fran is survived by her children: Jennifer Dew de Castro (Jose), and Robert Paul Dew (Alison Wright); her granddaughter: Isadora Dew de Castro; stepdaughters: Patricia Dew Pender, and Roberta Conant (recently deceased) (Peter); sisters: Bonita Roberts (Donald), and Dorothy Weatherbee (Greg); brothers; Ronald King (Diana), Robert King (Helen), Clarence King, Lewis King, Charles King (Karen), William King (Cindy); her step-granddaughters and step-grandsons as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A memorial was held on September 28, 2024, at the Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Fran's Starr King classmate and friend the Rev. Howard N. Dana conducted the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#).

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jennifer Dew de Castro at dew.jennifer@gmail.com or mailed at 449 Bark Drive, Redwood City, CA 94065.

SYLVIA A. FALCONER

(1936–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Sylvia A. Falconer, who died on July 2, 2024, at the age of 88.

Sylvia was born on May 20, 1936, in Tacoma, WA to Maynard Carver Falconer and Ruth Jane Bitney Falconer. She was raised in Seattle, WA, with her two brothers, Maynard and James. Sylvia was a good student, popular, and competitive. In high school, she was involved in a drama group, creative writing, art, and English. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech (1960) and Bachelor of Education (1963) from the University of Washington. Following her graduation in Speech and Education, from 1964 to 1968, she taught kindergarten and fifth grade and was involved in a TV children's show. Thereafter, she worked as a special reading and math teacher for the Anchorage School District, AK (1970), as a commissioner and vice president for the Alaska Human Rights Commission (1971-1975), and as a consultant for Early Childhood Alaskan villages (1972-1974). During this time, she served on the Civil Liberties Union Board in Alaska. She became involved with the Anchorage UU Fellowship, AK through the Civil Liberties Union contacts. She was involved in the religious dimension of life and particularly a sense of identification with Unitarianism. During the summer months of 1976, she worked as an administrative assistant at the Anchorage UU Fellowship. She performed exceedingly well and was a great boon to the congregation. This opened a new possibility for her, she saw the Unitarian Ministry as a way of enabling others to grow and develop their spirituality and creativity. In 1978, she graduated with her Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry.



The Rev. Falconer was ordained on May 1, 1979, by the First Unitarian Church of Alton, IL (now the Metro East UU Congregation, Alton, IL), where she served her first ministry (1979-1982). During her tenure, the congregation grew in membership and community visibility. The spirit and morale of the congregation grew in positivity. From 1982 to 1986, she served Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO as their settled

minister. Under her leadership, the church started Children's Sermon, a separate monthly family service to learn UU history and hymns. A District Youth Task Force was formed, as well as the Life Issues for Teens program (LIFT). The church increased its involvement in the community and social action. Rev. Falconer also worked to set up a well-structured lay ministerial committee. In 1988, she was called to the UU Church of Greeley, CO where she would serve until 1999. Her eleven years of ministry helped the church grow, both numerically and spiritually. She loved the congregation, provided a strong liberal religious voice, and could relate to the people around her. She had the energy and stamina to motivate individuals to contribute to the common good of a group. In 1999, the UU Church of Greeley honored her as their minister emerita.

In the denomination, the Rev. Falconer was a settlement consultant for the affirmative action program. Furthermore, she served on the UU Fellowship Committee (1983-1984), the St. Louis UU Area Council, and the UU Women Ministers Association. She was treasurer of the CMD-UUMA and President of the Starr King School for the Ministry student body.

SYLVIA A. FALCONER

continued

Sylvia was involved in numerous community activities, religious, service, and social. She provided her services as president of the Alton Area Alliance of Religious Leaders (1979-1982) and served on the board of the Alton Opera Association and the Alton Area Concert Association. She co-founded the Wellspring Counseling Group in 1986 and worked as a Counselor. She was also an active member of the ACLU.

In 1974, she won the National Historical Writing Award from the National Federation of Press.

She enjoyed creating art and being a part of the art community, dancing, and ping pong in her leisure time. She loved reading, opera and symphony, films and plays, and found peace and inspiration from mountains, forests, and bodies of water.

Sylvia is survived by her three children: David, Rebecca, and Curtis; her grandchildren, Sara, Christopher, Logan, and Colby; as well as her beloved nieces, nephews, and their children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald Mangan, her parents, and her brothers.

A memorial service was held on November 8, 2024, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley, 929 15th St, Greeley, CO 80631.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing, the Humane Society of Weld County, or CARE International.

Notes of condolence may be sent to rebeccaborder1@gmail.com.

HARRY H. HOEHLER

(1928–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Harry H. Hoehler, who died on December 3, 2024, at the age of 95.

Harry was born on December 5, 1928, in Philadelphia, PA to Harry G. Hoehler and Dorothy Heyden Hoehler. He pursued his education at Haverford College, PA graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts, following which he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1954. From 1955 to 1958, Harry worked as an Assistant Dean of Freshmen at Harvard University, MA. During this time, he met Judith Anderson, who was working in Cambridge and would later attend Harvard Divinity School herself. The couple married in 1956. In 1984, Harry was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The Rev. Dr. Hoehler was ordained on June 6, 1954, by the First Parish in Cambridge, MA. Following his ordination, he began his career in the UU ministry, first serving as an assistant minister at the First Parish in Milton, MA (1955-1958) and then as a minister at the First Parish in Beverly, MA (1958-1964). Thereafter, in 1964, he accepted a call from the First Parish Church in Weston, MA. After Judith was ordained in 1975, the two forged one of the first co-ministries in the country jointly serving the Weston church until their retirement in 1995. During their ministry, significant changes took place in the worship life of the church. While Sunday morning remained the central event, worship services became more varied and dynamic. Regular Thursday vespers and morning prayers were introduced, along with the addition of special days and celebrations to both the Sunday morning calendar and the church calendar of special occasions. The church members became



more involved in the organization and operation of the church. There was also considerable growth in the adult education offerings and Sunday School and youth programs flourished, with enhanced curricula and increased participation. The Revs. Hoehler played an outstanding role, not only within the congregation but in the wider community and beyond. In 1994, the UUA honored them with the

Award of Distinguished Service to the Cause of the Unitarian Universalism. The following year, in 1995, the First Parish Church in Weston honored the Rev. Dr. Hoehler as their minister emeritus.

Throughout his career, the Rev. Dr. Hoehler was deeply engaged in various leadership roles within the denomination serving on the board of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (1958-1966) and the Unitarian Sunday School Society (1959). He was a member of the Committee on Theological Education (1960-1962) and held positions such as President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association of Essex County (1960-1961) and President of the Unitarian Christian Fellowship.

In addition to his contribution to the denomination, Harry was known for his leadership in social justice issues. He was active in the civil rights movement, joining the 1963 March on Washington and answering Martin Luther King's call to northern clergy to come to Selma.

Fostering links between his own congregation and various interfaith organizations, Rev. Hoehler dedicated himself to promoting ecumenical understanding and cooperation. In this vein, he served as President of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, President of the Massachusetts Bible Society, denominational representative to the Greater

HARRY H. HOEHLER

continued

Boston Church Leaders' Covenant for Urban Justice, Official Observer at the World Council of Churches in Uppsala, Sweden, and Member, with Judith, of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East. In 1996, he and Judith jointly received the Forrest L. Knapp award for Ecumenism from the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

His leadership extended to youth programs as well, where he directed the Rowe Senior High Camp in 1962. He participated in desegregating the Boston public schools and oversaw the founding of Roxbury Weston Preschool, housed in First Parish to this day. He was a part of the delegation that traveled to California to meet with Cesar Chavez in support of the grape workers' strike in 1973.

In his writings and public talks, such as the UUA Minns Lectures of 1968 and 1975, Harry developed his ideas on interreligious dialogue, an intellectual trajectory that culminated in his book, *Christian Responses to the World Faiths*. In addition, he published numerous articles in theological journals, as well as two books of sermons, co-authored with Judith.

Harry had a deep love for classical music and possessed a prodigious command of American and European history.

Harry is survived by his wife of 68 years, Rev. Judy Hoehler; his daughters, Cynthia Hoehler-Fatton (Robert), and Kristen Hoehler (Spencer); three grandchildren, one step grandchild, and one step great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his eldest daughter, Carolyn Hoehler, and his sisters, Mary Hoehler Thompson, and Bonnie Metz.

A memorial service was held on January 11, 2025, at the First Parish Church in Weston, 349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02493.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one's own choosing.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Judy Hoehler at hoehlerjudith@gmail.com.

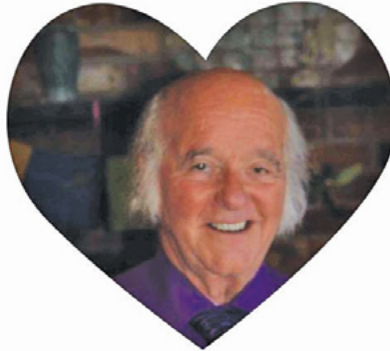
CARL ARTHUR HOVER

(1936–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Carl “Arthur” Hover, who died on August 15, 2024, at the age of 88.

Arthur was born on May 12, 1936, in Medford, OR to Carl Arthur Hover, Sr. and Ruth O. Hover. He was raised in the religious tradition of the Disciples of Christ and attended Sunday School. During his junior and senior years in high school, as his ideas began to liberalize, he became interested in philosophical and religious notions. After graduating from Crater High School in Central Point, OR Arthur attended Northwest Christian College, Eugene, OR earning his Bachelor of Theology in 1958. Following that, he completed his studies for a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in History from the University of Oregon (1962). During this time, he became aware of the Unitarian Church in Eugene, OR, and dug into the historical background of Unitarian and Universalism. He felt that he was Unitarian in his theology; and the concepts of the liberal movement, and free expression of ideas and doctrines appealed to him. He admired the ideas and ideals of the Unitarian and Universalist traditions and wanted to serve as a UU minister. He applied and was accepted at Crane Theological School, Tufts University, MA. In 1966, Arthur received his Master of Sacred Theology. Later in 1968, he earned his Master of Education in the field of Guidance and Counseling also from Tufts University.

The Rev. Hover served the Sanford UU Church, Sanford, ME from 1967 to 1976. He was the district executive for the Northeast District, Portland, ME from 1972 to 1976. In 1976, he accepted a call from the Valley UU Congregation, Chandler, AZ where he would minister for three years. Thereafter, he served the First Congregational Society Unitarian,



Chelmsford, MA (1979-1992). In his thirteen years, the church grew to have a strong sense of community and transitioned to a unified, welcoming, growing, and more inclusive congregation that appreciated the differences in lifestyles, sexual orientation, interests, and views of a diverse congregation. He strengthened the Religious Education Program and unified the lay leadership. The liveliness and the spirit of the congregation increased. In 1992, Rev. Hover retired from his active ministry. Upon his retirement, the First Congregational Society Unitarian honored him as their minister emeritus. From 1996 to 2000, he served as consulting minister for the Washington UU Congregation, Brookfield, VT.

