



2026 GA Program Book



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 – TUESDAY, JUNE 16

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 – SUNDAY, JUNE 21

PDT	MDT	CDT	EDT	Sunday 6/14	Monday 6/15	Tuesday 6/16	Friday 6/19	Saturday 6/20	Sunday 6/21
6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM					Saturday Worship 8:30–9:15 ET	
7:30 AM	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM						Community Sing
8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM					Meet The Moment Opening Program 11:00–12:00 ET	Sunday Worship 11:00–12:30 ET
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:30 AM						
9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM						
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	12:30 PM						
10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM						
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM		General Session II 12:00–3:00 ET	General Session IV 12:00–3:00 ET	Juneteenth Worship 1:00–2:00 ET		
11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM						
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:30 PM				Synergy Worship 2:00–3:00 ET	Meet The Moment Breakout Groups 1:30–4:30 ET	
12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM						
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM					Featured Speakers 2:00–3:00 ET 3:30–4:30 ET	
1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	Ingathering Service	CSAI Workshop 3:30–4:45 ET	CSAI Workshop 3:30–4:45 ET			
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	4:30 PM						
2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	General Session I 4:30–6:00 ET					
2:30 PM	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	5:30 PM		General Session III 5:00–6:30 ET	General Session V 5:00–6:30 ET		Meet The Moment Wrap-up 5:00–6:00 ET	
3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM						
3:30 PM	4:30 PM	5:30 PM	6:30 PM						
4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM						
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	7:30 PM						
5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM		UUA Budget Hearing 7:30–8:30 ET				
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:30 PM						
6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM				(RE)Convening Worship 8:00–9:30 ET	Ware Lecture 8:00–9:00 ET	

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Welcome to GA

General Assembly at its best is a gathering that reflects what we believe is still possible when we come together in covenant, curiosity, courage, and care. This year, that feels especially true.

We are living in a moment marked by rapid change and deep uncertainty. Many of us are carrying concern for our democracy while also balancing busy lives, economic pressures, caregiving responsibilities, and the ongoing question of where and how to invest our time, energy, and hope.

Over the past several years, we heard clearly from many in our community that while virtual participation increases accessibility, we still long for connection, shared experiences, and time to reflect, worship, learn, grieve, laugh, organize, and imagine together in ways that transcend a screen.

At the same time, we know that travel can be difficult, and safety and political concerns are real. Increasingly, people are making thoughtful choices about which gatherings truly earn a place on their calendar. These tensions are not unique to Unitarian Universalism. They are shaping conferences, religious communities, and associations everywhere. More and more, gatherings must offer not only information, but meaning, connection, and renewal.

And so this year, we experimented again, recognizing that there is no single or perfect way to participate meaningfully anymore. Some of us will join online from home, some with congregations or friends, and some will travel to be part of our studio audience. Some will participate throughout the week, while others may join for only one or two moments. All of these forms of participation matter. Together, they reflect our willingness to adapt, stay connected, and continue building community in changing times.

Behind this General Assembly are hundreds of people — staff, volunteers, worship leaders, musicians, planners, speakers, technicians, accessibility providers, moderators, caregivers, organizers, and countless others — who have poured extraordinary thought, creativity, labor, and love into creating spaces where we can reconnect around the values that call us forward. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Whether this is your first GA or your fiftieth, whether you are here for worship, learning, advocacy, business, music, fellowship, or simply to remember that you are not alone, I hope this experience nourishes your spirit, sparks new connections, and strengthens your resolve for the work ahead. I also hope it reminds you of the many reasons we continue to gather: to inspire one another, to deepen our faith, to share joy and grief, and to meet this moment together.

Thank you for being part of the evolving story of Unitarian Universalism and General Assembly. With gratitude and hope,



LaTonya Richardson

Director of General Assembly and Conference Services
Unitarian Universalist Association

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Virtual Reach & Visibility Plus Sponsors



Virtual Reach & Visibility Sponsors





WE UNDERSTAND YOUR MISSION

When it comes to protecting your staff, volunteers, members and those you serve — as well as the spaces where your congregation gathers — we're more than an insurer.

We're a partner, supporting Unitarian Universalist congregations as they care for people, steward resources and live their values in the world.

Learn how we support UUA congregations at churchmutual.com/uua.

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Help employees prepare for their financial future through the UU Organizations Retirement Plan.



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Medical, dental, life, and long-term disability coverage for your employees.



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Protect your buildings, operations, and your community.

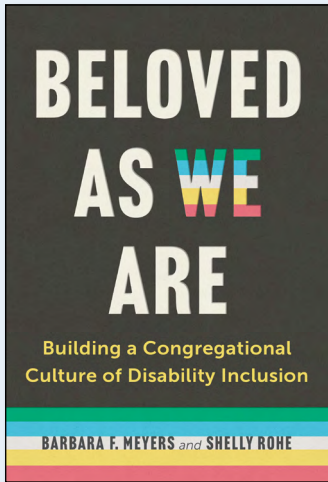
Responsive guidance — built for UU organizations, by people who understand your mission.

uua.org/benefitplans

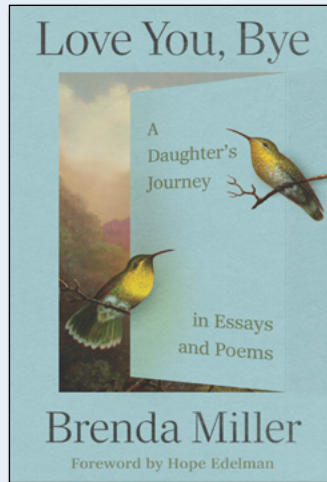
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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

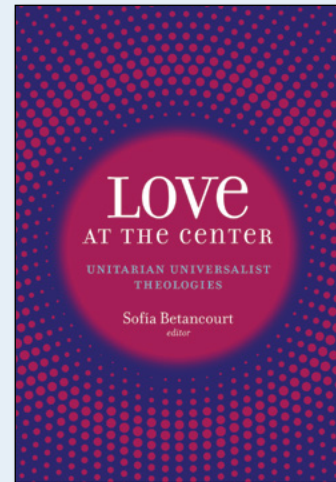
NEW *from* Skinner House Books



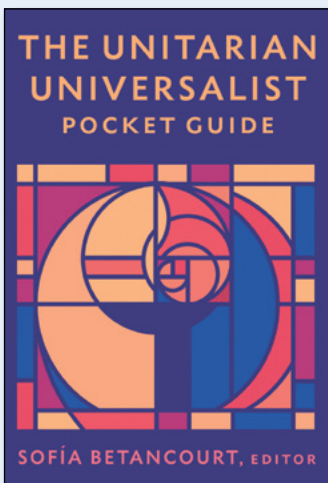
Beloved as We Are
Building a Congregational Culture of Disability Inclusion
Barbara F. Meyers and Shelly Rohe



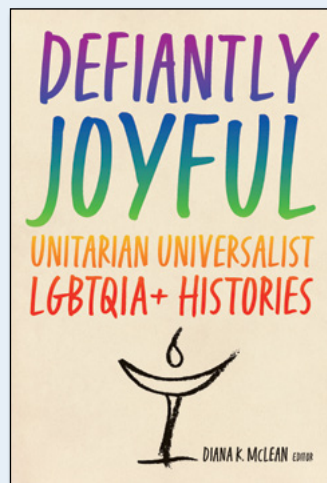
Love You, Bye
A Daughter's Journey in Essays and Poems
Brenda Miller



Love at the Center
Unitarian Universalist Theologies
Edited by Sofia Betancourt



The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide
Seventh Edition
Edited by Sofia Betancourt



Defiantly Joyful
Unitarian Universalist LGBTQIA+ Histories
Edited by Diana K. McLean



Tend to Your Spirit
Mindful Living with Chronic Illness
Julianne Lepp and Florence Caplow



Available at inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop
To order, call (800) 215-9076 or visit uua.org/bookstore



LEARN MORE:
[UUSC.ORG](https://www.uusc.org)



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) advances human rights by collaborating with grassroots partners in the United States and across the globe. We work alongside directly impacted groups to fund, foster, and implement community-led solutions. We further our partners' efforts to adapt to the changing climate, provide resources for families in migration, and defend the safety of the LGBTQ+ community. All people have inherent power and dignity, and UUSC amplifies that power.

IGNITE your moral *imagination*

As UUSC's Rev. Laura Randall says, "Oppressive systems are not inevitable." Our grassroots partners create and model alternative ways of living that center compassion and solidarity. Visit UUSC's virtual booth to learn more about the work of moral imagination. Together, we co-create a more just world.





UUSJ Unitarian Universalists for **Social Justice**

Advocating for democracy, human dignity, and justice grounded in love



Shaping federal policy and institutions by:

- Illuminating key opportunities for impact
- Mobilizing advocates across the country
- Speaking with moral clarity at moments of national consequence

Join Us



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UUSJ.org

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For such a time as this.

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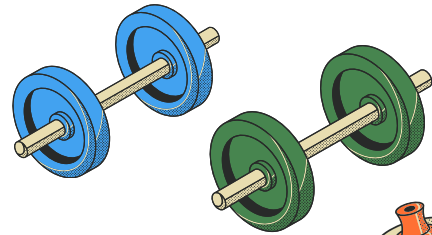


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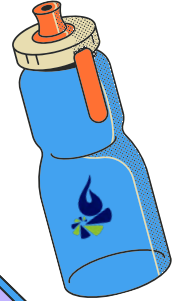
Ready to answer
the call?



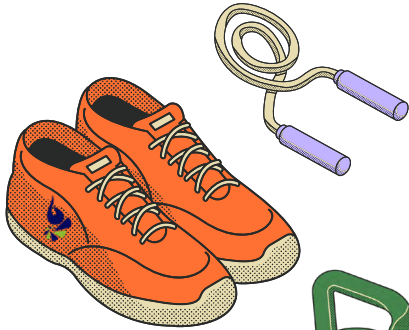
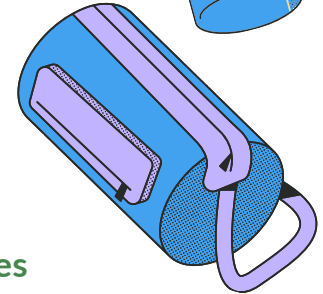


LREDA PROFESSIONAL DAYS

SPIRITUAL GYM

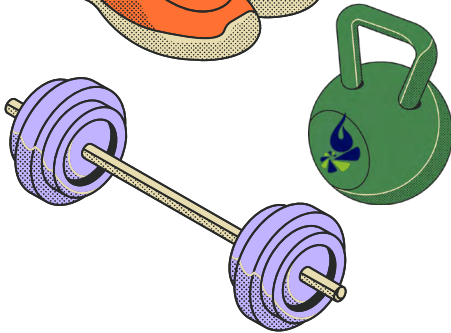


Where we can all build our **COURAGE** to act in alignment with our values!



June 17th 2-5pm CT

Day 1 - Warm Up to Our Values



June 18th 1-3pm CT

Day 2 - Special Training Sessions:
Finance Ballet, AI Stretch Break,
Social Justice Boxing Club

Learn more & register [HERE](#)



More info & Zoom link [HERE](#)

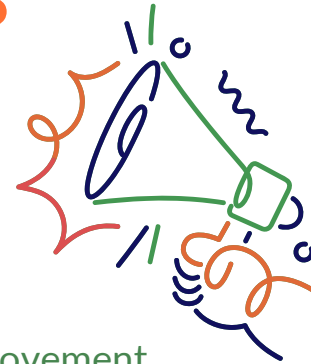
www.lreda.org/upcomingevents



FAHS LECTURE 2026

ON TEAM JUSTICE

June 18th 5-7pm CT
on Zoom



Three leading lights in our movement share their theology of justice work and how we are called to respond in this moment.

Let us nourish your calling to justice in the world with these heart-centred and fired-up reflections on immigration, trans inclusion & reproductive justice.



Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth



nurtures
sacred **connection**,
spiritual **resilience**,
and collective **action**,
inspiring care for the
interdependent web,
cultivating climate justice
and flourishing *for all.*

Visit UUMFE's virtual booth on
Whova, engage with our on-
demand and live workshops,
and join our community!

www.uumfe.org



Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

Meet the Moment: UU Solidarity with Palestinians

Connect with us at UUA GA 2026:

Virtual Booth

On Demand Video:

Palestine 101 and Intro to Palestine 201



Dana Fisher Ashrawi

Rev. DL Helfer

Live Webinar Thurs. 6/18, 7pm ET:

UU Witness Delegation - Meeting the Palestine Solidarity Moment



Rev. Meagan Henry
Trip Facilitator

Rev. Manish
Mishra-Marzetti

India Wood,
Seminarian

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Accessibility Services

Every effort is made to provide accommodations and support to enhance your General Assembly experience. Accessibility Services are available before and during GA to provide information and coordinate assistance for attendees with accessibility needs.

Live sessions include automated captioning where available.

To request support, visit the GA Help Hub (<https://www.uua.org/ga/help>).

Annual Program Fund (APF)

Your congregation's generosity makes it possible for the UUA to serve. Congregations across our Association are grateful for your continued support of the Annual Program Fund. Thank you for helping sustain and strengthen our shared ministry.

Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression

Guided by our values, all attendees are asked to be mindful of the ways racism, ableism, and oppression impact our community and the wider world. General Assembly offers opportunities through workshops, worship, and shared experiences to deepen understanding and support the work of building a more inclusive and affirming community for all.

App (GA App + EduCenter)

The GA App is your central hub for General Assembly. Use it to explore the full schedule, build your personal agenda, connect with other attendees, and access the Virtual Exhibit Hall.

The EduCenter in the GA App is where you'll find on-demand content and live webinars.

Sign in using the email you used to register. For help with the app, visit the GA Help Hub (<https://www.uua.org/ga/help>).

Board of Trustees, UUA

The UUA is governed by a Board of Trustees elected by delegates to the General Assembly. The Moderators preside at General Assembly and Board meetings and represent the Association on special occasions. The UUA President also serves on the Board.

Board Members

Barbara de Leeuw
Gail Forsyth-Vail
Mary Heafy
Emily Jaworski Koriath
John Newhall, Vice Moderator
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern
Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair
Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith
John Simmonds, Secretary
Rev. Justine Sullivan
Rev. Sam Trumbore, Financial Secretary

Moderators

Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Co-Moderator
Bill Young, Co-Moderator

President

Rev. Sofía Betancourt, Ph.D., President

Financial Advisors

Chris Chepel, Co-Financial Advisor
David Stewart, Co-Financial Advisor

Staff Liaisons to the Board

Carey McDonald, Executive Vice President
Stephanie Carey Maron, Governance Manager

Care Teams

Care Teams are available to support attendees throughout General Assembly.

Chaplains provide pastoral care, spiritual support, and resources for self-care.

The Covenant Team assists when conflicts arise or when the GA covenant may have been broken.

The Systemic Justice Team supports attendees from historically and currently marginalized communities and offers advocacy for addressing systemic harm.

To connect with any Care Team, visit the GA Help Hub (<https://www.uua.org/ga/help>).

Collections

General Assembly collections support Unitarian Universalist ministries that nurture leadership, sustain our religious professionals, and advance justice in the world.

This year's collections benefit:

The Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Supports the development of young leaders through scholarships, grants, and programs for Unitarian Universalist youth and young adults.

The Living Tradition Fund

Provides financial assistance to seminarians, ministers, religious professionals, congregational staff, and their families.

Side With Love

Mobilizes Unitarian Universalists and partners to advance justice through advocacy, organizing, and public witness at local, state, national, and international levels.

During General Assembly, giving is handled online through the GA App and other digital options. Cash and checks are not collected at any GA locations.

Commission on Social Witness (CSW)

The Commission on Social Witness (CSW) helps Unitarian Universalists put our values into action. The CSW supports congregations in developing Congregational Study/Action Issues and guides the process that leads to Statements of Conscience.

Members

Rev. Dr. Isabel Call
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum
Rev. C. Nancy Reid-McKee, Chair
Antoinette Scully
Sharon Welch

Covenant and Community Expectations

All attendees are expected to engage with one another in ways that reflect respect, care, and accountability, in alignment with the General Assembly covenant.

Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes behavior based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, economic class, or other identities.

If you experience or witness harmful behavior, please contact a Chaplain or the Covenant Team through the GA Help Hub (<https://www.uua.org/ga/help>).

Delegates

Certified UUA member congregations may send delegates to participate in the governance and decision-making of General Assembly. Delegates vote on elections, bylaw amendments, and other business items.

All delegates must be registered for GA. Credentials are assigned by congregations. If you have not received your credentials, check with your congregation or visit the delegate credentialing site (<https://ga-delegate.uua.org>).

Delegates can access the business agenda, ballots, and links to participate in General Session discussions through the delegate platform (<https://delegate.uua.org>).

Destructive Behavior

General Assembly strives to be an inclusive community that honors a wide range of beliefs, identities, and experiences. Behavior that is harmful, discriminatory, or disruptive undermines that commitment.

A person whose behavior endangers the well-being of others or disrupts General Assembly may be removed from participation. UUA staff, the GA Advisory Council, Care Teams, and other appropriate resources may be consulted as needed.

Election

The election of those who serve the members and congregations of the Association is at the heart of our faith and our trust in the democratic process.

Delegates participate in elections as part of General Assembly's governance and decision-making work.

For more information about candidates and the election process, visit the UUA elections page (<https://www.uua.org/elections>).

Events Available to the Public

Sunday Morning Worship will be streamed publicly online.

Other General Assembly programming is available to registered attendees unless otherwise noted.

Exhibit Hall

The Virtual Exhibit Hall in the GA App is a space to explore organizations, resources, and ideas from across Unitarian Universalism and beyond.

Exhibitors may share information, offer resources, and connect directly with attendees. Participation in the Exhibit Hall does not imply endorsement by the UUA.

Feedback

Your feedback helps shape future General Assemblies.

You can share feedback through the GA App and through the post-event survey available at uua.org/ga (<https://www.uua.org/ga>).

General Assembly Advisory Council

The General Assembly Advisory Council is a group of Unitarian Universalists from across the Association who work with staff throughout the year to help shape a welcoming and inclusive GA experience.

Members

Brandon Allen
Brody Brennick
Eric Huffer
Ida Mae Jones
Rev. Christe Lunsford
Ro Morris
Amanda Sullivan
Ann Verdine-Jones

Liaisons

LaTonya Richardson, UUA Staff Liaison
Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Liaison to the UUA Board

General Assembly Staff

LaTonya Richardson, GACS Director
Donny Plante, Meeting Planner
Stacey Dixon, GA Registrar

General Sessions

General Sessions are where the business of the Association takes place, including voting, reports, and shared governance.

All attendees are welcome to observe. Credentialed delegates may participate and vote.

Getting Started at GA

New to General Assembly or joining us in this format? Start with the GA App, where you can view the schedule, join live sessions, and access on-demand content.

General Sessions take place Sunday through Tuesday. The Weekend of Worship and Programming begins Friday evening and continues through Sunday.

You can participate live, explore recordings in the EduCenter, and connect with others through meet-ups and discussion spaces.

All scheduled times are listed in Eastern Time unless otherwise noted.

Health and Wellness Protocols

In keeping with our commitment to accessibility and care for the most vulnerable in our community, GA 2026 includes health and wellness practices designed to support safer on-site participation. In-person participants at GA-sponsored events are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks in indoor GA spaces. Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness is asked to participate virtually rather than attend in person. Masks will be available onsite.

Information Technology Services

We thank the UUA Information Technology Services team for their support in making General Assembly possible.

Meet-ups

Meet-ups are a great way to connect with others around shared interests.

You can browse and join meet-ups, or create your own, in the meet-ups section of the GA App. If you are hosting a meet-up, consider using a platform that supports captioning and include the link when you create your event.

Music Ministry Team

The GA Music Ministry Team, under the leadership of Gabe Barbieri, brings together musicians and vocalists from across the Association to support worship and shared experiences throughout General Assembly.

On-Demand Content

Many programs are available on-demand in the EduCenter beginning when the GA App opens. Recordings of live sessions will be added as available and remain accessible for a period after General Assembly.

Production Team

The Production Team, under the leadership of Michael Kyer, GA 2026 Production Manager, supports the technical and creative execution of General Assembly across live and on-demand experiences.

Program Development Group (PDG)

The Program Development Group works with staff and advisors to curate programming aligned with the mission and priorities of the UUA and its member congregations.

Members

Rev. Summer Albayati
Rev. Kierstin Allen
Lillian Drab-Braddick
Krystle Gervais
Rev. Tania Y. Márquez
Kathy McGowan
Mylo Way
Rev. Jami A. Yandle

Recovery Meetings

Recovery meetings are offered during General Assembly and are open to anyone in or seeking recovery, as well as those who support them.

Meeting details and access information are available in the GA App.

Recording Policy

Recording of General Assembly events requires permission from General Assembly and Conference Services. Presenters must also grant permission before any recording is made.

Recordings may not be used for commercial purposes without written approval.

Registration

Registration for General Assembly remains open throughout the event for those who wish to participate in live programming and access on-demand content.

To register, visit the GA registration page (<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>).

Service of the Living Tradition

The Service of the Living Tradition is a cherished part of General Assembly, honoring Unitarian Universalist religious leaders who have died, completed service, or reached new milestones in ministry.

GA 2026 is structured differently, with a primarily virtual format designed for shared participation across many locations. Because of this, the Service of the Living Tradition will not be offered this year. We look forward to welcoming it back in 2027.

A collection for the Living Tradition Fund will be taken during the Friday evening reconvening worship on June 19.

