



Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT MAY 2008

We hope you have been keeping up with the news from around the district via the PNWD website. From our Welcome page (www.pnwd.org), the news is just a click away. You can also submit happenings in your congregation from the news link. We would love to help spread the word about your building renovations, exciting program offerings, installations of religious professionals, and other newsy items to share.

IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

This spring, the **Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (ID)** sponsored a panel discussion on the Iraq War, open to the community and well attended. Later, a special congregational meeting using a supermajority process met and approved a resolution on the Iraq War. For the full text of this resolution, go to: boiseuu.org/special-iraq.html.

The Alaska House of Representatives includes four Unitarian Universalists, and **Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AK)** hosted them as guest speakers on March 16. They spoke about how their UU values shaped their entry into and conduct of their public service. In addition, JUUF member Dave Dierdorff delivered the daily invocations in the Alaska Senate during a week in early spring.

Brian Rogers has been named interim chancellor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Brian has worn many hats in our district; among them are PNWD board member and treasurer, chair and treasurer of the Pacific Northwest UU Growth Foundation, Chalice Lighter Program committee member, and (my personal favorite) chair of the search committee that brought us Janine. Brian and his wife, Sherry Modrow, are long-time active, committed members of the **Fairbanks UU Fellowship (AK)**. His two-year interim period with UAF begins July 1.

To give a more accurate impression of their congregation and to be more welcoming to residents throughout the area, the **West Seattle UU Fellowship (Seattle, WA)**, has changed their name to **Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation**.

For the past ten-plus years, the **UU Congregation of Salem (OR)** has been a host congregation for the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network. For one week, four or five times a year, UUCS takes its turn in a rotation of twelve host congregations to provide shelter, food, transportation, job counseling, life skills training and other assistance to homeless families with children.

In more news from Salem, UUCS voted unanimously to be a covenanting congregation with the **UU Fellowship of McMinnville (OR)**. The McMinnville start-up is well on their

way to UUA Emerging Congregation status, which will lead to eventual membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

Members and friends of the **UU Congregation of Whidbey Island (Freeland, WA)** are constructing their very first church building. If you would like to be involved, check their website at www.whidbey.com/uucwi, or link to it from the Congregations tab on the PNWD website.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS

In their April 20 congregational meeting, Cedars UU Church, (Bainbridge Island, WA) voted unanimously to call co-ministers the **Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove** and the **Rev. Jaco ten Hove** as its settled ministers. Barbara and Jaco have been in co-ministry for over ten years, and are currently serving the Paint Branch UU Church in Adelphi, MD. Barbara served as Associate Minister at East Shore Unitarian Church (Bellevue, WA) with Rev. Leon Hopper, and was the founding minister of the Woodinville UU Church (WA); Jaco previously served Edmonds UU Church (WA). They will begin their work at Cedars UU Church in August.

The **Rev. Alex Holt** will be serving as Consulting Minister to the UU Church of Yakima as well as the Mentoring Minister with the All Souls UU Community in Lacey, WA.

Anchorage UU Fellowship will have the services of the **Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock** as Interim Minister and the **Rev. Art Curtis** as Supporting Minister.

In August the **Rev. Linda Bunyard** will begin serving the UU Church of Spokane as Interim Minister.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

The UU Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association have launched a **joint humanitarian relief fund** to help survivors of the cyclone that struck Myanmar (formerly Burma) on May 3. Donations to the Cyclone Nargis Relief Fund can be made at http://www.uusc.org/info/support_cyclonenargis.html.

We hope congregation boards and committees on ministry had an opportunity to discuss the preview copy of the **congregational survey** brought back from delegates to the Annual General Meeting in Tacoma. (Congregations not represented by a delegation to AGM received the preview survey in the mail.) The survey is also accessible via www.pnwd.org. Look for the link on the front page. We hope that the information gathered during this process will indicate that PNWD congregations are meeting the ends envisioned by the district board and that they are thriving in truly transformational ways.

PNWD dues will increase by one dollar, to \$21 per member, effective with the 2008/09 fiscal year. While the "Fair Share" dues amount will adjust to \$21, congregational dues notices will offer the option to contribute "Fair Share Plus" at the \$22 level recommended by delegates to the 2008 Annual General Meeting. District dues are expected to increase officially to \$22 in 2009/10. The last dues increase was in 2001, and while excess reserves have allowed the district to grow services in recent years (covering resulting

deficits in operating budgets), cost of living increases – particularly travel expenses – now dictate the need for dues increases.

More information about district and UUA “**Fair Share**” is currently posted on the front page of the PNWD website. Read the article by PNWD APF Chair, Jerry Regan, at www.pnwd.org. A copy is also included in the May congregational packet.

The **minutes** from the meetings of the PNWD Board of Directors are available on the district website. From www.pnwd.org, click the Governance tab and select Board of Directors.

Ever want to relive your youth? For the next best thing, read the report on the Canadian-hosted **Spring Youth Con**. From the front page of the PNWD website, click on the link to ConText, or contact the district office for a copy.

UU University, a pre-GA gathering of congregational leaders, is scheduled for June 24-25 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The Reverend Dr. Nick Carter, president of Andover Newton Theological School, is the featured speaker, addressing the “borderlands of difference” that naturally occur in a context of *diversity*: diversity of thought, diversity of opinions, diversity of theologies, etc. Participants will explore how to lead congregations with so many opinions and perspectives, and how to develop effective partnerships in surrounding communities. You can link to full information via the PNWD calendar, or go directly to uua.org/events/uuuniversity.