After his ministry in Chelmsford, he and his wife, Ellen Dionna, moved to the wilderness in Vermont where together they built a home and his ministry continued with the establishment of Blessingwood, a retreat center where they offered weekend wilderness experiences to UU children and youth, and adult programs such as Soul/Vision Quests and personal guided wilderness retreats. Thirteen years living in remote wilderness magnified his reverence for nature, and deepened his experience of the mystical. He had a passion for gardening which was a form of meditation for him throughout his life. He was as much at home in the rugged life of wilderness living as in the refined world of philosophical scholarship and the arts.

The Rev. Hover had a sincere and sensitive concern for all people. He could draw youngsters out, helping them express themselves and focus their thinking. He had an innate quality of getting along with all sorts and ages of people in an entirely natural and straightforward manner. He showed leadership in various aspects of the denomination. He served as

CARL ARTHUR HOVER

continued

a member of the Northeast InterDistrict Religious Education Committee (1969-1972); the Northeast District board; and the UUMA. He also provided his services as a treasurer for the Northeast Chapter (1970-1972); and as a Settlement representative for the Central Mass District (1988-1990).

In Chelmsford, MA Arthur served as vice president of the Chelmsford Interfaith Association (1980-1981); a chairperson of Chelmsford Community R.C. Blood Program (1980-1982); and a conveyor of the Chelmsford Cultural Support Committee (1980-1982).

In his leisure time, he enjoyed camping, hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing.

Arthur is survived by his wife, Ellen Dionna; his two children: Carla Hover and Carl Hover; five step-children: Jonathan Wolf, Carol Wolf, Pamela Wolf MacMahon, Adam Wolf, and Franklin Wolf. He was preceded in death by his two sons: Kenneth Arthur and Carson Monroe. He was a beloved Grandpa to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on October 12, 2024, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, 925 S George St, York, PA 17403.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the UU Congregation of York, PA or the Unitarian Universalist Society for Ministerial Relief, c/o Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown, 80 Mill Glen Rd., Winchendon, MA 01475.

JAMES PETER HUGHES

(1952–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. James “Peter” Hughes who died on April 17, 2024, at the age of 71.

Peter was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on September 29, 1952, to Arthur A. Hughes and Joanne Little Hughes. He was the eldest of seven siblings and attended churches of the Anglican religion in childhood. He went to various grade and elementary schools in multiple cities in Canada ultimately graduating from Macdonald High School in St. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec. In 1973, Peter received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA. In the same year, he married Lynn Gordon, a fellow student at M.I.T. He then worked as a computer programmer for eight years before following his call to ministry.

In his late twenties, Peter began to explore the spiritual and intellectual horizons to find an institutional home. He felt that there was a need for a religion that could bring together ancient wisdom and modern knowledge; one that would respect people’s varying strengths, needs, and dispositions in a true religious pluralism. He became involved as a layperson in the Unitarian Universalist Society of Stamford, CT from 1980 to 1982, immersing himself in the history and culture of Unitarianism and Universalism. He began to see the church in a more critical light. He wanted to develop plans for helping liberal religion explore new areas, and help religious liberals more fully live their religious principles. This vision kindled his thoughts of ministry. In 1984, he earned his Master of Arts in Divinity from the University of Chicago, MA, following which he received his Doctor of Ministry from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1986.



The Rev. Dr. Hughes was ordained by the First Universalist Church, Woonsocket, RI on April 26, 1987, where he served for thirteen years (1986-1999). During his tenure, in addition to his pastoral duties, he was instrumental in the transcription of documents in church history and wrote a history of the period of the church’s first minister, John Boyden (1840-1869). He wrote, directed, and participated in several services

that consisted of the congregation members’ dramatic performances. Rev. Hughes along with his wife Lynn Gordon Hughes were the founders of the First Universalist Food Pantry, and their work sustained this effort for over ten years. In 1999, he retired from the ministry on disability, due to post-polio syndrome. In 2000, the First Universalist Church honored him as their minister emeritus.

After retirement, the Rev. Dr. Hughes focused on research projects, mainly on the history of American Universalism and the Reformation roots of Unitarianism. He launched the *Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Biography* and served as its founding editor for nine years. He was a frequent contributor to the *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* and other publications. He also helped the UU Historical Society to develop a publishing program and an online discussion list. Furthermore, he was president of the Universalist Church of Rhode Island and vice-president of the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society.

Always active in community service, Rev. Hughes was on the boards of Adopt-a-Family, Woonsocket Shelter Community Action Program, and Family Resources. He was also active in the Greater Woonsocket Clergy Association. He received the Paul Dempster Award in 1997 for contributions to community service. He

JAMES PETER HUGHES

continued

was a champion for the rights of the disabled. In 2008, he was forced to crawl downstairs to a polling station in a church basement. This motivated him to take on Elections Canada where he won in a landmark Canadian Human Rights Case in 2010, *Hughes v. Elections Canada*. The result was nationwide changes to all Canadian polling stations to ensure accessibility for disabled voters.

In his leisure time, Peter enjoyed listening to music and collecting records (classical and film music), playing the recorder and other woodwind instruments, watching old movies, going to the opera, reading, and reading aloud. He enjoyed the challenge of arranging music for unusual combinations of instruments and was usually involved in some sort of music ensemble, often as a leader.

Peter is survived by his wife Lynn; children Paul (Caolan) and Logan (Jae); grandchildren Jane and Alice; as well as his siblings: Jan, Kate, Mary Jo, William, and Sarah Beth. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Wendy.

A memorial service was held on June 8, 2024, at the University of Toronto, Canada.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [Princess Margaret Cancer Center](#), 610 University Ave., Toronto, ON, M5G 2M9.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Lynn Hughes at lynngughes@gmail.com or mailed to Lynn Hughes, 312-24 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, ON M4Y2X6, Canada.

JAMES A. JAEGER

(1948–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. James “Jim” A. Jaeger, who died on May 16, 2024, at the age of 75.

Jim was born on May 18, 1948, in Eau Claire, WI to Lorn and Katherine Jaeger. He grew up in Menomonie, WI with his two younger sisters, Mary and Jeanne.

His family was active in the Lutheran Church, both parents taught Sunday School. Jim attended Sunday school and sang in the choir. In 1966, he graduated from Menomonie High School. Jim went to Luther College in Decorah, IA with the plan of becoming a Lutheran minister. He soon realized that he was no longer comfortable with Lutheran theology and set aside the idea of attending seminary. He became active in campus politics and the anti-Vietnam protest movement and began to think about a different career path. He was also active in the college radio station and served as news director for a year (1968-1969). In 1970, he received his Bachelor of Arts in history and political science, he also married Karen whom he had met while working as a camp counselor during summer break from Luther College. Immediately after marriage, Jim and Karen left for the Peace Corps on the Southern Pacific Island of Yap teaching high school in Micronesia for two years.

Upon return to the United States, Jim began attending Georgetown University, Washington D.C., and received his JD in 1975. He worked for the IRS for six years, first in Washington D.C., and then in Philadelphia. In 1980, he earned his LLM in Tax Law from the Temple University Law School, PA, and eventually moved back to Madison, WI (1981). He began employment in a law firm, ultimately opening a practice of his own. He continued his law practice for



thirty-one years until his retirement in 2012.

Jim and his wife left religion behind until the late 1980s when they decided they wanted the support of a religious community. After attending their first Unitarian service, both had a sense that they were home. In 1988, they joined the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI. The embrace of Unitarian Universalism

allowed Jim the freedom to reacquaint himself with his religious heritage and to explore many forms of spirituality. He was involved in congregational life at several levels, chairing committees, shepherding special projects, leading men's groups, and teaching in the CRE and Adult Education programs. He served six years on the board, including two-plus years as vice president and two years as President. In the Vice President role, he headed the Facilities Planning Coordinating Committee which did the initial groundwork leading to the decision to build a \$7 million addition to the historic Frank Lloyd Wright Meeting house. This motivated him to enter the professional ministry. He felt that he found a religious point of view that could form a viable basis for reconsideration of the ministerial vocation. In 2014, he received his Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The Rev. Jaeger was ordained as a UU minister in 2016. He preached at various UU congregations and fellowships in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois and provided his services as a chaplain to Heartland Hospice. Furthermore, he served on the board of the Central Midwest District for four years, and the UU Men's Network as its treasurer.

The Rev. Jaeger was involved in political activities involving the Vietnam War, marriage equality,

JAMES A. JAEGER

continued

advocating for adequate long-term care funding, Voter Registration of low-income persons, and service on nonprofit boards. He worked for the program Honoring Choices Wisconsin, which promoted advanced health care planning. In addition, he was an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

His hobbies included reading (particularly history, mystery/thrillers, and issues related to contemporary Biblical scholarships). He enjoyed bike-riding, travel, and Badger Football and Basketball.

Jim is survived by his sons: Andy (Muugii) and Jesse (Natalie); grandchildren: Lorn, Misheel, Mars, Saraa, and Temujin; as well as granddaughter-in-law Fiona. He was preceded in death by his wife Karen.

A memorial service was held on June 22, 2024, at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the River Food Pantry, 2201 Darwin Rd, Madison, WI 53704.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jesse Jaeger, 2532 Arcadia Dr., Missoula, MT 59803.

WALTER S. JONAS

(1943–2023)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Walter S. Jonas, who died on November 10, 2023, at the age of 80.

Walter was born on August 6, 1943, in Sharon, CT to Robert S. Jonas and Alice Haas Jonas. He grew up in Rochester, NY, where his family attended a Unitarian Church. Walter enjoyed Sunday School, and LRY, and was involved in the Unitarian Youth Program. His childhood experiences with Unitarianism helped him learn much about the world and social justice.

Walter received his Bachelor of Science in public law and government from Columbia University, NY in 1967. He then worked in the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington and became active in various political and social causes. In 1970, he took a job in the Los Angeles Poverty Agency and again was involved in political programs. In 1971, he moved to Massachusetts where he entered U. Mass in Amherst, subsequently earning a Master's in Political Science (1975). During this time, he worked in various part-time positions and was involved in several sociological analysis projects. This increased his concern for people. He wanted to actively pursue social justice work by dedicating himself to a spiritual community dedicated to working for justice. Thus, UU ministry emerged as his career goal. In 1983, he graduated with his Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

The Rev. Jonas was ordained by the First Parish in Concord, MA on October 30, 1984, where he served as an assistant minister (1983-1984). As an assistant minister, he reorganized a junior high program and continued the existing senior high groups. He concentrated on making the church a more sociable institution. He set up a system of monthly neighborly



potluck dinners, organized several adult education classes, and began a caring and sharing committee at which the pastoral needs of community members were discussed. Thereafter, from 1986 to 1987, he served the Unitarian Universalist Church of Farmington, Farmington Hills, MI. He also took an active part in the life of the First Church Boston, MA serving as a Social Committee Chair (1991-1992).