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday Morning Worship is the largest shared worship experience of General Assembly.

The service is available to the public via livestream. All are welcome to join.

A special collection will be taken to support Side With Love. Side With Love mobilizes Unitarian Universalists and partners to advance justice through advocacy, organizing, and public witness at local, state, national, and international levels.

Tech Support

If you need technical support, visit the GA Help Hub (<https://www.uua.org/ga/help>) or email gaonlinesupport@uua.org (mailto:gaonlinesupport@uua.org).

For urgent concerns during live events, please use the GA Help Hub for the fastest response.

Young Adults

Young adults are invited to connect, collaborate, and build community throughout General Assembly.

This space is designed to support engagement, leadership, and connection across the life of the event. See the GA App for gatherings and opportunities to participate.

Youth (GA Youth)

GA Youth creates a covenanted space for high school-aged participants to connect, build community, and engage in the wider General Assembly.

Youth are encouraged to participate in GA programming and bring their voices into the life of the Assembly. Details and gatherings can be found in the GA App.








Supporting the Administrators Who Support UU Congregations

Association for Unitarian Universalist Administrators

The AUUA connects and supports the Administrators who keep UU congregations grounded, organized, and moving forward. Through professional development, resources, and community, we help Church Administrators thrive.

Why the AUUA Matters for Churches

When Administrators are supported, congregations flourish.

-  Professional Development
-  National UU Admin Network
-  Shared Resources & Best Practices
-  Leadership Development
-  Annual Conference & Training

Is your Church Administrator an AUUA member?

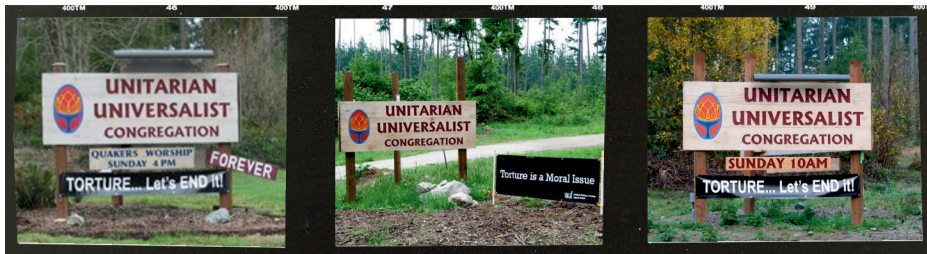
Bring this information back to your church office and help your Administrator connect with their national community.



NRCAT *at* 20

toward a torture-free future

thank you,
UU COMMUNITY!
20 years of fighting torture



2008 banners displayed by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island, WA

As we celebrate our **20th anniversary** this year amid many overlapping challenges, we're organizing to **meet the moment**.

For 20 years, the Unitarian Universalist community has stood on the front lines in the fight to **end state-sanctioned torture**, from illegal interrogation techniques in Guantánamo Bay to solitary confinement in prisons, jails, and detention centers. As we look to the next 20 years and beyond, we hope to continue standing shoulder-to-shoulder with you and your congregations.

THE TIMELINE:

UUs on the front lines
of the fight against torture

2008
display banners demanding an end to torture, even after they are vandalized or stolen

2008
sign on to a letter demanding that Congress allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to all U.S.-held detainees

2011
sponsor a panel with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York

2015
write to the White House demanding an end to the use of solitary confinement

2016
urge the U.S. Attorney General to launch an investigation into the Bureau of Prisons' alleged torture at the Lewisburg penitentiary

2017
UU Congregation at Shelter Rock helps NRCAT launch the first four states in what is now a 24-state anti-solitary confinement campaign

2019
NRCAT works with UUMass Action to strengthen the campaign to end solitary confinement in Massachusetts

2023, 2025
UUs join in supporting groundbreaking federal legislation, the End Solitary Confinement Act (ESCA)

and much, much more...



Reason. Compassion. Community.

**Celebrating over 50 years as the voice for humanism
in the Unitarian Universalist Association**

Humanism is a progressive, life-affirming philosophy centered around the conviction that science tells us what's real, and compassion tells us what's right. We live our values, and build community around taking action towards a better world for everyone. If this sounds like you - join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Belonging in Action: How to Reach Young "Nones"

Wednesday, June 17, 8:00
p.m. EST (*via Zoom*)

*Explore what today's non-religious
younger generations seek in
community—empathy,
connection, and honesty.*

UUHA Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 18th, 7:00
p.m. EST (*via Zoom*)

*A chance to hear from board
leadership, learn about UUHA'S
operations, and connect with
other UU humanists!*



Learn more and register at



SUNDAY, JUNE 14

In-Gathering Service

ET 4 PM–4:30 PM CT 3 PM–3:30 PM

MT 2 PM–2:30 PM PT 1 PM–1:30 PM

The 2026 General Assembly will begin with a 30-minute ingathering service, inviting all participants into sacred community before the first General Session. Through words, music, and ritual, this shared worship time will ground us in the theme Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere and prepare our hearts and spirits for the work ahead.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

General Session I

ET 4:30 PM–6 PM CT 3:30 PM–5 PM

MT 2:30 PM–4 PM PT 1:30 PM–3 PM

 *Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson; Bill Young*

General Sessions, guided by co-moderators Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Bill Young, are where the essential business of the Unitarian Universalist Association unfolds. Open to all via live streaming, these sessions provide a platform for discussing, shaping, and advancing the shared mission and values of the UUA. From voting on key issues to hearing reports from Association leaders, the General Sessions reflect a spirit of collaborative leadership and commitment to Unitarian Universalist principles. Join us in witnessing and participating in the impactful work that drives our faith forward.



Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson



Bill Young

MONDAY, JUNE 15

General Session II

ET 12 PM–3 PM CT 11 AM–2 PM

MT 10 AM–1 PM PT 9 AM–12 PM


 *Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson; Bill Young*

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Congregational Study/Action Issue Workshop: Imagining Abolition

ET 3:30 PM–4:45 PM CT 2:30 PM–3:45 PM

MT 1:30 PM–2:45 PM PT 12:30 PM–1:45 PM

 *Commission on Social Witness*

From the founding of this country, coercion and punishment have been used as a way to enforce compliance. This can be seen from parenting, schooling and the way business is conducted. Our faith calls us to critique the theology of punishment that has become so prominent. This begins when we start to imagine other ways to live that are, perhaps, idealistic, but that hold the seeds of how we move into a loving, healing, holistic practice of living in the world.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

General Session III

ET 5 PM–6:30 PM CT 4 PM–5:30 PM

MT 3 PM–4:30 PM PT 2 PM–3:30 PM

 *Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson; Bill Young*

MONDAY, JUNE 15

UUA Budget Hearing: Fiscal Year 2026–2027

ET 7:30 PM–8:30 PM CT 6:30 PM–7:30 PM

MT 5:30 PM–6:30 PM PT 4:30 PM–5:30 PM


Participants are invited to join the UUA Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, which provides an opportunity to hear about the proposed budget and ask clarifying questions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

General Session IV

ET 12 PM–3 PM CT 11 AM–2 PM

MT 10 AM–1 PM PT 9 AM–12 PM

 *Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson; Bill Young*

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*Rev. Kimberly Quinn
Johnson*




Bill Young

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Congregational Study/Action Issue Workshop: Abolition in Practice

ET 3:30 PM–4:45 PM CT 2:30 PM–3:45 PM

MT 1:30 PM–2:45 PM PT 12:30 PM–1:45 PM

 *Commission on Social Witness*


This workshop will include a panel of leaders who practice abolition in its many variations. Panelists will discuss abolition as a spiritual practice, abolition as seen in Minneapolis, abolition in police and prison settings, and how abolition intersects with the way we approach environmental justice.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

General Session V

ET 5 PM–6:30 PM CT 4 PM–5:30 PM

MT 3 PM–4:30 PM PT 2 PM–3:30 PM

 *Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson; Bill Young*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

FILM SCREENING: *If I Could Stay / Si Pudiera Quedarme*

ET 7 PM–8:30 PM CT 6 PM–7:30 PM

MT 5 PM–6:30 PM PT 4 PM–5:30 PM

Join us for a special screening of *If I Could Stay / Si Pudiera Quedarme*, an intimate PBS documentary following two undocumented mothers who seek sanctuary in local churches rather than face deportation and separation from their families.

Filed over eight years, the documentary shares the stories of Jeanette Vizguerra and Ingrid Encalada Latorre as they navigate fear, resilience, faith, and community organizing while living in sanctuary. The film also explores how Unitarian Universalist and other faith communities wrestle with what it means to put their values into action in support of immigrant justice.

The film includes bilingual English and Spanish captions.


Learn more about the film at [If I Could Stay / Si Pudiera Quedarme](https://www.pbs.org/documentary/if-i-could-stay-si-pudiera-quedaarme/)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Sanctuary Today: A Discussion on *If I Could Stay / Si Pudiera Quedarme*

ET 8:30 PM–9:30 PM CT 7:30 PM–8:30 PM

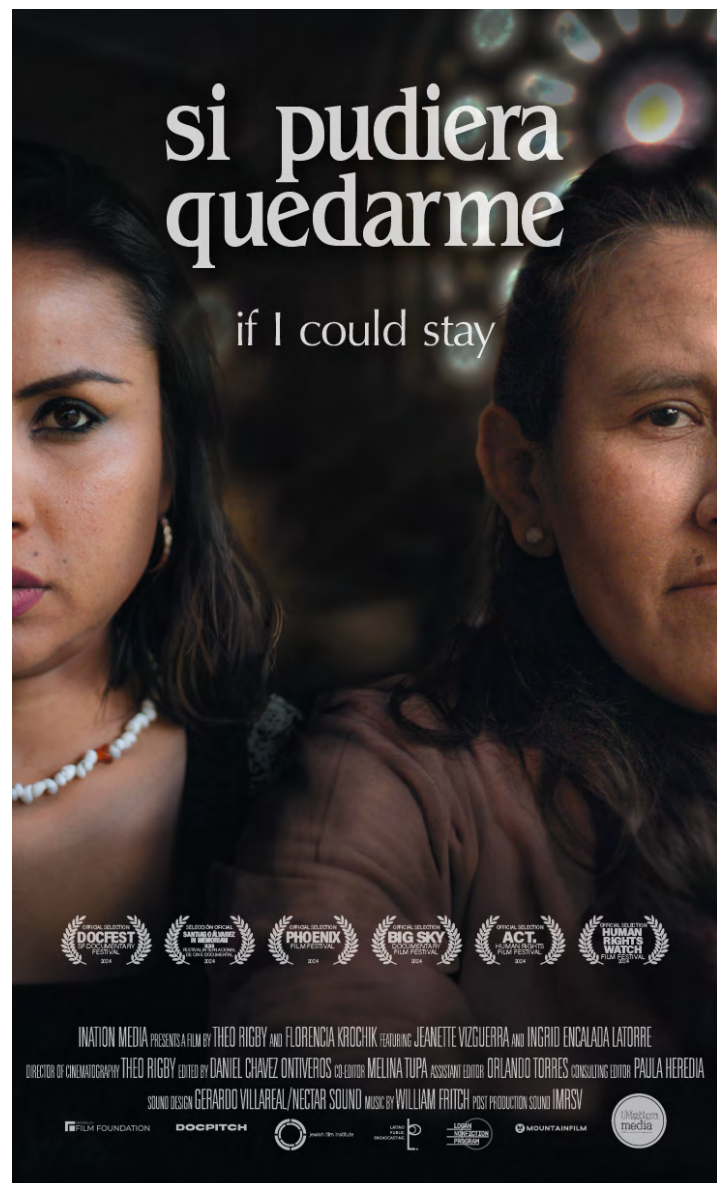
MT 6:30 PM–7:30 PM PT 5:30 PM–6:30 PM

 *Jeanette Vizguerra; Rev. Deborah Lee; Rev. John Fife; Theo Rigby*

Following the screening, join a live conversation exploring how faith communities and immigrant organizers across the country are reimagining the meaning of sanctuary today.

The discussion will feature voices connected to the film and the broader immigrant justice movement, including impacted community members, faith leaders, and organizers.

Confirmed panelists include Jeanette Vizguerra, immigrant rights organizer and protagonist featured in the film; Rev. Deborah Lee, Co-Executive Director of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity; Rev. John Fife of Southside Presbyterian Church; and Theo Rigby, co-director of the film.



General Assembly 2026 Schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Juneteenth: A Time to Reflect & Sing

ET 1 PM–1:45 PM CT 12 PM–12:45 PM

MT 11 AM–11:45 AM PT 10 AM–10:45 AM

 *Rev. Verdis Robinson*

We begin again by honoring a sacred moment of memory, liberation, and truth-telling. This reflection invites us into a space of spiritual connection where we hold history honestly while recognizing the ongoing work of justice and freedom. Through story and communal singing, we remember the unfinished work of liberation in a faith that calls us toward collective healing, courage, and hope.



Rev. Verdis Robinson

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Synergy Worship

ET 2 PM–3 PM CT 1 PM–2 PM

MT 12 PM–1 PM PT 11 AM–12 PM

Synergy at General Assembly 2026 will be a pre-recorded multigenerational worship video inviting all of us to witness what young people are living, questioning, creating, and discovering in this moment. This special Synergy celebrates the stories, insight, and gifts that youth, emerging adults, and young adults bring to our shared faith. Created by the Lifespan Faith Engagement Office in collaboration with youth groups and individual contributors, the video service is built from creative and traditional worship contributions from across our Association. Join us as we ask: What stories are Unitarian Universalist young people carrying right now?

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Weaving Together: (Re)Convening Worship

ET 8 PM–9:30 PM CT 7 PM–8:30 PM

MT 6 PM–7:30 PM PT 5 PM–6:30 PM

 *Rev. Katie Romano Griffin; Rev. Rachel Lonberg*

As we gather in many places, we celebrate how we are meeting this moment. With sensitivity, creativity, conviction, growth, gratitude and love we live our faith and weave and re-weave the connections that sustain us. Let us renew our commitment to the work ahead with story, song, and ritual.



Rev. Katie Romano Griffin



Rev. Rachel Lonberg

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Saturday Morning Worship: From Louisville to You, Wherever You Are

ET 8:30 AM–9:15 AM CT 7:30 AM–8:15 AM

MT 6:30 AM–7:15 AM PT 5:30 AM–6:15 AM

 *Rev. Bruce Beisner; Rev. Liz Weber*

Let's gather in our homes, churches, and the Galt House to greet the day. As we come together to Meet the Moment, we honor where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Come hear stories from Louisville that help us all reflect on our own paths.



Rev. Bruce Beisner



Rev. Liz Weber

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Meet the Moment: Opening Program

ET 11 AM–12 PM CT 10 AM–11 AM

MT 9 AM–10 AM PT 8 AM–9 AM

After an engaging morning worship, our Meet the Moment programming will start with a dynamic opening panel of leaders sharing reflections about the dynamics and realities that our faith is navigating in these unprecedented times. You'll hear compelling stories about the challenges our communities and congregations are facing, as well as the innovative, courageous ways Unitarian Universalists are showing up in their contexts to embody our values and fight for justice and thriving for all people.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Meet the Moment: Wave Cohorts

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

Following a break, the centerpiece of our day will be a three-hour shared experience in which all participants will have the opportunity to engage one of the core practices of the Meet the Moment framework: Wave Cohorts. Unlike workshops or webinars, Wave Cohorts offer an embodied and dynamic experience of relationship-building, meaning-making, and faithful discernment about what our shared UU values are calling us to do, collectively, in response to the complex and challenging realities we are navigating. Whether you are participating from home, gathering with others in one of our Community Gatherings or Satellite Sites, or coming to our Studio Site in Louisville, KY, you'll be able to choose from a variety of Wave Cohorts, each diving deep into faithful discernment related to a range of critical issues faced by our UU congregations and communities. Wave Cohort topics range from the future of religious education to creative staffing to faithful organizing for democracy and more. We hope you will pick a topic that speaks to your spirit and join with others across congregations and communities who are also figuring out how to meet this moment together with courage, integrity, and skill.

All Wave Cohorts will happen LIVE at General Assembly 2026. They are open to all registered GA participants and will be hosted online on Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

- **Choosing Love: Exploring Compassion in a Hurting World**
- **Constellations of Religious Education****
- **Dreaming Into Possibilities: Innovation in Unitarian Universalism***
- **Fat Liberation in a Time of Body Fascism**
- **Ministry to Meet the Moment***
- **Multigenerational Worship: Connection to Spirituality, Identity & Each Other**
- **Raising Children in the Midst of Collapse**
- **Staffing Sustainably and Faithfully**
- **The Minneapolis Moment: Lessons in Multifaith Organizing**
- **Virtual and Hybrid Ministry: Care and Connection**
- **We Are Builders: Organizing Movement Infrastructure with Side With Love**

*This Wave Cohort will be happening in-person at the UUA Studio Site in Louisville, KY.


**This Wave Cohort is open to professional religious educators, including those curious about LREDA membership.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Choosing Love: Exploring Compassion in a Hurting World

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

 *Facilitated by Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner and May Engelhardt*

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

How do we love a bruised and broken world with broken hearts? This moment calls for a deep, engaged, and sustainable compassion for self and others. We will explore the spiritual and cognitive strategies we have and those we seek to care for ourselves and others and live our shared values in these challenging times. This Wave Cohort's facilitators bring co-facilitation experience from years of working with communities to deepen resilience and expand compassion. Participants will build a community of understanding and practice that helps us explore spiritual resources to meet this moment with love and compassion!



Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Constellations of Religious Education

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

 *Facilitated by Mx. Katharine Childs and CB Beal*

Virtual, on Zoom, open to professional religious educators, including those curious about LREDA membership

We are navigating major changes in the religious education landscape across Unitarian Universalism, with our congregations sailing the choppy waters of budget constrictions, increased program needs, and as many unique challenges as we have communities. Religious educators need a space to be witnessed by their colleagues, to have their commitment to those in their care nurtured and affirmed, and to have their big imaginations given space to seek the ways forward. Join us as we chart the beauty of our constellations of religious education.



Mx. Katharine Childs




CB Beal

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Dreaming Into Possibilities: Innovation in Unitarian Universalism

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

 Facilitated by Rev. Aisha Ansano and Rev. JeKaren Bell

In-person at the UUA Studio Site in Louisville, KY, open to all Studio Site participants

As the world continues to shift and change, people are yearning for community, care, and connection. Unitarian Universalism is well-equipped to meet those needs, both within and outside of congregations. There have always been many ways to be Unitarian Universalist, and we invite you to dream into the possibilities of new forms and manifestations of our faith. Together, we will explore past and present innovations in UUism, and dream collectively about what might be possible now.



Rev. Aisha Ansano



Rev. JeKaren Bell

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Fat Liberation in a Time of Body Fascism

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

 Facilitated by Rev. Ian W. Riddell and Rev. Dr. Jamie W. Johnson

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

Fat Liberation in a Time of Body Fascism will introduce the concept of fat liberation and connect it to our UU values. Participants will explore historical and modern body fascism, healthism, and implicit bias at the intersection of bodies, UU theology, and social justice. After a grounding in fat liberation, participants will work on incorporating new concepts into their daily lives and their congregational cultures. This program is appropriate for both people in larger bodies and their allies. Breakout groups will work both separately and together during the cohort to address personal, communal, and larger political issues.



Rev. Ian W. Riddell

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Ministry to Meet the Moment

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Rev. Ashley Horan, Carey McDonald, Rev. Kierstin Homblette Allen, and Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd

In-person at the UUA Studio Site in Louisville, KY, open to all Studio Site participants

This Wave Cohort will build a container within which to explore what nimble, skilled, grounded ministry looks like within the current global, religious, and political landscape. Led by senior UUA Leadership who are deeply engaged with supporting and leading strategic, values-rooted responses to these times, this Wave will engage participants in developing shared understanding of the shared ministry context we are navigating, the most urgent needs and opportunities for religious professionals and lay leadership in these times, and how our values compel us to show up with both impact and integrity in this moment.



Rev. Ashley Horan



Carey McDonald



Rev. Kierstin Homblette Allen



Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Multigenerational Worship: Connection to Spirituality, Identity & Each Other

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Rev. Mykal Slack and Adena Dannouf

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

In a world of uncertainty, worship is the space where many find time to recharge and refill their spirit. Worship is also often the space where Unitarian Universalists of many ages learn to be UUs. Offering meaningful worship for people of all ages and abilities requires more than just saying “All are welcome”. It calls us to shape those spaces to BE welcoming by examining the elements and purposes of worship in new ways. Join this exploration of worship and how to connect all ages to their own spirituality, to our faith as a whole, and to one another.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Raising Children in the Midst of Collapse

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Rev. Sara Goodman and Taylor Giordano

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

Parents, and other folks who help raise children and youth, are in a tough spot right now. Trying to balance teaching our young people about world events, and how to navigate the world grounded in Unitarian Universalist values, while also wanting to shield them from the horrors that surround us. How can we meet the moment in striking the right balance of preparation for the future without scarring them for life?

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Staffing Sustainably and Faithfully

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Jan Gartner

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

Many congregations are facing the challenge of aligning their mission, priorities, and staffing with their financial realities. This Wave Cohort is for leaders who are eager to explore creative, values-driven approaches to finding sustainable models. We'll delve into staffing history, trends, leadership frameworks, and the complex choices facing congregations today. Explore options, imagine “small bet” experiments, and learn from one another’s experiences. While much of our focus will be on sustainability of finances, we’ll also consider sustainability for humans, i.e., work/life balance, reasonable job scopes, manageable volunteer responsibilities, backup plans, etc.