The **UUA General Assembly** follows June 25-29 at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center. The PNWD calendar provides a link to full GA information, or go directly to uua.org/events/generalassembly.

Twelve ministers from some of the fastest growing and most diverse Unitarian Universalist congregations in America gathered to talk about growth. They shared success stories and offered insights into how their congregations have grown in spirituality, in membership and in mission. The resulting DVD, “**Listening to Experience**,” has been widely distributed by the UUA and is available to view on their website. If you would like an additional copy sent to your congregation, please contact the district office and we’ll be happy to send you one free of charge.

If you have plans to be in Boston on business or pleasure, check with the UUA’s bed and breakfast style lodging before you go. **Eliot and Pickett Houses** are located at the top of historic Beacon Hill, just steps from the Boston Common. The two houses on Mt. Vernon Place include 20 guest rooms, open only to members of UU congregations. For more information, phone (617) 948-4679 or email e&p@uua.org.

Don’t miss any issues of **UU World magazine**. Update your individual mailing address directly at www.uuworld.org/subscriptions. Scroll down to Current Subscribers for the address update form. At this same page is a link for church administrators to manage the subscriptions for their congregations.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

If you will be at the 2008 UUA General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, FL, please plan to join us for the **Pacific Northwest District's Ingathering** on Wednesday afternoon, June 25, 4:45-6:00 p.m. in room 222-223 at the Convention Center. See event #1022 in your GA Program.

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Congregations looking to fill extra spaces in their pulpit may find the **Spring PNWD Supply Preaching Directory** useful. Electronic copies have been distributed to congregation offices and to board presidents. This directory is updated throughout the year, and anyone can contact the district office to request a copy at any time. The final page of the Supply Preaching Directory includes the UU Ministers Association recommended **Scale of Fees for Professional Services**. This fee sheet is also included in the May congregational packet.

The UU Church in Eugene (OR) hosted the May 3 **Spring Leadership Council** and the Rev. Dan Hotchkiss presented the topic, "Ministry Together: Governance in UU Congregations." Eighty-three registrants from seventeen PNWD congregations attended the Leadership Council and generously contributed over \$500 for a UUCE community service initiative during Saturday's lunchtime offering.

The **Fall Leadership Council** will present "Leading from Our Theological Center" with the Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, author and District Executive, UUA Massachusetts Bay District. Plan to send your congregational board members, lay leaders and professional staff to this November 8 Leadership Council at University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA.

Each board president or their designee is asked to RSVP to the PNWD office by November 3 with the total number attending from their congregations. (We won't need names, just numbers.)

Congregations should start planning now for the **2009 PNWD Annual General Meeting** in Salem, OR, February 20-22. The cost of travel is on the rise and many congregations would like to provide financial support to their AGM registrants. The district generally offers modest delegate travel equalization rebates to qualifying congregations, but no other financial aid for AGM. If your congregation has creative ways to help fund your members' AGM attendance, please relay your ideas to the district office and we will share the results with our congregations.

In order to provide congregations with the best guidance possible, the UUA has released an updated edition of "**The Real Rules: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections.**" The new version provides clear, up-to-date information on what congregations can and cannot do, drawing heavily on a binding decision issued by the IRS in June 2007. Most of the text comes straight from IRS publications, with sources clearly footnoted. You can access "The Real Rules" at www.uua.org/socialjustice/resources/64711.shtml.

A helpful resource for smaller congregations is "**Small Talk**", a newsletter devoted to strengthening the small Unitarian Universalist congregation through informative articles, resources, and good ideas. Archived copies are available at www.nhvt.uua.org/publications.htm.

Before you pop in that next DVD or video at your church, consult the "**Video Copyright Guidelines: For Pastors and Church Workers**" by Dr. Jerome K. Miller and "**Church Video Licensing.**" These two resources can be found at:
<http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=1&mid=7299>
<http://www.ccli.com/US/WhatWeOffer/ChurchVideoLicense.aspx>

PNWD dates to note:

June 20-22	Junior/Senior High OWL training for facilitators
July 27-August 1	GoldMine Youth Leadership School
August 22-25	Summer Youth Con

Details and additional events are available on the calendar at www.pnwd.org.

For full details, registration information and a complete listing of district events check the **online calendar** at www.pnwd.org, click News/Events and Calendar. Remember to use the "Submit an Event" link to let us know about building dedications, milestone events with your religious professionals, training events open to the wider district, etc.

Did you know that the PNWD website has a listing of **Jobs in the District**? If your congregation has a job opening that you would like us to post, submit a brief description of the position to the district office. Include congregation name, position title, and contact person with phone number and email address. Be sure to include the URL if you have a lengthier job description posted on your church's website.

Note: While email and the Internet have helped make communications more accessible and timely for many people, there are still those who are not "on line." Please remember to include the "non-wired" in your congregation by providing access or print copies of electronic news and publications through your church office. If you are unable to provide such support locally, individuals may contact the district office toll-free at 800-313-PNWD (7693) to obtain a print copy of materials referenced in this bulletin.