Walter held several jobs while he was no longer working as a minister, including carpenter and handyman, distribution worker for the SHARE Project (Drug addiction crisis), kitchen designer, and general contractor.

In his leisure time, he enjoyed folk music. He had a varied and interesting life, which included: Learning to sail at Community Boating on the Charles, learning to Scuba dive at age 70, playing the banjo with friends, and especially for several years, as a featured entertainer at the Milton Farmer's Market, freestyle dancing with Dance New England and EarthDance, teaching Biblical Greek classes on Zoom, camping at Nickerson State Park on the Cape, and riding his bike along the Neponset River Bike Path. He also spent many joyful times attending Cajun Music festivals in Lafayette, Louisiana, folk festivals in Vermont and Massachusetts, and the Rhythm & Roots festival in Rhode Island.

Walter is survived by his children, son Jacob and daughter Rachel, and his partner for twenty-five years, Judith.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing or [City Life/ Vida Urbana](#).

MARGARET A. KEIP

(1938–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Margaret “Marge” A. Keip, who died on October 16, 2024, at the age of 86.

Marge was born on September 24, 1938, in Chicago, IL, to John H. Johnson and Elizabeth Siegel. She was raised in a devout Lutheran family. Her family moved to Peoria, IL when she was a junior in high school. There, Marge thrived in Speech and Art and participated in Junior Achievement. She was actively involved in church youth groups and attended Carthage College, a small Lutheran institution. During her sophomore year, she met her future husband Fred F. Keip; they married the following year. In 1960, Marge received her Bachelor of Science in Commercial Art from Purdue University, IN. Over the next few years, she became a mother, moved to Texas, Wisconsin, and later to St. Olaf, MN where Fred taught drama. In Wisconsin, she and Fred became involved with the Unitarian Fellowship in Madison. This inspired them to start a Unitarian Fellowship at St. Olaf College. Her husband decided not to complete the Ph.D. he had begun at the University of Wisconsin and instead enrolled at Starr King School for the Ministry and completed the program. As they navigated these transition years, Marge worked at doing freelance commercial artwork before answering her own call to the UU ministry. She graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry with her Master of Divinity degree in 1976.

The Rev. Keip was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel, CA on May 11, 1975, where she served as co-minister alongside her husband, the Rev. Fred F. Keip from 1975 to 1996. Together the Revs. Keip fostered growth, resilience, and transformation within the congregation. During their shared



ministry, the church flourished transitioning from a rented Sunday-only space to building its own home. They introduced shared ministry programs, crafted a mission statement, and developed a new long-range plan. The church’s membership tripled, laying the foundation for its future. During that time, the church was one of the earliest to become a “Welcoming Congregation” to the LGBTQ community and a

host to the PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) chapter when it was first organized there. In recognition of these profound contributions, the church honored the Rev. Keip as their minister emerita in 1996. The following year 1997, she received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology from Starr King School for the Ministry.

From 1996 to 1997, the Rev. Dr. Keip served as an interim co-minister with her husband at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, NE. During their tenure, she collaborated closely with the committee responsible for developing the congregation’s new organizational structure and offered guidance to address the successes and difficulties encountered in its implementation. The Revs. Keip also offered a conflict management workshop series that led to the inauguration of a congregational team. Thereafter, from 1997 to 1999, the Rev. Dr. Keip provided her interim services to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sonoma County, CA (now the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa, CA). She worked with the board to review and refine its internal dynamics. She guided the congregation in exploring the Carver Model of Policy Governance and assisted in its adoption, adaptation, and employment to support effective leadership and board governance.

Her interim ministry at the UU Congregation of Marin, San Rafael, CA (1999-2001) focused on

MARGARET A. KEIP

continued

addressing the Sunday morning space crunch and a decade-long plateau in membership. Under her leadership, the congregation made the significant decision to introduce a second Sunday service. At the UU Church of Spokane, WA (2001-2003), she played a pivotal role in guiding the congregation to clarify its mission and strengthen its sense of purpose. She held the congregation in care, challenged them to introspect, to accept opportunities for religious development knitting a new connection with the wider Spokane community, and helped the Board understand the “Policy Governance” model of leadership. After that, she served as an interim minister for the Kitsap UU Fellowship, Bremerton, WA (2003-2004) where she supported the fellowship in reviewing its evolving needs and aspirations. Subsequently, Rev. Dr. Keip served the UU Church in Eugene, OR (2007). From 2009 to 2013, she provided her services as a contract minister for the UU of Grants Pass, OR, and as a Data Service Updater from 2010 to 2017.

The Rev. Dr. Keip was involved with the denomination serving on the PCD Nominating Committee (1986-1987) and the Accredited Interim Ministry Steering Committee (1998-2001). She served on the planning team of the Unitarian Universalist Process Theology Network and was a founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Clergy Couples. She was a member of the PCD Conflict Management Team and was a faculty member for the Pacific Central District Leadership

School. Notably, she co-founded the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield, MN, and served for ten years as a trustee on the board of Starr King School for the Ministry. Furthermore, she served the Monterey Peninsula Ministerial Association as president, secretary, and vice-president of the program.

The Rev. Dr. Keip was an unequivocal asset to the UU ministry. She was a thoughtful and insightful counselor. Her sermons and interactions with groups and individuals demonstrated extreme insights and sensitivity. In her leisure time, she enjoyed calligraphy and had a love for color and design.

Margaret is survived by her husband Fred F. Keip, and her children: David Keip, Jeffrey Keip, and Kristen Cunningham.

A memorial service was held February 22, 2025, at the Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass, 129 NW E St, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass, PO Box 1602, Grants Pass, OR 97528.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Fred Keip, 1700 Kellenbeck Ave., Apt 107, Grants Pass, OR 97527.

RONALD WAYNE KNAPP

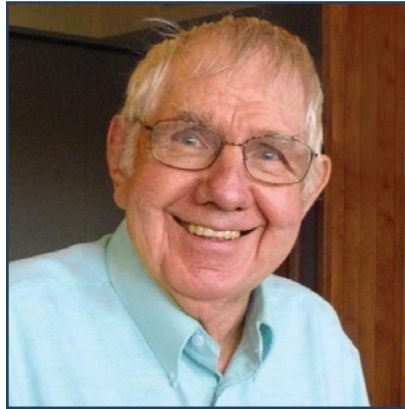
(1934–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Ronald “Ron” Wayne Knapp, who died on October 21, 2024, at the age of 90.

Ron was born on January 27, 1934, in Kenosha, WI to Harvey J. Knapp and Ellen Packman Knapp. He grew up in Kenosha and graduated from Kenosha High School. His family had a deep connection to the Methodist Church. In his youth, Ron was very much influenced by the ministers in his home church and desired to become a minister. He thought of ministry in terms of people rather than the doctrines and practices of the church. In 1957, Ron earned his Bachelor of Science from Central Michigan College following which he pursued his theological education at Drew University, NJ obtaining a Bachelor of Divinity (1961). Later in 1973, he received a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Dartmouth College, NH.

Ron served in the Methodist ministry for eleven years, the first eight years as a student, and the last two and half years in full-time work. Over time, he reached a crisis in his own life and theology. He discovered that he had forced himself to accept the doctrines and practices he could not accept with an open mind. This theological and sacramental estrangement made him study the Unitarian Universalist perspectives. He felt that the presuppositions of Unitarian Universalism reflected his own. This was the place where his actual convictions were more acceptable. He decided to become a minister in the Unitarian Universalist tradition and continue in the ministry exercising a ministry of compassion.

From 1965 to 1968, the Rev. Knapp served the Federated Church, Avon, IL. Subsequently, he served both All Souls Unitarian Church in Windsor, VT



and the First Universalist Church in Claremont, NH. Eventually he guided the merger of these two congregations into the UU Meeting House in Ascutney, VT, where he continued his ministry through 1975. In 1976, he accepted a call from the First Unitarian Church, Omaha, NE and served for the next two decades. His tenure in Omaha was marked by significant achievements, including major renovations to the

church, several televised Sunday morning services, and the organization of Nebraska Advocates for Nursing Home Residents. Under his leadership, the church achieved a National Landmark designation, recognizing its historic Georgian Revival architecture. The congregation also celebrated the building's 75th anniversary, a milestone in its rich history. In 1996, the Rev. Knapp retired from his ministry, and in 1997, the church honored him as their minister emeritus. Following retirement, the Rev. Knapp continued his ministry serving congregations in Yuma, AZ, and Auckland, New Zealand. His time in New Zealand included four months of dedicated work with the Auckland Unitarian Church.

The Rev. Knapp was an active and dedicated leader of the denomination serving as president of two UUMA chapters. He was a board member in two UUA districts and served on extension, nomination, and district executive search committees. He conducted workshops on “Science and Religion” and “Literature and Religion” at the Lake Geneva Summer Assembly. Furthermore, he was a Good Offices person for the Prairie Star District chapter of the UUMA.

Ron was involved with several organizations and activities with his interests in peace concerns, community action agencies, libraries, regional health care, Planned Parenthood, prison reform, civil rights, and abortion rights. In Omaha, he was the

RONALD WAYNE KNAPP

continued

founder of the Nebraska Nursing Home Advisory and Research Council. He was vice-president and program chairman of the United Nations Association chapter in Battle Creek, MI. He published four books, including “Of Life Immense, the Prophetic Vision of Walt Whitman” and “Oneness, Thoughts on a Humanistic Theology of Everything”.

Ron was a lover of science, nature, and poetry. He regarded the Earth as sacred, and poetry as scripture. He had a special interest in environmental and wildlife protection issues. He enjoyed nature, hiking, outdoor activities, traveling, and woodworking.

Ron is survived by his wife of 71 years, Anne Knapp; his brother, Dale Knapp; children: John Knapp (Jacki), Kyle Knapp (Gail), Ronda Strimple (Hank), Forrest Knapp, Corellen Allendorfer (Phil); brother-in-law, Alvin Doerfler (Duffy); sister-in-law, Lillian Knapp; nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on November 9, 2024, at the First Unitarian Church of Omaha, 3114 Harney St, Omaha, NE 68131.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Unitarian Church of Omaha, NE.

BARBARA JEAN KULCHER

(1931–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Barbara Jean Kulcher, who died on February 20, 2024, at the age of 92.