Jan Gartner

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

The Minneapolis Moment: Lessons in Multifaith Organizing

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Steering Committee Members from Multifaith Anti-Racism, Change, & Healing (MARCH): Liz Loeb, Jessica Intermill, Rev. Terri Burnor, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

Faith leaders and their communities were an integral part of the decisive pushback against ICE during Operation Metro Surge in Minneapolis, modeling for the world what robust, values-rooted, multifaith organizing can look like in the face of authoritarian violence. Join the leaders of MARCH: Multifaith Anti-Racism, Change, & Healing — conveners of the historic call that brought nearly 700 clergy to Minneapolis in January — to hear stories from the frontlines and dive deeply into the possibilities for transformative multifaith organizing to resist fascism and build a more liberated world.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Virtual and Hybrid Ministry: Care and Connection

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Rev. Patrice Curtis, Rev. Chip Rousch, Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig, and Rev. Dr. Alice Diebel

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

This Wave Cohort will explore virtual and hybrid ministry as faithful, effective responses to a growing reality in Unitarian Universalism: some congregations cannot find onsite ministers, while some ministers are ready to serve virtually or in hybrid models. We will bring together ministers and congregational members to reflect on their lived experience and to identify emerging best practices that can foster strong relationships between a minister and congregation and support volunteer leadership, as examples. Grounded in UU values, participants are invited to expand our denominational imagination and embrace new possibilities for meaningful ministerial leadership.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

We Are Builders: Organizing Movement Infrastructure with Side With Love

ET 1:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 12:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 11:30 AM–2:30 PM PT 10:30 AM–1:30 PM



Facilitated by Nicole Pressley and the Organizing Strategy Team

Virtual, on Zoom, open to all

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations are active in social justice work, especially mobilizations like No Kings. But is our activism building the organized networks and organized resources we need to respond to collapse? And at the same time, strengthening democratic practices in our communities? This Wave Cohort will explore this moment in Unitarian Universalist congregations, as we work to respond to escalating fascism, growing economic instability, and constant attacks against marginalized communities, while also balancing the work of institution and network building to create a different future.



Nicole Pressley

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Erasure: Reclaiming Language and Reimagining Liberation

ET 2 PM–3 PM CT 1 PM–2 PM

MT 12 PM–1 PM PT 11 AM–12 PM



Crystal Simone Smith

In this semiquincentennial moment, we reflect on history and liberation on paper versus liberation in our lived experience as well as the foundational documents that reveal the erasure of certain groups. Through erasure poetry we can reimagine Freedom for All by examining the structures of power that determine who is fully recognized and whose voices are heard.

Crystal Simone Smith is an award-winning poet and educator whose work explores the human condition and social change. She is the author of *Common Sense: An Erasure*, *Runagate: Songs of the Freedom Bound*, and *Dark Testament*. Smith teaches in the Thompson Writing Program at Duke University.




Crystal Simone Smith

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Courage and Care: A Conversation with Rev. Liz Walker and Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson

ET 3:30 PM–4:30 PM CT 2:30 PM–3:30 PM

MT 1:30 PM–2:30 PM PT 12:30 PM–1:30 PM

 *Rev. Liz Walker; Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson*

In a time marked by disruption and possibility, this conversation invites reflection on how communities of faith respond with courage, care, and conviction. Grounded in lived experience, Rev. Liz Walker and Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson explore how congregations can hold both trauma and transformation while living their values in the world. Together, they invite participants into shared meaning-making about resilience, healing, and faithful response in this moment.

Rev. Liz Walker is the founding director of the CAN WE TALK... Network, a nationwide initiative supporting healing from trauma and grief through storytelling and community connection. She is also known for her groundbreaking journalism career as the first African American woman to anchor a Boston weeknight television newscast. Rev. Walker is the author of *No One Left Alone: How Community Helps Us Heal*.

Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson serves as minister of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. A justice-centered minister, spiritual director, and retreat leader, her work focuses on sacred activism, trauma-informed spiritual practice, and personal and collective transformation grounded in compassion, hope, and radical love.



Rev. Liz Walker



Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Meet the Moment: Wrap-Up Session

ET 5 PM–6 PM CT 4 PM–5 PM

MT 3 PM–4 PM PT 2 PM–3 PM


Finally, we will re-gather for a shared closing, synthesizing some of our learnings from the day's experiences and previewing the next phase of Meet the Moment, which will support UUs in moving from building shared analysis and discerning what we are being called to do toward crafting solid, courageous strategies for implementing our ideas and forging the future together.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Ware Lecture

ET 8 PM–9 PM CT 7 PM–8 PM

MT 6 PM–7 PM PT 5 PM–6 PM

 *Mariann Edgar Budde*

The Ware Lecture is a treasured General Assembly tradition that invites prophetic voices to speak to our faith and our times. This year's Ware Lecturer, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, will challenge and inspire us to live more fully into our values, open ourselves to transformation, and take bold action for justice and liberation.

Mariann Edgar Budde serves as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, overseeing congregations and Episcopal schools in Washington, D.C., and four Maryland counties. The first woman elected to this role, she also chairs the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, which stewards the ministries of the Washington National Cathedral and its schools.

A passionate advocate for spiritual growth, justice, and mercy, Bishop Budde believes all people are called to strive for peace and respect the dignity of every human being. Before becoming bishop in 2011, she served for 18 years as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis.

Bishop Budde earned a B.A. in history from the University of Rochester and both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Theological Seminary. She is the author of several books, including *How We Learn to Be Brave*. When not working, she enjoys bicycling, cooking for friends, and spending time with family.



Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Community Sing

ET 10:30 AM–11 AM CT 9:30 AM–10 AM

MT 8:30 AM–9 AM PT 7:30 AM–8 AM

Begin Sunday by lifting your voice in song with fellow Unitarian Universalists. This joyful gathering invites all participants to join in beloved hymns and spirited music that connect us across distance and difference. No experience is needed, just bring your voice and your heart.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Sunday Worship

ET 11 AM–12:30 PM CT 10 AM–11:30 AM

MT 9 AM–10:30 AM PT 8 AM–9:30 AM

 *Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu*

Join us for this powerful and communal experience – the largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists in worship. We have spent this week collaborating across hybrid spaces. We have been brought to tears by grief and righteous rage, and have been lifted by hope and joy. Sunday's closing worship invites us to pause in the gap, one breath deep, between what we have shared together and the faithful action ahead. Here, at this threshold, we practice the spiritual discipline of Love.

The Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu serves the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene. Born in Seoul and raised in Ohio, she found Unitarian Universalism as a young adult and was drawn to a faith that honors both the tough mind and the tender heart. Rev. Ryu has served in parish ministry and healthcare chaplaincy, specializing in oncology care, and this year marks the 20th anniversary of her ordination.



Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu

Weaving Together: (Re)Convening Worship**Friday, June 19, 2026****Order of Service**

Opening Song	“Hold Everybody Up” Melanie DeMore <i>Led by Gabe Barbieri, with Liz Ellsmore on piano, and musicians</i>
Call to Worship	Welcoming the Waters <i>Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu, and Mary Alm</i>
We Sing	STLT #398 “Gathered Here” <i>Led by Gabe Barbieri and musicians</i>
Reading	“As We Gather” <i>Bets Wienecke, read by Maria Utti McCabe</i>
Chalice Lighting	<i>UU Religious Professional of Color</i>
Ritual	“Beginning the Weave” <i>Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel, and Mary Alm</i>
Reflection	“Holding Grief” <i>Rev. Rachel Lonberg</i>
Resistance Song	“Hold On” <i>Heidi Wilson, led by Gabe Barbieri</i>
Pastoral Prayer	“A Prayer for this Moment” <i>Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel</i>
Freedom Song	“Eyes On the Prize” <i>led by Rev. Verdis LeVar Robinson</i>
Reflection	“La Red” <i>Rev. Katie Romano Griffin</i>
We Sing	“Somos el Barco” <i>Lorre Wyatt, led by Gabe Barbieri and musicians</i>
Offering	Living Tradition Fund <i>Maria Utti McCade</i>
Offertory	“Together We Roam” <i>Alexia Chellun, led by Gabe Barbieri</i>
Closing Words	<i>Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Rev. Katie Romano Griffin</i>
Closing Song	STJ #1017 “Building a New Way” <i>led by Gabe Barbieri and musicians</i>

Additional Credits Deep gratitude to the planning team, Revs. Verdis, Katie, Jen, and Rachel, and Gabe, for our weekly Zoom calls.

Order of Service

Saturday Morning Worship: From Louisville to You, Wherever You Are **Saturday, June 20, 2026** **Order of Service**

Welcome Rev. Bruce Beisner and Rev. Liz Weber

Lighting the Chalice and Black Lives Matter Candle Rev. Bruce Beisner and Rev. Liz Weber, with words by bell hooks

Grounding Rev. Liz Weber

Song: “Donna Nobis Pacem” traditional, presented by the First Unitarian Church of Louisville choir under the direction of Ethan McCollum

Reflection: A Louisville Moment from the Civil Rights Movement Rev. Liz Weber

Song: “There is a Spirit” by Heidi Singer, presented by the All Peoples Choir under the direction of Dr. Katie Calcamuggio Donner and accompanied by Dr. Christopher Brody

Reflection: A Louisville Moment from 2020 Linette Lowe

Song: “New Way” written and arranged by Mark Burrows, presented by the All Peoples Choir under the direction of Dr. Katie Calcamuggio Donner and accompanied by Dr. Christopher Brody

Reflection: This Moment Rev. Bruce Beisner

Prayer Rev. Liz Weber and Rev. Bruce Beisner

Song: “The Fire of Commitment” by Rev. Jason Shelton and Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, presented by the First Unitarian Church of Louisville choir under the direction of Ethan McCollum

Closing Blessing Rev. Liz Weber and Rev. Bruce Beisner

Gratitude Deep gratitude to Brody Brennick for videography and editing, and to Jim Fry, Alex Quintela, and Trish Ramey for videography. Abundant gratitude to Ethan McCollum, Katie Calcamuggio Donner, and the choirs for today’s music. Reverent gratitude to Linette Lowe for holding and sharing memories.

UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday, June 21, 2026
Order of Service

Opening Song	“I Choose Love” Mark Miller <i>Led by Gabe Barbieri, with Liz Ellsmore on piano</i>
Call to Worship	Calling in the Waters <i>Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu with Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Mary Alm, Perry Montrose</i>
Chalice Lighting	<i>David Oaks</i> <i>video editing by Kat Johnson</i>
We Sing	SJT #1051 “We Are” <i>Dr. Ysaye Barnwell</i> <i>Led by Gabe Barbieri, musicians</i>
Poetry	“Summons” <i>Aurora Levins Morales, read by Grayson, video editing by Kat Johnson</i>
Sermon	“The Gap One Breath Deep” <i>Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu</i>
Singing Meditation	“Be Still and Breathe” <i>Loretta Notareschi, led by Gabe Barbieri</i>
Sermon	“Love Is” <i>Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu</i>
Prayer	<i>Rev. Tania Marquez</i> <i>“We Will Carry Each Other” by Soren Austenfeld, Gabe Barbieri and Carl Kennedy, piano.</i>
Time for All Ages	“What Does Love Look Like” <i>Perry Montrose, with the members of the All Souls UU Congregation in New London</i>
Sermon	“Disciples of Love” <i>Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu</i>
We Sing	“We Walk in Love” <i>Deanna Witkowski, led by Gabe Barbieri</i>
Offering	Side With Love
Offertory	“Resilient” <i>by Rising Appalachia, Second Unitarian</i>

Order of Service

Church of Chicago Choir, led by Gabe Barbieri

Benediction

Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu

Closing Gavel

*UUA Co-Moderators, Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson
and Bill Young*

Closing Song

“This Joy”
Shirley Caesar
led by Gabe Barbieri


Additional Credits

Deep gratitude to the planning team, Revs. Verdis, Katie, and Rachel, and Gabe, for our weekly Zoom calls. Thanks as well to Melanie and Poppy for reading my drafts and to the UUCE staff for their patience. Finally, my gratitude to Rev. Sofia Betancourt for this invitation and for leading us in love.

GA EduCenter Program Guide

The GA EduCenter, available in the GA app powered by Whova, offers a range of programs you can engage with throughout General Assembly. Many are on-demand videos you can watch anytime, and several also include live webinars where you can connect with presenters and other participants in real time.

Program formats are indicated with the following icons:

 On-Demand Video

 Video + Live Webinar

 Live Webinar

 Presenter(s)

 Organization

Programs in this directory are organized in two sections:

- On-Demand Videos are listed alphabetically and can be accessed at any time when the GA app opens on May 29.
- Live Webinars are listed in chronological order to help you plan your schedule.


Some programs include both an on-demand video and a live webinar and will appear in both sections.


All webinar times are listed in Eastern Time, with Pacific, Mountain, and Central times included for convenience. Estimated durations are provided for planning purposes.


Most live webinars will be available as recordings in the EduCenter. Some sessions, however, will only be available live. Please check individual listings for details.

We invite you to explore, learn, and connect in the ways that work best for you.

AI Tools for Congregations: Ethics and Practical Demonstrations

 Video + Live Webinar

 Also offered live: Wednesday, 6/17 · 2:30 PM PT / 3:30 PM MT / 4:30 PM CT / 5:30 PM ET (90 minutes)


 *Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins, Cordell Sloan*


What if you had a tireless partner for research, content creation, leadership support, and communications? Watch AI powered tools in action across real congregational work. Learn what’s possible with LLMs and deep research and navigate the ethics—copyright, privacy, environmental impact—to use these tools responsibly in your congregation’s ministry.



Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins

American Revolution: Work in Progress

 On-Demand Video

 *Dr. Daniel McKanan, Rev. Michael Tino, Rev. Bob Murphy, Dr. Fran Quigley*

 *UUs for a Just Economic Community*

Meet the moment. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Congressional elections are scheduled for November. In this program, scholars and activists discuss the next six months for Unitarian Universalists. What’s needed? What’s possible? Resources provided for congregations and clusters. Terry Lowman moderator.



Dr. Daniel McKanan





Rev. Michael Tino




Rev. Bob Murphy

Art as Worship FOR ALL

 On-Demand Video

 *Sharon Werth, Amelia Brown, Malka Kutnick, Ken Shilling*

 *PBUUC Chalice Dancers*

We Create, We Rise! Enjoy the video of our day-long event. Participants experienced 2 or 3 workshops (Choral, Dance, Visual or Drumming), to create an immersive project inspired by Batya Levine’s song “We Rise”. The collaboration was presented the next day at PBUUC Worship, inspiring you to worship with art!



Sharon Werth



Amelia Brown




Malka Kutnick



Ken Shilling

Benevolent Intentions, Imperial Consequences

 On-Demand Video

 *Rev. Dr. Fredric Muir, Rev. Morgan McLean, Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn*

 *UUA’s Global Connections Office*

While some US political leaders openly revive imperial ambitions, Unitarian Universalists must reckon with our own role in shaping America’s imperial past. This panel examines the religious values UU colonizers carried into US expansion—and addresses whether those values persist, evolve, or continue to haunt us.



Rev. Dr. Fredric Muir



Rev. Morgan McLean



Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer



Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

Beyond Capitalism Toward Liberation A Faithful Case Ecosocialism




-  On-Demand Video
-  Rev. Gregory Stevens
-  UU EcoSocialist Network

This workshop exposes the existential and spiritual crisis at the heart of climate collapse: capitalism. Drawing from diverse faith traditions and Marxist analysis, it argues collective liberation-demands ending exploitation, organizing working class power, and building an ecosocialist world rooted in care, solidarity, and collective flourishing.



Rev. Gregory Stevens

Conrad Wright: Formative Legacy, Appreciation and Constructive Critique

-  On-Demand Video
-  Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, Rev. Dr. Stephanie May, Elizabeth Foster, Dr. Daniel McKanan
-  UU Studies Network

The 2025 Conrad Wright Lecture turns the lens on Wright's own work. How did Wright's positions on Unitarian and Universalist origins and history shape our movements understanding of congregations and their power in association? As we embrace a vision of collective liberation, do we need to review our past?



Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs







Elizabeth Foster



Dr. Daniel McKanan

Climate Justice Movement Chaplaincy Liturgies for this Moment

-  Video + Live Webinar
-  Also offered live: Friday, 6/19 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (90 minutes)
-  Rev. Lauren Levwood, Chelsea McCoy, Swamini Adityananda Saraswati, Rev. Karyn Marsh
-  UU Ministry for Earth

Climate Justice Movement Chaplaincy provides spiritual and emotional support for activists, advocates, or anyone impacted by climate disruption. In this workshop, UU Ministry for Earth's movement chaplains present a simple liturgical framework that can be reproduced to support those who are experiencing climate despair or the aftermath of natural disasters.



Rev. Lauren Levwood



Chelsea McCoy






Swamini Adityananda Saraswati



Rev. Karyn Marsh

Disability: Lived Experience in a Living Tradition

-  On-Demand Video
-  Rev. Barbara Meyers, Shelly Rohe
-  EqUUal Access

This session previews a Skinner House book, *Beloved As We Are*, sharing insights from disabled UUs on how disability shapes their lives, spirituality, and experiences in our communities. We'll explore themes from the book and show how disability justice is woven into UU values, guiding how we live our faith.





Rev. Barbara Meyers



Shelly Rohe

Global Worship: Finding Hope Together

 Video + Live Webinar

 Also offered live: Tuesday, 6/16 · 7 AM PT / 8 AM MT 9 AM CT / 10 AM ET (60 minutes)

 *Rev. Morgan McLean, Rev. Zsolt Elekes, Carol Maciel, Juban Lamar*

 *U/U Global Network*

This worship service brings together Unitarian and Unitarian Universalists from 6 continents, celebrating the unique traditions that make up our global faith. You are invited to join this service to widen and to deepen the ways you experience your own Unitarian Universalism, and to find hope in these challenging times.



Rev. Morgan McLean



Rev. Zsolt Elekes




Carol Maciel



Juban Lamar

Governance and Ministry: Connected But Not Stuck

 Video + Live Webinar

 Wednesday, 6/17 · 10:30 AM PT / 11:30 AM MT / 12:30 PM CT / 1:30 PM ET (60 minutes)


 *Rev. Dan Hotchkiss*

Governance and Ministry by Dan Hotchkiss helps leaders choose a mission-guided direction and act on it. The new, updated third edition speaks to the current needs of congregations, helping boards and staff to stay connected without getting stuck. Dan will share what he has learned consulting widely across North America.



Rev. Dan Hotchkiss

Grow Administrative Capacity and Liberate Energy for Mission

 On-Demand Video

 *Jan Gartner, Terri Pepper, Katie Watkins*

 *UUA*

How can every congregation fulfill their administrative needs confidently? The Growing Administrative Capacity wave cohort leaders will share approaches to addressing this common pain point. Solid administration is a way of living UU values and a form of risk management, providing a necessary foundation for all congregational programs and services.



Jan Gartner





Terri Pepper



Katie Watkins

Heart Songs & Circle Songs (community singing gathering)

 On-Demand Video

 *Heather Pierson, Rev. Bernice Martin*

Heart Songs & Circle Songs is an ongoing community singing project fostering connection everywhere. We invite participants of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to join us as we share and teach original songs, chants, and rounds, affirming the principles of peace, joy, resilience, compassion, justice-making, community, healing, and deep listening.




Heather Pierson




Rev. Bernice Martin

If You Build It, They Will Come

 Video + Live Webinar

 Also offered live: Friday, 6/19 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (60 minutes)

 *Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe, Susan Jennings, Bethany Giammalvo*

 *UU Society of Fairhaven*

Since we began hosting a Children’s Worship Area in the Sanctuary, multi-generational Second Hours, and Village Nights, our attendance of children and families has expanded fourfold. We’ve discovered that when you center families in the congregation, you build your future. Come hear about our journey, lessons learned, and next steps.



Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe



Susan Jennings




Bethany Giammalvo

Lay-led? MultiGenerational Embodied Worship: How Tos and Benefits

 On-Demand Video

 *Marianne Jew, Meredith Juchniewicz*


 *East Suburban UU Church*

Our lay-led (no paid staff) congregation of 35 started monthly multi-platform services where everyone stays together, and the experience is as interactive/embodied as possible. Since September, we’ve attracted new families and individuals, and attendance and congregant satisfaction is up. Connect with us to learn how this might work for you.



Marianne Jew

Meaningful Social Media for Busy Congregations

 On-Demand Video

 *Beth Taylor*


 *UUA*

This program explores social media as a form of ministry and community-building, drawing on practices used across UUA platforms. It highlights relational, values-centered approaches that extend congregational life and care—showing how meaningful digital presence is possible even with limited time, experience, or resources.



Beth Taylor

Meeting the Moment with the Commission on Appraisal

 On-Demand Video


 *Commission on Appraisal*


The Commission on Appraisal is seeking input from around the UUA, on how we can best meet the current moment and those to come! Meet the current members of the Commission, hear about our mission, and tell us how we can best serve your congregation and our Association.



Commission on Appraisal

Meeting the Moment with the Disabled Community

 On-Demand Video

 *Gretchen Maune, Rev. Dr. Kimi Floyd Reisch, Kaden Colton*

 UUA

Last Fall, UPLIFT Access asked Disabled Unitarian Universalists from across the faith to gather together in a Wave Cohort. Deep discussions lead to a variety of answers for where we're at and what we need, and you can learn about what we determined in this presentation.




Gretchen Maune



Rev. Dr. Kimi Floyd Reisch

Meeting this Moment with Stewardship for Us

 On-Demand Video

 *Rachel Maxwell, Kay Crider, Mark Ewert, Jeff Wickow*

 *Stewardship for Us*

In this short video we explore the basics of healthy congregational stewardship today. What's right for this moment. We talk about healthy finances, generosity, strategic financial planning, capital campaigns and planned giving. What do you need to be thinking about and how might Stewardship for Us help your congregation?



Rachel Maxwell



Kay Crider





Mark Ewert



Jeff Wickow

Multimedia in Worship for Inspiration and Inclusion

 Video + Live Webinar

 Also offered live: Tuesday, 6/16 · 4 PM PT / 5 PM MT / 6 PM CT / 7 PM ET (60 minutes)

 *JD Stillwater*


 *JDStillwater.Earth*


When the spoken word is accompanied by captivating visual imagery, it's more engaging for everyone AND more accessible for the neurodiverse and members with varied learning styles. We will cover the basics needed to get you started: software, display methods, public domain sources (no copyright), and some visual techniques.



JD Stillwater

Mutual Aid: Love, Equity, and Transformation

 On-Demand Video

 *Rev. Kevin Mann, Weyoke Davis, Denise Moorehead, Rev. Bob Murphy*

 *UUs for a Just Economic Community*

Mutual aid is a liberating spiritual practice older than organized religion. It brings individuals out of their loneliness to raise consciousness, to heal relationships, and to find a better way of living. This discussion connects liberal religion to mutual aid organizing. Information provided for congregations and clusters. Terry Lowman moderator.



Rev. Kevin Mann







Denise Moorehead



Rev. Bob Murphy

New Resources from Side With Love

-  Video + Live Webinar
-  Also offered live: Tuesday, 6/16 · 2 PM PT / 3 PM MT / 4 PM CT / 5 PM ET (90 minutes)
-  *Rev. Brandan Robertson, Audra Friend, Rev. Ranwa Hammamy*
-  UUA

Side With Love has new resources and new website to make sure every UU has access to the tools they need to respond to this moment. In this interactive workshop you'll get introduced to new tools and resources that will strengthen your organizing work and put them into practice.



Rev. Brandan Robertson






Audra Friend



Rev. Ranwa Hammamy

Palestine 101 and Intro to Palestine 201

-  On-Demand Video
-  *Dana Ashrawi, Mimi Budnick, Rev. DL Helfer*
-  UUJME

UUJME has been offering Palestine 101 online education sessions for some time, even more in the past few years. This webinar will also include an introduction to the more advanced (6-session) Palestine 201 curriculum. This 201 training was introduced in Spring 2026 and is planned again for Fall 2026.



Dana Ashrawi






Mimi Budnick



Rev. DL Helfer

Resonance Tunes UU Ambassadors





-  On-Demand Video
-  *Sahar Muhsin Laufman*
-  *Resonance Tunes*

What if technology could help us live our covenant more fully — listening communities into wholeness rather than surveilling their gaps? This session introduces the Resonance Steward Network: trusted UU leaders bringing trauma-informed, justice-centered tools into congregations — rooted in inherent worth, interdependence, and collective liberation.



Sahar Muhsin Laufman

Restorative Justice Works Post-Murder: A Victim's Perspective

-  Video + Live Webinar
-  Also offered live: Saturday, 6/20 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (75 minutes)
-  *Lucy Kesterson, Rev. Mel Hoover*
-  *Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, JUJustice Washington, CLF*

Immersion in the beloved community of Lucy's local UU congregation empowered her to do one of the hardest things a person can do—face and forgive a murderer, to see him as beloved. She demonstrates how sharing with her congregation prepared them to do the real work of the current CSAI.



Lucy Kesterson



Rev. Mel Hoover



Revisoning the Present: Justice, Identity, and UU Youth

Video + Live Webinar

Also offered live: Wednesday, 6/17 · 10 AM PT / 11 AM MT / 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET (30 minutes)

Robert L. Jones, Ola Akinwumi

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

This virtual workshop introduces Seeing Me in the World, a youth-led program from UU Urban Ministry where a walking tour of Roxbury, MA serves as the center. Through video, storytelling, and reflection, participants will explore how UU youth connect identity, history, and justice, and how congregations can support youth leadership.



Robert L. Jones

Sacred Cybersecurity

On-Demand Video

Rev. Lóre Stevens

UUs hold democracy and human rights sacred, which is why the erosion of privacy and emergence of constant unwarranted surveillance is a violation of our faith values. This session will raise awareness about this alarming issue and give participants clear, easy steps to take to increase their cybersecurity.



Rev. Lóre Stevens

Save the Cofan, Save the Rainforest

Video + Live Webinar

Also offered live: Friday, 6/19 · 10 AM PT / 11 AM MT 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET (60 minutes)

Dr. Deborah Novgorodoff, Danica Novgorodoff

All Peoples International Justice Committee

The Cofán, an Ecuadorean indigenous people, desperately need access to modern medicine. Staying healthy means they can protect their million-acre rainforest, among the most biodiverse in the world. Hear how this partnership is saving lives and saving the rainforest. Along the way, gain insight into our UU value of interconnectedness.



Dr. Deborah Novgorodoff



Danica Novgorodoff

Seven Miles in the Morning: Addressing Religious Trauma

Video + Live Webinar

Also offered live: Friday, 6/19 · 1 PM PT / 2 PM MT / 3 PM CT / 4 PM ET (75 minutes)



Clint Tawes

Inspired by Zora Neale Hurston's novel Their Eyes Were Watching God, this workshop offers a practical framework for rebuilding trust with individuals and groups harmed by religion. It emphasizes listening, showing up, and sustained action as essential practices of embodied allyship in UU communities.



Clint Tawes

So You Want to Organize for Trans Liberation

 On-Demand Video
 Heather Vickery, Rev. Laura Randall

Learn how to start organizing your congregation or group for trans liberation. Join the many UU congregations and other groups that have said we will resist the criminalization and erasure of our two spirit, trans and gender expansive beloveds. Get started and learn about the Pink Haven Coalition's work.






Heather Vickery



Rev. Laura Randall

Spiritual Direction in Congregational Life

 On-Demand Video
 Rev. Tandi Rogers, Dr. Mary Shelden
 UU Spiritual Directors Network

Following Elaine McArdle's 2025 UU World article, many congregations are exploring spiritual direction. This workshop explores how spiritual directors can partner with congregations to meet the moment - to nurture belonging and spiritual depth, sustain faithful witness and accountable partnership, and cultivate diverse, courageous, multi-generational leadership in our UU congregations.






Rev. Tandi Rogers



Dr. Mary Shelden

Strengthen Your Congregation to Meet the Moment

 Video + Live Webinar
 Also offered live: Friday, 6/19 · 11 AM PT / 12 PM MT / 1 PM CT / 2 PM ET (60 minutes)
 Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe, Paul Kampas

Centered around interdependence and shared power, UU congregations require substantial organizational savvy, clarity and discipline to perform well. This session introduces a whole systems approach to better help you organize and align resources for improved impact with less burnout - both key for sustainable success in challenging times.






Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe



Paul Kampas

Stringing the Pearls of Wisdom Honoring Earth Traditions

 On-Demand Video
 Jerrie Hildebrand, Dr. Susan Foster
 Covenant of UU Pagans

Celebrate over 40 years of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagan community's work to nurture a world shaped by love and grounded in justice. Explore its evolving, vibrant contributions and enduring spirit. Hear the voices of those who helped build this movement and continue to guide its transformative path.



Jerrie Hildebrand



Dr. Susan Foster

The Opposite of War Isn't Peace; It's Creation

📺 On-Demand Video

🗣️ *Jennifer Kronk Terry, Rev. Barbara Meyers*

🌐 *UU Mental Health Network*

Many people are faced with despair about the world, and about their lives. The purpose of the workshop is to help with resilience and enable people to keep moving forward in their lives in stressful times using the power of art and creativity to get through oppressive times.



Jennifer Kronk Terry,



Rev. Barbara Meyers

Transversals: A 21st Century UU Theology of Belonging

📺 Video + Live Webinar

🕒 Also offered live: Friday, 6/19 · 12 PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3 PM ET (90 minutes)

🗣️ *Rev. Dr. Kimi Floyd Reisch*

In a time of deep division and emotional exhaustion, communities are searching for inclusive frameworks that can hold complexity without collapsing into either rigid certainty or shallow hospitality. This workshop introduces transversal theology, a relational and pluralist approach rooted in Indigenous wisdom, queer and trans embodiment, and justice-centered spiritual practices.



Rev. Dr. Kimi Floyd Reisch

Using Our New Annual Fund Drive Giving Guide!

📺 On-Demand Video

🗣️ *Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry, Rev. Sara Green*

🌐 *Stewardship for Us*

In 2025, with input from many lay leaders, Stewardship for Us created a new Giving Guide. In this session, we'll go over the Giving Guide in detail, including exploring different ways to use it, communications, and how to 'make it your own'. Enhance your stewardship with this guide!



Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry



Rev. Sara Green

UU Mysticism: Quantum Software for an Interspiritual World

📺 Video + Live Webinar


🕒 Also offered live: Saturday, 6/20 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (90 minutes)

🗣️ *Douglas Taylor, Rev. Lilia Cuervo, Rev. Joy Ellen Lipinsky, David Gonci*

🌐 *UU Mystics in Community*

Live Interactive dialogue exploring UU Mysticism in all its variations as a spiritual path that transcends and transforms the egoic operating system's binary, dualistic beliefs, ideologies, theologies, dogmas and identifications that encourage and sustain division, separation, injustice and disunity in all human spheres, including religious, ethnic and all cultural identifications.

Wildcrafting Your Own Nature Spirituality Practices

 On-Demand Video

 Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins


 Flourish Congregations (<https://flourishcongregations.com>)


Develop personally meaningful, locally rooted nature-based spiritual practices for grounding and resilience. Learn simple, adaptable exercises—land acknowledgments, sit spots, seasonal awareness, and personal rituals—to deepen connection with the place you live and love. Wildcraft practices from your own surroundings to sustain hope and prevent burnout amid today’s challenges.



Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins

A Wider Circle: Introduction to Cognitively-Based Compassion Training

 Live Webinar (no recording available)

 Monday, 6/15 · 12:15 PM PT / 1:15 PM MT / 2:15 PM CT / 3:15 PM ET (90 minutes)

 Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner, Rev. Barbara Cornell

Cognitively Based Compassion Training (CBCT©) is a system of contemplative exercises developed at Emory University. Instructor Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner and practitioner Rev. Barbara Cornell provide a workshop designed to explore well-being, self-compassion, and how we can expand our compassion for others, increase resilience, prevent burnout, and decrease empathic distress.





Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner




Rev. Barbara Cornell

Possibilities of Partnership

 Live Webinar (no recording available)

 Monday, 6/15 · 12 PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3 PM ET (90 minutes)

 Rev. Douglas Taylor, Rev. Darcey Laine

 UUCAS, UUCB, UUCC

The challenges congregations encounter are sometimes bigger than we can handle on our own. Partnering with other congregations extends our capacity. We will tell the story of a 3-congregation partnership that has grown in unexpected ways, offering a practical approach for folks who want to grow their own partnerships



Rev. Douglas Taylor



Rev. Darcey Laine



Global Worship: Finding Hope Together

Video + Live Webinar

Tuesday, 6/16 · 7 AM PT / 8 AM MT / 9 AM CT / 10 AM ET (60 minutes)

Rev. Morgan McLean, Rev. Zsolt Elekes, Carol Maciel, Juban Lamar

UU Global Network

This worship service brings together Unitarian and Unitarian Universalists from 6 continents, celebrating the unique traditions that make up our global faith. You are invited to join this service to widen and to deepen the ways you experience your own Unitarian Universalism, and to find hope in these challenging times.

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Video + Live Webinar

Tuesday, 6/16 · 2 PM PT / 3 PM MT / 4 PM CT / 5 PM ET (90 minutes)

Rev. Brandon Robertson, Audra Friend, Rev. Ranwa Hammam

UUA

Side With Love has new resources and new website to make sure every UU has access to the tools they need to respond to this moment. In this interactive workshop you'll get introduced to new tools and resources that will strengthen your organizing work and put them into practice.

Multimedia in Worship for Inspiration and Inclusion

Video + Live Webinar

Tuesday, 6/16 · 4 PM PT / 5 PM MT / 6 PM CT / 7 PM ET (60 minutes)

JD Stillwater

JDStillwater.Earth

When the spoken word is accompanied by captivating visual imagery, it's more engaging for everyone AND more accessible for the neurodiverse and members with varied learning styles. We will cover the basics needed to get you started: software, display methods, public domain sources (no copyright), and some visual techniques.

Revisoning the Present: Justice, Identity, and UU Youth

Video + Live Webinar

Wednesday, 6/17 · 10 AM PT / 11 AM MT / 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET (30 minutes)

Robert Jones, Rev. Vinnie Myles

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

This virtual workshop introduces Seeing Me in the World, a youth-led program from UU Urban Ministry where a walking tour of Roxbury, MA serves as the center. Through video, storytelling, and reflection, participants will explore how UU youth connect identity, history, and justice, and how congregations can support youth leadership.

Governance and Ministry: Connected But Not Stuck


Video + Live Webinar


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Rev. Dan Hotchkiss

Governance and Ministry by Dan Hotchkiss helps leaders choose a mission-guided direction and act on it. The new, updated third edition speaks to the current needs of congregations, helping boards and staff to stay connected without getting stuck. Dan will share what he has learned consulting widely across North America.

Intersectional Allyship for UU Values

 Live Webinar (no recording available)

 Wednesday, 6/17 · 12 PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3 PM ET (90 minutes)

 *Atena Danner, Danya Davis*

 *Justice Movement (www.justicemovement.org)*

Justice Movement has been supporting UU learners in gaining skill in intersectional allyship practices, with learning experiences specifically tailored to the values of Unitarian Universalist audiences. Join us as we share a roadmap for showing up in solidarity and allyship across identities, and always through an anti-racist lens.




Atena Danner



Danya Davis

UU the Vote: Ignite Solidarity, Reimagine Democracy

 Live Webinar


 Wednesday, 6/17 · 1 PM PT / 2 PM MT / 3 PM CT / 4 PM ET (90 minutes)


 *Nicole Pressley, Caitlin Breedlove, Samm Pheiffer, India Harris*

 *UUA*

This year we will head into midterm elections under increasingly authoritarian conditions. Yet, in this moment, our collective power matters. Join UU the Vote to explore the rapidly shifting political landscape, understand what's at stake, and learn how electoral organizing can defend democracy and shape the future beyond Election Day.

AI Tools for Congregations: Ethics and Practical Demonstrations

 Live Webinar (no recording available)


 Wednesday, 6/17 · 2:30 PM PT / 3:30 PM MT / 4:30 PM CT / 5:30 PM ET (90 minutes)

 *Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins, Cordell Sloan*

What if you had a tireless partner for research, content creation, leadership support, and communications? Watch AI powered tools in action across real congregational work. Learn what's possible with LLMs and deep research and navigate the ethics—copyright, privacy, environmental impact—to use these tools responsibly in your congregation's ministry.

Belonging in Action: How to Reach Young "Nones"

 Live Webinar

 Thursday, 6/17 · 5 PM PT / 6 PM MT / 7 PM CT / 8 PM ET (75 minutes)


 *Rev. Kevin Jagoe Fish Stark*

 *UU Humanists*

Explore what today's non-religious younger generations seek in community—empathy, connection, and honesty. Learn from the latest research on young people's values, offering insights for nurturing communities of belonging and engagement. Unitarian Universalist Humanists Association and American Humanist Association provide ways to meaningfully serve new audiences and empower emerging voices.

Small Wins: Finding Volunteers and Getting Things Done

 Live Webinar

 Thursday, 6/18 · 8 AM PT / 9 AM MT / 10 AM CT / 11 AM ET (60 minutes)

 *Rev. Kimberley Debus*

The care of our congregations needs all of us – and sometimes we need a small win to see that we're making a difference. In this session, we'll learn how a small congregation completed dozens of tasks and grew its volunteer base, and how to implement this in your congregation.



Rev. Kimberley Debus



Soulful Singing: Care, Courage and Community in Song

Live Webinar

Thursday, 6/18 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (75 minutes)

Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins

Let's bring our voices together in song to support our nervous systems as we engage in revitalizing resistance. We'll sing "short-on-words, long-on-meaning; easy-to-learn, hard-to-forget" songs that foster depth, energy and hope. Soulful Singing is an embodied meditative practice where every voice is welcome, including yours.



Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins

Discerning a Call to Professional Religious Leadership

Live Webinar

Thursday, 6/18 · 1 PM PT / 2 PM MT / 3 PM CT / 4 PM ET (90 minutes)

Rev. Darrick Jackson, Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill

UUA

Have you been considering a move to professional religious leadership? This workshop will provide tools for discernment to help you figure out what it is you are called to do. We will explore different discernment methods and provide resources on different religious professional roles.



Rev. Darrick Jackson



Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill

Survival Congregations

Live Webinar

Thursday, 6/18 · 12 PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3 PM ET (60 minutes)

Lóre Stevens

Oak Ridge UU Church

We must face facts: difficult times are here to stay. We must turn our congregations into community resilience hubs. No matter what unpredictable crises occur, our communities will be better able to support themselves and our neighbors. Learn about concrete ways to steward resources and gain basic vital skills.



Lóre Stevens

Thriving as a Highly Sensitive UU Soul

Live Webinar

Thursday, 6/18 · 1 PM PT / 2 PM MT / 3 PM CT / 4 PM ET (75 minutes)

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig


Many highly sensitive people (20% of the population) are deeply spiritual and empathic, but struggle with exhaustion and overwhelm because their brains work differently. Come learn about the gifts and challenges of highly sensitive people in congregations, what they need to thrive, and why it matters to all of us.




Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig

UU Witness Delegation: Meeting the Palestine Solidarity Moment

 Live Webinar

 Thursday, 6/18 · 4 PM PT / 5 PM MT / 6 PM CT / 7 PM ET (90 minutes)

 *Rev. Meagan Henry, Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, India Wood, Dana Ashrawi*

 UUJME

In January 2026, 13 UU seminarians and religious professionals participated in a UUs for Justice in the Middle East and Friends of Sabeel supported delegation to Palestine, hosted by liberation theology center Sabeel. Trip leader Rev. Meagan Henry, another minister, and a seminarian share their experiences. Moderator is UUJME president.



Rev. Meagan Henry



Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti





India Wood



Dana Ashrawi

Examining Our Feminist Use of Power

 Live Webinar

 Thursday, 6/18 · 4:30 PM PT / 5:30 PM MT / 6:30 PM CT / 7:30 PM ET (60 minutes)

 *Antoinette Hollamon, Ann Wiesner, Candace Hasan*

The “Feminist Use of Power” workshop is dedicated to understanding how we can use feminist power to do meaningful justice work. Participants will come out of this experience able to put new leadership ideas into practice for their wider communities.



Antoinette Hollamon





Ann Wiesner




Candace Hasan

Climate Justice Movement Chaplaincy Liturgies for this Moment

 Video + Live Webinar


 Friday, 6/19 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (90 minutes)


 *Rev. Lauren Levwood, Chelsea McCoy, Swamini Adityananda Saraswati, Rev. Karyn Marsh*

 UU Ministry for Earth

Climate Justice Movement Chaplaincy provides spiritual and emotional support for activists, advocates, or anyone impacted by climate disruption. In this workshop, UU Ministry for Earth’s movement chaplains present a simple liturgical framework that can be reproduced to support those who are experiencing climate despair or the aftermath of natural disasters.

If You Build It, They Will Come

 Video + Live Webinar

 Friday, 6/19 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (60 minutes)


 *Maria Uitti-McCabe, Susan Jennings, Bethany Giammalvo*

 UU Society of Fairhaven

Since we began hosting a Children’s Worship Area in the Sanctuary, multi-generational Second Hours, and Village Nights, our attendance of children and families has expanded fourfold. We’ve discovered that when you center families in the congregation, you build your future. Come hear about our journey, lessons learned, and next steps.

Save the Cofan, Save the Rainforest

 Video + Live Webinar

 Friday, 6/19 · 10 AM PT / 11 AM MT / 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET (60 minutes)

 *Dr. Deborah Novgorodoff, Danica Novgorodoff*

 All Peoples International Justice Committee

The Cofán, an Ecuadorean indigenous people, desperately need access to modern medicine. Staying healthy means they can protect their million-acre rainforest, among the most biodiverse in the world. Hear how this partnership is saving lives and saving the rainforest. Along the way, gain insight into our UU value of interconnectedness.



Solidarity Initiative: Immigration Updates and Tools for Engagement

Live Webinar (no recording available)

Friday, 6/19 · 11 AM PT / 12 PM MT / 1 PM CT / 2 PM ET (90 minutes)

Katia Hansen, Jessica Sapalio, Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Pablo DeJesus

UU Solidarity Initiative (UUA, UUMA, UURISE, UUSC, UUSJ, CUUSAN, Borderlinks)

The UU Solidarity Initiative, a nationally-coordinated effort of Borderlinks, CUUSAN, the UUA, UUMA, UURISE, UUSC, and UUSJ, invites people working for immigrant justice to connect with one another and learn about the most recent changes in immigration laws and policies as well current campaigns and opportunities for action. Additional presenters: Rev. Laura Randall, Josh Leach, Ivanna D'Alencon, Rev. Erin Walters, Rev. Lisa Garcia Sampson, Ren Manning, and Julica Hermann.