Barbara was born on June 26, 1931, in Winnipeg, Manitoba to James M. McClughan and Edna May McClughan. She was an only child and raised in the Anglican tradition. Her family frequently moved and for a while lived in a rural section of Ontario. Barbara did quite well in school, completed her high school education at a fundamentalist school in Saskatchewan (1948), and received her RN in psychiatric nursing in 1953. She then took a position as the sole clinical person in an isolated power station in northern Manitoba. Over the years Barbara worked in orthopedics, obstetrics, and neurosurgery. She moved to Ontario with her husband and had four children before their separation.

While in Ontario, Barbara became active at the First Unitarian Hamilton, Ontario. She served the church, first as a church school director from (1965-1968) and then as a church administrator (1969-1974). As a church administrator, she served a key role in the life of the church as she bridged the gap between the departure of the minister Rev. Bob Hemstreet, and the development of the church into a dynamic fellowship. She worked closely with the church service committee to provide meaningful Sunday services which blended people from the church and the larger community with visiting UU ministers. She went beyond the role of administrator, initiated several groups in the church, and kept abreast with new RE developments. Over years of growth and transformation into a warm, caring religious community, her function became more pastoral than administrative, and she was able to acknowledge her desire to serve as a minister. Unitarianism offered her a chance to grow, as she was exposed to an affirming, reconciling, religious experience. In 1979, she received her Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary.



The Rev. Kulcher was ordained on September 28, 1980, by the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Ontario. From 1980 to 1981, she served the UU Congregation of Jamestown NY and then spent her predominant years as a chaplain at the following institutions: Ontario Correctional Institute, ON; Huronia Regional Center, ON; Hamilton Wentworth, ON; Toronto Jail, ON; Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, ON; and Brantford Jail, ON. In a newspaper article (Hamilton Spectator)

in 1985, she was quoted as stating the importance of “befriending the forgotten and offering words of grace and hope to the frightened and often lonely inmates”.

The Rev. Kulcher was a strong supporter of the denomination. She was extensively involved with the Canadian Unitarian Council, St. Lawrence UU District, the UU Women’s Federation, and Unicamp of Ontario (1977).

Barbara was famous for her pies, specifically apple and lemon meringue. She was an avid reader, enjoying history, historical fiction, and science fiction. She was a prolific writer, who spent many hours revising and perfecting her heartfelt and deeply engaging papers, articles, and sermons. She greatly valued the act of saying kind or funny things to bring a smile to someone’s face.

Barbara is survived by and loved and remembered by her four children: David Kulcher, Lisa Kulcher-Heaney (Kieran Heaney), Laurie Kulcher, and Kelly Kulcher (Lori Kulcher); six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A graveside service took place on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, 170 Dundurn St S, Hamilton, ON L8P 4K3, Canada.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter’s Residence at Chedoke, 125 Redfern Ave, Hamilton, ON L9C 7W9, Canada.

Notes of condolence may be sent to lkheaney50@gmail.com.

ROBERT T. LATHAM

(1931–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Robert T. Latham, who died on June 14, 2024, at the age of 92.

Robert was born on December 10, 1931, in Wichita Falls, TX to Floyd Charles Latham and Artie Thelma Latham. He grew up in the Southern Baptist tradition, began preaching at thirteen, led revival meetings during his mid-teens, and was ordained at eighteen. Robert received his Bachelor of Arts in Religion and History from Baylor University in Waco, TX in 1954, a Master of Divinity from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963, and a Master of Theology from Southeastern University in 1966. His seminary education exposed him to the concepts of mythology and historical and literary criticism which led to a disaffection with Christianity. Furthermore, his experience as a chaplain during the Vietnam War revolutionized his views toward religion; his cultural perspectives were transformed. In the wake of these transformations, he discovered Unitarian Universalism. Further study of the history, orientation, and social posture of UUism led him to believe that ministry within this body would be a personally gratifying experience. He wanted to use his skills, expertise, and knowledge in ministry to benefit liberal religionists and entered the UU's professional ministry in 1969.

The Rev. Latham served as a settled minister at the UU Congregation of the Quad Cities, IA (1970-1973); All Peoples Church UU, TX (1973-1976); and the UU Church West, WI (1976-1979). He was a special minister at the UU Church of Las Cruces, NM from 1980 to 1981 and an interim minister at large for the Pacific Northwest District, WA (1981-1985). Subsequently, he served as an interim minister at the Community UU Church, TX (1985-1986); and the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San



Francisco, CA (1986-1987). In 1988, Rev. Latham accepted a call from the Jefferson Unitarian Church, CO where he would serve until his retirement in 1997. After his retirement, he served in interim ministries at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA (2000-2002); the UU Congregation of Princeton, NJ (2002-2004); the UU Church of Tucson, AZ (2004-2006); and the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE (2006-2007). From 2011 to 2013, he served the Pacific Central District, as an Interim District Executive. In 2015, the Jefferson Unitarian Church, CO honored him as their minister emeritus.

The Rev. Latham was a compelling spiritual and intellectual leader of imagination and commitment stimulating vibrant, dynamic congregational life. His creation of the Committee on Ministry (as opposed to the former Ministerial Relations Committee) and shared ministry were revolutionary in effect, bringing about greater congregational engagement and notable growth. His interim ministry helped congregations transform and grow in membership while regaining the congregation's spirited attention through the worship experience and advanced workshops.

The Rev. Latham made a significant contribution to the denomination serving as a consultant and trainer for the UUA Extension Department. He was co-designer and speaker for the Unitarian Universalist Sunday morning radio program, in Milwaukee, WI (1976-1980). During the 1980s, he served the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada districts as UUA International Minister at Large. Furthermore, he chaired the Mountain Desert District committee to create a District Leadership School and designed its program and curriculum. He served as a speaker at the Jefferson Unitarian Church Community Events Forum.

ROBERT T. LATHAM

continued

Robert was head of MYTHing Link Consulting which provided a variety of services to liberal congregations and organizations. In the community, he provided his services as a facilitator of a special training program for administrators, social workers, therapists, etc. on Disability and Sexuality for the Texas Department of Human Services. He participated in state, county, and Denver, CO area Youth and Violence Program and was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Davenport, IA. He also published several of his works including *The Unitarian Universalist Extension Manual* (1985), *Moving On From Church Folly Lane* (2006), *A Tale of Boxes* (2009), a chapter entitled The Temptation to Rush the Search in the book *In The Interim* (2013), and a brochure entitled, *Lessons From Vietnam: Why Nothing Has Changed* (2011), and *American Democracy: Suicide Or Revolution?* (2020).

He enjoyed writing, traveling, reading, hiking, biking, movies, art, music, sports, and poker in his leisure time.

Robert is survived by his spouse Cindy Latham; daughter: Sherry Kay Latham; stepchildren: Christy Le Lait and Harry C Green, IV; granddaughters: Ture and Miranda Latham; step-grandson: Samuel Pitts; as well as his great granddaughter: Gemma Miller.

A celebration of Robert's life was held on August 3, 2024, at Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W 32nd Ave, Golden, CO 80401.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [Jefferson Unitarian Church](#).

Notes of condolence may be sent to cynthialatham@comcast.net.

WALTER S. LEFLORE

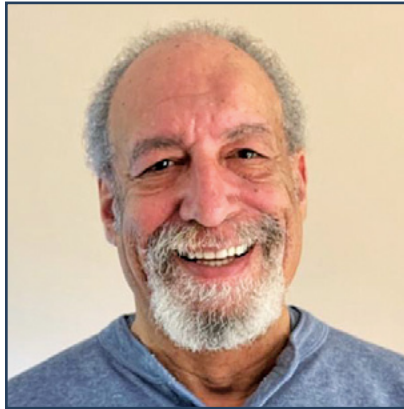
(1952–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Walter S. LeFlore, who died on August 12, 2024, at the age of 72.

Walter was born on January 26, 1952, in Schenectady, NY to George LeFlore and Marzella Goode LeFlore. He was the youngest of six children, enjoyed school, and found his way into a range of activities and friendships.

Walter received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of New Hampshire in 1975, following which he worked in a variety of positions that required him to assume administrative or personnel-related functions in public settings. He was an Assistant City Manager briefly before working as the Director of Labor Relations/Personnel for a Municipal Association. He then worked as a Human Resource employee at the Digital Equipment Corp where his focus was diversity training. In 1986, he started an organizational consulting practice focusing on change management, diversity as an organizational development tool, and team development for major corporations. Over the years of consulting, he became discouraged about the readiness and capability of people to do serious diversity work.

Curious and wary, Walter eventually came to the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton, MA. He quickly integrated himself into the life of the church community, taught a multi-session adult education offering entitled “Living Your Spirituality,” and became an integral driving force in the successful launch of the small group ministry program. Furthermore, he served on the board of the Small Group Ministry Network, led workshops for the RE program and Leadership Development initiative, and served on the Board of Trustees. This active lay leadership helped



him understand both congregational polity and the role of the minister in the governance of a congregation. He realized that his efforts to build a more humane world paralleled the values and objectives of the UU ministry. He wanted to create a supportive community that engaged in self-reflection and discovery as a UU minister. In 2009, he graduated with his Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School.

He interned at All Souls Church in Washington, DC as well as summer minister at First Church in Boston, MA.

The Rev. LeFlore was ordained on May 8, 2011. In 2011, he accepted a call from the UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, NY where he would serve until 2019. His eight years of ministry offered the Fellowship strong leadership in the areas of stewardship, pastoral care, worship, and repairing relationships. He led a “Deepening Spirit” class, and classes on UU history along with new member orientations. Significantly, he formed a group called the Caring Circle to aid in Pastoral Care. Thereafter, he served as a developmental minister at the UU Church of Roanoke, VA (2020-2024). He brought his skills and insights to congregations to help them become truly welcoming.

The Rev. LeFlore was an advocate for justice and the equal worth and dignity of every person, with his interest in diversity and equity starting in high school. As a Black man, he used his life experience to help others go deeper within themselves exploring questions of race and oppression. He was well-versed in denominational affairs and took a very active and public role in denominational activities. He served on the UUMA board and was part of the ARAOMC (Anti-racism, Anti-oppression, Multiculturalism) committee and CAROM Committee of the UUMA. In

WALTER S. LEFLORE

continued

2014, he received the Goodman Award issued by the Director of the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances. He contributed an essay to the book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry* writing in part:

“It is important for us as ministers and people of color to know how to navigate systems; to know how to find, identify, and make use of systemic strengths and weaknesses; and to know where the leverage points are that have the greatest potential for creating positive change.”

The Rev. LeFlore was active in the Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Coalition to address food insecurity in the area. He was president of the Dutchess County Interfaith Council and was one of the founding members of the Roanoke, VA Reparations Group.

He enjoyed time in the woods birding and being present to the smells and sounds. He had particular affection/connection with hawks and birds of prey. Playing saxophone was another source of enjoyment and relaxation for him. He had a lifelong passion for his aquariums and gardening.