Katia Hansen



Jessica Sapalio



Rev. Cathy Rion Starr



Pablo DeJesus

Strengthen Your Congregation to Meet the Moment

Video + Live Webinar

Friday, 6/19 · 11 AM PT / 12 PM MT / 1 PM CT / 2 PM ET (60 minutes)

Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe, Paul Kampas

Centered around interdependence and shared power, UU congregations require substantial organizational savvy, clarity and discipline to perform well. This session introduces a whole systems approach to better help you organize and align resources for improved impact with less burnout - both key for sustainable success in challenging times.

Transversals: A 21st Century UU Theology of Belonging

Video + Live Webinar

Friday, 6/19 · 12 PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3 PM ET (90 minutes)

Rev. Dr. Kimi Floyd Reisch

In a time of deep division and emotional exhaustion, communities are searching for inclusive frameworks that can hold complexity without collapsing into either rigid certainty or shallow hospitality. This workshop introduces transversal theology, a relational and pluralist approach rooted in Indigenous wisdom, queer and trans embodiment, and justice-centered spiritual practices.

Seven Miles in the Morning: Addressing Religious Trauma

Video + Live Webinar

Friday, 6/19 · 1 PM PT / 2 PM MT / 3 PM CT / 4 PM ET (75 minutes)

Clint Tawes

Inspired by Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, this workshop offers a practical framework for rebuilding trust with individuals and groups harmed by religion. It emphasizes listening, showing up, and sustained action as essential practices of embodied allyship in UU communities.

Social Class in the Age of Billionaires

Live Webinar (no recording available)

Saturday, 6/20 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (90 minutes)

Diane Pansire, Dr. Kimberly Arias, Denise Moorehead

UU Class Conversations

As U.S. billionaires call the shots on economic and social policy, UUs must push back and lead the way towards a more class-inclusive society. Come explore ways to confront classism, build class alliances, and organize our congregations to create class-inclusive, sacred spaces within and outside of our denomination.



Diane Pansire



Dr. Kimberly Arias





Denise Moorehead

UU Mysticism: Quantum Software for an Interspiritual World

 Video + Live Webinar

 Saturday, 6/20 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (90 minutes)


 *Douglas Taylor, Rev. Lilia Cuervo, Rev. Joy Ellen Lipinsky, David Gonci*


 *UU Mystics in Community*

Live Interactive dialogue exploring UU Mysticism in all its variations as a spiritual path that transcends and transforms the egoic operating system's binary, dualistic beliefs, ideologies, theologies, dogmas and identifications that encourage and sustain division, separation, injustice and disunity in all human spheres, including religious, ethnic and all cultural identifications.

Restorative Justice Works Post-Murder: A Victim's Perspective

 Video + Live Webinar

 Saturday, 6/20 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (75 minutes)


 *Lucy Kesterson, Rev. Mel Hoover*


 *Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, JUJustice Washington, CLF*

Immersion in the beloved community of Lucy's local UU congregation empowered her to do one of the hardest things a person can do--face and forgive a murderer, to see him as beloved. She demonstrates how sharing with her congregation prepared them to do the real work of the current CSAI.

Preaching Hope When You Don't Feel Hopeful

 Live Webinar

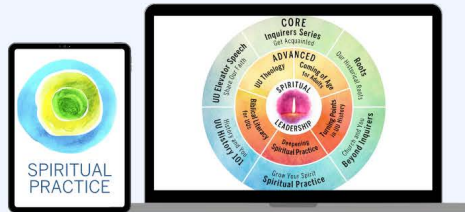
 Saturday, 6/20 · 9 AM PT / 10 AM MT / 11 AM CT / 12 PM ET (90 minutes)

 *Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert*

Is it possible to preach hope in moments that feel hopeless? How does the preacher offer a good word to others when they struggle to find one themselves? This program offers insights, practices, and habits that nourish the preacher and congregation in challenging times.



Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert



Meet the Moment with Faith Forward: From Visitor to Leader

Member Engagement & Leadership Development for Unitarian Universalist Congregations

<p>>>></p> <p>Deepen member engagement</p>	<p>>>></p> <p>Grow spiritually grounded leaders</p>	<p>>>></p> <p>Multi-platform delivery (in-person and online)</p>	<p>>>></p> <p>Spiritual Practice series available for free!</p>
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Join Faith Forward Coordinator **Betty-Jeanne Rueters-Ward** for an info session! Find details on our website here:

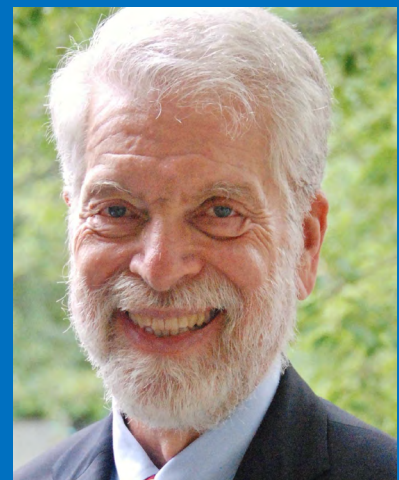
www.faithforwarduu.org/ga2026

Larry Ladd for UUA Trustee

Position #5 on your ballot!



- Vision for the future
- Knowledge of our legacy
- Expertise in governance, finance and strategy



Let's liberate Unitarian Universalism!
The good old days are gone, The good old ways still run the UUA.



Unitarian Universalist Funding Program

In Fiscal Year 2025, we made **122 grants** for a total of **\$1,159,110**.

With funds generously provided by the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, the UU Funding Program awards grants to UU and non-UU projects and organizations.

Grants are made through four funds with distinct priorities and guidelines:

FUND FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM makes grants to strengthen and grow UU institutions and community life.

FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM makes grants to strengthen and grow Unitarian Universalist institutions beyond North America.

FUND FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY makes grants to projects that increase UU engagement in social justice work.

FUND FOR A JUST SOCIETY makes grants to non-profit organizations working to create systemic social change through collective action.

Our grant deadlines are March 31 and September 30 each year, with grants made 2-3 months following.

Visit our website to learn more about the amazing programs we are funding and see if your work might receive a grant.

www.uufunding.org

Unitarian
Universalist
Funding
Program



SIDE WITH LOVE

Join us for two GA workshops
(find in the Whova app):

New Resources from Side with Love:

Explore our work, resources, and brand-new website.

Tuesday, 6/16 at 5 PM ET/2 PM PT

UU The Vote: Ignite Solidarity, Reimagine Democracy:

Get plugged into UU the Vote efforts in your community.

Wednesday, 6/17 at 4 PM ET/1 PM PT



Check out our newly designed website to be equipped and inspired for action:

www.SideWithLove.org

When a critical event affects your congregation, make UUTRM your first call.

The UU Trauma Response Ministry helps ministers and lay leaders return congregations to stability after traumatizing events. We provide culturally sensitive spiritual care at no cost to you.

Often, a phone call is sufficient, but in other cases, our trained responders visit in-person or online. We consult with clergy; lead trauma processing groups or debriefs for leaders, staff, and members; provide pulpit supply; and assist with rituals and vigils. Every response is tailored to a congregation's specific needs.



UUTRM is an independent nonprofit.
Learn more and donate at UUTRM.org.

24/7 Hotline 888-760-3332



The Unitarian Universalist
Mental Health Network
Presents:

The Opposite of War Isn't Peace It's Creation

A conversation on art and creation
as tools of resilience and protest.
Featuring the works of
Rev. Barbara Meyers



Jennifer Kronk Terry,
LCPC, UUMHN Board
Member At Large

We Support **YOUR** Professionals



The Religious Professionals Advocacy
Team in partnership with the UUA,
seeks to ensure religious professionals
are sustained, supported, and
successful in thriving environments.

UUMA.org/ReligiousProfessionals

Amnesty International USA

<https://www.amnestyusa.org>

Amnesty International is a global movement of millions of people demanding human rights for all people, no matter who or where they are.

Church Mutual Insurance Company

<https://www.churchmutual.com/>

Church Mutual® is dedicated to Protecting the Greater Good®, providing trusted insurance and resources that help congregations nurture safe, resilient spiritual communities.

Citizens' Climate Lobby

<https://www.cclusa.org>

Citizens' Climate empowers everyday people, including thousands of UUs, to bridge divides and build political will for effective climate solutions in Congress.

Claremont School of Theology

<https://www.cst.edu>

CST exemplifies academic rigor, faithful practice, and social transformation. For 140 years, CST has formed leaders who embody compassion, justice, and belonging.

inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop

<https://uuabookstore.org>

Welcome to inSpirit! Find resources to nurture your faith, connect with UU history, and support collective work for social justice and beloved community.

inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop

<https://uuabookstore.org>

Welcome to inSpirit! Find resources to nurture your faith, connect with UU history, and support collective work for social justice and beloved community.

LREDA

<https://www.lreda.org>

LREDA is creating a world guided by love, justice, and equity by supporting Religious Educators in UU congregations and advancing UU Faith Development.

Meadville Lombard Theological School

<https://meadville.edu>

Meadville Lombard offers progressive theological education, from Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity degrees to lifelong learning opportunities.

Phillips Theological Seminary

<https://ptstulsa.edu>

A high-quality theological education doesn't have to leave you deep in debt. Phillips Seminary offers 80-to-100 percent tuition remission to every student.

Starr King School for the Ministry

<https://www.sksm.edu>

Ignite your call to Unitarian Universalist ministry and social change through flexible, innovative programs focused on spirituality, justice, and leadership.

The Chaplaincy Institute

<https://www.chaplaincyinstitute.org>

The Chaplaincy Institute prepares spiritual leaders to offer compassionate, inclusive care through formation, education, and community.

UU Animal Ministry

<https://www.uuam.org>

UU Animal Ministry supports thousands of UUs building respect, justice, and compassion for animals, human and nonhuman.

UU Funding Program

<https://www.uufunding.org>

The UU Funding Program makes grants supporting denominational growth, social justice engagement, and justice organizing aligned with UU values.

UU Mental Health Network

<https://uumentalhealth.org>

We share lived experience, time, and resources to empower the Beloved Community in honoring each individual's mental health journey toward wellness.

UU Ministry for Earth

<https://www.uumfe.org>

UU Ministry for Earth nurtures sacred connection, spiritual resilience, and collective action for climate justice and flourishing for all.

UU Service Committee

<https://www.uusc.org>

UUSC advances human rights and social justice worldwide, partnering with communities confronting unjust power structures and oppressive policies.

UU Studies Network (UUSN)

<https://www.uustudiesnetwork.org/>

The Unitarian Universalist Studies Network unites scholars, leaders, and students to explore UU history, theology, ethics, and shared learning.

UUA Benefit Plans & Services

<https://uua.org/benefitplans>

UUA Benefit Plans & Services offers retirement and insurance plans, property coverage, and responsive guidance for UU organizations.

UUA In Memoriam

<https://uua.org>

In Memoriam honors credentialed religious professionals, generous donors, and volunteers for their meaningful contributions to Unitarian Universalism.

UURISE - UU Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education

<https://uurise.org>

Advancing justice and human rights for immigrants and refugees through legal representation, community organizing, trainings, workshops, and congregational consultations.

UUs for Justice in the Middle East

<https://www.uujme.org>

We are Unitarian Universalists working to educate and mobilize people in our faith toward solidarity with Palestinians.

UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ)

<https://uusj.org>

Advancing equitable national policies and actions aligned with UU values through engagement, education, and advocacy.

Watson Studios

<https://www.bwatsonstudios.com>

Brian Watson is a UU sculptor and carver creating one-of-a-kind chalices, labyrinths, pens, and laser-engraved gifts from sustainable hardwoods.

Final Agenda for General Assembly 2026

Prepared by the UUA Board of Trustees – May 2026

The Final Agenda includes the following items for delegates to discuss and vote on at General Assembly 2026 (GA), per UUA Bylaws Section 4.14:

- Rules of Procedure
- Business Resolution – UUA Task Force on Ministerial Fellowship Committee Policies and Rules for Interim and Developmental Ministers
- Bylaw Amendment – Authority to Suspend or Place a Minister’s Search on Hold
- Photos and Statements of UUA Board, Committee, and Commission Candidates Running for Election

Also included in this packet is the order of business. Note that other types of business items, such as Actions of Immediate Witness, may be added to the Final Agenda during GA.

Voting

Delegates will vote on Final Agenda items through the online Delegate Platform, which will verify their credentials. To access the Delegate Platform, delegates can use an electronic device, such as a computer, tablet, or smartphone. During GA, after the conclusion of each general session, there will be a ballot link available on the Delegate Platform with the items up for discussion. The ballot will open after each General Session has ended and remain open until the date and time indicated in the Rules of Procedure, or later if extended by the Moderator. If voting is required for a mini assembly prior to GA, the ballot will open after the mini-assembly and remain open until twenty-four hours after it ends. All delegates may vote on all ballots, regardless of whether they attended the General Session or mini assembly when the item was discussed.

Amendments and Mini Assemblies for Regular Business Items

Delegates may submit amendments to items on the final agenda through the amendment submission form via the Delegate Platform (UUA Bylaws Rule 4.18.5).

Each delegate may submit no more than one amendment for each of the regular business items, inclusive of amendments for the Rules of Procedure, the Bylaw Amendment, and the Business Resolution. ***Amendments for these items must be submitted by 11pm ET on May 20, 2026.***

GENERAL SESSION I

Sunday, June 14, 2026

- Call to Order
- Welcome
- Business Review and Voting Process
- Presenting the Rules of Procedure
- Introduction of GA Care Teams
- Introduction of Reports
- Process Observation
- Closing Words
- Announcements and Recess

GENERAL SESSION II

Monday, June 15, 2026

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Update on the Results of the Ballot from General Session I, Election Results, and Preliminary Credentials Report
- Update from the GA Care Teams
- Meet the Moment Programming at GA 2026
- Music
- Discussion: Business Resolution – UUA Task Force on Ministerial Fellowship Committee Policies and Rules for Interim and Developmental Ministers
- Break
- Discussion: Bylaw Amendment – Authority to Suspend or Place a Minister’s Search on Hold
- Process Observation
- Closing Words
- Announcements and Recess

GENERAL SESSION III

Monday, June 15, 2026

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Update on the Results of the Ballot from General Session II
- Executive Officers’ Report
- Co-Moderators’ Board Report
- Music
- Bylaws Renewal Team Report
- Commission on Social Witness Admits 3 Actions of Immediate Witness to the Final Agenda
- Process Observation
- Closing Words
- Announcements and Recess

GENERAL SESSION IV

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Update on the Results of the Ballot from General Session III
- Update from the GA Care Teams
- Discussion: Actions of Immediate Witness
- Break
- Responsive Resolutions and Budget Motions
- Music
- Process Observation
- Closing Words
- Announcements and Recess

GENERAL SESSION V

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

- Call to Order
- Opening Words
- Update on the Results of the Ballot from General Session IV and Final Credentials Report
- Final Report from the GA Care Teams
- President's Volunteer Service Award
- Music
- Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education
- Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism
- Installation of Newly-Elected Leaders
- Invitation to GA 2027
- Process Observation
- Recognition of All Who Make GA Possible
- Closing Words and Adjournment of the Business Sessions
- Music

Rules of Procedure

PURPOSE

The goals of the Rules of Procedure are to ensure that:

- Decisions are based on the will of the majority in accordance with UU values, principles, UUA Bylaws and rules. Delegates have the chance to express a range of opinions as part of the decision-making process.
- Delegates know how they can participate in business discussions and voting at General Assembly in a respectful, transparent, and inclusive way.
- Business discussions are predictable, accessible and smooth, making the best use of everyone's time.

These Rules of Procedure apply to every item on the Final Agenda. They include separate rules for items that may be added to the Final Agenda during General Assembly. They do not apply to UUA elections, which are governed by separate rules.

As used in these Rules of Procedure, the term "Moderator" applies to any individual or team who is appointed by the Board of Trustees to lead or facilitate the business discussion process, unless otherwise specified.

RULE 1: ADOPTING AND CHANGING THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE

The first thing the General Assembly must do is adopt these Rules of Procedure. The Assembly will do this after the first General Session. Delegates may not debate or amend the Rules of Procedure before they are adopted. The Rules of Procedure require a 2/3 majority vote to be approved.

Delegates may propose changes to the Rules of Procedure through a mini assembly prior to General Assembly. If any proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure receive sufficient support at a mini assembly prior to General Assembly (per UUA Rule 4.18.5), they may be considered after the initial vote to adopt the Rules of Procedure. Once initially adopted, the Rules of Procedure require a 4/5 majority vote to be changed.

RULE 2: FINAL AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Final Agenda is set by the Board of Trustees, and the UUA Bylaws define how items can be added to the agenda. All business items listed on the Final Agenda which require a vote will be scheduled for discussion during a General Session. The Board of Trustees or the Commission on Social Witness will introduce each item of business. The items of business on the Final Agenda may include:

- Proposed business resolutions
- Proposed changes to a Bylaw or Bylaw G-Rule
- Actions of Immediate Witness
- Other motions added during General Assembly.

Role of the Moderator

The flow of discussion will be managed and led by a Moderator. The Assembly will consider the items on the Final Agenda in the order listed on that agenda. The Moderator decides the order in which amendments to items on the Final Agenda may be discussed.

RULE 3: VOTING AND COUNTING VOTES

At least 300 accredited delegates representing at least 100 congregations located in at least 10 states or provinces must be present for discussion and voting to begin at General Assembly. When this is true, the Assembly has a “quorum,” per UUA Bylaws Section 4.10. Delegates participate in discussion and voting through the on-line delegate platform. They must log into the delegate platform to receive their credentials, which allows them to access the ballots and other key links, and to be counted towards the quorum.

Delegates must vote on an electronic device, such as a computer, tablet, or smartphone, which can access the delegate platform. The Secretary may approve any other method needed to meet any accessibility requirements for delegates to participate.

Ballot Time Limits

After General Sessions I, II, III, and IV, there will be a ballot on the delegate platform which lists the items on which delegates will vote. Each item on these ballots will be scheduled for discussion during that general session (if discussion is needed). The ballot will open for voting once the general session has ended and close on the dates and times listed below.

Date	General Session	Date/Time Voting Opens	Date/Time Voting Closes
Sunday, June 14 th	I	Sunday, June 14 th — 6pm ET / 5pm CT / 4pm MT / 3pm PT / 2pm AT / 12pm HT	Monday, June 15 th — 9am ET / 8am CT / 7am MT / 6am PT / 5am AT / 3am HT
Monday, June 15 th	II	Monday, June 15 th — 3pm ET / 2pm CT / 1pm MT / 12pm PT / 11am AT / 9am HT	Monday, June 15 th — 4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT / 12pm AT / 10am HT
Monday, June 15 th	III	Monday, June 15 th — 6:30pm ET / 5:30pm CT / 4:30pm MT / 3:30pm PT / 2:30pm AT / 12:30pm HT	Tuesday, June 16 th — 9am ET / 8am CT / 7am MT / 6am PT / 5am AT / 3am HT
Tuesday, June 16 th	IV	Tuesday, June 16 th — 3pm ET / 2pm CT / 1pm MT / 12pm PT / 11am AT / 9am HT	Tuesday, June 16 th — 4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT / 12pm AT / 10am HT

All business items and amendments requiring discussion may only be voted on if they have been discussed in a General Session within the discussion time limit. The Moderator may extend the ballot’s voting time limit if they determine it is essential for the business of the Assembly. The results will be available online promptly after voting has closed.

The UUA Bylaws or these Rules of Procedure specify the percentage of affirmative votes needed for an item of business to pass. Only votes for and against a business item will be counted towards the percentage needed to pass.

The Moderator may ask for a straw poll on any question. Straw polls are not official votes; they are tools to help the Moderator understand how delegates are currently feeling or thinking.

Delegates may not make any motion which is not specified under these Rules of Procedure, such as a proposal to table (postpone), reconsider, move the previous question (end discussion), suspend the rules, extend debate, or take any other action related to a business item, unless the Moderator determines it is in the best interest of the General Assembly to consider such a motion.

RULE 4: MINUTES

The UUA Recording Secretary, Governance Manager, and Legal Counsel draft the minutes of the General Assembly General Sessions, which are the official record of the decisions made. The Board of Trustees will approve the minutes at a future Board meeting.

RULE 5: AMENDMENTS TO REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

Amendments to items on the regular business agenda must be submitted in writing for consideration at the mini assembly held prior to General Assembly, in accordance with the UUA Bylaws and Rules. Delegates may submit amendments through the mini assembly process. Administrative deadlines may be established in advance to support the collection and distribution of proposed amendments. Amendments will be compiled and shared with delegates. The Moderator, in consultation with appropriate advisors, will determine which amendments are scheduled for discussion and vote at General Assembly. Amendments considered by the General Assembly will be considered before the item they amend, unless incorporated into the final text of that item. Amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to be affirmed.

Items added to the Final Agenda during General Assembly, including Actions of Immediate Witness, Budget Motions, and Responsive Resolutions, may not be amended, except for technical amendments as determined by the Moderator.

RULE 6: HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS

Delegates can discuss a business item during the General Session by joining one of the two lines for speakers, and can speak when they are recognized by the Moderator. Tellers designated by the Board of Trustees will monitor each line.

Pro and Con Lines

1. The first line is called the Pro Line. If a delegate wants to speak in favor of the item being discussed, they can join the Pro Line.
2. The second line is called the Con Line. If a delegate wants to raise a concern about the item being discussed, they can join the Con Line. Only concerns that would prevent the delegate from voting in favor of the item being discussed are allowed in the Con Line.

Each delegate may speak only once in the Pro or Con Line on an item of business until everyone else who wants to speak has had the opportunity to do so.

The Moderator will decide if a comment is appropriate, or “in order,” for each line. The Moderator may also allow other miscellaneous comments if the Moderator thinks it would be helpful to the Assembly.

Information Desk

Delegates may ask clarifying questions during a general session or raise a procedural concern at the Information Desk. Tellers can relay issues raised at the Information Desk to the Moderator so they can be addressed.

Progressive Stack

Tellers will use progressive stack in determining the order of delegates joining the queue to speak in the pro or con line. Progressive stack is a technique used to give those with marginalized identities a greater chance to speak. To use progressive stack, at least the first two speaking slots for discussion in both the pro and con lines will be reserved for delegates who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, disabled, fat, transgender or

nonbinary, or delegates with otherwise marginalized identities. Delegates who want to participate via progressive stack must notify the tellers when they join a speaking line.

RULE 7: ROLE OF PROCESS OBSERVERS DURING DISCUSSIONS

The Moderator may appoint process observers to support constructive, respectful, and inclusive conversation during General Assembly business sessions, and to help the process reflect the Association’s democratic and liberatory values. Process observers may offer observations, feedback, or recommendations at times in formats determined by the Moderator.

RULE 8: TIME LIMITS FOR DISCUSSION

There will be a time limit for each item scheduled for discussion during a general session. The Moderator may make small changes to these time limits to help the meeting move smoothly and remain within the agenda, or to make an ability-based accommodation.

- During discussion time, delegates may speak on the item up for discussion from the Pro or Con line for up to 2 minutes and 15 seconds when it is their turn. This time will be inclusive of a personal introduction (name, congregation, pronouns, and very brief physical description).
- The only time that counts against the discussion time limit is when someone is speaking from the Pro or Con Line. Time spent by members of the Board of Trustees or Commission on Social Witness explaining the business being discussed does not count against the time limit.
- The Moderator will try to divide the time between Pro and Con speakers equally and will alternate between speakers in the Pro and Con lines.

Time Limits

Individual items included on the Final Agenda have individual time limits specific to those items. Items which may change after the publication of the Final Agenda, such as amendments to regular business items, have an overall time limit for all items of that type. For item types with an overall time limit, sponsors will have up to 2 minutes and 15 seconds to present their submissions.

Item	Discussion Time Limit	General Session
Regular business item, e.g. business resolution (individual)	35 minutes	II
Amendments to regular business items (overall)	35 minutes	III & IV
Action of Immediate Witness, once added to the final agenda (individual)	35 minutes	IV
Responsive Resolutions & Budget Motions (overall)	20 minutes	IV

If time for an item scheduled on the agenda is not needed, the Moderator may choose to add unused time to the overall discussion time limit of another item in the same General Session.

Note: The process to admit AIWs to the business agenda is defined in Rule 11.

Close of Discussion

Discussion on a business item ends when the time limit is up, or when no one is waiting to speak in either the Pro or Con lines. The Moderator may end the discussion before the time limit if one of the Pro or Con lines has no one waiting to speak.

RULE 9: BUDGET MOTIONS

A Budget Motion is a request to consider a change in the amount of money proposed to be spent in an area of the UUA operating budget. Any motion to spend more money in one area must also say which area(s) of the budget would receive less money, equal to the amount of the requested increase. All Budget Motions must include a title, and text of up to 200 words explaining the requested change. The UUA Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Co-Financial Advisors, or other officers may provide commentary to delegates on any Budget Motion. Budget Motions will be reviewed by the UUA Board of Trustees to ensure the proposed motion meets the requirements stated above (see UUA Bylaws Rule 10.1.4). These motions are non-binding.

A discussion about the budget for 2026–2027 will take place on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 7:30pm ET / 6:30pm CT / 5:30pm MT / 4:30pm PT / 3:30pm AT / 2:30pm HT. Any delegate can submit a Budget Motion to be added to the Final Agenda, and all submissions must be made in writing. Delegates may submit Budget Motions through a form on the delegate platform. Budget Motions will be reviewed by UUA Legal Counsel to ensure they meet the qualifications for consideration.

The deadline to submit 2026–2027 Budget Motions is 7:00pm ET / 6:00pm CT / 5:00pm MT / 4:00pm PT / 3:00pm AT / 2:00pm HT on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Budget Motions require a 2/3 majority vote to be affirmed.

RULE 10: RESPONSIVE RESOLUTIONS

Per UUA Bylaw Rule 4.16.2:

Responsive resolutions are brief, advisory statements that express the sentiment of the delegates. They must be in response to a substantive portion of a report by an officer or committee reporting to a regular General Assembly. Responsive resolutions are not binding and do not set policy for the Association. They may not act as a substitute for other types of business items, such as business resolutions, budget motions, study/action issues, bylaw amendments, or actions of immediate witness. The Moderator will determine whether a proposed responsive resolution may be added to the final agenda under this rule.

Any delegate can submit a Responsive Resolution to be added to the Final Agenda, and all submissions must be in writing. All Responsive Resolutions must include a title and body text of up to 200 words.

Delegates may propose Responsive Resolutions through the form on the delegate platform. The deadline to submit Responsive Resolutions is 4:00pm ET / 3:00pm CT / 2:00pm MT / 1:00pm PT / 12:00pm AT / 10:00am HT on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Responsive Resolutions require a 2/3 majority vote to be affirmed.

RULE 11: ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS (AIWs)

An Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) is, per Bylaw 4.16(b), a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that needs immediate engagement and action from UU member congregations and groups. The process for submitting an AIW, including criteria for eligibility, is set by the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) and published online: <https://www.uua.org/action/process/aiw>.

Per the UUA Bylaws, up to three AIWs can be considered by the General Assembly to be added to the Final Agenda. If more than three proposed AIWs are eligible, the proposers of each potential AIW will have 2 minutes and 15 seconds to speak in favor of their AIW. The first AIW vote will determine which 3 AIWs will be placed on the Final Agenda.

Discussion and Voting on AIWs

Delegates must vote on whether to add each proposed AIW to the Final Agenda in order to discuss and consider it, per Bylaws Section 4.16.

- Only AIWs that have been put forward by the CSW through its selection process may be admitted to the final agenda.
- The sponsor of each proposed AIW has 2 minutes and 15 seconds to speak in favor of it before the Assembly votes to admit it to the Final Agenda.
- The motion to add a proposed AIW to the Final Agenda is not otherwise debatable and requires a 2/3 majority vote to be affirmed.
- If the motion to admit fails, the AIW will not be considered.

Delegates will discuss and vote separately on each AIW which is admitted to the final agenda. AIWs require a 2/3 majority vote to be affirmed.

RULE 12: QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE

If there is a question about how these rules should be interpreted, the Moderator will consult with the Legal Counsel and Parliamentarian. If these Rules of Procedure and the Bylaws and Rules of the UUA are in conflict, the Bylaws and Rules of the UUA take precedence. If these Rules of Procedure do not address an issue that arises, the Bylaws and Rules of the UUA will be the basis of any decision.

RULE 13: END OF BUSINESS

The final business session of General Assembly 2026 ends at 6:30pm ET / 5:30pm CT / 4:30pm MT / 3:30pm PT / 2:30pm AT / 12:30pm HT on Tuesday June 16, 2026.

PROPOSED BUSINESS RESOLUTION

UUA Task Force on Ministerial Fellowship Committee Policies and Rules for Interim and Developmental Ministers

1 **PURPOSE:** This proposal asks the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to charge a task force
2 with recommending updates to Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) policies and rules for Interim
3 and Developmental Ministers.

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) shall
5 establish a task force to:

6 (a) review the policies and rules relating to Interim and Developmental Ministers, and

7 (b) make any recommendations to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) for
8 modifications to the policies and rules relating to Interim and Developmental Ministers.

PROPOSER: Ed Klein of First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist in Brewster, MA

REFERENCES:

- [Ministry Search Handbook](#): the unified guide to transitional and settled ministry searches
- [Unitarian Universalist Association Bylaws and Rules](#)
- [UUA Rules and Policies of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee](#)

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Authority to Suspend or Place a Minister's Search on Hold

PURPOSE: This proposal is for amendment of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws and Rules, Article XI Ministry, Section 11.5. Termination of Fellowship and Administrative Suspension, to limit the authority to place a minister on hold from settlement, interim, or contract searches to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) or Board of Trustees (BoT).

TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Section 11.5 of Article XI of the Bylaws shall be amended by adding the following sentence at the end, stating:

9 “Notwithstanding Bylaw Section 11.2 that reserves to the Board of Trustees the exclusive power
10 to approve proposed rules of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee governing ministerial
11 fellowship, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee shall have the exclusive authority to suspend or
12 place a minister's search on hold, and may establish policies and rules to effectuate this authority.”

IMPACTED RULES: UUA Rules and Policies of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, Section 22, Administrative Hold from Settlement:

When a minister experiences conflict or a difficult parting with a congregation or other institution, UUA Ministries and Faith Development Staff Group or Congregational Life staff (collectively, “MFD or CL staff”) may refer that minister to participate in a process of assessment by the UUA review team. MFD or CL staff may also refer ministers who show a pattern of conflicted ministries and/or inability to maintain positive congregational, collegial, staff, and/or community relations for a process of assessment by the UUA Review Team. MFD or CL staff have the right to place the minister on hold from settlement until the assessment process has been concluded, or for a period of not more than three years.

EXISTING BYLAWS TEXT Article XI, Section 11.5:

1417 *The fellowship of a minister may be terminated by the Ministerial*
1418 *Fellowship Committee for unbecoming conduct, incompetence or*
1419 *other specified cause. Full fellowship may be terminated only after*
1420 *notice by the Committee and opportunity for a Fellowship Review*
1421 *before the Committee. During an investigation or the pendency of a*
1422 *complaint, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee may suspend a*
1423 *minister until a final determination can be made on the minister's*
1424 *fellowship status.*

PROPOSER: Ed Klein of First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist in Brewster, MA

REFERENCES:

- [Unitarian Universalist Association Bylaws and Rules](#)
- [UUA Rules and Policies of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee](#)

Candidates for Election

Board of Review (7-Year Term; vote for two)

Denise Rimes



The role of ministry and other credentialed leadership in congregations and our association are critical to the organic health and growth of our movement. Healthy relationships in congregations and affiliated organizations are part of the bedrock of spiritual direction, religious education, and the upholding of our values. When a leader comes to the Board of Review, they have exhausted all their other options within our movement, and ensuring that they have been given full opportunities to be heard is key to all the things that we hold dear and mentioned above. Denise Rimes sees this work as a key element of stable cleric leadership. She has had the opportunity to see power that has been abused by religious leaders, and the outcomes wreak havoc on congregations. Decisions related to those cases are critical to the congregations and individuals who are impacted by them.

Rev. Abbey Tennis



Rev. Abbey Tennis (she/her) serves as Lead Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. Abbey is passionate about ministry centered in justice and love, working against oppression and for multi-faith, multi-racial, and multi-generational community. A life-long UU, Abbey was a lay leader for fifteen years prior to entering the ministry, serving as a youth on the UUA Board of Trustees, working in the UUA's Youth Office, and as a member of the continental UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee. In addition to First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, Abbey has served the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA, and All Souls Church in Washington, D.C. congregations, as well as serving Starr King School for the Ministry as Interim Director of Advancement. Her previous career included climate change policy work and professional facilitation. Abbey holds an MDiv from Starr King School for the Ministry, MBA from UMass Boston, and BA from Oberlin College. Abbey lives in West Philly with her partner Kai, their kiddos Nova and Robin, and their 2 cats, Mr. Bayard Rustin and Ludo.

Board of Trustees (Position #1; 3-year term; vote for one)

Gail Forsyth-Vail



Gail Forsyth-Vail was appointed to the UUA Board of Trustees in September 2025, and is now seeking your vote for election to a full term on the Board. After a long career as a congregational religious educator, Gail was a member of the UUA staff until retirement. She is a Credentialed Religious Educator, Leadership Level, and was the recipient of the 2007 Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education. Gail is an active congregant at the North Parish of North Andover, MA, where she served as Board Chair and as a longtime member of the Racial Justice Team. She is part of a team leading "Mosaic" with youth and Co-Chair the Worship Committee. She co-teaches the UU Faith Development class at Harvard Divinity School and co-convenes the Life Member Chapter of the Liberal Religious Educators Association. In Georgetown, MA, where she lives, she is an elected member of the Housing Authority. Together, she and her spouse, Stephen, have three adult children and four lively and curious grandchildren who are part of the faith development program at their UU congregation. Gail promises to bring to the Board a strong commitment to local congregations and to what is possible when those congregations support one another and our values. Our UUA makes real the notion that we are "stronger together," with a positive impact on those within our faith communities and on the world beyond. She asks for your vote as we face a future filled with emerging possibilities for our Unitarian Universalist faith movement.

Board of Trustees (Position #2; 3-year term; vote for one)

Chloe Ockey



Our Unitarian Universalist faith calls Chloe to live more fully into its commitments to justice, compassion, and collective care. She is honored to offer her candidacy for the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Chloe Ockey currently serves as Director of Congregational Life at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville in Maryland. In this role she supports lay leaders, strengthens connections among congregants, and helps develop systems that allow congregational life to flourish. Her work sits at the intersection of communication, organizing, and pastoral care—bringing people together around shared values and helping translate those values into meaningful action. Earlier in her career Chloe worked at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno in communications and media, using storytelling and digital engagement to lift up justice issues and connect people to our work. Across these experiences she has come to see how vital strong communication, leadership development, and relational networks are to the health of our congregations and our wider movement. If elected, she would bring to the Board a perspective grounded in congregational life and shaped by the experiences of younger generations of Unitarian Universalists. She believes our Association is strongest when we invest in congregational vitality, empower emerging leaders, and deepening our collective commitment to justice. Chloe would be honored to help guide our Association with transparency, collaboration, and a long-term vision for a thriving Unitarian Universalist future.

Board of Trustees (Position #4; 3-year term; vote for one)

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair



The Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair was appointed to the UUA Board of Trustees in September 2025, and is now seeking your vote for election to a full term on the Board. Oscar is the Senior Minister of Unity Church – Unitarian in Saint Paul, Minnesota. From 2017-2024 he served as senior minister of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln Nebraska. While in Lincoln he and the congregation helped to found Justice in Action, a grassroots coalition of faith communities working on housing and criminal justice reform. In the Twin Cities, the work of finding authentic Unitarian Universalism is the context of relationship with partners in the community continues, particularly as “neighboring” has emerged as a verb and living theology during Minnesota’s winter of 2026. Oscar is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC (M.Div, 2016, D.Min, 2023) and Saint Mary’s College of Maryland (BA, 2008). His doctoral work focused on adaptive congregational leadership in times of stress, including the use of oral history as a tool to process and heal communal trauma in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a young adult, Oscar served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in the Kingdom of Lesotho, living into Sargent Shriver’s charge for Peace Corps to create “practical idealists” who integrate hard skills with a desire to build and see the Beloved Community. Oscar is married to Stacie Sinclair, Associate Director for Policy and Care Transformation at the Center to Advance Palliative Care. Together they live with their daughter Ailish and Black Lab, Teddy (Theophilus) Magoo.

Candidates for Election

Board of Trustees (Position #5; 3-year term; vote for one)

Terry Grim

This candidate was nominated by the UUA Nominating Committee to serve a 3-year term in Position #5 of the UUA Board of Trustees.



Terry Grim is honored to be nominated by the Nominating Committee to serve as a Trustee on the UUA Board of Directors.

Growing up in diverse communities across multiple countries, Terry experienced firsthand the deep interconnectedness of life and the many ways people live and believe. Those early experiences shaped her enduring commitment to the dignity and worth of every person and led her to Unitarian Universalism, where she found a true spiritual home.

For thirty-four years as a member of Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church, she has served in a wide range of leadership roles, including President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Board, and chair of numerous committees and teams. She remains actively engaged as a Worship Associate, choir member, mentor, and participant in ministries and social justice efforts.

Terry's professional path reflects a lifelong focus on understanding change and helping organizations navigate it. With academic grounding in computer science, future studies, and organizational psychology, she spent thirty years at IBM in strategic, management, and technical roles. She later taught Foresight at the University of Houston and founded a consulting practice serving associations and organizations. She has also served on the Board of the Association of Professional Futurists and chaired the development of its Code of Ethics.

Across all of Terry's work, she has been committed to creating inclusive environments where diverse voices are heard and valued, because both organizations and communities are stronger when everyone can participate fully.

Terry believes our faith calls us to imagine the future boldly, care deeply for one another, and act courageously for justice. She is inspired by the opportunity to help the UUA meet this moment, bringing her deep love for our faith, her ability to connect across difference, and her training and experience helping people come together to envision and build a better future.

Larry Ladd

This candidate submitted a petition, which was approved by the Secretary, to serve a 3-year term in Position #5 of the UUA Board of Trustees.



As a child in the late 1950s, Larry occasionally attended services at the First Unitarian Church of Providence, where his aunt and uncle were members. Up front was Bill Jones, the assistant minister who was of African descent. Larry didn't know how unusual that was, even as he returned back to his white congregation in Grafton, MA. Bill Jones never served another congregation after Providence, his experience being, in a subtle word of the times, "disappointing."

Today, that white congregation in Grafton, where Larry grew up, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the ministry of a minister born of Haitian immigrants. And Bill Jones stayed in ministerial fellowship with the UUA, had a successful academic career, wrote the book "Is God A White Racist? A Preamble to Black Theology," and went on to serve on the UUA Board and receive the Award for Distinguished Service to Unitarian Universalism.

Stories like these make Larry optimistic that Unitarian Universalism can become the liberating faith its theology promises. He has devoted much of his volunteer time to that promise. "I'm not done yet," he says.

We know the future that we seek. We don't agree on how to get there. We do know that it requires optimism, care, persistence and focus, characteristics Larry has demonstrated throughout his volunteer career in Unitarian Universalism.

Larry's spiritual practice is grounded in the UU Fellowship of Falmouth, MA. A former president, he recently chaired its ministerial search committee. He is a welcoming greeter, the chair of the denominational affairs committee, and an occasional preacher. UU Falmouth has been an honor congregation with the UUA since that designation was created.

He has served Unitarian Universalism since he became a youth leader and anti-racist activist, including three terms as UUA Financial Advisor, chairing the board of Meadville Lombard Theological School, and advising the Starr King School for the Ministry.

The UUA board needs the stability and the institutional knowledge Larry will bring. When its two longest serving members complete their six years of service this June, the remaining nine members will have an average of 2.3 years of service each. Four of the nine will have completed one year or less. You can't make change if you are busy trying to figure out how things work.

The theme of his candidacy is "Liberate Unitarian Universalism," a bombastic assertion but also an optimistic one. The Commission on Institutional Change described our governance as overly complex and as frustrating to volunteers. It gives many people authority to stop change but offers few channels to more fully live out our mission. Larry knows that culture well and will encourage its transformation. Because of his experience within the culture, he can start right away to help change it.

Professionally, Larry has been a leader, board member, or consultant with a wide variety of not-for-profit organizations. Those entities include Harvard, Tuskegee University, Consumer Reports, Girl Scouts USA, Rotary International, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. His expertise, in governance, finance, and strategy, is needed by the UUA.

He will be grateful for your vote and will work to earn your continued trust.

Commission on Appraisal (5-year term; vote for one)

Peter Mather



Pete Mather is a member and officer at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, OH, and is enrolled in graduate studies at Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), where he is a member of the Unitarian Universalist House of Worship, focusing his studies on Unitarian Universalist history and theology. His interests and strengths are aligned with the work of the Commission, as his full-time occupation is a professor in a Higher Education and Student Affairs graduate program at Ohio University. In his role as a tenured faculty member, he maintains an active research and publication record, and has published research articles and edited and co-authored books. The focus of his research has been in the area of transformative educational practices and transformative higher education

institutional leadership. In the context of Unitarian Universalism, Pete imagines applying the types of methods of inquiry and his interest in transformative education to collaborate with others in generating and uncovering important questions for our faith community. At a time when there are powerful social counter movements to our values (e.g., de-humanizing anti-immigration activities and anti-trans legislation) and the existential crisis facing the environment, re-imagining our identity and work in and among local and global communities is important in ensuring the thriving of the planet, communities, and vulnerable individuals. Peter is grateful to be considered as a candidate for the UUA Commission on Appraisal.

Commission on Appraisal (1-year term; vote for two)

Candidates for Election

Julie Romero



Julie Romero (she/her) is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and the daughter of a UU minister. She has been a member of Westminster Unitarian Church for over thirty years. Over the years, she has served as a Religious Education Coordinator, volunteer at Star Island, member of the Continental Youth Adult Committee, and active in Liberal Religious Youth. She works as an Occupational Therapy provider in schools and advocates for her students, community members, and her own family to have improved access to the world.

Lincoln Statler



Lincoln is a Unitarian Universalist Commissioned Lay Minister, Clinical Chaplain, and an unapologetic evangelist for a fiercely inclusive faith. Armed with a Master of Arts in Social Change (MASC), and a Certificate in UU Studies from Starr King School for the Ministry, plus four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), he brings profound theological grounding to his clinical chaplaincy work. As President of the Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministries (UUSCM), Lincoln champions community-based ministries, especially Lay Community Ministries. This drive fuels his latest grassroots initiative in West Philadelphia: the All Souls Food Sanctuary and Center. Here, he is cultivating a UU Community Garden and actively fundraising to launch a neighborhood “Free Fridge,” building a tangible hub for mutual aid, nourishment, and Leftist solidarity. Lincoln’s ministry is deeply inspired by the DIY (do it yourself) ethos of the alternative and punk rock scenes — proving that collective care, like good music, demands authentic passion, bold action, and joyful noise. When not reimagining institutional structures, Lincoln is at home with his husband of twelve years, navigating the delightful chaos of their four dogs and one cat. He leads with professional grace, a heavy dose of whimsy, and an unwavering commitment to collective liberation.