Walter is preceded in death by his parents George and Marzella LeFlore; brothers, Louis LeFlore, Dr. James LeFlore and Ray LeFlore; sister, Florence Nicholson Anderson and daughter Elisha Inferrara.

Walter is survived by his wife, Yvette LeFlore; his two children: Alison LeFlore and Eric LeFlore (Audrey); grandchildren: Nicholas Inferrara, Joseph Inferrara, and Elias LeFlore; brother: Ivens LeFlore; and his two sisters: Loretta Wells and Pat Francois.

A celebration of life service was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke on August 24th.

A second celebration of life service was held on September 14, 2024, at the First Parish Church of Stow, 353 Great Rd, Stow, MA 01775.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Roanoke Reparations Group. Checks can be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke, 2015 Grandin Rd SW, Roanoke, VA 24015. Please mention Reparations in the memo line.

JEFFREY D. LIEBMANN

(1956–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” D. Liebmann who died on August 7, 2024, at the age of 68.

Jeff was born on July 5, 1956, in Barberton, OH to Henry and Helen Liebmann. He was the youngest of three sons. When Jeff was ten, the family moved from Ohio to Pittsburgh. When he was in sixth grade, he found a place for himself in school plays. His opportunities to sing and act very early in life stood him in good stead following the transition to Pennsylvania and for many years following. Jeff earned his Bachelor of Science with a major in Chemistry (1978) and a Master of Business Administration with a focus on Organizational Development (1979), both from the University of Pittsburgh, PA. Following graduation, he worked at the University of Pittsburgh, PA as an analyst and Manager of Strategic Planning (1980-1992) and then as an assistant to the Provost (1993-2008).

Jeff was raised in a non-denominational church. He visited various churches during his teen years but was unaffiliated with any denomination. At age thirty, he came across a brochure from a UU church. This led him to the East Suburban UU Church in Pittsburgh (1989). Soon, he was president of this small, lay-led congregation. In 1991, he moved to the Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. He led primary grade classes for two years, took on junior high class, and moved up with youth into the high school class. He wrote and published religious education curricula across the country. During years of his lay leadership, he felt proud of his work and felt happy being with the UU community. His extensive experience promoting religious education for junior and senior Unitarian Universalist youth inspired him to promote youth



ministry across the Association. He felt a call to this ministry. He wanted to help youth bridge not just into young adulthood but into meaningful adult membership in the UU churches. Becoming a UU minister, he wanted to model a religious life and live in covenant with others. He wanted to empower congregations to regularly assess their covenant, find meaning in the experience of worship, and maintain

long-term health and vitality. Following this call, he graduated with his Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School (2010).

From 2010 to 2011, Jeff served the UU Congregation of Smithton, PA as their consulting minister. He was ordained by the UU Fellowship of Midland, MI on November 6, 2011, where he served for six years (2011-2017). At Midland, the Rev. Liebmann excelled at ministry with historically marginalized individuals. He mentored lay leadership and worked closely with the board to develop long-range planning. He supported the RE program, offered several Adult RE classes, and brought children into the services. He increased the number and variety of intergenerational worship services and helped facilitate the growth of activities attractive to both young adults and parents with children. From 2017 to 2018, he served at the UU Congregation of Columbia, MI. His ministry at All Peoples, Louisville, KY (2018-2019) helped prepare the congregation to find their next called minister.

The Rev. Liebmann inspired young people he worked with to live their religious beliefs by fostering youth empowerment and developing youth leadership. He impacted Unitarian Universalism with his strong leadership and curriculum development skills. He was heavily involved in UU activities and outreach to the denomination. He sat on the board of the Michigan UU Social Justice organization, was an adult leader on

JEFFREY D. LIEBMANN

continued

the Ohio-Meadville District Youth Adult Committee for ten years, and program consultant for Lifespan Faith Development for the Ohio-Meadville District.

In community, he provided his services as a consultant for the Woodland Hills School District Board and as governing board chair for the Family Foundation Early Head Start Program (2001-2006).

Some of his works are “Sacred Threads” (Asian religions), “Thinking the Web” (moral issues), “Truth and Meaning” (Western religions), “Dare to Know” (Humanism and Western philosophy), “Heresy Apparent” (Unitarian Universalist history), “Paradigms Lost and Regained” (the construct of youth), and “Living in UUville” (Unitarian Universalist principles).

In his leisure time, he enjoyed collecting stamps, Matchbox cars, comic books, and various genres of books and he loved to sing.

Jeff is survived by his spouse, Jody Liebmann; children: Emily Lemke (Sean); Marcus Goleman; Ashley Stack; Tyler Liebmann; grandchildren: Wolfgang and Scarlett Lemke; brother: Jon Liebmann; as well as numerous nephews.

A celebration of life was held on November 9, 2024, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson Ave, Midland, MI 48640.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one’s own choosing.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jody Liebmann, 18293 Sorrento St, Detroit, MI 48235.

KENNETH TORQUIL MACLEAN

(1926–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Kenneth “Ken” Torquil MacLean, who died on May 29, 2024, at the age of 97.

Ken was born on October 4, 1926, in Brooklyn, NY to John A. MacLean and Josie MacLeod MacLean. He grew up in Cranston, RI, and graduated from Cranston High School (1944). Following graduation, he served in the US Army (1944-1946). In 1949, he received his Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology from Brown University, RI. Thereafter, for six years he was a teacher of English and social studies at Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, CA (1951-1957).

Ken married Harriet L. Johnson in 1954. Harriet introduced him to Unitarian Universalism. Fascinated by Unitarian Universalism, he started attending the Unitarian Community Church of Santa Monica, CA. He became active in the church, taught church school, led some of the church forums, and worked on many of the church committees. Ken highly appreciated the true freedom of Unitarianism, its congregational polity, and its rejection of creeds. He became deeply committed to the work and wanted to enter the ministry to strengthen individual lives and contribute to the remaking of the human community. In 1960, he graduated from Harvard Divinity School, MA with his Bachelor of Sacred Theology. In 1982, Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL conferred him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

The Rev. MacLean was ordained by the Unitarian Church of Roslindale, MA, and the First Parish, West Roxbury, MA on November 27, 1960. He served the two churches from 1960 to 1964. In 1962, during his



tenure, these two historic churches united as the Theodore Parker Unitarian Church. Thereafter, in 1964, the Rev. MacLean accepted a call from the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, Knoxville, TN, where he would minister until 1972. He also helped found the first Knoxville Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in a state seething with the tensions of the 1960s civil rights movement. From

1972 to 1992, the Rev. MacLean served the Cedar Lane UU Congregation, MD as a senior minister. His ministry supported the leadership of the church to address problems while maintaining essential unity and supported the work of a variety of church committees. Upon his retirement in 1992, the congregation honored him as their minister emeritus.

Following retirement, the Rev. MacLean continued his service as a visiting minister at the UU Church of the Desert, CA (1992-1993). In 1993, the President of the UUA appointed him as a “Special Assistant for Interfaith and International Activities.” In this role (1994-1999), he worked to strengthen UU heritage worldwide and helped organize the founding meeting of the International Council of Unitarian Universalists. Subsequently, Rev. MacLean again provided his services to the UU Church of the Desert, CA (1999-2006), (2009-2012), leading them to build a beautiful new church home. In 2012, the UU Church of the Desert honored him as their minister emeritus. Rev. MacLean also was a contract minister for the Juneau UU Fellowship, AK in 2007.

In addition to his parish ministries, the Rev. MacLean founded and organized the Senior Ministers of Large Unitarian Universalist Congregations (SMOLUUC). He served as President of the UUMA and in that role, he was instrumental in helping establish the Office of

KENNETH TORQUIL MACLEAN

continued

Church Staff Finances to help churches and ministers address questions of salary, health care pensions, and equitable compensation. He established a foundation grant to supplement the income of retired ministers and their widows who were living on less than \$10,000 a year. He served two terms on the Board of Trustees of the UUA and helped establish the UUA's Task Force on AIDS. Furthermore, the Rev. MacLean served on the board of the UUSC and worked with the leaders of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) to support the ordination of ministers of religious educators. He received the 2014 Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism.

In his leisure time, he enjoyed swimming, piano, travel, and theater.

Ken is survived by his partner Terry Watson and son Derek MacLean.

A memorial service was held on September 21, 2024, at the Cedar Lane UU Congregation, 9601 Cedar Ln, Bethesda, MD 20814.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cedar Lane UU Congregation.

Notes of condolence may be sent to: Cedar Lane UU Congregation, 9601 Cedar Ln, Bethesda, MD 20814.

KENT MCKUSICK

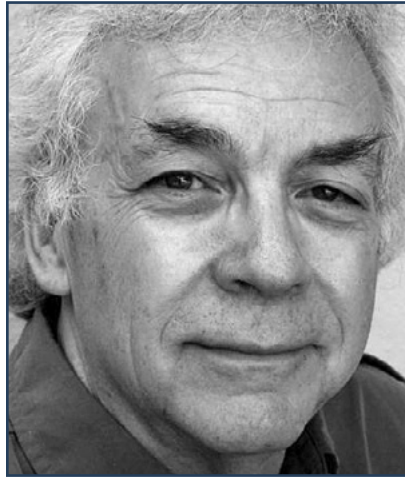
(1952–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Kent McKusick who died on June 4, 2024, at the age of 72.

Kent was born on January 12, 1952, in Dover-Foxcroft, ME to Carl and Alice McKusick. He was the youngest of three children and grew up in Guilford, ME. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication (1974) and a Master's in Theater (1989) from the University of Maine in Orono. Kent worked as a ski instructor and white-water raft guide for ten years, in financial services and human resource management with a bank for nineteen years, and in constant theatre, acting, directing, and production for over thirty years before following his call to ministry.

After the death of his mother in 1997, Kent realized that he needed to find a spiritual community. In search of spirituality, truth, faith, and hope, he found the UU Society of Bangor, ME. After a year, he became a member (1998). He started volunteering as a lay leader and as a worship committee member. He taught adult RE classes and worked as a part-time RE admin. His lay leadership of eight years helped him mature spiritually, realizing his motivation to care for others; he felt a call to ministry. For him, being in ministry meant ministering to people as they sought to balance the struggles and joys of living in a complex world. In 2009, he graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry with his Master of Divinity.

The Rev. McKusick was ordained on September 18, 2011, jointly by the UU Society of Laconia, NH, and the UU Congregation of Franklin, NH. He served his first ministry as a consulting minister at the UU



Society of Laconia, NH (2010-2012). At Laconia, he facilitated and adapted an 8-week adult spirituality class, a joint endeavor with a nearby congregation, and conducted a very engaging “Time for Younger Folk” during the service. He did excellent pastoral care and counseling and initiated the first AIDS service. From 2011 to 2012, he served the UU Congregation of Franklin, NH. His leadership and ministry at the Franklin congregation enabled the committees to broaden their

perspectives and clarify their purpose. In 2012, he accepted a call from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames (UUFA), IA where he would serve until 2022. He helped update the policies and procedures manual of the UUFA's committee documents including their mission, leadership, and function, and assisted in strategic planning. He cared deeply about the youth of the church and youth education programs and participated in the youth and children's events. He promoted and participated in the adult education program.

The Rev. McKusick valued and was deeply committed to building denominational affairs. He was a member of the executive leadership team for the Northern New England UU Ministers' Association. He served as a guest presenter for the Prairie Group in Grafton IL. Rev. McKusick created a warm, welcoming, relaxed, and casual atmosphere which put everyone at ease. Furthermore, he was an advocate for social justice causes.

Kent liked theater. He founded and ran the Northern Lights Theater Company. He loved music, photography, art, reading, writing, and engaging with friends. He lived for skiing. Swimming was also a major part of his life.

KENT MCKUSICK

continued

Kent is survived by his spouse: James Perrin; brother: John McKusick; and nieces: Amy O'Connell, Lisa Levasalmi, and Diane Wiley Czarnick.

A memorial service was held on August 15, 2024, at the UU Society of Bangor, 120 Park St, Bangor, ME 04401.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the local theater where you live.

Notes of condolence may be sent to James Perrin at james.d.perrin@gmail.com or mailed at 5509 Wiltshire Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76135.

PATRICK T. O'NEILL

(1947–2025)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill, who died on February 11, 2025, at the age of 77.

Patrick was born on March 13, 1947, in New York City, NY, to William O'Neill and Elizabeth O'Neill. The youngest of seven children in an Irish Catholic family, he was raised with an emphasis on education, ethics, mutual love, and respect. Religion played a central role in his upbringing. He received his early education in the Catholic parochial school system.

As he grew older, Patrick began to question the theology of his church. His youthful impatience led him to wonder why his faith community was not actively engaged in what he considered a pursuit of righteousness. By his sophomore year of college, he had grown disenchanted with the Catholic Church. During this period, his interest in social activism grew, and he became affiliated with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Seeking a spiritual path that aligned more closely with his evolving beliefs, he became involved with the Unitarian Church. His first Unitarian worship service at the Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, NJ, was a pivotal experience. He was deeply drawn to Unitarian Universalism's emphasis on freedom, reason, tolerance, and love - values that resonated profoundly with him. This experience marked a turning point in his spiritual journey.

In 1969, Patrick graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in American history from St. Peter's College, NJ. Following graduation, he spent a year teaching at a public high school in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, before transitioning to social work. From 1970 to 1974, he dedicated himself as a social worker, gaining a deeper



understanding of the struggles faced by individuals and communities. Gradually, Patrick felt a calling to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, recognizing it as a path that would allow him to integrate his passion for social justice with his spiritual beliefs. Following this call, in 1979, he earned his Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School and his Doctor of Ministry from Meadville

Lombard Theological School.

The Rev. Dr. O'Neill was ordained to the UU ministry in 1979. He served as a settled minister for several congregations, beginning with the UU Church of Yakima, WA (1979-1982), followed by the Northlake UU Church, Kirkland, WA (1982-1985), the First Parish in Framingham, MA (1985-1996), and the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE (1996-2005). During his ministry in Wilmington, he became a figure of national repute, receiving the 1999 Vision of Justice sermon award, the UUA/UUMA 2001 Annual Stewardship sermon award, and preaching for the Service of the Living Tradition at the 2005 General Assembly. His ministry at Wilmington was powerful and change-making. Under his leadership, the congregation became a Welcoming Congregation and entered into a partnership with a Transylvanian church.

From 2006 to 2007, the Rev. Dr. O'Neill was an interim minister for the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester, PA. Thereafter, he continued his ministry as a settled minister at the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, NY (2007-2011) and later at the Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, London (2011-2016). In recognition of his lasting contributions, the First Parish in Framingham, MA, honored him as their minister emeritus in 2016.

PATRICK T. O'NEILL

continued

The Rev. Dr. O'Neill was an excellent preacher, an approachable pastor, and a thoughtful and effective leader. His ministry thrived with pride and pleasure in his high-quality, meaningful sermons, the great spirituality he introduced into the services, and the greater community presence he brought about using talks, meetings, and public presences.

Beyond his congregational leadership, the Rev. Dr. O'Neill was engaged in many denominational committees and interfaith clergy groups. He served the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee and sat on the board of the Starr King School for the Ministry from 2002 to 2004. He also contributed significantly to the UUMA, serving as a trustee and as a member of the UUMA Commission for Continuing Education. He was a long-time member of the Cedar Hill Study Group (1985-2016) and was the convenor of the Northwest UU Ministers Study Group. He taught Thematic Preaching at Andover Newton Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. O'Neill was recognized for his exceptional ministry with several honors throughout

his career. He received the Meadville Lombard Billings Prize for Excellent Preaching in 1979 and the O. Eugene Pickett Award for Congregational Growth in 1990. In 2004, his classmates honored him by selecting him to deliver the sermon for their 25th Ordination Anniversary celebration.

Patrick is survived by his wife of 39 years, Patricia Williams; stepdaughter, Michelle (Steve); stepson, Aaron (Corrina); grandchildren: Alison and Jack; sister: Nora (Lou); and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces.

A memorial service was held on April 12, 2025, at University Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the UUA's [Living Tradition Fund](#), [World Central Kitchen](#), or [Doctors Without Borders](#).

Notes of condolence may be sent to Patricia Williams at petalpat@aol.com.

DAVID O. RANKIN

(1937–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. David O. Rankin who died on April 5, 2024, at the age of 86.

David was born on June 10, 1937, in McKeesport, PA to Oran Foster Rankin and Reba George Rankin. He grew up in Pennsylvania along with his two brothers, Paul, and Richard.

His early interests included the movies - the Marx Brothers and The Lone Ranger. He also had an interest in running, and swimming, and an early passion for all-weather street basketball. In high school, he was elected student council president and a member of the McKeesport State Championship Basketball Team (1955).

David received his Bachelor of Arts with a major in Political Science and History from Westminister College, PA (1959). At Westminister, he wrote a regular column for the college newspaper, became captain of the Westminister basketball team, and was later inducted into the Westminister College Basketball Hall of Fame. In 1959, he married Virginia Ann Minor and together they headed to Moscow, Idaho where David worked toward his graduate degree. David graduated with his Master of Arts from the University of Idaho in 1961 following which he became a political science instructor at Cornell College in Iowa (1962). He also worked as an associate editor of the North American Review magazine, with a regular column, "The Anarchist Dictionary". Two years later, feeling a deep discontent, he turned inward to explore the spiritual realm. He left the academic realm and started studying for the ministry. He earned his Bachelor of Divinity from Crane Theological School at Tufts University, MA in 1965.



The Rev. Rankin was ordained by the First Parish of Watertown, MA on November 27, 1966, where he served his first settled ministry from 1966 to 1969. The church membership tripled in his three years, and he assisted in founding the Fair Housing Committee. In 1969, he accepted a call from the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, MA where he would serve until 1973, and he became involved in social justice work in

addition to draft counseling, prison reform, and work with senior citizens. The church sponsored a bail bond project and established a drug rehabilitation center in the basement of the building. From 1973 to 1979, the Rev. Rankin served the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, CA. During his tenure, the debt on the building was retired and the congregation grew; he welcomed the first Gay Caucus as part of the recognized groups. He then served the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, GA from 1979 to 1982. He participated in the civil and gay/lesbian rights marches along Auburn Avenue. He helped raise funds to purchase "The Mountain", a Unitarian Universalist retreat in North Carolina, where he taught a popular course "On Theology Through Biography" each summer. For the next sixteen years, he served The Fountain Street Church, an independent liberal church in Grand Rapids, MI.

In 1971, he received the Clarence R. Skinner Award for the best Unitarian Universalist social action sermon, "The Salvation of New Bedford." In 1983, Starr King School for the ministry honored him with an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology.

The Rev. Rankin published three books: So Great a Cloud of Witnesses; Theology Through Humor; and My Ending is My Beginning; two meditation manuals:

DAVID O. RANKIN

continued

Portraits from the Cross; and Dancing in the Empty Spaces; as well as numerous articles in religious journals.

David is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ginger Rankin; his sons: Mark Rankin and Oran Rankin (Sara); grandchildren: Jim Minor Rankin, David Rankin (Jessica), Emily Rankin, Seneca Wainright (Justin); as well as his great grandchildren: Liam and Clara Wainright.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ginger Minor Rankin Scholarship Endowment. This can be done at the University of Idaho's web page: [Donation Annual Giving. GiveCampus](#). Please choose Ginger Minor Rankin Scholarship Endowment in the Designation box and enter "In Memory of David O. Rankin" in the "In Honor of" box.

Notes of condolence can be sent to Ginger Rankin at Gingerrankin@moscow.com or mailed to Ginger Rankin, 312 North Garfield St., Moscow, ID 83843.

MARJORIE REBMANN

(1944–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Marjorie “Maggie” Rebmann, who died on July 4, 2024, at the age of 80.

Maggie was born on March 22, 1944, in Fayetteville, NC to Josephine Corboy and Donald McConnell. Her father’s U.S. Army career took the family to Camp Hakata, Japan, near the southern city of Fukuoka soon after Japan’s surrender to the Allied Powers in 1945. His service also had them stationed at numerous posts in the U.S. requiring Maggie to change schools often. In Maggie’s youth, the family returned to MA where she finished high school. In 1972, she received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Framingham State College, MA. Following that, she entered Andover Newton Theological School, MA to study for ministry as a Unitarian Universalist minister. She received her Master of Divinity in 1981.

The Rev. Rebmann was ordained to the UU ministry on January 1, 1980. In 1981, she accepted a call from the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT where she would serve until 2008. She was the church’s eleventh settled minister and first female pastor. The church grew in membership and leadership during her tenure. Her ministry helped the church grow as a theologically and socially diverse community where members had a high degree of comfort despite its diversity. She helped create a welcoming community for Families of Color in the church and wanted people to “own” their church. She LOVED the church! Her ministry placed a strong emphasis on caring and compassionate kindness. People in the congregation adopted and continued that attitude. It was a communal commitment and was reflected in the spirit of the whole community. The Rev. Rebmann excelled both as a preacher and pastor. Her sermons were thought provoking, spiritual and satisfying, as



well as funny, well written with great emotional impact. Her engaging stories and deep insights were creative gifts to the congregation. She was steeped in and brought alive the history and traditions of Unitarian Universalism. Upon her conclusion of twenty-seven years the church honored her as their minister emerita.

The Rev. Rebmann shared her gracious spirit, insightful preaching, and abiding humor with the congregation and denomination. She served as a minister of the Arts Week on Star Island.

Maggie loved animals and she was basically never in her life without an animal. She loved her cats, dogs, chickens, ducks, and goats.