Nominating Committee (3-year term; vote for three)

Rev. Viola Abbitt



Rev. Viola Abbitt (she/they), who has been a UU since 2002, is currently seeking a second term as a member of the Nominating Committee. She has great faith in Unitarian Universalism and believes in its potential as a driving force in making a positive change in the world. She believes this depends not only upon those Unitarian Universalists who live out their values, but also upon those who serve the denomination in various capacities. She has served as the settled minister at Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists in Virginia Beach, VA since August of 2020. Before that she served as the half-time minister for two Unitarian Universalist congregations in New York State, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie and the First Unitarian Society of Westchester. She is an Advocate in the UUA’s Office of Ethics and Safety and a Good Officer with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. She previously served on the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee. Her interest in challenging and dismantling systems of oppression and seeking justice and fairness is what led her there and is what continues to inform her ministry. Prior to ministry, Rev. Viola was the Director of the Office of the Ombudsman in New York State where she managed a program responsible for advocating for the rights of incarcerated youth. Rev. Viola received an MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School, a JD from Fordham University School of Law, an MSLS from Long Island University and a BA from Binghamton University.

Nominating Committee (3-year term; vote for three)

Sunnie Palmer



Sunnie Palmer (she/they) has served as a lay leader at Denton UU Fellowship in Denton, TX, in various roles, including on the Board of Trustees and Stewardship and Worship teams. She has also served on the Board of North Texas UU Congregations. Sunnie enjoys exchanging ideas and resources for worship and religious education with other small congregations. She is a licensed clinical social worker who loves working with neurodivergent children, teens, and adults, and spending time with her three kids.

Claire Sexton



Claire is a lifelong UU and committed lay leader. Having served as a volunteer on the congregational level, on through district, regional, and association-wide committees since her teen years, Claire looks forward to serving the association through leadership development. In her most recent UU leadership role Claire was the board president of the UU Women's federation from 2017-2022, a transitional time in the UUWF, Unitarian Universalism, and the US. Professionally, Claire has a background in nonprofit and visual arts administration and operates a small business with an environmental focus. Born & raised in Texas, Claire spent 10 years in Brooklyn NY for graduate school & professional opportunities.

Back in Texas for just over 10 years, she now resides in Waco with her husband, tween daughter, two dogs and two cats.

Nominating Committee (1-year term; vote for one)

Cathy Seggel



Cathy completed serving the First Unitarian Church of Providence as full-time religious educator after 30 years. She has a BS in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, worked as an RN and taught Pediatric Nursing at Rhode Island College. She also earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard Divinity School. Previous volunteer roles included President of the Unitarian Sunday School Society, member of the GA Program Development Group, and many years of leadership with the Star Island Faith Development Conference. She is a past President of LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association). She and Gail Forsyth-Vail recently launched and facilitate the LREDA Life

Member Chapter. Cathy served on the most recent UUA Presidential Search Committee. She is currently an adjunct professor of UU Faith Development at Harvard Divinity School. Cathy is honored to have been asked to serve on the Nominating Committee. She lives in Providence, RI with her husband, Norm.

Presidential Search Committee (5-year term; vote for 5)

Rev. Dr. Madelyn Campbell



The face of religion in America is changing rapidly. We need to be proactive in meeting the needs of current Unitarian Universalists, as well as those who haven't found us yet. So our next President will need to be someone who is able to meet that challenge. Rev. Dr. Madelyn Campbell has the skills and experience that will complement the team that searches for the next presidential candidates. She has served as a commissioner on the Commission on Appraisal. In this role she's done research into what challenges Unitarian Universalism is facing now as well as what challenges we've faced in the past (and how we've addressed them). She's also served as a member of the Joseph Priestley District

Board during the transition to regionalization and the dissolution of the district. She is an Accredited Interim Minister and has helped congregations in the search process to understand what they need in a minister. This is how she'd like to serve our Association next.

Ben Gabel



Ben Gabel lives in Pontiac, MI with his husband and two yellow labradors. He first experienced national Unitarian Universalism with his involvement with the Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) Youth and Young Adults caucus. Ben has served in volunteer UU leadership roles since 2012, including the DRUUMM Steering Committee, GA Right Relationship Team, Co-Chair of the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee, Co-President of the UU Society for Community Ministries, and most recently as the Co-Chair of the UUA Nominating Committee. He is also currently an Advocate in the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) complaint

process. All these various roles have given him the opportunity to engage in many different areas and with a diversity of constituencies within our Unitarian Universalism faith movement. Professionally, Ben has served as a Congregational Administrator in an Executive Ministry Team role at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield, MI. He also has professional programming experience as a Director of Social Justice and Outreach at the Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Ben demonstrates shared ministry and consensus building. We are a faith based on covenants and holding each other in right relationships rooted in our values centered in love. When we are co-conspirators in our work together, we are then able to fully show up as ourselves and to live into collective liberation.

Lynette Millett



Lynette Millett would welcome serving on the UUA Presidential Search Committee. After years of congregational lay leadership and attending several General Assemblies — including as a delegate for the landmark Article II vote — she looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to Unitarian Universalism at the denominational level. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA. Lynette believes one of the most vital dimensions of the UUA's work and presidency right now is public witness. Helping to discern the next leader to carry that prophetic voice forward feels like consequential, meaningful work. Her congregational experience has been

substantive. Among other things, she served as board chair of a 300-member congregation during: the pandemic, a senior minister resignation, interim and settled search processes, and a major construction project. Professionally, she spent 25 years working on science and technology policy in Washington D.C., managing distributed multidisciplinary teams of national experts, leading evaluation strategy, and navigating the dynamics of strategic advisory groups without direct authority over their stakeholders — a scenario familiar to anyone who knows our congregations and the UUA. Theologically, she is shaped by Universalism, a deepening commitment to and exploration of relationality and covenant, and engagement with abolition as a genuinely theological framework. She endeavors to bring both humility and seriousness to the ongoing work of understanding and countering systems of oppression and sustaining the democratic process in our Association and society in an anti-democratic time. Lynette would be honored to serve.

Presidential Search Committee (5-year term; vote for 5)

Rachel Rott



Rachel Rott (she/they) has been a Unitarian Universalist since 2009. Rachel is a member of the UURISE (Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education) Team, and also works remotely from her home in the San Diego area for First Universalist Church of Minneapolis. At her home congregation, she has worked on three recent search committees. Rachel places a high value on relational processes and brings an orientation toward collective liberation to her work in service of our faith. She welcomes your questions about her candidacy, and thanks you for considering her when you cast your vote.

Rev. Hannah Villnave



Our shared Unitarian Universalist faith has something urgent and life-saving to offer the world right now. Electing prophetic and practical leadership for this moment is holy, complex work. As a third-generation Unitarian Universalist, Rev. Hannah Villnave has witnessed the plural possibilities of our faith in several communities across a diversity of congregation sizes and regions. Rev. Villnave would bring the breadth and depth of her many years as a lay leader at the local, regional, and Association-wide levels, along with the past nine years of experience as an ordained minister serving local congregations, to the work of identifying the best candidates for the role of UUA President. In particular, she brings a well-honed sense of how to maintain connection with a diverse set of stakeholders while holding clarity about what is needed next for the thriving of our shared faith. She also brings many years of experience facilitating difficult and conflicted conversations, both within and beyond our movement—especially those that engage the dynamics of privilege and power that move through our systems. She would be honored to serve our Association as a member of the Presidential Search Committee, and would look forward to bringing a spirit of thoughtful discernment and a deep commitment to the confidentiality and care such a process requires.



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026
WAVE COHORT FACILITATION GUIDE**

Total time: 3 Hours

Introduction

As Unitarian Universalists navigate the realities of escalating authoritarianism, climate crisis, and seismic shifts in the religious landscape, we know two things for certain: that our transformative, liberating faith is more relevant than ever, and that if we want to stay relevant, in the midst of all that has shifted around and among us, we will also need to transform ourselves.

Whether we're talking about the pledge drive, ministering to our young families, our aging buildings, or partnering with our neighbors for justice, Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities are navigating many of the same issues – but are not always in intentional dialogue, within, among, and beyond our congregations, to share wisdom, learn from one another, and innovate the future together. **Meet the Moment** is a framework to support Unitarian Universalism – our members, our leaders, our congregations – in navigating the current context collaboratively. It is designed for sharing wisdom and resources, and for co-evolving our practices in ways that allow us to effectively, faithfully embody our timeless values in this present moment.

In order to align our energy both within our congregations and more broadly across the faith, Unitarian Universalists need to **develop a shared understanding** of the realities we are navigating. We also need to hone our ability to **identify the most urgent needs and important**

opportunities – the things that *really deserve our attention and resources* – and then **discern how our shared UU values are calling us to respond**. Only when we have done this foundational, collaborative work as individual congregations and as an Association can we dive into the strategy planning, experimentation, assessment, and recalibration that are needed to truly meet this moment.

This 3-hour Wave Cohort experience is intended to give Unitarian Universalist lay leaders, religious professionals, and congregants attending General Assembly together a foundation for and practice with doing this kind of shared discernment and prioritization that can be used both within and beyond the congregation.

At the heart of this Wave Cohort experience are the three grounding questions of this first phase of Meet the Moment:

- 1.) What's the moment we are in?
- 2.) What are the most urgent needs and important opportunities of this moment? and
- 3.) How are our shared values calling us to respond to this moment?

Through a variety of interactive activities and exercises, this Wave Cohort will guide participants through the process of engaging these questions as they pertain to the context you're working in. This could be the context of your congregation as a whole- in this case you would be asking "what is the moment we are in as a congregation?" and "what are the most urgent needs and important opportunities right now for our congregation?" and "what are our shared values calling our congregation to do in this moment?" You could also get more specific, using the format and the questions to focus on a subset of your congregation- the RE program or the Buildings and Grounds needs, for example. The Board could use it to focus their work or the ministerial search team could use the process to guide their decision making. Or you could use the questions to frame a conversation about a larger context- the cluster of UU congregations in your area and their work together, or your community partnership with a nonprofit or justice-focused organization, or the context of your whole state if you are part of a Statewide Action Network. Finally, you could also use this format to focus on a specific issue that crosses lines of congregations or communities, and create a Wave Cohort that includes all of the groups in who work on trans justice or immigrant justice, or a Wave Cohort that brings together all of the Board Presidents or Administrators or Youth Advisors in the UU congregations in your are, to focus on your shared work in different contexts. The format is intended to flex, shift, and expand or retract to meet the needs of many different contexts where shared understanding, needs assessment, and values-based discernment are called for. Although this Guide can be used exactly as written, you should feel free to adapt this format and the specific focus, as needed, for different contexts and groups of people.

Who this Wave Cohort is for

This Wave Cohort is designed to help General Assembly participants, but also congregational leaders more generally, build shared understanding and analysis while prioritizing needs in order to discern what values-aligned action is needed in this moment. Although you are using this Facilitation Guide to lead a Wave Cohort at the UUA General Assembly, you might also choose to run a session like this as the basis of your annual leadership retreat, inviting a large group with participants representing all the various teams and committees across your congregation; you could also use it with just the Board, or the staff, or the ministerial search team. Or you could invite multifaith or other community partners to engage this framework as a way of defining your shared work and priorities together. This Facilitation Guide is intended to be useful and flexible in a variety of settings where the practice of shared discernment is needed.

The more leaders in the congregation who become familiar with the Meet the Moment process and who experience the framework together, the stronger the sense of shared purpose, alignment, and understanding among various groups.

This session can also serve as a shared introduction to the Meet the Moment framework, to be followed by sending various groups off to engage more deeply about their specific sphere of shared work. You can use the Wave Cohort process represented in this session as a way of building a common analysis about dynamics and realities impacting the whole congregation before sending leaders to do our [three 90-minute session Meet the Moment process](#) independently with their own committee/team/task force.

How to use this facilitation guide

We have designed this facilitation guide to be as user-friendly as possible so that facilitators of all experience levels can bring this Wave Cohort process into their congregations. As written, this template includes time markers for each section, a facilitator script, and detailed instructions about how to run the 3-hour Wave Cohort. While we strongly encourage you to recruit a team of 2-3 facilitators to lead this session, it is definitely possible for one person to serve as a sole facilitator.

We recognize that facilitators have a wide range of styles, and not every activity will work equally well for all groups. Some facilitators like to stick to the script, and others prefer to put everything in their own words – feel free to adapt and modify as you see fit! We highly recommend reading through the entire facilitation guide and making whatever tweaks will make this the most impactful for your GA participants, your congregation, and your people. Feel free to swap a pair share for a silent reflection time if you're using this with a deeply introverted

group, for example, or scrap a popcorn-style large group section in favor of giving people more time in small groups. The pieces that we ask you to commit to keeping are only 1.) showing the videos included in the template, and 2.) engaging the three grounding questions in some format.

We have written this Wave Cohort Facilitation Guide with an emphasis on in-person engagement; you could easily adapt this template to be used through Zoom or another platform that allows breakout rooms.

Getting the most out of this process

We strongly recommend that the people designated as facilitators for this GA Wave Cohort experience (or anyone using this Guide for another purpose) meet before leading the Wave Cohort and talk about shared goals for participants, what “topic” or context you’ll focus your conversation on, as well as any of the “Carrying it forward” practices you might want to engage or recommend to participants after this session [see APPENDIX 2].

Engaging with Meet the Moment beyond General Assembly

Unitarian Universalist congregations and leaders are all being shaped by similar political, social, religious, and environmental realities – which means that many of our challenges and opportunities are similar to one another. Whether you are planning to use this Facilitation Guide to lead a Wave Cohort at General Assembly, or to facilitate a general conversation about the dynamics and contexts your congregation is navigating, or to discern how you and your team / congregation / coalition are going to address specific issues such as religious education, fundraising, or staffing structure, it’s likely that your group is not alone in whatever you’re navigating.

Meet the Moment provides a common set of tools for congregations to use to do thoughtful, values-based discernment about how to respond to the current moment. But it also offers a myriad of opportunities for Unitarian Universalists to connect beyond their own communities with other UU leaders and congregations traversing similar terrain. We have designed the Meet the Moment framework to increase Unitarian Universalists’ sense of interdependence and mutual support; to create containers for leaders to innovate, experiment, and assess our approaches in community; and to make the wisdom, resources, and successes we generate together easily accessible across the faith.

In addition to facilitating this Wave Cohort in your congregation or community, we encourage you (and your fellow congregants!) to engage with this work in the company of other UUs by:

- [GET PERSPECTIVE ON THE MOMENT THROUGH DATA](#)
Join UUA staff to hear the stories our annual Congregational Certification Data tells — and the questions it raises — about the moment our faith is in as a whole.
- [JOIN A WAVE COHORT](#)
Grow your skills, deepen your understanding, and prime your imagination in the company of other UUs across the faith as Wave Cohorts launch throughout the year.
- [LEARN FROM OUR PREVIOUS WAVE COHORTS](#)
Whether you participated in one of our now completed Wave Cohorts, or are simply curious about what Wave Cohorts are like, check out the videos and other resources from our previous Wave Cohorts.
- [SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES & CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE](#)
Stay connected with Meet the Moment by signing up to receive timely email updates from Meet the Moment.

Please share these resources and opportunities with all participants in your session and your wider congregation or organization!

Time	Content	Facilitator Notes
<p>Prior to the GA Wave Cohort</p>	<p>Pre-Wave Preparation</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large butcher paper or flipchart (with paint-safe tape if needed) • Markers • Post-Its in three different colors (enough for all participants to have a stack of about 10 in each color) • Pens/pencils for all participants • Projector or TV connected to laptop for showing videos • Chalice & matches + your own chalice lighting words • Snacks & drinks (optional) • Music playlist for gathering & break times (optional) • Microphone/sound system (if available) <p>Room setup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally, set up tables around your space so that all participants can see whatever surfaces you will be using to post your flipchart/butcher paper • Place pens/pencils and stacks of each color Post-Its at each table • Ensure that your projection system is working, including sound and wifi connection. Test all four videos in advance; consider downloading videos ahead of time if your wifi is spotty. 	

FACILITATOR NOTES

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uua.org/MeetTheMoment

	<p>Create beforehand [see APPENDIX 1]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet 1: Agenda • Sheet 2: What is the Moment We're In? • Sheet 3: Urgent Needs & Important Opportunities • Sheet 3: Shared UU Values 	
<p>0:00-0:15 15 min</p>	<p>Welcome, Framing, & Agenda</p> <p>The facilitator welcomes all participants to the Wave Cohort and makes any logistical or technical notes.</p> <p>The facilitator invites participants to breathe, quiet their minds, and become aware of their bodies. The facilitator then reads a chalice lighting, and a volunteer lights the chalice.</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>We're here to engage in a Wave Cohort process together: to do some reflection about the specific realities of this moment, the needs and opportunities that exist for us in this moment, and how our shared values are calling us to respond. This "Meet the Moment" framework comes out of our Unitarian Universalist Association and, in addition to these Wave Cohorts at General Assembly, UU congregations across the country are using this framework and Wave Cohort practice. We are all reckoning with the context we're living in and what we, as Unitarian Universalists, should be doing to respond. Wave Cohorts are a tool to help us build skills to do that collaboratively and strategically. We're going to watch a short five-minute video for a little bit more framing to get us started, and then we'll go through today's agenda.</i></p>	<p>As with all gatherings, please think ahead about accessibility for all participants whether in-person or online.</p> <p>Find or write a short chalice lighting, and attribute the author while reading.</p>

	<p>Play Meet the Moment Intro Video featuring Rev. Ashley Horan, UUA Vice President for Programs & Ministries (running time: 4m49s)</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>So this is the work! Today, we're going to get a taste of the first phase of the Meet the Moment framework and an embodied experience of shared discernment through the Wave Cohort process. Our work today is going to focus on three grounding questions. Those are: 1.) What is the moment we are in? 2.) What are the most urgent needs and important opportunities of this moment? and 3.) How are our UU values calling us to respond to this moment?</i></p> <p><i>In each section, we'll watch a video that features the voices of leaders from across Unitarian Universalism digging into each question for the faith on the broadest level. Then, we'll have time in either large groups or breakouts to grapple with each question for our own congregation/context. We'll take a short break in the middle, and at the end we'll offer gratitudes and move back into the larger GA Meet the Moment programming together.</i></p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1090949934</p> <p>This video has embedded captions for accessibility; transcript available at above link.</p> <p>Prior to session, write out agenda [SEE APPENDIX 1] on a large sheet of butcher or flipchart paper and post visibly at the front of the space</p>
<p>0:15 - 0:30 (15 min)</p>	<p>Video :: Defining the Moment</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>So let's get into it! As Rev. Ashley said in the introductory video, the context has shifted for our entire faith – we're all facing some similar political, religious, and congregational issues. At the same time, we don't necessarily agree about what's happening around us and why –</i></p>	

	<p><i>not even within our own congregations, and certainly not across all of our one thousand UU congregations in the Association!</i></p> <p><i>So we are going to begin by building some shared understanding and analysis. The first grounding question for us is: “What is the moment that we are in?” That sounds simple, but I would bet that our various ages, roles, cultural backgrounds, experiences, and identities mean that we have a variety of perspectives about what’s happening around us right now. We hope that collectively, there will be enough agreement among us that we can lift up some defining characteristics of this moment.</i></p> <p><i>We’re going to start with some really big-picture perspective on this question. In a minute, I’m going to play a longer video – about 13 minutes – in which a wide range of Unitarian Universalist leaders share their own perspectives answering the question, “What is the moment we are in?” for the faith as a whole. As you listen, I invite you to note where you feel like the things the speakers are lifting up really resonate with your experience in our own congregation, and where you don’t think what they are saying is as applicable to us. Here we go:</i></p> <p>Play “Defining the Moment” video (runtime: 12m45s)</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1091932638</p> <p>This video has embedded captions for accessibility; transcript available at above link.</p> <p>While the video is playing, post/uncover your large sheet of paper that has three concentric circles</p>
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		drawn on it as large as possible [see APPENDIX 1].
0:30 - 0:45 (15 min)	<p>Large group activity :: What is the Moment We Are In?</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>So these folks in the video were talking about the moment we are in as Unitarian Universalists, and of course our congregation is a part of that broader context. We could also spend quite a bit of time talking about the moment we're in nationally and globally, and all of those are layers to our context. But we're going to spend a few minutes thinking about our own local context, starting with this moment for [your city/town/community], then for our close neighbors and partners, and finally for this congregation itself.</i></p> <p><i>We're going to do three quick 2-minute reflections where you're going to jot down your answers – writing one answer per post-it note. Please use your very clearest handwriting, as someone else is going to have to read these out loud! For the first round, I'm going to give you 2 minutes to reflect on the question, "What's the moment we are in for [name of your city/town]?" Think about what's happening in local politics; economic or social or trends; major events that have happened or will be happening; etc. Write your various answers down on the [color #1] post-its, one answer per post-it.</i></p>	<p>If you have a larger group, you may choose to limit people to giving a smaller number of answers to each question and a limited number of post-it notes each, instead of as many as they can think of. For example, you might say folks can write three or five post-its each per question, so the reporting out and reading all the answers out loud doesn't take so long.</p>