Marjorie is survived by her husband Richard Rebmann; her son: John Hollovary (Rosaria); daughters: Susan Reilly, Camille Panburn, and Araceli Rebmann; stepson: Coy Rebmann; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; as well as her brother Brian McConnell (Eileen); and sister Tina Thompson.

A memorial service was held on August 16, 2024, at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, 130 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [Unitarian Church of Montpelier](#).

WAYNE A. ROBINSON

(1937–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson who died on May 29, 2024, at the age of 86.

Wayne was born on September 13, 1937, in Clinton, OK to Rev. Ralph and Minnie Pryor Robinson. He received his Bachelor of Theology from Southwestern College of Christian Ministries, OK, in 1959 and his Bachelor of Arts from Oklahoma City University, OK in 1961. He then began his ordained ministry in the Pentecostal Holiness Church, deeply influenced by its evangelical traditions. At the age of 25, seeking broader theological and ministerial perspectives, Wayne transitioned to the United Methodist Church. In 1967, he earned his Master of Theology from Southern Methodist University, TX. He continued his seminary education at the Perkins School of Theology. While engaged in his seminary, he joined the UUA (1989), a transformation step that aligned with his evolving theological perspectives. In 1991, he completed his Doctor of Ministry in the New Testament and became a fully credentialed Unitarian Universalist minister.

Rev. Dr. Robinson served the Channing UU Church of Edmond, OK for five years (1990-1995). Subsequently, he was an interim co-minister at the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, MN (1996). In 1996, he accepted a call from the UU Church of Fort Myers, FL where he would serve until 2000. Under his leadership, the Fort Myers church membership expanded, and so did the church's community involvement and projects. He helped the church become a social and political force in Southwest Florida through various initiatives and the beginning of ministry with migrant workers. He was



also recognized as an outstanding preacher. From 2000 to 2001, Rev. Dr. Robinson served as an interim minister for the UU Church of Greater Lansing, MI. He brought many good things to the Greater Lansing congregation. There was an increase in attendance and two morning services were held to overcome the problem of severe overcrowding and lack of parking space. In 2001, he founded All Faiths Unitarian Congregation in Fort

Myers, FL, and served until 2013. After 2013, Rev. Dr. Robinson worked as an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Rev. Robinson served in numerous nonprofit positions, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to social justice, faith, and education. He was a member of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Florida and a founder of the Lee County Pulling Together nonprofit group, which brought people of different races together to talk about the effects of racism. His activism included protesting America's invasion of Iraq at the White House and receiving the "Outstanding Plaintiff Award" from the Oklahoma ACLU for a successful civil liberties suit.

He authored three books under his name: "What's a Nice Church Like You Doing in a Place Like This?"; "ORAL: A Warm, Intimate Unauthorized Portrait of a Man of God"; and "I Once Spoke in Tongues". He also ghostwrote several biographical books, including "The Passing of the Night" by General Robinson Risner and "The Call" by Oral Roberts. At the time of his death, he was working on two new manuscripts.

Wayne was the recipient of numerous awards, including Visionary of Lee County by GulfShore Magazine. He was a frequent guest columnist for the

WAYNE A. ROBINSON

continued

News-Press. He was a prominent figure in Oklahoma, named as one of the top twenty-five newsmakers by the Edmond, Oklahoma Sun Newspaper.

Wayne is survived by his wife: Joyce Schaffer; his three children: Laura Gadberry, Brett Robinson, and Carol Pate; and eight grandchildren: Dylan Gadberry, Devon Gadberry, Ella Robinson, Ford Robinson, Lila Robinson, Amber Pate, Elizabeth Deal, and Owen Pate. He also leaves behind his two sisters: Mary Ann

Loomis and Grace Shipley, and a myriad of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service was held on August 10, 2024, at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, 2756 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myres, FL 33901.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.

ROBERT C. SALLIES

(1931–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Robert “Bob” C. Sallies, who died on August 6, 2024, at the age of 92.

Bob was born on August 10, 1931, in Cleveland, OH, to Mabel Tilton Sallies and Dorritt Sallies. He grew up in New Hampshire at the Weirs in Laconia and attended Laconia High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of New Hampshire (1954); Master of Sacred Theology (1965), and doctorate in church management (1981) from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, MA.

The Rev. Dr. Sallies was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry on October 31, 1965. He served the Universalist Church of Westbrook, ME, from 1965 to 1968 and was the Northeast District Minister and District Executive from 1968 to 1980. From 1980 to 1988, he was Vice President of Finance for the UUA.

The Rev. Dr. Sallies served as a trustee of the UUA. He worked with the UU Service Committee and the Religious Education Committee at conferences at Ferry Beach, ME.



In Norway, ME, Bob served on the Norway School Board and the Planning Board, and as moderator of Town meetings. He was a former president of the Weary Club and a member of Friends of Norway Library. He was also active on the Maine Council of Churches.

Bob and his wife Margie loved children, and their home at Round Pond was filled with them every summer. They also had many dogs and cats, from which they drew great pleasure.

Bob is survived by his wife of 71 years, Margie Garrison Sallies; daughter, E. Elizabeth Sallies; sister-in-law, JoAnn Bolt Garrison; a larger number of nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, great-grand-nieces and nephews, as well as one great-grand-niece.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the First Universalist Church of South Paris, 36 Pine St, South Paris, ME 04281.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Universalist Church of South Paris, 36 Pine St, South Paris, ME 04281.

COLLEEN R. SQUIRES

(1963–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Colleen R. Squires, who died on October 23, 2024, at the age of 61.

Colleen was born on March 16, 1963, in Perth Amboy, NJ to Elizabeth Louise Fitzpatrick and Robert Anthony Fitzpatrick. She grew up in New Jersey as the youngest of three children in an intact family. Her parents were devout Catholics, faith and church played a central role in guiding their lives. At fourteen, Colleen moved in with her aunt and uncle, and by eighteen, she decided to leave the Catholic Church. This break allowed her the freedom to explore other religions and belief systems shaping her perspectives on faith and identity. She started thinking ahead to college and her future. In 1986, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from Rutgers University, NJ. Her college years became her transformative period where she challenged her own beliefs. She took on the role of a college representative speaking to high school students about college life. The Social Studies and Women's Studies department sought her out as an out-gay student to share her experiences. She had the most rewarding college experience.

In September 1986, Colleen moved to Boston, MA, where she began working as a medical secretary at Tufts-New England Medical Center and later at Harvard Medical School-Mass General Hospital. A few months after moving to Boston, she met the love of her life, Linda. Around the same time, she was invited to a wedding at a Unitarian Universalist Church. As she entered the church, she was struck by the banners hanging from the rafters. This was a place of inclusion- a community that honored all beliefs and welcomed all people. She had always believed that



religion should unite people in peace and in that moment, she felt truly invited, welcomed, and at home. Both Colleen and Linda became Unitarian Universalists in 1992. Colleen became involved with the UU church, serving as a lay leader. Inspired by the spirit of inclusion, she felt a calling to the ministry. As a UU minister, she wanted to preach meaningful about issues and expose the congregation to a wide variety of teachings, thoughts, and religious practices. Answering this call, she earned her Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in 2009.

The Rev. Squires was ordained by the First Parish Church in Dorchester, MA on June 3, 2012. Following ordination, she accepted a call to serve as the first minister of the All-Souls Community Church of West Michigan, Grand Rapids, MI. She served the congregation until 2024. She set up a widow's support group and a high school group. Her leadership marked steady membership growth and a spirit of inclusiveness. She guided the congregation toward the proper use of time to build community with one another. In 2015, under her guidance, the church started a Black Lives Matter monthly vigil which continues to this day with other churches in the area. The Rev. Squires had a calming and grounding presence and a genuine ability to listen deeply to those who shared their struggles and concerns with her.

Colleen attended the 50th anniversary March in Selma, AL in 2015 honoring the historic civil rights movement and reaffirming her dedication to justice and equality. She was a founding member of the Hyacinth Foundation, a support network for people with AIDS. She served on the leadership team of the Amethyst Women and was a volunteer for Mass Equality. Furthermore, she was an active contributor

COLLEEN R. SQUIRES

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to the Rapidian (hyperlocal news source and citizen journalism platform powered by the people of Grand Rapids, MI), lending her insightful and reflective voice to complex conversations.

Colleen was a talented artist, loved doing home projects, and enjoyed playing games. She was a compassionate listener and a gifted storyteller, always ready to share a tale that could elicit laughter or provoke thought.

Colleen is survived by her wife: Linda Squires; her sister: Elizabeth (Fitzpatrick) Golden, her brother: Robert Fitzpatrick (Barbara Fitzpatrick); her niece:

Christine Golden (Marc Bellinger), nephew: Robert Golden (Faith Stearns), and cousin: Kathy Schmidt (Richard Schmidt). She also leaves behind her brothers: Art Squires (Barb Squires), and Mark Squires (Nancy Squires).

A celebration of Colleen's life was held on December 8, 2024, at All Souls Community Church of West Michigan, 2727 Michigan Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

In lieu of flowers, donations in the Rev. Colleen Squires' name may be made to All Souls Community Church of West Michigan.

STANLEY ROBERT STEFANCIC

(1937–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Stanley “Stan” Robert Stefancic, who died on June 28, 2024, at the age of 86.

Stan was born on July 20, 1937. He received his Bachelor of Arts in English and American Literature from Maryville College, TN (1961) following which he earned his Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School (1964). Stan met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while studying for a Ph.D. Inspired by Dr. King, he left his graduate study to become a Unitarian Universalist Minister.

The Rev. Stefancic was ordained to the UU ministry on October 29, 1967. In 1970, he accepted a call from the UU Church of Birmingham, AL where he would serve until 1976. Thereafter, he was a settled minister at the East Shore Unitarian Church, Bellevue, WA (1976-1980) and the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, CA (1980-1985). From 1994 to 1996, the Rev. Stefancic served as an interim minister at the UU Church of Boulder, CO. In 1996, he was called to the UU Church of Tucson, AZ, and served until 2000. In Boulder and Tucson, the Rev. Stefancic was instrumental in serving as a healing minister using his organizational skills to develop trust within the congregation. He did crisis interventions at churches, was able to heal the wounds, and repaired and stimulated growth. His ministry embodied peace, compassionate action, justice, and the inherent dignity of every individual. In 2001, the UU Church of Boulder, CO honored him as their minister emeritus.

The Rev. Stefancic served on the board of the UUA and the UU Service Committee. He dedicated his life to helping create a more socially just and caring world and served on many nonprofit boards including Common Cause, ACLU, and Planned Parenthood. His efforts as a



citizen lobbyist were instrumental in earning recognition as Citizen Activist of the Year in Arizona in 1998 for his contribution to Arizona being one of four states to pass public funding of all elected officials.