	<p>The facilitator times two minutes of silence, then asks everyone to gather their table's/row's/group's post-its into a single pile.</p> <p>Facilitator then says:</p> <p><i>Now, I want you to think about our closest partners and neighbors. For example, [list major multifaith relationships, non-profit orgs with whom you have a relationship of funding/service/collaboration, coalition partners, organizing networks, other UU orgs and local congregations, etc].</i></p> <p><i>What is the moment for them? Think about major events, campaigns, happenings, shared goals and projects that are a high priority among these groups. You'll have another two minutes of silence to jot down as many answers as possible, this time using the [color #2 post-its], one answer per post-it note.</i></p> <p>The facilitator again times two minutes of silence, then invites people to assemble their post-its into a single pile.</p> <p><i>Finally, think about our congregation itself – our members and friends, our children and youth, leaders on the board and other groups, our staff. What is the moment we are in, nested in the context of those other levels we've already talked about? Think about governance projects and priorities, building and maintenance needs, major programs and commitments, trends in membership, financial realities, lay leadership needs, ministerial and staffing context, spiritual needs of members of all ages. Once again, you'll</i></p>	
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	<p><i>have two minutes to reflect and jot down your answers on the [color #3] post-its, one answer per post-it note.</i></p> <p>The facilitator again times two minutes of silence, invites people to assemble their post-its into a single pile, and then collects all three colors of post-its in separate piles. Starting with color #1 post-its, read each post-it aloud and place it in the outermost concentric circle. Then proceed with color #2 in the second circle, and finally color #3 in the center circle.</p>	<p>You may want volunteers to help you with this [e.g., Volunteer 1 collects color #1 post-its, etc.] Have volunteers bring post-its forward and – starting with Volunteer #1, invite them to read all their post-its in the corresponding ring of the concentric circle.</p> <p>Color #1 = city/town/community = outermost ring</p> <p>Color #2 = neighbors/partners = middle ring</p> <p>Color #3 = congregation = center circle</p>
<p>0:45 - 1:00 (15 min)</p>	<p>Large Group Debrief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process & temperature check: how much alignment was in the room about the moment you are in? Were there particular points of divergence or conflict about our analysis or experiences? If so, how can we reflect on why we don't share a common understanding about what's happening? What about our identities and social locations, roles in the community and within the congregation, 	<p>Note: you won't have time for more than a few of these debrief questions; plan ahead of time for which questions in particular you want to ask this group, given your goals and audience.</p> <p>You might consider asking a scribe to take notes to capture people's thoughts and points that you want to follow up about later.</p>

	<p>professional and personal backgrounds, etc. may be contributing to our diverging analyses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What patterns do you notice? What is missing? Do you think if we did this same exercise with various groups or specific teams within the congregation [the Board / the whole congregation / the staff / specific committees] we would get similar answers and perspectives? • Do you think our closest community partners would share our analysis about the moment we're in? Where might their answers diverge, and where would they be the same – and why? Anything we want to add after thinking about partner realities and responses? • Do you think our neighborhood/town/city generally shares this analysis, or are we a minority? Are there folks with whom we share common understanding about the moment we're in with whom we are NOT already in relationship – or at least conversation? How does our agreement (or lack thereof) with our community shape the context we're navigating and how we move in it? 	
<p>1:00 - 1:20 (20 min)</p>	<p>Transition into Question 2 + Video 2 :: Needs & Opportunities</p> <p>The facilitator says:</p> <p><i>Now that we share some common analysis about the defining characteristics of the moment we're in for ourselves and our community, we can begin to identify both the most urgent needs and the most important opportunities that arise within that context.</i></p>	

	<p><i>We're going to watch a second video now, again featuring an array of UU leaders from across the Association. As you watch, I invite you to listen for which of the urgent needs and important opportunities named by the speakers are relevant to our congregation, too.</i></p> <p>Play "Needs & Opportunities" video (runtime: 15m08s)</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1092001641</p> <p>This video has embedded captions for accessibility; transcript available at above link.</p>
<p>1:20 - 1:45 (25 min)</p>	<p>When video is finished, the facilitator says:</p> <p><i>You're going to have 20 minutes now to break into small groups and engage this second grounding question: "What are the most urgent needs and important opportunities for this congregation?" As you discuss, make sure you keep the context pieces we discussed during the first question in mind – the political moment, the national religious and UU moment, as well as the moment for [our town/city] and our closest partners AND for ourselves. Within that context, what are the most urgent needs AND the unique, important opportunities of this particular moment for this congregation? Try to think about needs and opportunities within the next 1-3 years.</i></p> <p>Explain [whatever breakout system you're using, and where people should go to be with their group]. Then say:</p> <p><i>As you discuss, please choose someone in the group to take notes and report out for your team. I'll help you keep track of time as we</i></p>	<p>Depending on the makeup of participants and what your goals are for this session, consider various kinds of breakouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed groups with representation from a variety of groups and committees; encourages perspectives from across the congregational system • Groupings by role/group (e.g., Worship Associates, Board, Religious Education, etc.); allows for the beginning of deeper work to be done by these groups on their own over

	<p><i>go. After 20 minutes of small group conversation, we'll take a brief 10 minute break before coming back to the big group for report-backs.</i></p> <p>Time 20 minutes; give warnings at 10, 5, and 2 minutes remaining, then announce the break and tell folks when they need to be back.</p>	<p>the coming time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By length of tenure in the congregation (e.g., 20+ years, 10-20 years, 3-10 years, 0-3 years); invites insight from both experienced veterans and newcomers with fresh eyes and outside perspective
<p>1:45 - 1:55 (10 min)</p>	<p>Break</p>	<p>Make sure everyone takes their break when the time is done. If there are any issues that need to be addressed, take the time to check in with individuals as needed.</p> <p>As everyone is on break, hang a large sheet of paper at the front of the room and divide it into two columns labeled "Needs" and "Opportunities" [See APPENDIX 1].</p> <p>Give people a 5 minute warning, and then gently start calling people back to the space when there is about one minute left.</p>
<p>1:55 - 2:10 (10 min)</p>	<p>Report-backs</p> <p>The facilitator says:</p>	<p>Start with one group, and move quickly around the room getting one word or phrase per group. Scribe</p>

	<p><i>Welcome back! For our report-back, we're going to do round robin style – the first group will call out ONE need or opportunity that you surfaced during your conversation, and [scribe] will write in the corresponding column. Then group two will call out a different need or opportunity, and we'll keep going around until we've recorded everything in a big long list. If another group says it first, no need to repeat! And please keep your answers to a word or a phrase – this is a lightning round. Group 1?</i></p>	<p>should sort them as you go into “Opportunities” and “Needs” columns. [See APPENDIX 1]</p> <p>Make sure people are using just a word or short phrase – if needed, remind folks to give very brief answers so you can keep the pace going quickly around the room.</p>
<p>2:10 - 2:30 (20 min)</p>	<p>Transition into Question 3 + Video 3 :: Values-Aligned Responses</p> <p>The facilitator says:</p> <p><i>As we can see, there are a huge number of both needs and opportunities facing our congregation right now. And, we all know that we are going to have to do some triaging to figure out which of these needs and opportunities we can and should actually address. There are lots of ways to evaluate and prioritize – we have to consider our human, financial, and infrastructural resources; the potential risks and benefits of acting – or not acting – on each of these things; whether we have the skills to address each thing well; whether we have the buy-in to commit and follow through; and whether each of these various things is really ours to do, or whether another organization or group is better poised to take the lead.</i></p> <p><i>But before we even get to those considerations, we are going to begin by looking at each of these needs and opportunities and asking, “Is this in line with our shared values?” If the answer is “no,”</i></p>	

	<p><i>then we don't need to go any further. As Unitarian Universalists and as members of this congregation, we are held together not by shared beliefs, necessarily, but by the values that we hold in common – and those values serve as the foundational framework we use to discern how we're called to act and move in the world as religious people in covenantal community.</i></p> <p><i>So with our understanding of the moment we're in, and the needs and opportunities that this moment is creating, now we are going to engage a third grounding question: "How are our UU values calling us to respond to this moment?"</i></p> <p><i>We're going to watch this final video now, and hear from these UU leaders about their perspectives on this question for the faith as a whole. Then, we'll spend some time talking about our congregation's values, and what they are calling us, specifically, to do.</i></p> <p><i>This video is about 12 minutes long. As you watch, I invite you to listen especially for the specific values the contributors name, as well as the concrete things the contributors lift up as actions our values are calling us to take.</i></p> <p>Play "Values-Aligned Responses" video (runtime: 12m 12s)</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1091949343</p> <p>This video has embedded captions for accessibility; transcript available at above link.</p>
<p>2:30 - 2:50 (20 min)</p>	<p>Large Group Practice :: Values-Based Discernment</p>	

	<p>The facilitator says:</p> <p><i>Okay – let’s take a minute and list some of the values you heard the folks in the video name. Let’s do a lightning round, popcorn-style.</i></p> <p>Facilitator spends 1-2 minutes letting participants generate a list of values named in the video; scribe records on a large sheet of paper.</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>Wonderful. What other values would you say are core to Unitarian Universalism broadly, and to this congregation specifically?</i></p> <p>If people struggle to generate more values, invite them to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UU Shared Values (Article II/JETPIG) • Your congregation’s covenant, mission statement, goals & ends, or other foundational documents • 7 Principles and/or other historical covenants (e.g., Blake Covenant) <p>Scribe should record all values on your paper at the front of the room.</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>If we had more time, we’d have a conversation about which of these values we would rank as our CORE values in this congregation – but for today, we’re going use the six that are included in our newly-articulated UUA Shared Values to workshop what it looks like to use those values as a lens for decision making and discernment.</i></p>	<p>For accessibility, make sure to repeat values back to the room using a microphone, if available.</p> <p>Place the paper with the list of urgent needs and important opportunities next to your sheet with the UU Shared Values on it.</p>
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	<p><i>We've identified a big list of needs and opportunities for our congregation, and while they are all worthwhile, we will need to make decisions about which ones we can and should focus on in this moment. To practice this, I'm going to have you turn to a partner and ask you to spend 10 minutes talking together about which of these urgent needs and important opportunities rise to the top of the list for you as being the MOST in line with our shared UU values. In other words, if we as a congregation hold Interdependence, Equity, Generosity, Justice, Transformation, and Pluralism – with Love at the center – as our guiding values that inform everything we do and every decision we make, which of these needs and opportunities should be our highest priority? Try to identify 2-3 needs or opportunities on your list, and talk specifically about how working on each of those would be an embodiment of one or more of these values.</i></p> <p><i>For example, you might say something like, "I think our values are calling us to redesign our path to membership. There are so many people in our community who resonate with our values and our work, but I don't know if they see a place for themselves here. We value diversity and pluralism, and I wonder if the way we welcome new people and teach them about our congregation and UUism could be more welcoming and inclusive to people with a broad range of identities and experiences. I think that would be transformative for both our congregation and the folks who find a place here, AND make the experience of interdependence more real for everyone."</i></p>	
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	<p><i>You'll have about ten minutes for this partner conversation.</i></p>	<p>Make sure everyone has a partner. Give folks a 5-minute and 1-minute warning.</p>
<p>2:50 - 3:00 (10 min)</p>	<p>Next Steps :: Carrying it Forward + Chalice Extinguishing</p> <p>Facilitator brings the group back together and says:</p> <p><i>How did that go? Any quick observations about what that experience was like for you?</i></p> <p>Facilitator takes 2-3 comments from participants and says:</p> <p><i>It's clear that we could make a case for our values calling us to engage with any number of these needs and opportunities. So if our goal were deciding on three main projects or areas of work for our congregation, for example, we would still have to ask another layer of questions before choosing. We'd want to talk about what we are especially equipped to do, given our skills and resources; the kind of impact we think we could make and the level of risk we are able to take on; how these things fit into the broader mission and priorities and ongoing commitments of our congregation.</i></p> <p><i>But our goal today in this Wave Cohort has been using this framework to develop some shared understanding about the moment we're in as a congregation, the urgent needs and important opportunities we're facing, and how our shared values compel us to act in that context. By doing this work collaboratively, we build a shared musculature for discernment and action that will help us to align our energy and our resources, as well as to be as impactful and grounded as possible in the midst of everything that's happening. Many other UU congregations across the country are also engaging this framework, which means we're growing these muscles together</i></p>	

	<p><i>not just in this congregation, not just at this General Assembly, but across faith.</i></p> <p><i>Today was just the beginning of this work for us. But we're being invited – and we're inviting you – to continue engaging in a multitude of ways.</i></p> <p>The facilitator shares how your congregation specifically is planning to engage the various Meet the Moment activities and opportunities in the coming year.</p> <p>Facilitator says:</p> <p><i>Also keep in mind that this Meet the Moment Wave Cohort process we went through today is just the beginning – we really focused on exploring the question, “What should we do?” Future phases of this work focus on strategy planning, answering the question, “How should we do it?” and action accompanied by evaluation and assessment, asking, “How’s it going and what are we learning?”</i></p> <p><i>Remember, if you’re interested in learning more about Meet the Moment and how the UUA and congregations all over the country are engaging this process, there are a lot of resources at uua.org/MeetTheMoment – including the videos we watched today, and information about opportunities to participate in longer Wave Cohorts that bring together UUs from across the faith to bring a shared focus on a variety of topics that are facing all our UU congregations. Joining a longer Wave Cohort is a great way to get connected to UUs in other places and different kinds of contexts to hear about what others are doing and to think about the future of the faith together, so we’re not just reinventing the wheel on our own. Check them out!</i></p> <p><i>As we close, we want to thank all of you for engaging this Wave</i></p>	<p>See APPENDIX 2, “Next Steps.” Before leading this workshop, have a conversation with key leadership (Board, clergy, key staff and lay leaders) to decide which next steps are right for you and your congregation.</p>
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Cohort process, and for diving in together to talk about how our congregation is going to meet this moment. Our closing words were written by a Catholic priest, Father Ken Untener, in 1979 – and while you might need to do a little bit of theological translation for yourself, I invite you to soak in the spirit of this poem. It’s called “A Step Along the Way.”

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

*No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

This is what we are about:

*We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.*

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in

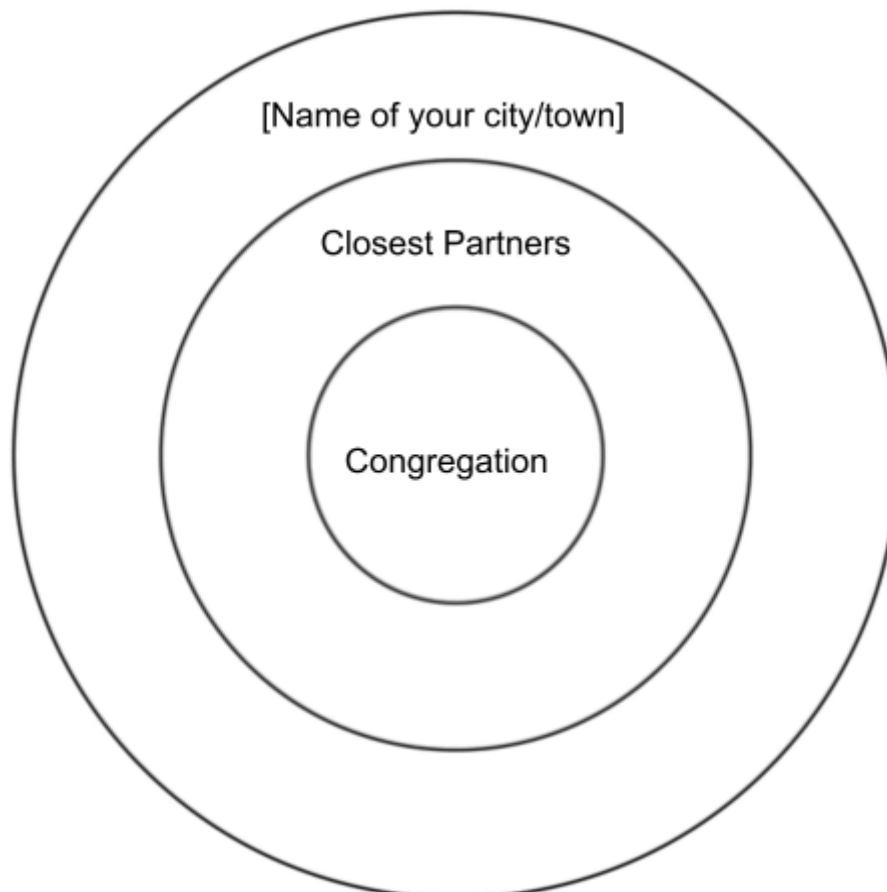
	<p><i>realizing that.</i> <i>This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.</i> <i>It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.</i></p> <p><i>We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.</i> <i>We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.</i> <i>We are prophets of a future not our own.</i></p> <p>The facilitator extinguishes the chalice and reminds folks to return for the Meet the Moment closing session later in the day.</p>	
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APPENDIX 1: Visuals to create before your session

Sheet 1: Agenda

- What is the moment we're in?
 - Video
 - Large group activity
 - Debrief
- What are the most urgent needs and important opportunities of this moment?
 - Video
 - BREAK!
 - Breakout groups
 - Reporting back
- How are our shared UU values calling us to respond to this moment?
 - Video
 - Large group activity
- Looking ahead
- Closing

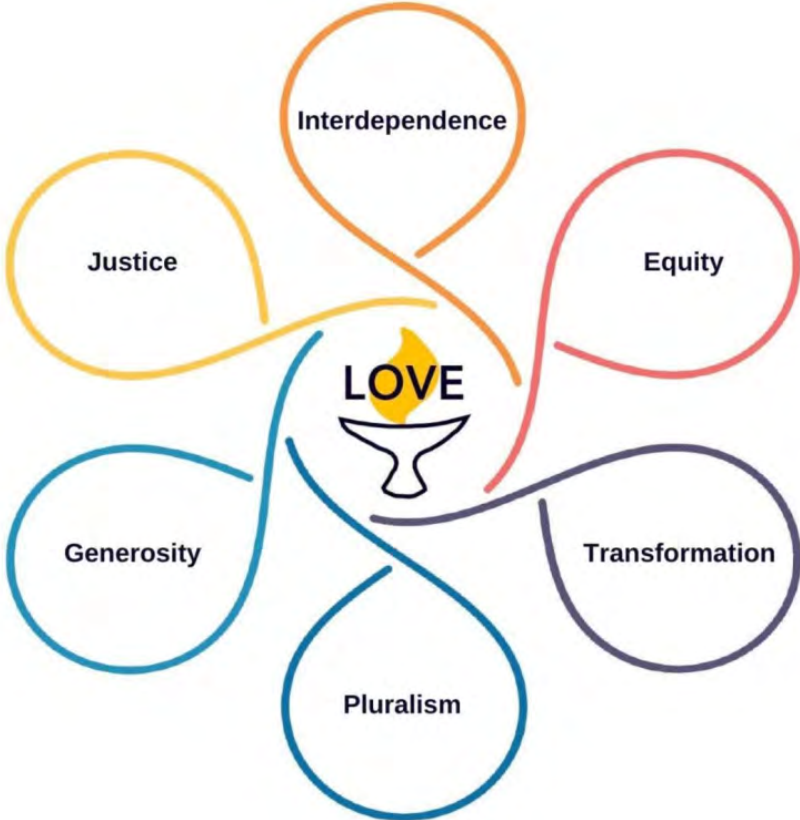
Sheet 2: What is the moment we're in?



Sheet 3: Urgent Needs & Important Opportunities

NEEDS	OPPORTUNITIES

Sheet 4: Shared UU Values



APPENDIX 2: Next Steps for “Meet the Moment” Engagement

Meet the Moment is essentially a praxis framework – a set of tools for supporting congregations and leaders in engaging cycles of learning, reflection, and action related to a range of issues within the congregation and across Unitarian Universalism. This Wave Cohort process serves as an in-depth introduction to the Meet the Moment framework, and is intended to be an entry point, and a tool for discernment, but not a final destination. Our hope is that Unitarian Universalists will engage in iterative work over months and years that will support deepening our impact, innovating new structures and practices that are designed to embody the long-standing values at the heart of our faith in ways that are accessible and relevant to the ever-shifting context we are navigating. Over time, the UUA will be publishing additional Meet the Moment resources for strategy planning, experimentation and innovation, and assessment and evaluation – the next phases of this cycle of praxis.

How you choose to engage the Meet the Moment framework, including the grounding questions that are at the heart of this Wave Cohort, will depend on your own context. This Appendix contains several ideas about ways you might invite your congregation – and various sub-groups and constituencies within it – to go deeper with this framework after this workshop.

- Plan a series of gatherings with a wider swath of leaders and congregants from your congregation to engage with the more in depth, [three 90 minute sessions version of the Meet the Moment Wave Cohort process](#).
- Individuals or teams of leaders from your congregation can connect with other UUs from across the Association and use the Meet the Moment process to go deeper on a specific topic by signing up to participate in one of our longer [Wave Cohorts](#).
- Collect data from your congregation/ministry team/community that will also help you get clear on the specifics of the Moment that you’re in and its needs and opportunities.
- Invite your community partners to have a conversation with you along these lines, using either this Meet the Moment Wave Cohort process or the [three-session version](#).
- If your congregation hasn’t engaged with the new articulation of our UU Shared Values yet, consider offering [opportunities to explore them!](#)
- Print the three grounding questions from this Wave Cohort on any agenda you’re making for a group or as a part of a committee meeting and use them to guide your conversation. Consider how you can collectively flex your muscles for doing this kind of shared discernment more regularly.
- Use the three grounding questions to frame your next congregational survey or evaluation.
- Think about what comes next for the ideas and information generated in this workshop. How can you communicate both this process and also some of your preliminary conclusions out to others who were not present for this Wave Cohort?



Whova GA App



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