Stan was on faculty at the Hoffman Institute, CA, and taught and trained teachers for six years in the USA, Europe, and Australia. He also served the Institute as a Director of Special

Projects and Process.

He had a deep Zen meditation practice, which he expressed in daily life as “Don’t Worry, Be Present: When we are present, we live life with direct experience and are fully engaged moment to moment, and worries are fantasies”.

His wife Marianne shared, “Stan wrote his memories in two sections: in 2001: “A Spirited Human Shape” and in 2019: “The Adventure of Awakening: The Life of a Mind.” These writings are not published for a book or such, there are about 1000 pages, and they will be added to Harvard Divinity School Library Archival Material. I believe that there is material for a beautiful book, by someone who is inspired to do so.”

Stan is survived by his wife: Marianne; his son: Benjamin (Sandy); grandchildren: Sophie and Ryan; brother: Richard (Dolly); niece: Erica, and nephew: Richie; as well as Marianne’s son Jai (Taraneh). He also leaves behind his former wife, Jean and her husband, Richard.

A private memorial service was held.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one’s own choosing or the [American Civil Liberties Union](#).

Notes of condolence may be sent to Marianne Stefancic, 100 Thorndale Dr. Apt. 136, San Rafael, CA 94903.

ELIZABETH “BETSY” BOYD STEVENS

(1932–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Elizabeth “Betsy” Boyd Stevens who died on March 14, 2024, at the age of 91.

Betsy was born on November 29, 1932, in Boston, MA to Elizabeth Bigelow and Robert St. Barbe Boyd. She was raised in Milton and Duxbury, MA, and attended Milton Academy through elementary and high school, graduating in 1950. Her family were life-long Unitarians. Betsy led an active extracurricular life, but her prime goal was to get to college. On a part-time basis, she taught sailing and worked in a camp for children with cerebral palsy. She entered Smith College, MA in 1950 and married in her junior year to a cadet from West Point, who was assigned to Korea after his graduation. During this time, Betsy remained in college and graduated with a major in Sociology (1954). She worked at Jordan Marsh as well as volunteered at Peter Bent Brigham. For the next twenty years, Betsy and her husband lived in varied Army installations throughout the world. They had a son and a daughter and in 1966, returned to the United States and lived in Alexandria, VA.

After re-locating in Alexandria, Betsy got an opportunity to become active in a parish. From 1971 to 1983, she served the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, Alexandria, VA first as the 2nd grade teacher, then the interim DRE, and then the DRE. She restructured the church's youth programs, put Unitarian Universalism in the curriculum, and organized bi-yearly trips to the Boston area to teach the youth about their religious heritage. She served the Mt. Vernon church for thirteen years as a strong leader in the intergenerational forums. In 1981, she completed the UU Independent Study Program.



The Rev. Stevens was ordained to the ministry of religious education by the First Church and Parish in Dedham, MA on February 24, 1985, where she served as a Minister of Religious Education from 1984 to 2003. She helped plan and carry out a well-balanced RE program that enriched the church. The church became more vibrant and caring with a fine RE program. The Rev. Stevens equally paid attention to the people of the church, their growth in RE skills, and their growth as individuals in the community. She was an excellent group leader in adult and youth education programs, facilitating discussion, exercising initiative, and interacting effectively. She retired from her active ministry in the parish in 2003. In 2003, Meadville Lombard Theological School honored her with a Doctor of Divinity, and in 2004 the First Church and Parish in Dedham honored her as their minister emerita.

The Rev. Dr. Stevens was active on the denominational level serving as a designated legal resident for LREDA, MRP advisor, and MRE Focus Group convenor. Furthermore, she provided her services to the Continental Women and Religion Committee, the Council on Church/Staff Finances, Good Offices for LREDA and UUMA, the District Minister Advisory Committee, the District Safe Congregation Outreach Team, the UU Historical Society board, and many more. Additionally, she served the Ballou Channing District, Brockton, MA from 2001 to 2003.

The Rev. Dr. Stevens received the Larry E. Axel Award, Modified Residence Program, Meadville Lombard Theological School (1977); and the Angus H. Maclean Award for Excellence in Religious Education, UUA (2001).

ELIZABETH “BETSY” BOYD STEVENS

continued

In Duxbury, Betsy served as chairperson of the Water Activities Committee for their 350th Anniversary celebration. She was a volunteer for the Duxbury Bay Maritime School “Women Under Way” program, a trustee of the Duxbury Cemetery, and a board member at the Council of Aging. In 2013, she was awarded the Duxbury Community Volunteer Award.

Betsy’s passion was sailing. She won her first season trophy in 1946 at the age of 14. She enjoyed sailboat racing in Duxbury Bay for many summers and received many South Shore trophies through the years. In 1979 and 1981, she won the Massachusetts Bay Women’s Championship.

Betsy is survived by her husband Frederick A. Stevens, Jr., and her two children: Wyatt Stevens (Giselle) and Elizabeth (Lisa) Giannechini (Tony). She also leaves her two granddaughters, Alice Stevens and Libby Giannechini; her sister, Alexandra (Sandy) B. Earle, and one great grandson.

A memorial service was held on Friday, April 5, 2024, at the First Parish Church UU, 842 Tremont St. (Rte. 3A), Duxbury, MA 02331.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, 457 Washington St, Duxbury, MA 02332.

PATRICIA V.M. TUMMINO

(1949–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Patricia “Tricia” V.M. Tummino, who died on September 20, 2024, at the age of 75.

Tricia was born on September 1, 1949, in Boston, MA to Van Horne Morris and Marion “Betty” Gilmore. She was the middle of three children and was raised with her brothers in Hingham, MA where she nurtured an early love of nature, making frequent visits to the ponds to find turtles and snakes. She attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, received her Bachelor of Arts in English in 1971, and engaged in full-time high school teaching until 1979, thereafter doing part-time teaching for a few years while being primarily a mother and homemaker.

In 1991, Tricia discovered the First UU Society of Middleborough, Middleboro, MA. She found a spiritual home that offered her the opportunity to be in significant conversation together, be present to one another during the hard times, and witness together the times of joy. She felt it was like coming home. She attended worship services and adult education programs, taught church school, served on the Religious Education Committee, the Parish Committee, and as a Chairperson of the Welcoming Congregation Committee. In January of 1993, she became an office administrator. Her increasing involvement in parish and religious education committee work, and very satisfying and affirming opportunities to preach and lead other aspects of the church service, drew her to ministry. For her, being in the ministry meant sharing with others and walking together in community to find wholeness. Following this call, she graduated from Harvard Divinity School with her Master of Divinity in 1998.



The Rev. Tummino was ordained by her home congregation, the First UU Society of Middleborough, MA on September 27, 1998, where she returned as a settled minister (1998-2010). During her tenure, she skillfully and successfully modeled shared ministry and helped foster a very welcoming environment, supported growth, and encouraged participation at all levels. She planned programs for new members and sparked various new programs for all members. She helped develop a safe congregation plan, created the Safety Committee, and formed a Committee on Ministry. The church became a teaching church — a site for ministerial intern placement. Under her leadership, the church became a happening place, with attractive levels of activities and friendliness. In 2010, she retired from her active ministry.

The Rev. Tummino’s meditations and sermons were always thoughtful, insightful, and accessible. She demonstrated compassion and kindness in listening and pastoral care. A 2004 article in the Middleboro Gazette described her as a “Champion of Difficult Causes” as she prepared to officiate same sex marriages after Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to legalize same sex marriage. She always stood for what she believed in and was ready to help people in need.

She served the denomination as the Ballou Channing UUMA Chapter leader. In community, she provided her services as a member and board of the Middleboro/Lakeville Community Counseling Center.

In her leisure time, Tricia enjoyed reading, hiking in the woods, walking, and listening to music. Her passions included folk music and rooting for the Red Sox team.

PATRICIA V.M. TUMMINO

continued

Tricia is survived by her brother, Peter; her husband, Lawrence; and children: Annie, Ben, and Joe; and her grandchildren: Enzo, Lucia, and Asa.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.

A memorial service was held on November 2, 2024, at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro, 25 S. Main St, Middleborough, MA 02346.

BETH N. WILLIAMS

(1952–2024)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Beth N. Williams, who died on August 1, 2024, at the age of 72.

Beth was born on March 25, 1952, in Perth-Amboy, NJ. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University, NJ in 1974 before embarking on a successful career as a systems analyst, software developer, and project manager. She specialized in financial accounting mainframe computer systems and worked for a custodial bank in Boston and a consulting firm with offices in Boston, Chicago, and New York. During her time in Chicago (1979-1983), she was introduced to the UU faith and social action. Beth became involved with the 2nd Unitarian Church of Chicago volunteering in Religious Education. This sparked her passion for faith and community service and planted the seed of her calling to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Over ten years, her calling grew stronger and deeper. In 1993, Beth returned to Chicago to attend Meadville Lombard Theological School. In 1997, she graduated with her Master of Divinity.

Following graduation, the Rev. Williams served the First Unitarian Society of Chicago, IL (1998-2000) and the UU Church of Greater Lynn, Swampscott, MA (2000-2002) as a Minister of Religious Education. From 2002 to 2010, she was the UUA's Religious Education and Music Leadership Credentialing Director. In this role, she counseled candidates of the Religious Education and Music Leadership Credentialing program relating to progressing through the program.



The Rev. Williams provided her services to the First Parish Church in Beverly, MA (2006-2008) as a worship committee chair, as a member of the Flower Committee and Parish Council, occasionally taught church school, and sang in the choir. She then served as a Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, LA for six years (2012-2018). She retired from professional ministry in

2017. After retirement, she moved from Baton Rouge to Tucson, AZ, and became active with the Mountain Vista UU Congregation, AZ. She was involved with the Care Group there.

The Rev. Williams was active in the denomination serving on the board of the LREDA, on the Executive Committee of the Mass Bay District RE Team, and as a co-director of RE Week at Ferry Beach.

Beth extended warmth and care to everyone she encountered and valued fairness, inclusion, and compassion. She cared deeply about children and youth, including those who were on the margins or often left out.

Beth was an occasional knitter and a Red Sox fan. She enjoyed traveling to Latin America and teaching ESL. She had an interest in Spanish language and culture and volunteered with refugee families who transitioned through Tucson. She spent her last year at Brookdale Oro Valley (assisted living facility) where she made friends with the staff and residents.

Beth is survived by her brother, Doug Nuber, as well as several cousins.

BETH N. WILLIAMS

continued

A celebration of life service was held at the Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 3235 W Orange Grove Rd, Tucson, AZ 85741.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following:

- [Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation](#)

- [Arizona Public Media](#)

- The University of Arizona, Modern Language Bldg, Room 223, 1423 E University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85719.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Kristi Lewis, 14090 N. Lobelia Way, Oro Valley, AZ 85755.

